

**MEETING MINUTES
NT DRILLERS QUALIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DQAC)
MEETING NO. 2018/02**

Date: 14 November 2018 **Location:** Level 4 Large Conference Room
Time: 9.30 – 11:00 Goyder Building,
25 Chung Wah Tce, Palmerston
Chair: Lance Martin (LM), **Secretariat:** Cherie Jackson (CJ)

Attendees: Lance Martin (LM)
 Trevor Edwards (TE)
 David George (DG)
 Des Yin Foo (DY)
 Mark Ballard (MB)
 Tom Harris (TH)

Apologies: Henry Van Tilburg (HVT)
 Kristen Marmion (KM)

Observer: Michelle Lawrence (ML)

Guest: Abbe Damrow (AD)
 Christine Long (CL)
 Maree Apostoles (MA)

Agenda No.	No	Time	Agenda Item	Action required (e.g. information / discussion / decision)
		9.30	Meeting opening – Chair	
1.0	1.1		Welcome, Attendance and Apologies	
	1.2		Terms of Reference	
	1.3		Memberships Lance Martin (Chair) 22/02/20 Henry Van Tilburg 22/02/20 Trevor Edwards 22/02/19 Mark Ballard 22/02/19 Des YinFoo 22/02/19 David George 22/02/20 Tom Harris 22/02/20 Kirsten Marmion 22/02/19	4 due to expire – propose extension of appointments to Feb 2020.(This will need to be 2021 so we don't have them expire at the same time) Kirsten moved to WA, ML contacted Kate Finch (GHD), who agreed to provide a list of possible candidates as a replacement. Action: ML to follow up. Think about communication process, check for sensitivities. Members would like minutes to go public, be transparent.
2.0		9.35	Minutes of Previous Meeting	Minutes from meeting 2018/01 – 12 April were

			Endorsed by Mark Ballard and accepted by all members present.
3.0		Declaration of any conflicts of interest	None

4.0	Action from previous meeting (<i>Meeting No. 2018/01, 12 April 2018</i>)				
	No.	Time	Action	Action Officer	Status/Update
	4.1	9.40	Michelle Lawrence to email Henry Van Tilberg copy of the MOU	Michelle Lawrence	Complete 16/4/18
			State and Territories are advised of revision to MOU, request Victoria sign off on changes then offer all to accept changes.	ADITC	ADITC has now closed. Handed over to ADIA. State of MOU - all parties signed off except NSW
			Review of experience of bore Inspectors. Water Resources Division to investigate courses/training available.	Maree Apostoles	Currently have 3 Regulation Officers. Have undertaken introduction training and will look further into ADIA training.

5.0	General Items				
	No.	Time	Action	Action Officer	Status/Update
	5.1	9.45	Bore Construction Permits	Abbe Damrow	Update
<p>Abbe Damrow provided an update on work being undertaken relating to the bore construction regulatory framework. The bore construction regulatory framework includes bore construction application forms, bore construction permits and statement of bores. These documents have been reviewed to improve administration of bore constructions.</p> <p>Members were presented with the draft proposed templates. AD outlined the proposed changes to bore construction permits and associated documentation to improve permitting times.</p> <p>The members reviewed the templates and provided AD with their feedback on the forms.</p>					
	5.2	9.50	Draft Water Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill	Abbe Damrow	Update
<p>Christine Long provided an update on work being undertaken to amend the <i>Water Act</i> relating to Drilling Licence Class and the Drillers' Qualification Advisory Committee.</p> <p><u>Driller Licence Class</u></p> <p>The Water Regulations specify the kinds of drilling licences the Controller may grant as:</p> <p>(a) Drilling Licence Class 1 (b) Drilling Licence Class 2</p>					

(c) Drilling Licence Class 3 (restricted or unrestricted).

Drilling licences of any class can be restricted by a condition on the licence. Therefore it is proposed to amend the Regulations by removing the options “restricted or unrestricted” specified for Class 3 licences only, such that any drilling licence class may be restricted. This will not impact on the licensing qualification process.

Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee

The Water Regulations are prescriptive in the requirements of the membership of the Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee and may impede regular meetings.

The proposed changes to the Water Regulations will see the Committee as a whole has the required skills, rather than requiring four separate categories of members with specific skills and experience. It is also proposes a simple majority of members constitutes a quorum, rather than prescriptively requiring members from each of the four categories of members.

The Members agreed with the proposed amendments.

5.3	10.00	NT Drilling Licence	Michelle Lawrence	Update
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Michelle Lawrence provided a NT Drilling Licence update.

- The services of ADITC are now undertaken by ADIA and the transition has been smooth from an NT perspective.
- Expiry reminder letters continue to be sent out to NT drillers in a timely manner and are now followed up with a phone call to confirm receipt.
- Interviews for new applicants or upgrades are held with Mark Ballard and Lance Martin.
- Cherie Jackson, Executive Officer, Department Environment and Natural Resources will be processing drilling licence applications. Cherie’s contact details are: PO Box 496, Palmerston NT 0831; Cherie.jackson@nt.gov.au; (08) 8999 4455
- 149 current NT Licensed Drillers
- 29 licences granted in the last 6 months

Members suggested that there should be a declaration on the licence application for drillers to sign which confirms they are up to date with the current standards.

5.4	10.05	Drilling Licence Compliance	Maree Apostoles	Update
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Maree Apostoles provided an update on NT Drilling Licence Compliance.

The Water Regulation team is focusing on drilling licence compliance relating to the provision of final statements of bore.

Final statements of bore are required to be submitted within 28 days of the competition of the bore, and drillers are required to notify the Controller of Water Resources within 24 hours of completing or abandoning a bore.

Historically licensed drillers have had excessive numbers of outstanding, incomplete or incorrect final statements of bore. When licensed drillers have excessive numbers of outstanding statements it makes managing RN numbers and the status of bores difficult. The team is focussing on obtaining accurately completed final statements of bore within the 28 day timeframe.

The Department is interested to hear from the Committee if there are any strategies they think might assist in gaining compliance from licensed drillers?

Trying to get all drillers on board with submitting their final statements of bores on time, within 28 days of completion. Suggested NT to adopt the online system as SA, QLD for completing

and submitting Statement of Bore reports.
Email to go out after 28 days to remind driller.

5.5	10.15	ADITC to ADIA	Mark Ballard	Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADITC has now closed and been handed over to ADIA. The MOU will be amended to reflect the changes NUDLC to be chaired by Kevin Dennis until March next year when Peter Hall from ADIA will take over, ADIA will cover the cost of the chair and administration NSW has not responded to the MOU or the National Drillers Licence System, it has been decided to proceed without NSW involvement in the national system so no Drilling Licences from NSW will be accepted The NUDLC has explored the option for an online driller's exam and decided it is not economical due to the numbers taking the exam, estimated \$200K to set up Minimum Construction requirements edition 3 is being reviewed and likely to be published early 2019. It may entail a cost to each State and Territory of approx. \$15k <p>Action: Committee members to communicate any comments or feedback to MB or NUDLC on any changes deemed necessary on the 'Minimum Construction Requirements for Water bores in Australia' 2012 edition by March 2019.</p>				

5.6	10:30	Removal of mining exemption – impacts on driller licensing	Jo Challis	Noting
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A briefing paper on the removal of the mining exemption and the impacts on driller licensing was tabled.

In summary:

2018 Water Act Amendments – Mining & Petroleum Activities Coverage Government's Sustainable Water Use Policy includes the requirement to ensure that mining and petroleum operations will be subject to the Water Act.

Government also agreed to upgrade offences & penalties to water industry best practice. The Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 is to be introduced into Parliament in November 2018 with final assent in January 2019.

Commencing in 2019, mining & petroleum operations must comply with the Water Act to:

- construct dams, water storages, etc on waterways;
- extract surface water and groundwater; and
- construct and operate bores for water supply, water investigations, water monitoring and aquifer recharge.

In addition, re-written offences will comply with the Criminal Code. And all penalties will be significantly increased.

5.7	10.45	Why do we regulate bore construction?	Christine Long	Discussion
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Christine Long led a discussion asking the question why we regulate bore construction.

Committee Comments:

- Need to keep an eye on what's going on in certain areas.
- Without a construction permit all the onus is on the driller
- Department loses the control to regulate
- It is the only way of enforcing good practice
- Streamline the process
- A way to regulate what goes in before it goes in
- Not a major issue, not holding up development
- Knowledge of where registered bores are located.

6.0	Next Meeting	TBA April 2019 (tentative)
	Meeting Closed	12pm