

# Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Multi-Stakeholder Group for the Australian Pilot

18 February 2014 Meeting

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The Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) to Australia's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Pilot met on 18 February 2014 in Melbourne. This meeting reviewed the latest draft of the *MSG Report to Government*, the Executive Summary, the draft Payments to First Peoples report, and considered the proposed options for the EITI's implementation in Australia.

After discussing the projected benefits of the proposed implementation options, the MSG proposed the implementation of a 'hybrid model' which is currently being worked on by the MSG's Reporting sub-group to ensure the design is robust. The model allows for companies to voluntarily report to the Administrator their material payments to governments and for the Administrator to reconcile a statistically valid sample of these payments. The model would not require all reporting companies to be reconciled annually against all material payments. Appropriate reporting structures will be established in the first reporting year.

This meeting provided opportunity for review of the second draft of the *MSG Report to Government* and the draft Executive Summary. In December 2013, the MSG established new sub-groups dedicated to each chapter and these sub-groups revised and provided comment in the lead up to the February 2014 meeting. Members were largely pleased with the revised version, with no substantial critique or suggestion for change. The Administrator also agreed to research and work to incorporate the costings for the hybrid model in the Administrator's Report, and will outline the technical elements and its potential benefits. As part of this discussion, there was general consensus amongst the group that the draft Executive Summary needs to be re-worked and re-structured to ensure that it is succinct and that the most pertinent topics are highlighted. The Secretariat agreed to review the section and distribute the next draft to members shortly.

The University of Melbourne delivered their draft of the Payments to First Peoples report, and members were able to review this prior to the February meeting. The MSG's Indigenous representatives presented their comments and observations to MSG members, and it was clear that everyone was impressed with the comprehensive report delivered. Minor suggestions for modifications were made in relation to the chapter's executive summary and the structure of the report. The Secretariat will work with the Indigenous sub-group to develop this section and provide feedback to the University of Melbourne.

Based on discussions, the Secretariat will now work with the Reporting Sub-group on the hybrid model and with the Chairs of each chapter sub-group, to ensure that these last milestones are achieved.

The next meeting of the MSG is expected to be held in Melbourne in April 2014.