Attitudes to Coal Seam Gas development in the Narrabri Shire of New South Wales

APRIL 2018

A survey of community wellbeing and attitudes to coal seam gas (CSG) was conducted in the Narrabri Shire, NSW, in March - April 2017. This factsheet presents some of the findings on attitudes to a potential CSG development.

Overall attitudes to a CSG development

KEY POINTS

- Attitudes toward a potential CSG development varied widely in the Narrabri Shire
  - 30% of residents indicated they would ‘reject’ the CSG development; 27% would ‘tolerate it’, 15% would be ‘ok with it’, 13% would ‘approve of it’, and 15% would ‘embrace it’.
  - Attitudes to proposed CSG development were more favourable in-town than out-of-town
  - People who lived in Narrabri and surrounds held more favourable views than those who lived in other subregions of the shire

Attitudes towards CSG development

- Percentage of participants
  - Rejection: In-town 30.5%, Out-town 27.0%, Overall 30.5%
  - Tolerance: In-town 27.0%, Out-town 27.0%, Overall 27.0%
  - Acceptance: In-town 14.7%, Out-town 13.0%, Overall 13.0%
  - Approval: In-town 14.8%, Out-town 14.8%, Overall 14.8%
  - Embrace: In-town 0%, Out-town 0%, Overall 0%
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.csiro.au for more information on GISERA’s governance structure, projects and research findings.

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

Underlying drivers of social acceptance

KEY POINTS

Levels of social acceptance in local communities depend on people’s perceptions about:

- Industry effects: **perceived impacts** and **benefits**
- Relations between community and CSG operator: **procedural fairness; relationship quality; and trust in industry**
- **Distributional fairness** in terms of how benefits and costs will be shared
- **Governance** of the industry: compliance, regulations, planning and trust in governing bodies
- Resident confidence in their **knowledge** about the local CSG industry

A statistical model explaining social acceptance, or lack thereof, of CSG development

**How this model works:**

- Perceived impacts is the main driver of acceptance or lack thereof
- Perceived impacts and benefits both directly influence acceptance
- They also indirectly influence acceptance via distributional fairness and trust in industry
- Good governance supports relational aspects and distributional fairness
- Confidence in knowledge has a small influence on acceptance

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**How was the survey done?**

The survey data was collected in March – April 2017 using a 30-minute telephone interview from a randomly selected representative sample of 400 residents from the Narrabri Shire of NSW

**Information sources?**


Available at: https://gisera.csiro.au