

Community attitudes towards CSG development: 2014 and 2016

Views towards CSG development in the Western Downs region differ within communities and also between communities.

On average, views towards CSG development became slightly more negative in 2016.

KEY POINTS

In 2016, residents of the Western Downs region were asked about their views towards CSG:

- 13% of people rejected CSG
- 7% of people embraced CSG
- 80% of people tolerated, accepted or approved CSG
 - 33% tolerated gas
 - 35% accepted gas
 - 12% approved of gas
- Peoples views differed based on where they live
 - Those who lived 'out-of-town' felt negative on average towards CSG development
 - Those who lived 'in town' felt neutral on average towards CSG development.
- Peoples views differed between towns

What contributes to more positive attitudes towards CSG?

CSIRO research found that when people feel the following aspects of community life are strong then they have a more positive attitude towards CSG development:

- when they feel they are being **listened to** and **can have a say**
- **trust** is high
- the **environment** is being managed well for the future
- there **are employment and business opportunities** for their community
- there is good **local planning** and **leadership**
- people are getting **access to information**.

The 2016 CSIRO Community Wellbeing and Responding to Change Survey has shown that community attitudes vary across a wide spectrum but most people have moderate or 'luke-warm' views towards CSG development.

The 2016 survey shows that on average these views are slightly more negative than 2014.

A range of community views

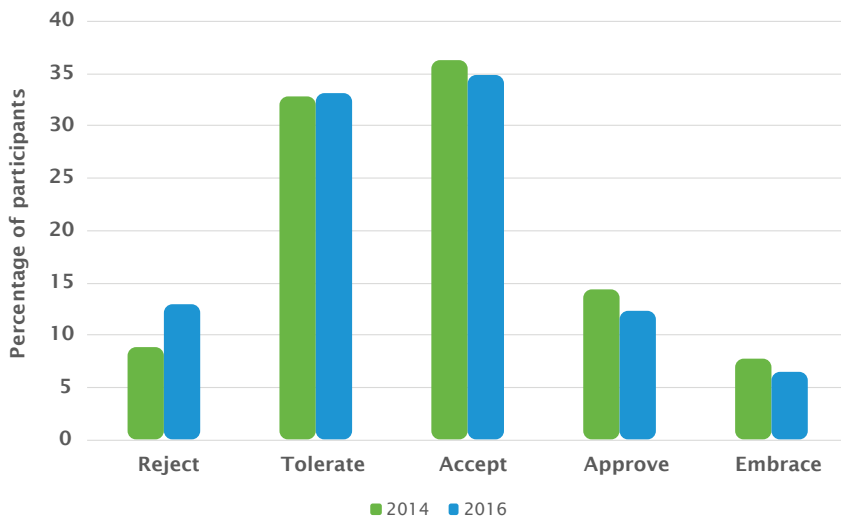
The CSIRO survey found that there was no single community view towards CSG development; rather there was a spread of attitudes that ranged from 'reject' CSG to 'embrace' CSG.

The survey showed that most people had moderate or luke-warm views towards CSG – 33% of people 'tolerated' gas, 35% accepted gas, and 12% approved of gas. There were 13% who rejected gas and 7% who embraced gas.

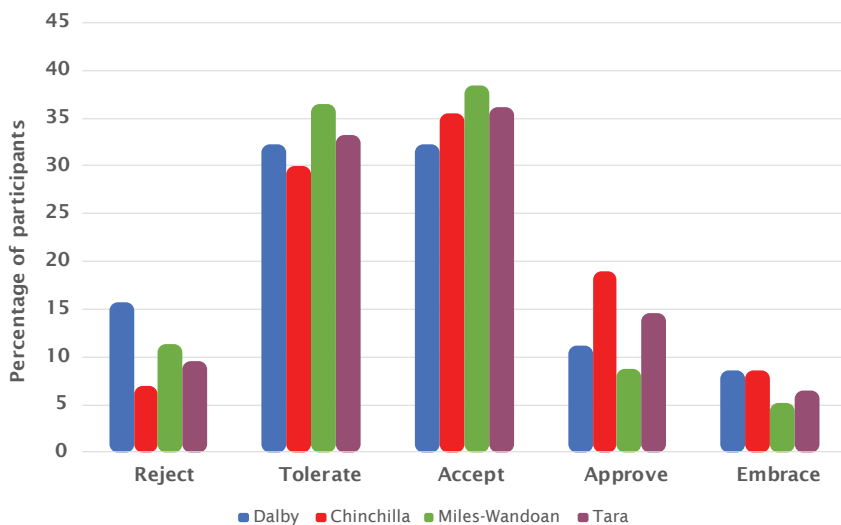
These differences can be attributed to people's previous experiences, current situations, individual needs and wants, and personal worldviews and beliefs around gas development.

CSG development covers extensive areas and affects many people, especially those residents who live out-of-town. In the case of the Surat Basin, thousands of wells are planned, impacting many different types of farms from broad acre cattle farming to more intensive agriculture. It also affects a range of town communities from smaller townships to larger regional centres. This amplifies differences in attitudes that CSG companies will potentially encounter as they intersect across the region.

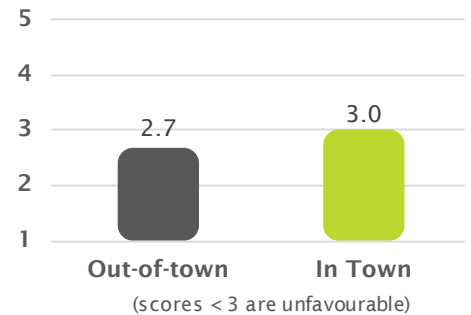
For all stakeholders this requires an understanding of different perspectives that exist within communities and between communities. The research findings suggest that companies engage with communities in varied and nuanced ways, as it cannot be assumed that people's views are similar.



Graph 1: Attitude toward CSG development: 2014 and 2016.



Graph 2: Attitude toward CSG development 2016: Differences between towns.



Graph 3: Feelings towards CSG development 2016: resides out-of-town v in-town. (scores < 3 are unfavourable)

What's the difference between 'tolerating' and 'accepting' CSG developments?

- People who **'tolerated'** gas had on average negative feelings towards gas.
- People who **'accepted'** gas had positive feelings towards gas.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How did you conduct the survey?

We used a telephone survey that took 30 minutes to complete. We asked 400 people approximately 120 questions about their views towards quality of life in their community. We also asked them about their attitudes towards CSG development in their area.

When did you conduct the survey?

We conducted the survey in Feb 2014 and again in Feb 2016.

Who completed the survey?

We contacted people who lived in the Western Downs region of southern Queensland to participate. All participants were randomly selected using public lists of telephone and mobile phone numbers.

The people who completed the survey were a representative sample of the region based on the ABS statistics for age, gender, and working status.

We made sure that our sample included:

- 100 people each from the areas of Dalby, Chinchilla, Tara, and Miles
- Half the people lived 'In Town' and half the people lived 'Out of Town'.

Where do I find more information?

A complete report of the 2014 and 2016 CSIRO Community Wellbeing and Responding to Change survey can be found at the GISERA website gisera.org.au

Note: the 2016 report is due for release in July 2016.

ABOUT GISERA

The Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) is a collaboration between CSIRO, Commonwealth and state governments and industry established to undertake publicly-reported independent research. The purpose of GISERA is to provide quality assured scientific research and information to communities living in gas development regions focusing on social and environmental topics including: groundwater and surface water, biodiversity, land management, the marine environment, and socio-economic impacts. The governance structure for GISERA is designed to provide for and protect research independence and transparency of research. Visit gisera.org.au for more information about GISERA's governance structure, projects and research findings.

FURTHER INFORMATION: 1300 363 400 | gisera@gisera.org.au