

Environmental Impact Assessment Processes Review
Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting held at 9am on 26 May 2008

Notes and Responses to Matters and Issues raised

Present:

Members: Paul Vogel, (Chair); Doug Koontz, AMEC; Gordon Baird (Woodside) representing APPEA; Greg Kaeding, CCI; Nick Dunlop, CCWA; Gavin Price, CME; Warren Tacey, EPASU, DEC; Mike Mouritz, DPI (to Item 5.2); Ian Le Provost, ECA; Cam Kneen, ODAC; Angus Morrison-Saunders, University Sector; Steve Rolls, UDIA; Paul Gamblin, WWF

Observers: Graham Short, AMEC; Richard Ellis (APPEA); Tim Nicoll (CCWA); Trent Leach, CME

Review Team: Charlie Welker, Christine Shervington

Apologies: Eric Lumsden, DPI

1. NOTES AND RESPONSES TO MEETING 19 MARCH 2008

No comments were received during the meeting on the notes of the previous meeting.

2. REVIEW OF PROGRESS

Charlie Welker gave presentation on progress of review to date.

Action: Copy of presentation to be sent to Members.

Discussion centred around the need for certainty - in policies and in the process – timelines, where effort should be expended by proponents and consultants, etc. The Chair noted that case studies taking existing projects and reports would be developed as part of the implementation process. The need for better information systems was raised as an issue for DEC to address.

The Chair indicated that an Implementation Plan would be developed and that the roll out would be over a three year period. An ongoing role for the SRG would be addressed in that plan.

Action: Case Studies showing risk-based approach and outcome-based condition to be developed 'deconstructing' existing projects or hypotheticals.

Action: Implementation Plan to go to next meeting of the SRG.

3. WORKING GROUPS

The Terms of Reference for the Minerals and Petroleum and the Planning Working Groups were noted.

It was noted that the Planning Working Group notes of the first meeting were to be placed on the website, and that the group was scheduled to meet again on 3 June. The Minerals and Petroleum Working Group were preparing a draft MOU for consideration by the SRG.

Action: Put Notes of the Planning Working Group on website.

Action: Draft of Minerals and Petroleum MOU and schedules to be sent to SRG.

4. REVIEW OF POLICIES

4.1 The Marine Policies Terms of Reference were noted, and members requested time to consider and provide comment. The Chair noted that a Chair for this group was still being sought.

Action: Members to submit comments on the Terms of Reference by cob 28 May.

4.2 Members noted the Offsets Guidance Statement and that there would be targeted consultation on this.

Action: Members to provide comment by 16 June.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REVIEW PAPERS

5.1 The revised policy framework was noted.

Action: Comments on the revised policy framework paper to be submitted by 3 June.

5.2 The paper addressing the proposal implementation and decisions to await authorisation by the Minister (application of Sections 41 and 41A) was noted. Discussion focussed on the need to clarify the operation of these sections. Members to provide comments which will then go to the EPA Board for endorsement.

Action: Members to provide comments by 9 June.

Action: Next meeting of the SRG to address i) what is the purpose and the objective of the Scoping Document; and ii) the Role of the EPASU in pre-referral consultations.

5.3 Members noted the documents proposing new levels of assessment under Section 38A of the Act.

It was agreed that a sub group of the SRG be formed to apply the risk based approach to the Scoping stage of a project in order to inform work practices and procedures.

Action: Sub Group of Nick Dunlop and Cam Kneen to meet – EPA to organise.

Action: Members to provide comments on the Review of current levels of assessments paper by 9 June.

5.4 Condition setting

Action: Further information and case studies to be presented to the SRG

6. NEXT MEETING

The meeting scheduled for 11 June was cancelled. The Chair noted that the ongoing role of the SRG would be addressed at the next meeting of the SRG and requested that members bring to the next meeting their top three to five priority issues in the EIA process, to be addressed through the Review.

The next meeting will be on 27 June 2- 4.30pm in the Level 8 conference room.