



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAND ACCESS WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the Western Australian Land Access Working Group meeting

15 December 2016

1. Establishment of the Western Australian Land Access Working Group

The Chair provided a brief overview of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs Inquiry into the *'Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas'* and the Government's response that has led to the establishment of the Working Group.

In 2013, the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs identified the emerging unconventional gas industry in Western Australia as a source of community interest and concern.

The Standing Committee subsequently undertook a two-year investigation of hydraulic fracturing and its implications for the State, with particular emphasis on environmental considerations. The [Standing Committee's Report](#) (No. 42) was tabled in the Legislative Council on 17 November 2015.

A whole of [Government response](#) to the twelve recommendations in the report was tabled in the Legislative Council on 16 March 2016. Recommendations 5 and 6 relate to land access matters and provide the basis for the establishment of the Western Australian Land Access Working Group (Working Group) by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP).

2. Land Access Workshop

The Chair provided a summary of a workshop hosted by DMP on 28 October 2016 of key stakeholders considered to have a direct interest in issues related to land access for mining and petroleum activities in this State. The purpose of this workshop was to seek feedback from the participants on the proposed objectives, scope and membership for the Working Group. This feedback was considered by DMP in developing the Working Group's draft terms of reference.

3. Terms of Reference

The Working Group considered the draft terms of reference. The proposed membership includes representatives from peak industry bodies, agricultural groups, local government, conservation groups, representation of Aboriginal interests, and relevant State Government agencies (as ex-officio members). The final terms of reference will be endorsed at the Working Group's next meeting scheduled for 28 February 2017.

4. Survey of landowners and resource companies regarding land access agreements

The Working Group was advised that DMP was considering conducting a survey of landowners and resources companies that have entered into a land access agreement within the past ten years. The results of the survey would be considered by the Working Group.

5. WA Land Access Working Group - timeline

The Working Group is expected to provide a report to Government by 31 December 2017.



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Acting Chair

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