

# NEWS RELEASE

## Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP

Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy

Wednesday, 7 February 2018

### **South Australian Government partners with CSIRO on South East Gas study**

The South Australian Government is partnering with Australia's foremost scientific research agency to conduct research into the social and environmental impact of the gas industry in the Otway Basin.

CSIRO, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, will conduct in-depth research into the social and environmental impacts of gas production in the South East.

The partnership will enable CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance, or GISERA, to conduct studies on the impacts on key issues concerning communities within the onshore Otway Basin.

### **Background**

The highly-respected national science research agency has years of experience working closely with communities and industry to provide quality-assured information on social and environmental issues.

Through GISERA, CSIRO has previously undertaken research that has better informed communities living in gas-developing regions in Queensland and New South Wales.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy Tom Koutsantonis**

Partnering with the CSIRO provides South Australia with an opportunity to generate a wealth of independent research to gauge the impact of the gas industry on the State's South East.

By working with the local community, GISERA will also be able to generate high quality scientific research to better inform the development of South Australia's Oil and Gas Strategy.

Many of the concerns about water quality and the socio-economic impacts of the gas industry on neighbouring primary industries will be addressed by this research project.

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**Quotes attributable to Director of CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance Dr Damian Barrett**

GISERA has established a proven research program, governance structure and processes in Queensland and New South Wales to ensure independence, transparency and integrity. We will be taking that same approach to the research undertaken in South Australia.

A South Australian Regional Research Advisory Committee is being established, including a majority of independent members, which independently reviews research proposals on the range of science questions which the community, government and local industry seek answers to in the South East.

We look forward to working with the communities in the South East to develop a study program that will deepen our knowledge of the social and environmental impacts of the onshore gas industry in the Otway Basin.