



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

31 March 2017

NEW CHAIR FOR INDEPENDENT EXPERT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Turnbull Government is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Chris Pigram as the new Chair of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC).

Dr Pigram has a PhD in Geology and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. A leader in research and management of minerals, marine and petroleum geoscience programs, Dr Pigram is well qualified to maintain the high standard of scientific advice provided by the IESC.

Dr Pigram recently retired as CEO of Geoscience Australia after more than 30 years with the organisation. He joins fellow members Professor Craig Simmons, Dr Jenny Stauber, Dr Andrew Boulton, Dr Ian Prosser, Dr Glen Walker, Professor Joan Esterle and Dr Wendy Timms.

Dr Pigram's ability to manage the interface between science and government and engage stakeholders will complement the scientific expertise in hydrogeology, hydrology, geology, ecology and ecotoxicology of the other members.

The Government thanks outgoing Chair Dr Andrew Johnson for his significant contribution to the work of the committee both as Chair since May 2015 and as a member since 2012. Dr Johnson resigned as Chair following his appointment as CEO and Director of the Bureau of Meteorology.

The IESC provides independent, expert scientific advice to governments on the potential impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining projects on water resources.

The advice, which is available to the community from the IESC website, ensures that decisions by environmental regulators are informed by the best available science.

More information on the IESC is at: www.iesc.environment.gov.au.

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