

Project Order

Proforma 2016

1. Short Project Title (less than 15 words)

Social baseline assessment of the Narrabri region of New South Wales in relation to CSG development

Long Project Title

Social baseline assessment of the Narrabri region of New South Wales: community perceptions and expectations, community wellbeing, and resilience in relation to CSG development

GISERA Project Number

S7

Proposed Start Date

1 July 2016

Proposed End Date

30 Sept 2017

Project Leader

Dr Andrea Walton

2. GISERA Region

Queensland New South Wales Northern Territory

3. GISERA Research Program

Water Research GHG Research Social & Economic Research
 Biodiversity Research Agricultural Land Management Research

4. Research Leader, Title and Organisation

Dr Andrea Walton
Research Scientist
CSIRO
0.3 FTE

5. Project Description

Background

The proposed Narrabri Gas Project is a CSG development situated mainly in the Pilliga State forest, south of the town, and surrounding community of Narrabri in northern NSW. The development of the industry raises social, economic, and environmental concerns for the potential impact on the existing agricultural sector in the region and the wellbeing of communities in the area. To achieve an outcome in which the proposed CSG development aligns with the future goals of both the agricultural sector and the broader community requires a comprehensive understanding of stakeholder values, perceptions, and expectations in the context of an integrated approach to regional development.

As a basis for these types of outcomes it is important to understand community expectations and perceptions, including concerns for community wellbeing, community goals or aspirations for the future, and the things that residents value about their community. In addition, baseline measures of community wellbeing, perceived capacity for the community to respond to change, the drivers of trust, and community attitudes towards CSG development are required. Finally, to achieve impact from the research it is necessary to identify areas in which community leaders, government and industry can collaborate on strategic actions.

This type of empirical information can inform more effective regional planning, and community engagement, and underpin government policy and industry programs. In combination such responses can help to build trust and confidence among community, industry, and government stakeholders; and can help the region achieve its shared goals while mitigating otherwise potentially negative outcomes from resource development activities.

Research context

Previous research

Previous research indicates that for the CSG industry to operate with the support from local communities, including landholders, it is important that there is minimal impact on community wellbeing, that benefits are shared, that people are treated fairly, and that things that are important to communities are managed in a way that communities find acceptable (Moffat & Zhang, 2014; Walton, McCrea, & Leonard, 2014). To achieve these outcomes requires high levels of trust and effective processes for ensuring that community and affected landholders can have a say and feel they are listened to. In addition, community confidence in the governance arrangements surrounding such projects is important for building trust and social acceptance. Research also demonstrates that community actions such as adequate planning, accessing and sharing information, linking to external spheres of influence, supporting volunteers, and providing effective leadership and coordination is important to provide residents confidence that the community is adapting to any changes in a positive trajectory (McCrea, Walton, & Leonard, 2014; Walton et al., 2013). Such actions help to mitigate impacts and translate economic and other opportunities into regional growth and prosperity that is congruent with the future goals of the community.

Regarding previous research on community wellbeing and responding to change in the Narrabri region, the University of Canberra's Centre for Research and Action in Public Health conducts an annual survey of regional wellbeing (Schirmer, Mylek, Peel, & Yabsley, 2015). In 2014 they surveyed 118 residents in the Moree Plains and Narrabri Local Government Areas on issues of individual and community wellbeing, which provides useful background data for our study. However, our project will survey more residents and provide more detail around community wellbeing and responding to change for the Narrabri region. A recent PhD study by Methuen Morgan from the University of New England has also been undertaken of "Australian Farmers' Responses to Coal Seam Gas Extraction Operations" in Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. The project team is familiar with this work and one of the team leaders was a co-supervisor for Methuen's PhD. This work was primarily focused on the health and stress related issues of farmers with CSG infrastructure on their properties. This project will also survey farmers, but will include all segments of the community and primarily focus on community wellbeing rather than individual wellbeing.

Finally, to investigate collaborative opportunities between Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) and GISERA, especially given the similarity of their approach and content and social research. NIER conducted a survey which included wellbeing in the Narrabri region. We have made contact with Dr Michael Askew, Director of the Centre for Social Research at NIER, to ask about this survey and its findings relating to wellbeing in the Narrabri region. Their findings and report will be released to the DPI on 24 June and we have arranged to talk with Dr Askew in the following week to familiarise ourselves with this research. It is best that any real linkages between NIER and GISERA be made within the first month of the start of the project to capitalize on synergies and avoid later project amendments.

References

- McCrea, R., Walton, A., & Leonard, R. (2014). A conceptual framework for investigating community wellbeing and resilience. *Rural Society*, 23(3), 270-282.
- Moffat, K., & Zhang, A. (2014). The paths to social licence to operate: an integrative model explaining community acceptance of mining. *Resources Policy*, 39, 61-70
- Schirmer, J., Mylek, M., Peel, D., & Yabsley, B. (2015). *People and place in Australia: The 2014 Regional Wellbeing Survey - Report 1 People and communities*. June 2015 (pp. 186). Canberra: Centre for Research and Action in Public Health, University of Canberra.
- Walton, A., McCrea, R., & Leonard, R. (2014). *CSIRO survey of community wellbeing and responding to change: Western Downs region in Queensland*. Australia: CSIRO Land and Water Retrieved from http://gisera.org.au/publications/tech_reports_papers/socioeco-proj-3-community-wellbeing-report.pdf.
- Walton, A. M., McCrea, R., Leonard, R., & Williams, R. (2013). Resilience in a changing community landscape of coal seam gas: Chinchilla in southern Queensland. *Journal of Economic and Social Policy*, 15(3), 0_1.

Project overview

This project is conducted in four phases over 15 months and comprises a mix of both qualitative and quantitative methods.

| Research phase | Aims | Methods |
|---|---|---|
| Phase 1: <i>Preparation, planning and stakeholder mapping</i> | To understand the local context and to identify key stakeholders and community segments | Desk top review Initial consultations with stakeholders |
| Phase 2: <i>Stakeholder discussion groups and interviews</i> | To identify and document values and goals of different community segments (including local farmers and indigenous people); their perceptions, concerns and expectations of the CSG sector; and factors important for building trust | Qualitative - Discussion groups and interviews with different community segments and key informants |
| Phase 3: <i>Baseline survey</i> | To measure community wellbeing, perceived community capacity to respond to change, and attitudes towards CSG development. | Quantitative - A representative survey of 400 respondents in the Narrabri region - Using quotas to ensure important community segments are included (e.g. local farmers, town residents, indigenous people) |
| Phase 4: <i>Feeding back results and identifying collaborative actions</i> | To communicate findings and identify the opportunities for future collaboration between stakeholders in developing early strategies for responding to change. | Qualitative - Community presentations and discussions of findings with community leaders, industry and government, report |

Project synergies

This project will work closely with the agricultural land management project - “Setting the scene: understanding environment and agriculture within the Narrabri region of NSW”. Both projects recognize potential overlap in research participants, particularly local farmer participants and stakeholders related to the agricultural sector.

By working closely together both projects aim to achieve the following benefits:

- Reduce participant fatigue
- Maximize the opportunities to reduce operational costs, for example, sharing travel costs, and conducting joint workshops / discussion groups where relevant

- Share research results to support synthesis of findings
- Present a unified face for GISERA research on the ground

6. Budget Summary

| Expenditure | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | Total |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| Labour | 0 | 172,288 | 44,502 | 0 | 216,790 |
| Operating | 0 | 13,720 | 6,780 | 0 | 20,500 |
| Subcontractors* | 0 | 35,000 | 0 | 0 | 35,000 |
| Total Expenditure | 0 | 221,008 | 51,282 | 0 | 272,290 |

*Subcontractor costs related to market research company conducting and hosting the telephone survey are included in the operating budget

| Expenditure per Task | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | Total |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| Task 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Task 2 | 0 | 102,531 | 3,000 | 0 | 105,531 |
| Task 3 | 0 | 100,275 | 0 | 0 | 100,275 |
| Task 4 | 0 | 18,202 | 48,282 | 0 | 66,484 |
| Total Expenditure | 0 | 221,008 | 51,282 | 0 | 272,290 |

| Source of Cash | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | Total |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| Contributions | | | | | |
| GISERA Industry Partners (25%) | 0 | 55,252 | 12,821 | 0 | 68,073 |
| - Santos (12.5%) | 0 | 27,626 | 6,410 | 0 | 34,036 |
| - AGL (12.5%) | 0 | 27,626 | 6,410 | 0 | 34,036 |
| NSW Government (25%) | 0 | 55,252 | 12,821 | 0 | 68,073 |
| Federal Government (25%) | 0 | 55,252 | 12,821 | 0 | 68,073 |
| Total Cash Contributions | 0 | 165,756 | 38,461 | 0 | 204,217 |

| In-Kind Contribution from Partners | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | Total |
|---|----------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| CSIRO (25%) | 0 | 55,252 | 12,821 | 0 | 68,073 |
| Total In-Kind Contribution from Partners | 0 | 55,252 | 12,821 | 0 | 68,073 |

| | Total funding over all years | Percentage of Total Budget |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| GISERA Investment | 68,073 | 25% |
| NSW Government Investment | 68,073 | 25% |
| Federal Government Investment | 68,073 | 25% |
| CSIRO Investment | 68,073 | 25% |
| Total Other Investment | | |
| TOTAL | 272,292 | |

| Task | Milest one Number | Milest one Description | Funded by | Start Date (mm-yy) | Delivery Date (mm-yy) | Fiscal Year | Fiscal Quarter | Payment \$ |
|--------|-------------------|---|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| Task 1 | 1 | Preparation, planning and stakeholder mapping | GISERA | 01/07/2016 | 15/08/2016 | | | 0 |
| Task 2 | 1 | Stakeholder discussion groups and interviews | GISERA | 01/07/2016 | 31/12/2016 | | | 79,148 |
| Task 3 | 2 | Baseline survey | GISERA | 01/07/2017 | 30/06/2017 | | | 75,206 |
| Task 4 | 3 | Feeding back results | GISERA | 01/02/2017 | 30/09/2017 | | | 49,863 |

7. Other Researchers (include organisations)

| Researcher | Time Commitment (project as a whole) | Principle area of expertise | Years of experience | Organisation |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|
| Dr Andrea Walton | 0.3 FTE | Community wellbeing, resilience and social acceptance | 7 yrs | CSIRO |
| Dr Rod McCrea | 0.3 FTE | Community wellbeing, resilience and social acceptance | 10 yrs | CSIRO |
| Dr Bruce Taylor | 0.1 FTE | Rural sociology, multi-landuse frameworks | >10 yrs | CSIRO |
| Project synergies | | | | |
| Dr Neil Huth | 0* | Farming systems | >25 yrs | CSIRO |
| Brett Cocks | 0* | Farmer engagement | >15 yrs | CSIRO |

* Involvement covered by the 'Setting the scene' project

8. Subcontractors:

A market research company to conduct and host the telephone surveys - TBA

9. Project Objectives and Outputs

Project objectives

There are four main objectives of the project

1. To understand and report community values, perceptions, concerns, and expectations of the CSG sector in the context of integrated regional development in the Narrabri region
2. To identify the drivers important for building trust between community stakeholders and the CSG sector
3. To establish baseline levels of community wellbeing, resilience, and attitudes in the Narrabri region prior to any potential construction phase
4. To identify opportunities for collaborative actions and a pathway to impact

Outputs

| RESEARCH PHASE | OUTPUTS |
|--|--|
| Phase 1: Preparation, planning and stakeholder mapping | Interim report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed project schedule, stakeholder map, and outline of pathway to impact |
| Phase 2: Stakeholder discussion groups and interviews | Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documenting values and goals of different community segments (including local farmers); perceptions, concerns and expectations of the CSG sector; and factors important for building trust |
| Phase 3: Baseline survey | Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measuring and documenting community wellbeing, perceived community capacity to respond to change, and attitudes towards CSG development |
| Phase 4: Feeding back results and identifying collaborative actions | Final report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarising overall research findings and identified future collaborative actions - Scientific paper |

10. GISERA Objectives Addressed

Carrying out of research and improving and extending knowledge of social and environmental impacts and opportunities of unconventional gas projects for the benefit of the Gas Industry, the relevant community and the broader public.

Informing government, regulators and policy-makers on key issues regarding policy and legislative framework for the Gas Industry.

11. Project Development

The Narrabri region has a long history as a strong agricultural area and has successfully pioneered many advances in cotton production in Australia. The region is also endowed with energy rich resources. With technological development of coal seam gas and its potential to operate in agriculturally productive land, there are concerns and diverse views around coal seam gas development in the region.

However, often there is a lack of empirical data to support the attitudes and views surrounding CSG activities. Moreover, these views are contested by both proponents and opponents. An initial

aim of this project is to understand, document, and measure the different perspectives that exist within the community.

An absence of early and relevant information such as this can act as a key barrier to effective collaboration between different community segments and industry. Understanding community values, their expectations, their perceived risks associated with CSG development, and how these may vary among different segments of the region and community, provides a thorough overview of the important issues for building trust and working together in the community.

In addition, a primary concern for communities is the potential impact on their community wellbeing or quality of life. However, a lack of baseline data limits the interpretation of any future measure of change. For example, previous CSIRO research found that community wellbeing was robust in the context of CSG industry in the Western Downs region of Queensland, even though community resilience was not as high and acceptance of the CSG industry was varied (Walton et al., 2014). However, the Queensland research only measured community wellbeing, resilience and acceptance towards the end of an extensive construction phase of CSG-LNG infrastructure. There was no early point of comparison to identify how things may have changed. Gathering baseline data is critical for monitoring the social impacts and benefits of CSG activity over time.

In contrast, this project provides a unique and important opportunity for the Narrabri region to understand different community perspectives, to establish these baselines prior to any further CSG development, and to work together to develop collaborative strategic actions in the community. It is important that this social research commence before potentially more extensive CSG development is undertaken so that findings can support the development of early proactive community planning responses and meaningful and effective two-way community engagement.

The overall perspective taken for this research is one of integrated regional development. Understanding the sociodemographic, economic and community profile in terms of industries and events that impact the community is important for supporting an integrated approach to regional development in accord with regional planning and community aspirations.

Robust baseline data provides valuable information for monitoring change and identifies initial key areas of regional and community need or opportunities. It also provides an in-depth understanding of the aspects important for building trust within the community and the processes for effective community engagement. From this information, opportunities and recommendations for collaborative actions can be identified, and the findings used to inform government policy and industry programs.

Input for project development

Development of the project has been informed by the following sources:

- Interactions with the People from the Plains in 2015 indicated their interest in the community expectations and community wellbeing work that had been conducted in the Western Downs, even though they felt some of their issues were different in NSW
- Discussion with the Community Engagement Manager at Santos Narrabri indicated the potential value in providing a comprehensive profile of community values, perceptions, expectations and broad goals to support meaningful two-way dialogue with community

- Team reflections on experiences, feedback, and perceived value of research outcomes in other CSG research conducted in other parts of Australia
- Interdisciplinary team discussion with other GISERA project teams including the Agricultural and land management team and the Economic research team
- Discussions with GISERA management team who shared their insights from recent field trips to Narrabri and the discussions they have had with community, government, industry, local farmers, and indigenous stakeholders
- Team reflections on experiences in other social research projects where we are currently investigating social licence to operate

12. Project Plan

12.1 Project Schedule

| ID | Task Title | Task Leader | Scheduled Start | Scheduled Finish | Comment |
|---------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Task 1 | Preparation, planning and stakeholder mapping | Andrea Walton | 01/07/2016 | 15/08/2016 | Task 1 and Task 2 comprise Milestone 1 |
| Task 2 | Stakeholder discussion groups and interviews | Andrea Walton | 01/07/2016 | 31/12/2016 | Findings from this research task will inform the survey |
| Task 3 | Baseline survey | Rod McCrea | 01/01/2017 | 30/06/2017 | Telephone survey of a representative sample |
| Task 4 | Feeding back results and identifying collaborative actions | Rod McCrea and Andrea Walton | 01/02/2017 | 30/09/2017 | Feedback results after completion of Task 2 and again after completion of Task 3 |

Task 1

TASK NAME: Preparation, planning, and stakeholder mapping

TASK LEADER: Andrea Walton

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: 6 weeks

BACKGROUND: To effectively understand the different perspectives of community, including indigenous people and local farmers, it is necessary to identify key stakeholders. It is also important that this research project does not duplicate work previously undertaken, rather that it complements and extends any work done to date. Moreover, it is important the findings from the research can be utilised by leaders of the community and can inform relevant policy and industry programs. Thus, identifying a pathway to impact will be necessary. We envisage that our pathway to impact will include identification of relevant stakeholders interested and appropriately placed to consider and act on our research findings.

TASK OBJECTIVE: Identify key stakeholders; collate relevant secondary data; identify pathway to impact

TASK OUTPUTS: Completion of initial consultations, desktop review, and stakeholder mapping

SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES: Interim report with detailed project schedule, stakeholder map, and outline of pathway to impact.

DELIVERABLE DATE: At 6 weeks

Task 2

TASK NAME: Stakeholder discussion groups and interviews

TASK LEADER: Andrea Walton

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: 6 months

BACKGROUND: Different perspectives towards CSG development exist within the community and it is important that these perspectives are understood and documented so that meaningful dialogue, collaboration and strategies can be pursued

TASK OBJECTIVE: Elicit community values and future goals; identify concerns, perceptions, and expectations of the CSG sector, including roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders; describe how these vary within the community

TASK OUTPUTS: Report on stakeholder discussion groups and interviews identifying

- community values and future goals,
- community concerns, perceptions, and expectations of the CSG sector
- factors important for building trust in the CSG sector

SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES: Report.

DELIVERABLE DATE: At 6 months

Task 3

TASK NAME: Baseline survey of community wellbeing, attitudes and perceptions around CSG development

TASK LEADER: Rod McCrea

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: 6 months

BACKGROUND: There are a range of benefits associated with collecting baseline data including:

- provides opportunity to identify community strengths and areas of weakness that are relevant to effectively dealing with CSG development
- identifies the important drivers of trust
- measures baseline attitudes towards CSG development
- provides information for monitoring any changes in wellbeing in the future

TASK OBJECTIVE: Identify baseline levels of community wellbeing and perceptions of community capability to effectively manage and respond to CSG development. Measure the factors important for building trust and acceptance of the CSG sector, and identify the relative importance of the key drivers.

TASK OUTPUTS: Completion of a telephone survey; completion of a report

SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES: Report.

DELIVERABLE DATE: At 12 months

Task 4

TASK NAME: Feeding back results and identifying opportunities for collaborative actions

TASK LEADER: Rod McCrea and Andrea Walton

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: 8 months

BACKGROUND: To make full use of the research findings it is important to communicate findings and identify opportunities for taking collaborative actions.

TASK OBJECTIVE: Achieving impact from our research. Communicate our findings to community leaders, government, and industry. Identify collaborative actions that stakeholders want to pursue

TASK OUTPUTS: Community presentations and cross-stakeholder discussions of research findings with community leaders, industry and government – after the completion of Task 2 and then again after the completion of Task 3

SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES: Final report with summary of identified future collaborative actions; scientific paper submitted to e-publish and associated factsheets to assist extension activities.

DELIVERABLE DATE: At 15 months

13. Communications Plan

General communication will be managed by GISERA.

Specific project communication and engagement

Groups of people we will be talking to: Government, Community, NGOs, farmers, and indigenous people

The type of information we will be exchanging with these groups: We will use these groups as participants in our research (key informants and community stakeholders) and we will also feed back to them our findings.

In addition we will feed back our findings to local council; government agencies responsible for regional planning, and CSG related development; industry and CSG companies (particularly those responsible for social impacts and community engagement); farmer groups; and relevant community groups and agencies. We are aiming to use our research findings to achieve outcomes in the following areas:

- improved policy, regulations, and industry standards in relation to standards for engaging with communities and on-farm behaviour - enabling tailored approaches to specific community concerns
- improved local council and community responses and planning in relation to changes associated with CSG development
- improved communication networks that facilitates the flow and dissemination of trustworthy information between community, companies, and government in relation to matters associated with CSG development

The research findings will assist stakeholders in tailoring their approaches and responses to specific community concerns.