

Actions from GISERA NT Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting 24 July 2018

Key

Action Open
Action Due/overdue
Action complete/in train

	Item	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1.	24-07-18 Item 2A	Action 1 : The research proponent to add an additional row to the communications plan for “community engagement” outlining proposed activities including development of a factsheet and participation in stakeholder meetings to explain research and findings.	Research proponent	2 August 2018	
2.	24-07-18 Item 2A	Action 2 : The knowledge transfer session to include key stakeholders from various locations including Darwin, Katherine and surrounds.	GISERA Executive Officer	Near project completion	
3.	24-07-18 Item 2A	Action 3 : Santos to check degree of involvement in engagements in existing agreement with traditional owners.	Santos	2 August 2018	
4.	24-07-18 Item 2A	Action 4 : The research proponent to liaise with company representatives on the ground to coordinate interaction with cultural monitors and escorts in the field to ensure safety of fieldworkers.	Research proponent	Ongoing	

5.	24-07-18 Item 2B	Action 5 : The research proponent to add an additional row to the communications plan for “community engagement” outlining proposed activities including development of a factsheet and participation in stakeholder meetings to explain research and findings.	Research proponent	3 August 2018	
6.	24-07-18 Item 2B	Action 6 : The research proponent to include specific details on aquifers in both methodology and communication collateral.	Research proponent	3 August 2018	
7.	24-07-18 Item 2B	Action 7 : The research proponent to include sampling and data chemistry of rainfall into methodology.	Research proponent	3 August 2018	
8.	24-07-18 Item 2B	Action 8 : The research proponent to include sampling of bores outside of the lease areas into methodology.	Research proponent	3 August 2018	
9.	24-07-18 Item 2B	Action 9 : The GISERA Director’s contact details to be circulated to the NT RRAC.	GISERA Executive Officer	30 July 2018	

Minutes
GISERA NT Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 1
Tuesday, 24 July 2018
via teleconference

OPENING

The meeting of the GISERA Northern Territory Regional Research Advisory Committee (RRAC) was called to order at 12.05 pm (ACST) on Tuesday, 24 July 2018.

PARTICIPANTS

Damian Barrett: GISERA Director (*CSIRO*)

Fay Miller: Mayor of Katherine (*Katherine Town Council*)

Greg Bicknell: Chief Executive Officer (*Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory*)

Greg Owens: Chief Executive Officer (*Northern Territory Farmers Association*)

Greg McDonald: A/g Manager, Minerals & Energy (*Northern Land Council*) – on behalf of Joe Morrison

Julie-Ann Stoll: Manager – Mining (*Central Land Council*)

James Pratt: Executive Director- Onshore Gas Development (*Department of Primary Industry and Resources, Northern Territory Government*)

David Close: Unconventional Exploration Manager (*Origin*)

Shaun Drabsch: Public Affairs Consultant (*Santos*)

Chris Chilcott: Research Leader Northern Australian Development, Science Strategy (*CSIRO*)

Apologies:

Joe Morrison: Chief Executive Officer (*Northern Land Council*)

Other attendees:

Jizelle Khoury: GISERA Executive Officer (*CSIRO*)

Dan O’Sullivan: GISERA Deputy Director (*CSIRO*)

Liz Tearall: GISERA Administration Officer (*CSIRO*)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ITEM 1. Welcome, Introductions, overview of GISERA

The GISERA Director welcomed all members to the meeting. It was noted that David Close would be joining at 12:30 pm (ACST).

The GISERA Director provided an overview of GISERA and explained the role of the RRAC.

ITEM 2A. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Baseline measurement and monitoring of methane emissions in the Beetaloo sub-basin, NT

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- The key objective of this project is to respond to community concerns regarding methane emissions by the onshore gas industry. In addition, this project will address the Northern Territory Government's 'Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing' final report recommendations 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5.
- The project will provide numbers with context in terms of size of fluxes, and how these compare to what we see elsewhere in Australia. These measurements will occur every couple of months with data being publically available once this has occurred.
- GPS coordinates (georeferenced data placed on google earth) will be made publically available. Georeferenced data would not be released only if there is a risk of theft, equipment damage or an issue of commercial in confidence.
- The communications effort will need to be active and inclusive to ensure regional communities are informed of and understand the research findings as they come to hand. This will include:
 - Development of a factsheet at commencement of project that will explain the objective of the project. The factsheet will be updated periodically as the project progresses.
 - CSIRO participation in stakeholder workshops and meetings, roadshows and other community engagements where appropriate.
 - Project progress made publically available to ensure transparency not only to government and industry but to regional communities.
 - Key findings communicated with the use of maps and visual cues to be incorporated.
- The knowledge transfer session with key stakeholders will be conducted as the project comes to an end and should include various locations in the NT (e.g. Darwin, Katherine and surrounds) with options to dial-in via videoconference and phone.
- NLC has agreements in place with all of the explorers in the Beetaloo basin. Through those agreements (in particular the newer agreements), they have established practices where the proponents are encouraged to engage traditional owners as cultural monitors (via the NLC). This program is considered mutually beneficial, increases engagement and participation of the local traditional owners and provides additional safeguards against the research proponent or other fieldworkers inadvertently entering into a sacred site or other culturally sensitive area. This normally involves senior traditional owners that have an understanding of the area including sacred sites and culturally sensitive areas. They are engaged whenever a company or operator goes out in the field. The research proponent is encouraged to apply this practice if possible. To administer the notification and engagement of traditional owner

cultural monitors the NLC requires a minimum of 4 weeks' notice (in writing) in advance of the proposed fieldwork commencing – six weeks' notice is preferable.

- Having accompaniment on the land from traditional owners is important for the work in regards to understanding what is being measured, its importance, understanding the landscape with the perspective from traditional owners.
- CSIRO researchers will have escorts in the field to ensure safety and their whereabouts and location are known at all times.
- It was suggested that companies that are co-ordinating on the ground escort, coordinate involvement of traditional owners via Greg McDonald, NLC.
- As a matter of course, Santos, with existing agreements with traditional owners through the NLC, have been notifying any intentions of accessing sites on those areas. Will check agreements to confirm agreed involvement of traditional owners for these areas.

Outcome: The RRAC approved this project, subject to the actions below being addressed to the satisfaction of the GISERA Director.

Action 1: The research proponent to add an additional row to the communications plan for “community engagement” outlining proposed activities including development of a factsheet and participation in stakeholder meetings to explain research and findings.

Action 2: The knowledge transfer session to include key stakeholders from various locations including Darwin, Katherine and surrounds.

Action 3: Santos to check degree of involvement in engagements in existing agreement with traditional owners.

Action 4: The research proponent to liaise with company representatives on the ground to coordinate interaction with cultural monitors and escorts in the field to ensure safety of fieldworkers.

ITEM 2B. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Baseline assessment of groundwater characteristics in the Beetaloo sub-basin, NT

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- As is the case for the methane project (item 2A), the communications effort will need to be active and inclusive to ensure regional communities are informed of and understand the research findings as they come to hand. This will include:

- Development of a factsheet at commencement of project that will explain the objective of the project. The factsheet will be updated periodically as the project progresses.
- CSIRO participation in stakeholder workshops and meetings, roadshows and other community engagements where appropriate.
- Project progress made publically available to ensure transparency not only to government and industry but to regional communities.
- Key findings communicated with the use of maps and visual cues to be incorporated.
- Need to identify specific aquifers as the community may not know where the Cambrian Limestone aquifer is. Will be important for meaningful terms to be incorporated within the proposal's methodology and communication collateral.
- Scheduled start for task 1 likely to be pushed back from August to October 2018 to ensure scope and detail is correct.
- It would be useful to get data of chemistry of rainfall. The researchers could either set up a collector in the local area or get a weather observer to collect rain samples from individual rain events through the next wet. That would help to work out what modifications to the chemistry have taken place in the aquifer. It would also make the chloride mass balance method more accurate for recharge estimation. The nearest existing sites with rainwater chemistry are Katherine, Jabiru and Alice. The local rainwater may have significantly different chemistry.
- The research proponent to consider having strategically positioned bores outside of the lease areas could be useful for defining the regional flow paths and regional flow rates.
- It will be valuable to have publicly available information.

Outcome: The RRAC would like to research proponent to revise the proposal taking to account all the points raised, and submit a revised proposal via email to the RRAC for consideration.

Action 5: The research proponent to add an additional row to the communications plan for "community engagement" outlining proposed activities including development of a factsheet and participation in stakeholder meetings to explain research and findings.

Action 6: The research proponent to include specific details on aquifers in both methodology and communication collateral.

Action 7: The research proponent to include sampling and data chemistry of rainfall into methodology.

Action 8: The research proponent to include sampling of bores outside of the lease areas into methodology.

Action 9: The GISERA Director's contact details to be circulated to the NT RRAC.

ITEM 4. OTHER BUSINESS

No items raised.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the NT Regional Research Advisory Committee is yet to be scheduled. It is anticipated that a meeting will occur once further proposals are established and will be face to face.

Damian Barrett adjourned the meeting at 2.23 pm (ACST).

Minutes submitted by: **Liz Tearall**

Minutes approved by: **Damian Barrett**