

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 75
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Emissions Reduction Fund
Topic: Technical working groups
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Ms Thompson: The process for developing the methods at present is that the department works in collaboration with technical and other experts through technical working groups. A number of experts, technical experts and business representatives, participate in those groups. My colleague Ms Tilley may have details as to who was on that technical working group with her, if that would assist.

Senator WATERS: Thank you, yes. That would be great.

Ms Tilley: Unfortunately I do not have the specific names in front of me, but we can provide those on notice. I will just flag, though, that this method supports waste coalmine gas capture and destruction at operating underground coalmines. Those exist entirely in Queensland and New South Wales, so the membership of the technical working group were predominantly members of coalmines in those states.

Senator WATERS: Beside the industry reps, who else formed the working groups?

Ms Tilley: We had members of state governments who were interested in this issue also participating. There is also the issue that we have a wider reference group. It is a wider group of interested stakeholders who do not physically participate in the meetings but are kept up to date through minutes and papers that are circulated. They are able to comment on those.

Senator WATERS: Thank you. If you could just get back to me with all the names and relevant affiliations of the people on the working group as opposed to—and the reference group too, if that is easily obtainable.

Answer:

The *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Coal Mine Waste Gas) Methodology Determination 2015* (the coal mine waste gas method) was developed in consultation with the Coal Fugitives Technical Working Group. Organisations participating in the Technical Working Group were selected for their expertise in the operation of underground coal mines or coal mine waste gas management, and provided advice on the how proposals for method design would be applied in the industry. Technical Working Group participants included representatives from:

- Anglo American
- Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance Ltd (BMA Ltd)
- Energy Developments Limited
- Glencore
- LMS Energy
- Minerals Council of Australia
- Peabody Energy
- Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Rio Tinto

Individuals participate in the Technical Working Group as representatives of their organisations. The specific representatives attending meetings have varied depending on availability. Accordingly, this response lists Technical Working Group participants by organisation rather than by individual.

A broader Reference Group of stakeholders received updates throughout the method development process. Members of the Reference Group included:

- Anglo American
- Arrow Energy
- The Australian Coal Industry's Research Program (ACARP)
- Australians for Coal
- BHP Billiton
- The Bloomfield Group
- Boral
- Centennial Coal
- Gujarat NRE Mineral Resources Ltd
- Minerals Council of Australia
- NSW Mining
- Peabody Energy
- Queensland Resources Council
- RM Business Consulting
- Vale Australia
- Whitehaven Coal
- Yancoal

In addition to the Technical Working Group process, the draft coal mine waste gas method was released for public consultation from 3 September 2014 to 1 October 2014. The Department notified around 720 people, including representatives of business and other interested groups, of the draft method's release through the Emissions Reduction Fund newsletter.

Prior to completion, the draft method underwent a technical assessment by an external consultant and was considered by the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee, which provided advice to the Minister for the Environment on the robustness of the method.