

COAG Energy Council
Resources Policy Group
Terms of Reference
November 2018

Item	Details
SCO Sponsor	Dr Paul Heithersay, South Australia
Co-Chairs	Dr Paul Heithersay, South Australia
Membership	<p>Officials from Commonwealth, state and territory governments with an interest in or responsibility for the onshore minerals resources sector, including productivity issues.</p> <p>Each jurisdiction will determine the appropriate level of representation; representatives must be empowered to make decisions consistent with meeting the needs of the Senior Committee of Officials (SCO) and the Energy Council and the functions of the working group.</p>
Secretariat	Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science Sustainability Section, Onshore Minerals Branch
Established	November 2009
Objective and Scope	<p>The work of the RPG contributes to the Energy Council's themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>cooperation between Commonwealth, state and territory governments, which includes the enhancement of national consistency of regulatory frameworks between jurisdictions and community engagement; and</i> • <i>facilitating the economic and competitive development of Australia's mineral resources, with a particular focus on issues affecting investment in resources exploration and development, such as access to land and community confidence.</i> <p>The following overarching policy objectives have been identified to address the existing impediments to land access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that Australia's resources sector remains internationally competitive and attractive to investors, through the adoption of a responsible approach to exploration and resource development, and transparent, consistent, best practice regulation; • ensuring that industry is able to maintain access to land for exploration and resource development; and • ensuring Australians are confident in the regulation of exploration and resource development and appreciate the importance of these to Australia's economy and the net benefits to local communities.

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Function	<p>The RPG will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, develop, deliver and promote strategic priorities and issues and provide advice on land access and other community engagement issues arising in the onshore minerals sector; • Develop papers, proposals, work plans and budgets for consideration by SCO, and where appropriate, the Energy Council; • Implement relevant elements of the Energy Council’s strategic resources agenda and work plan, and report progress to SCO and, where appropriate, the Energy Council; • Consult with stakeholders as required; and • Maintain awareness of activities of other Energy Council Working Groups, through the Energy Council Secretariats’ Forum.
Decision Making	<p>Decision making and voting rules will follow the protocol agreed and applied by the Energy Council.</p> <p>In jurisdictions with multiple agencies responsible for mineral resource issues, more than one RPG member may be nominated; however, each jurisdiction will only have one vote on each decision.</p>
Resourcing	<p>Secretariat support will be provided by the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, through the Resources Division (Onshore Minerals Branch).</p> <p>Jurisdictions will cover the costs of their participation in the RPG.</p> <p>Meeting hosting costs (teleconference and face-to-face) will be funded through the Energy Council’s Special Account, to which all jurisdictions contribute.</p>
Meetings	<p>The RPG will be expected to meet at least quarterly; noting that the frequency of meetings may increase in the lead up to SCO and Energy Council meetings.</p> <p>The majority of meetings of the RPG will be held by teleconference, unless the nature of an issue or extent of a meeting agenda necessitates a face-to-face meeting. At least two meetings each year will be held face-to-face.</p> <p>Meeting agendas will be structured in a way to facilitate participation by jurisdictions where responsibility for different resources issues is split.</p> <p>Meeting papers will be circulated to members by the RPG Secretariat, at least five working days prior to the meeting date.</p>