



2.0			Minutes of Previous Meeting	Minutes from DQAC Meeting No 1, 15 March 2017 were circulated by email to the members in 11 April 2017 requesting comments - no comments were received.	
	Minutes Endorsed by David George, seconded by Kirsten Marmion				
3.0			Declaration of any conflicts of interest		
	Nil conflicts declared				
4.0	<b>Action from previous meeting (Meeting No. 1, 15 March 2017)</b>				
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Officer</b>	<b>Status/ Update</b>
	4.1	10.15	The Department will progress with Ministerial documents to appoint Lance Martin as Chair	Department	Complete
	4.2		Department to send an email around to the Committee regarding new/increased and interstate transfers licence applications for supporting, until the national system is in place	Department	MoU signed 29 May 2017
	<b>Committee noted</b>				
	4.3		Members to sign confidentiality agreement.	All members	2 agreements complete - Henry Van Tilbury and Kirsten Marmion
	<b>Forms circulated to Committee members for completion.</b>				
	4.4		Members to provide comments on Terms of Reference by 29 March 2017	All members	Complete
	<b>Committee noted</b>				
	4.5		Mark Ballard to arrange for an ADITC to be present at the next DQAC Meeting.	Mark Ballard	Complete
<b>Committee noted</b>					

5.0 General Items				
No.	Time	Action	Action Officer	Status/Update
5.1	10.30	National Uniform Driller Licensing System and ADITC - update	Virginia Hilliard	Noting
<p>Discussion - Chair welcomed Virginia Hilliard to meeting. Virginia presented/updated on NUDLS and Australian Drilling Industry Training Committee Limited (ADITC), <b>Attachment B</b></p> <p>Committee discussed slide 5, particularly addition of blue comments under Class 3 Licence. Committee raised concerns around changes being made to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) already signed off by some States.</p> <p>Suggested the committee be sent signed MoU to all State and Territories, noting the addition under Class 3 License. Committee agreed State and Territories are advised of revision and offered to accept the changes.</p> <p>Discussed option of online system for drillers would be welcomed by NT drillers. (not compulsory)</p> <p><b>Action - Michelle Lawrence to email Henry Van Tilburg copy of MoU.</b></p> <p><b>Action - Water Resources Division to provide an update on minor amendments to the MoU as identified by Virginia Hilliard and the Departments response at the next meeting.</b></p>				
5.2	11.00 Actual 11.15	NT Drilling Licence - update	Michelle Lawrence	Noting
<p>Discussion - Michelle Lawrence provided the Committee an update on NT Drilling Licences, information and tables available at <a href="http://nt.gov.au">nt.gov.au</a>. Briefing paper at <b>Attachment C</b>. Applications are processed electronically in Water Act Licensing and Permit System (WALAPS).</p> <p>Committee discussed various approaches to review old/dormant licenses listed in WALAPS. Suggested;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On renewal of license what history or action log should be reviewed and considered. E.g. For drillers no longer in the industry for say 20 plus years, does the skill set change, does the structure of drilling change, are they aware of current requirements?</li> <li>• Sign document stating; Licensee is keeping up to date with legislations, changes and equipment.</li> <li>• If licence is dormant for a period of time, make a requirement for the licensee to sit the Regulation 8 exam again.</li> <li>• Cost on renewal - may reduce dormant licences.</li> <li>• Add a three tier approach to renewal, suggest:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Send renewal letter</li> <li>2. Review renewal based on information,</li> <li>3. Renewal sent to decision maker for review. Outcome advised to applicant.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Sonic licences - Concern by Committee sonic endorsement approved to Drillers without having sufficient experience in sonic drilling. As this was a transition period of a new endorsement up until the 30 March 2018, the requirement is now to have completed not less than six bores using the sonic method and licensing is now in line with the MoU.</p> <p><b>No action - Water Resources Division to consider Committee options for integration into driller licence renewal process.</b></p>				

5.3	11.15 Actual1 1.40	Water Resource Division - Compliance Strategy/Communication	Maree Apostoles	Noting and advice
<p>Discussion – Maree Apostoles, Manager Water Regulation presented on Water Resources Division Compliance Strategy/Communication. A survey was conducted by DENR in 2013 seeking response from NT Water Act licence and permit holders of which 13 of 106 responded. (Note - 30 of 106 operate and reside in the NT)</p> <p>Key themes from the survey were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education of licence and permit holders;</li> <li>• Communication of compliance strategy;</li> <li>• 7 of 106 not confident of driller licence;</li> <li>• Lack of confidence by drillers around driller licence renewal and compliance;</li> <li>• Better messaging, info packs, centralised point for compliance and processing of compliance;</li> <li>• Lack of compliance around permits/licensing.</li> </ul> <p>Water Resources Division seeking feedback from Committee on key themes to focus the Compliance Strategy/Communication strategy, with feedback to be considered when drafting the strategy. Maree Apostoles to be the new point of reference in non-compliance reporting.</p> <p>Committee Comments –</p> <p>Questions put to the Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the best communication method to reach drillers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Letter, Email, Facebook, phone call, an opportunity at the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) held annually in Alice Springs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Information to be communicated – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ MoU, MoU in Berry Springs (or similar).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What information do drillers want from NTG? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Updates on projects, delays.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>How can Water Resources Division better engage with members?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous letter issued by Water Resources Division - No feedback on receipt.</li> <li>• Suggested use of DQAC letterhead to members, not Department letterhead (members of Committee may be seen to have an unfair advantage).</li> <li>• Early communication to drillers.</li> <li>• Email on Committee letterhead using Survey Monkey. E.g. Three questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide feedback/thoughts on subject;</li> <li>b. Acknowledge you have received correspondence;</li> <li>c. Contact the WRD if any issues.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Process of bore construction permits. Committee are happy with current process, however have concerns around the level of experience current bore inspectors possess is minimum, suggest Class 1 permit, basic training.</p> <p>Committee agreed Drillers will have more confidence in Water Resources Division when advice and information is communicated.</p> <p><b>Action – Water Resources Division to investigate courses/training for regulatory officers.</b></p>				
11.40		<i>20 minute break with a selection of sandwiches provided. Tea and coffee facilities available.</i>		

5.4	12.00 Actual 12.05	Water Act – implications of the removal of mining exemptions and amendments to the penalties and offences for drillers / Hydraulic Fracturing Report recommendations and analysis	Ian Smith	Noting
<p>Discussion – Ian Smith from the Water Resources Division provided an overview of the 2018 <i>Water Act</i> Amendments – Mining &amp; Petroleum Activities Coverage. <b>Attachment D</b></p> <p><i>Note – Hydraulic Fracturing placed in title to distinguish two topics are quite different.</i></p>				
5.5	12.15	Regulating groundwater for stock and domestic (Bore Construction Permits in the Darwin Rural area)	Abbe Damrow	Noting
<p>Discussion – Abbe Damrow, Director of Regulation and Licensing team presented on regulating groundwater for stock and domestic, <b>Attachment E</b>. Stock and domestic referred to as ‘Section 14’.</p> <p>In summary, there had been certain approaches taken to manage water resources, some decisions have been challenged, lessons learnt and a change in approach taken.</p> <p>Bore construction permit decisions require consideration of character of work, need for bore and environmental and health. Decisions cannot be made based on water availability.</p> <p><i>Committee Comments</i></p> <p>Discussed separation distances and how construction techniques can be varied to address the risks when separation distances cannot be met and the right to access water prevails. Methods included increasing depth of grouting to 15-20 meters and provision of bore construction plan by driller.</p> <p>Described – Water Act as restrictive</p> <p><b>No Action – Water Resources Division to consider advice regarding construction of bores when separation distances cannot be met and how this may be integrated into regulatory framework for bore construction permits.</b></p>				
5.6	12.30	Drilling Licences linked to employers	Henry Van Tilburg	Discuss and advise
<p>Discussion – Henry Van Tilburg raised the issue of inexperienced drillers who hold a drillers licence.</p> <p><i>Committee Comments</i></p> <p>Henry suggested having licences linked to employers, allowing new drillers to gain experience under an experienced team. Discussions around scrutiny of how new licences are issued. Interview process to identify what areas individuals need to work on more.</p> <p>Discussed the idea of a practical examination being introduced – new process to eliminate workers with minimal skills.</p> <p>Monitoring of inexperienced drillers (compliance issue) concerns need to be reported/ and breeches to be actioned. Illegal bores, inexperienced/ unlicensed drillers need to be reported to the Department.</p> <p><b>No Action</b></p>				

6.0	Next Meeting	6 months – October 2018 – Date TBC
	Meeting Closed	1.51pm