# Minutes

## Mining and Petroleum Competence Board

### Details

Location: Glencore
Bulga Open Cut Mine
567 Broke Road
Mt Thorley NSW 2320

Date/time: 05 May 2026
9:30am – 11.19am

Chairperson: Joanne Muller AM

### Members Present

1. Joanne Muller AM (Independent)
2. Angela Hudson (NSW Resources)
3. Anthony Margetts (NSW Resources)
4. Jessica Urquhart (Independent)
5. Ron Cowdrey (AWU)
6. Stephen Barrett (MEU)
7. Steve Tranter (MEU)
8. Murray Gregson (Delegate) (NSW Minerals Council)
9. Melinda Pavey (Delegate) (CCAA)

### Secretariat

1. Vanessa Cleary (NSW Resources)

### Observers

1. Shane Pegg (NSW Resources)
2. Linda Matthews (NSW Resources)

### Apologies

1. Anthony Israel (NSW Minerals Council)
2. Sheldon Wilson (NSW Minerals Council)
3. Kurt Bridges (CCAA)
4. Peter Denison (Independent)

## This Meeting:

| No | Issue |
|---|---|
| 1. | Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Board Member Changes<br>• Meeting commenced at 9.31 am.<br>• Ms Jessica Urquhart delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.<br>• The Chair advised that several Board memberships will expire in 2026. New member nominations will be required.<br>• The Chair requested an additional member for the Working Group<br>• Chair advised that drafting of Annual Report will commence shortly.<br><u>Outcomes</u><br>The Board:<br>i. **Noted** the attendees and apologies.<br>ii. **Noted** appointments expiring in 2026.<br>iii. **Noted** the status of the expression of interest and appointment process for the independent member position.<br>Action<br>A. Secretariat to contact Kurt Bridges and Sheldon Wilson out of session to confirm nomination for membership to the Working Group. |
| 2. | Declaration of Interests<br>• Shane Pegg declared a conflict of interest as an applicant for an examiner panel position and advised the Chair that he would leave the meeting for agenda item 11.<br><u>Outcomes</u><br>The Board:<br>**Noted** updates to members' pecuniary interests.<br>Actions<br>B. Secretariat to update the Pecuniary Interests register to represent changes to members declarations. |
| 3. | Acceptance of Previous Minutes and Actions<br><u>Outcomes</u><br>The Board:<br>i. **Confirmed** the minutes of the 17 February 2026 Board meeting.<br>ii. **Noted** the status of actions. |

Action

C. Secretariat to publish the minutes on the Resources Regulator website.

4. Correspondence

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Noted** correspondence received.

5. Outcomes of Annual Examiner Panels Meeting

- The Department provided the Board with an update on the outcomes of the Annual Examiner Panels meeting held on 4 February 2026.
- The Board discussed the collaborative nature of the examiner panels and noted increased engagement across examiner panels.
- The Board agreed that the Working Group should consider consultation outcomes.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Noted** the presentation on outcomes from the 2026 Annual Examiner panels meeting.

ii. **Endorsed** the revised flexible pre-requisite criteria.

iii. **Endorsed** Working Group considerations of consultation outcomes.

6. **Update on Mutual Recognition**

- The Department provided an update on its position.
- The Department advised of their continuing review and investigation into the regulatory framework to maintain high standards of competency in the NSW mining and petroleum industries.
- The Board discussed the differences between different jurisdictions and queried how QLD can require additional requirements for applicants to attain qualifications on legislation.
- Members discussed that the onus is on employers to conduct their due diligence to find out where employees had gained their practicing certificates to ensure any risks that may be identified are managed.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Noted** the update on mutual recognition.

ii. **Noted** the NSW Resources submissions to the Review of Australia's Mutual Recognition Schemes for Workers.

7. **Boards Role in Opal Sector**

- The Department provided an update to the Board on how opal mines are regulated regarding statutory positions. Members noted the nuances surrounding opal mining and agreed that opal miners and their operations fall outside the Board's remit.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Agreed** to close the action 'review of the Board's role in the opal sector'.

Action

D. Secretariat to remove the action ' review of the Board's role in the opal sector' from the MPCB meeting action list.

8. Update to MPCB Risk Register

- The Board agreed to review the revised Risk Register at the next meeting.

Action

E. Secretariat to add the revised risk register on the agenda for the August MPCB meeting.

9. Induction Process for New Members

- The Board agreed the MPCB member induction document is comprehensive.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Noted** the induction process for new members.

ii. **Noted** the new member information pack.

Actions

F. Secretariat to consult Sheldon Wilson to arrange an induction meeting and guage feedback on the induction process and documents.

10. Working Group Update

- The Board received a verbal update on the activities of the Working Group.
- The Board discussed the recent resignation of a member of the Working Group and agreed to consult with Sheldon Wilson and Kurt Bridges regarding membership.
- The NSW Resources Regulator advised that a new project manager will be in place shortly to further implementation of changes and improvements to the certificate of competence continuum that were suggested by the Working Group.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Noted** the update.

11. Appointment of Examiners

- The Board discussed the proposed applicants for appointment as examiner.
- Mr Shane Pegg left the meeting for the discussion of his application.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Approved** examiner appointments.

ii. **Authorised** the Chairperson to sign the brief.

iii. **Approved** the revised examiner appointment criteria.

12. Quarterly Report on Certification Outcomes

- The Department provided an overview and explanations as to why applicants withdrew from the process. No significant trends or issues were identified.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Noted** certification outcomes (January - March 2026).

ii. **Noted** certification activities (January - March 2026).

iii. **Noted** Planned Activities (March - May 2026).

13. MPCB Work Plan

- The Department provided an update on the work plan and advised the Board that the work plan to 2026 concludes at this meeting.
- The Department discussed a format change for the Work Plan going forward which will make it easier to view progress.

Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Noted** the Strategic Plan and associated work plan to 2026.

ii. **Noted** the new work plan to 2029.

iii. **Agreed** to close the 2026 work plan.

## 14. Meeting Dates and Venues

- The Board discussed alternative dates for the fourth 2026 meeting.

The Outcomes

The Board:

i. **Agreed** to amend the meeting date.

Action

G. Secretariat to confirm member availability to hold MPCB-4 meeting on 17 November 2026.

## 15. Additional Business

- Mr Stephen Barrett raised an item of additional business regarding higher qualifications for people compared to having the pre-requisite experience in the role at the lower level. Concerns were raised that this practice may occur.
- The Chair requested clarification and was advised of a perceived loophole in the system whereby people who hold an advanced diploma can undertake qualifications for higher levels without being deemed competent at the lower level as they do not hold a practising certificate for the lower-level position.
- Members discussed the point raised and agreed that there were enough checks in place for this situation not to occur.
- It was agreed that the mindset of a mine manager advising employees to take the expedited path for the step up to the next classification was flawed and is highly unlikely to occur.
- The Department confirmed the 'blue printing' does not allow for this situation as the questions are stepped to expect more for the higher-level qualification.
- Members discussed raising awareness of this with examiner panels so that more information can be extracted from the candidate if it is suspected that they have undertaken this route. This perceived issue can be mitigated with alerts to examiners, who can tailor their questioning to uncover this practice.

Outcome

The Board:

i. Agreed that Department would raise awareness with examiner panels.

- Meeting closed at 11.19 am.

## Summary of Actions

A. Secretariat to contact Kurt Bridges and Sheldon Wilson out of session to confirm nomination for membership to the Working Group.

B. Secretariat to update the Pecuniary Interests register to represent changes to members declarations.

C. Secretariat to publish the minutes on the Resources Regulator website.

D. Secretariat to remove the action ‘ review of the Board’s role in the opal sector’ from the MPCB meeting action list.

E. Secretariat to add the revised risk register on the agenda for the August MPCB meeting.

F. Secretariat to consult Sheldon Wilson to arrange an induction meeting and guage feedback on the induction process and documents.

G. Secretariat to confirm member availability to hold MPCB-4 meeting on 17 November 2026.

## Approval

| Name/position | Signature/approval | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Joanne Muller, AM<br><br>Independent Chair | Endorsed. | 04/08/2026 |

**Comment:**

Nil.