**VICTORIAN PROTOCOL**

**UNDER THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Further to the provisions in the Ministerial Guidelines, the protocol for engagement with the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining (IESC) is as follows:

1. Any request for advice from the IESC will have regard to the IESC information guidelines.
2. Advice will be sought from the IESC for any project proposing to extract coal seam gas or to develop or to expand a coal mine that:
3. could have a significant impact on water resources; and
4. requires an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act)*.*
5. Decision-makers under the *Water Act 1989* (Vic), *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (Vic) and *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Vic) are to have regard to advice from the IESC to either the Minister for Planning or to DPCD and may also seek advice from the IESC on:
6. the setting of conditions of approval following assessment under the EE Act; and
7. any request for a variation to an approval of a project that has been subject to assessment under the EE Act.
8. DPCD will liaise with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in relation to projects that both are subject to the EPBC Act and for which advice has also been sought from the IESC to inform the EES process, in order to coordinate requirements under the EPBC Act and EE Act.