# **COAG Energy Council Resources Policy Group Terms of Reference November 2018**

| Item | Details |
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| SCO Sponsor | Dr Paul Heithersay, South Australia |
| Co-Chairs | Dr Paul Heithersay, South Australia |
| Membership | Officials from Commonwealth, state and territory governments with an interest in or responsibility for the onshore minerals resources sector, including productivity issues.  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. |
| Secretariat | Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science  Sustainability Section, Onshore Minerals Branch |
| Established | November 2009 |
| Objective and Scope | The work of the RPG contributes to the Energy Council’s themes of:   * *cooperation between Commonwealth, state and territory governments*, which includes the enhancement of national consistency of regulatory frameworks between jurisdictions and community engagement; and * *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.   The following overarching policy objectives have been identified to address the existing impediments to land access:   * 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. |
| Function | The RPG will:   * 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 | Decision making and voting rules will follow the protocol agreed and applied by the Energy Council.  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. |
| Resourcing | Secretariat support will be provided by the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, through the Resources Division (Onshore Minerals Branch).  Jurisdictions will cover the costs of their participation in the RPG.  Meeting hosting costs (teleconference and face-to-face) will be funded through the Energy Council’s Special Account, to which all jurisdictions contribute. |
| Meetings | 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.  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.  Meeting agendas will be structured in a way to facilitate participation by jurisdictions where responsibility for different resources issues is split.  Meeting papers will be circulated to members by the RPG Secretariat, at least five working days prior to the meeting date. |