

22nd December 2015



Stephen Hunter
Water Trigger Review
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: wtreview@environment.gov.au

Dear Stephen

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE 'WATER TRIGGER' ISSUES PAPER

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Issues Paper on the Independent Review of the 'water trigger' legislation.

As the peak national industry body for the mining and mineral exploration industry, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) has a direct interest in the efficient operation of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

In doing so, AMEC has continually expressed full support for the Government's proposed 'one stop shop' for environmental assessment and approval processes.

Further to our teleconference on 17th December 2015 the following comments are re-iterated.

The Government's 'one stop shop' concept is consistent with its Deregulation Agenda, and desire to remove duplicative processes. This will in turn result in increased efficiency at both the Government and industry levels. It was on this basis AMEC has been strongly opposed to the 'water trigger' ever since it was first introduced.

The management of water resources has almost always been a matter for the States and Territories and not the Commonwealth Government, although there are exceptions, e.g. Murray-Darling Basin.

AMEC is of the strong view that it should remain that way.

Furthermore the existing regulatory frameworks, skills and experience currently reside in the States and Territories regulatory agencies and therefore there is no need for Commonwealth involvement.

As discussed, AMEC is extremely concerned that retention of the water trigger for coal and coal seam gas has the potential for broader application through the resources sector. This creates uncertainty and significantly increases sovereign risk for all projects throughout

Association of Mining and Exploration Companies

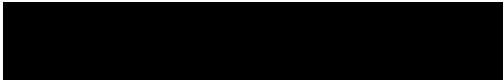
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Australia. It will also significantly undermine Australia`s international competitiveness in a very tight global capital market.

AMEC therefore considers the water trigger, and the establishment of the Scientific Review Committee, is unnecessary and duplicative, and provides no extra benefit or protection to the environment or water resources and should be rescinded.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. AMEC looks forward to further consultation on this issue.

Yours sincerely

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Simon Bennison
Chief Executive Officer