

## Actions from GISERA SA Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting 30 April 2020

Key

Action Open
Action Due/overdue
Action complete/in train

	Item	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1.	30-04-20 Item 2A	<a href="#">Action 1</a> : Following discussions with the relevant SA Government departments (DEW and DEM) the research proponent to adjust the sampling methodology to ensure aquifer heterogeneity and optimal distribution of sampling. GISERA Director to approve Actions 1 & 2	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
2.	30-04-20 Item 2A	<a href="#">Action 2</a> : CSIRO Communications in co-ordination with both GISERA water research proponents will develop a synthesised factsheet for community which links all south-east South Australia water-related projects together. This will be a research synopsis of groundwater, aquifer and soil work to be prepared upon completion of this project.	CSIRO Communications Manager & Research proponents	31 July 2021	



3.	30-04-20 Item 2B	<a href="#">Action 3</a> : Project outputs to be made clearer in the project order. GISERA Director to approve Actions 3-5	Research proponent	20 May 2020	
4.	30-04-20 Item 2B	<a href="#">Action 4</a> : Researcher proponent to ensure close interaction with South Australian government departments and the technical reference group to support the utilisation and reuse of output models.	Research Proponent	Ongoing	
5.	30-04-20 Item 2B	<a href="#">Action 5</a> : Consultation to include non-government hydrologists to also be canvassed for their consideration in the modelling. Should include whom/how regularly the researchers will interact/canvass non-government hydrologist.	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
6.	30-04-20 Item 2C	<a href="#">Action 6</a> : Research proponent to discuss project team formation with the CEO of Livestock SA. <a href="#">Research proponent to submit revised proposal taking account of Actions 6-9</a>	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
7.	30-04-20 Item 2C	<a href="#">Action 7</a> : Research proponent to provide more explicit detail around surveys, including who will be surveyed, how many and how they will be recruited, and assessment methods.	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	



8.	30-04-20 Item 2C	<a href="#">Action 8</a> : Research proponent to provide more detail around on how they will be able to separate out the other drivers (perceptions) that might be affecting brand.	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
9.	30-04-20 Item 2C	<a href="#">Action 9</a> : Research proponent to liaise with Jo Collins and Peta Crewe of PIRSA regarding brand.	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
10.	30-04-20 Item 2D	<a href="#">Action 10</a> : Research proponent to interact with state government stakeholders to address the balance between the south-east interest versus state interest versus national grid relationships. <a href="#">Research proponent to submit revised proposal taking account of Actions 10-13</a>	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
11.	30-04-20 Item 2D	<a href="#">Action 11</a> : Research proponent to revise project order to add component to methodology and revision to scope.	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
12.	30-04-20 Item 2D	<a href="#">Action 12</a> : Research proponent to acknowledge the policy documents that have been generated by the state government to date and any initiatives underway in the project order.	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	
13.	30-04-20 Item 2D	<a href="#">Action 13</a> : Research proponent to be explicit on the considerations of AEMO or any other regulatory body in the project order.	Research Proponent	20 May 2020	

14.	30-04-20 Item 3A	<u>Action 14</u> : CSIRO to consult with stakeholders and determine suitable timing to conduct a second community wellbeing study and to prepare a proposal for consideration by the SA RRAC. This is conditional upon additional funding being provided to GISERA.	GISERA Deputy Director and previous Research proponent	15 July 2020	
15.	30-04-20 Item 3B	<u>Action 15</u> : CSIRO Communications Manager to liaise with Anne Jensen to discuss the development of a summary document that provides the community with basic facts regarding gas exploration and potential impacts relating to production in the south-east.	CSIRO Communications Manager	15 May 2020	
16.	30-04-20 Item 3C	<u>Action 16</u> : CSIRO Communications Manager to liaise with Lynne Cobiac on provision of information to Chief Scientist on GISERA's research in the south-east.	CSIRO Communications Manager	15 May 2020	

**Minutes**  
**GISERA SA Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 3**  
**Thursday, 30 April 2020**  
**via teleconference**

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**OPENING**

The meeting of the GISERA South Australian Regional Research Advisory Committee (RRAC) was called to order at 9:36 am (ACST time) on Thursday, 30 April 2020.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Damian Barrett: Director - Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) and Research Director - Onshore Gas, Energy Business Unit (CSIRO)

Andrew Curtis: CEO (Livestock SA) and CEO (South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association)

Tony Hill: Deputy Director, Geoscience & Exploration Branch, Energy Resources Division (Department of the Premier and Cabinet)

Stuart Sharman: Viticulturist & Grazer, and Chair (Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council Inc.)

Darren Shelden: Chairperson (Green Triangle Regional Plantation Committee)

Anne Jensen: Environmental Consultant (Healthy Rivers Ambassador for Murray-Darling Basin & Honorary Research Associate, Nature Foundation SA)

Lynne Cobiac: Deputy Director and Science Director, Health & Biosecurity (CSIRO)

***Other attendees:***

Dan O'Sullivan: GISERA Deputy Director (CSIRO)

Jizelle Khoury: GISERA Executive Officer (CSIRO)

***Apologies:***

Peter Gandolfi: Chair, Regional Development Australia – Limestone Coast

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**ITEM 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

- The GISERA Director welcomed all members to the meeting.
- It was noted that Peter Gandolfi was unable to attend.

## **ITEM 2A. PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **Microbial degradation of chemicals and fluids in aquifers**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- It was raised that the sampling regime proposed is based on land uses, rather than finding different conditions in the aquifers under surface water. There was concern around stratification of these field samples in proximity to wells and the land uses around existing wells. There is heterogeneity in the aquifer and the researchers should sample in relation to that heterogeneity or consider using the drainage systems that drain groundwater.
- It was confirmed that the surface drainage system in the south-east is derived from the unconfined aquifers. It was agreed to consult DEM and DEW to provide guidance to researchers on where to consider taking samples in relation to heterogeneity in the Tyndall Limestone Aquifer.
- It was discussed whether any gas industry leakage would be confined to an aquifer that is deeper than the regular water sources being used by various land users. It was confirmed that there are multiple stacked aquifers and each aquifer has different qualities and salinities with two or three barriers. This study will focus on the tertiary limestone aquifer which is unconfined and the tertiary confined aquifer which is the Dilwyn formation. These are almost fully allocated by other sectors.
- This study will determine how quickly the microbial compounds will be metabolised. In a future project, this information can be used and applied to identify the impact on the environment or water quality.
- There is merit in combining this work with previously released water-related GISERA research in South Australia into a synthesised study for stakeholder consumption. This would include content on what the groundwater processes are, what the science is telling us and what the residual risks and gaps are. CSIRO Communications will support this.
- There was discussion on GISERA and CSIRO doing a roadshow to present an integrated view of the knowledge generated through the research undertaken in South Australia to the community stakeholders.

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

Action 1: Following discussions with the relevant SA Government departments (DEW and DEM) the research proponent to adjust the sampling methodology to ensure aquifer heterogeneity and optimal distribution of sampling.

Action 2: CSIRO Communications in co-ordination with both GISERA water research proponents will develop a synthesised factsheet for community which links all south-east South Australia water-related projects together. This will be a research synopsis of groundwater, aquifer and soil work to be prepared upon completion of this project.

## **ITEM 2B. PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **Decision support framework for future groundwater management strategies**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- There will be significant consultation with stakeholders to determine future scenarios for the region.
- The project output will deliver a range of scenarios, which, combined with the mechanisms/processes that are in place, will provide an understanding of the dynamic of each scenario. This needs to be made clearer in the proposal.
- Close interaction between researchers and SA government departments (DEW and EPA) to continue to ensure consistency in the use of the model for future iterations.
- Stakeholder consultations to also include non-government hydrologists for consideration in the modelling. Industry should be able to provide experts in the modelling of the groundwater to support hypothesis accepted in the recent review of the water allocation.

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

Action 3: Project outputs to be made clearer in the project order.

Action 4: Research proponent to ensure close interaction with South Australian government departments and the technical reference group to support the utilisation and reuse of output models.

Action 5: Consultation to include non-government hydrologists to also be canvassed for their consideration in the modelling. Should include whom/how regularly the researchers will interact/canvass non-government hydrologist.

## **ITEM 2C. PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **Perspectives on risk to local markets and industries**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- Protection of brand came out strongly in the results of the recent GISERA project on community wellbeing and attitudes to conventional gas development in the south east of SA.
- This is an important piece of work and it is imperative the project is well-focused. The formation of the research team is critical. The proposal has the bulk of effort coming from

the CSIRO Agriculture Systems team and while understanding agricultural systems is important, it is not necessarily a core part of the project. The livestock industry use commercial researchers that might provide valuable input into this work. It would be worthwhile for the research proponent and Andrew Curtis (CEO - Livestock SA) to have a conversation to better understand the researcher's perspectives on this and discuss any suggestions Andrew may have that could be taken on board.

- It was noted that the proposal could benefit from additional information on the survey to be conducted. There was mention of the previous survey conducted as part of the 'gas impacts and opportunities on primary industries' project, but it is unclear who will be surveyed, how many and how they will be recruited.
- The proposal needs more detail on how responses will be gathered and analysed.
- There's a risk that gas production could be blamed for any negative impacts in the South East region, similar to the way that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan has been blamed for everything including economic downturns in the irrigation districts, when in fact there may be many other drivers causing impacts. How will the researchers deal with confounding factors.
- Andrew Curtis is happy to work with Rick in the short term if he needs more background to assist in further developing the methodology and research team.
- It was noted that PIRSA have done work relating to brand. It would be worthwhile for the research proponent to liaise with both Jo Collins - Executive Director, Agriculture, Food and Wine (based in Adelaide) and Peta Crewe - Regional Coordinator for the Limestone Coast (based in Mt. Gambier) for any consideration to go into the amended proposal.

Outcome: The RRAC would like the 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 6: Research proponent to discuss project team formation with the CEO of Livestock SA.

Action 7: Research proponent to provide more explicit detail around surveys, including who will be surveyed, how many and how they will be recruited, and assessment methods.

Action 8: Research proponent to provide more detail around on how they will be able to separate out the other drivers (perceptions) that might be affecting brand.

Action 9: Research proponent to liaise with Jo Collins and Peta Crewe of PIRSA regarding brand.



## **ITEM 2D. PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **The role of gas in South Australia**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- This project is focused on the state-level, however until now GISERA research in South Australia has been more focused on the south-east corner. It was suggested that the project include two scopes (at state and local level). The revised scope will include an input/output table or similar analysis of the south-east corner. This region is interested in any change from these energy activities at local level, for example, employment, household income, population, as well as state-based changes).
- The project order should reflect the additional methodology and revised scope to include a focus on the south-east.
- It is important that the revised proposal acknowledges the policy documents that have been generated by the state government to date and any initiatives underway.
- The project order should be explicit on the considerations of AEMO or any other regulatory body and represent boundary conditions on what could potentially happen in the south-east.
- The research proponent is to engage with SA Government during revision of this proposal (prior to wider circulation to the SA RRAC for consideration) to address these additions.

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 10: Research proponent to interact with state government stakeholders to address the balance between the south-east interest versus state interest versus national grid relationships.

Action 11: Research proponent to revise project order to add component to methodology and revision to scope.

Action 12: Research proponent to acknowledge the policy documents that have been generated by the state government to date and any initiatives underway in the project order.

Action 13: Research proponent to be explicit on the considerations of AEMO or any other regulatory body in the project order.

### ITEM 3. OTHER BUSINESS

#### ITEM 3A. Follow-up community wellbeing study

- Interest expressed in a follow-up to the community wellbeing survey to build on the baseline from 2019. There was merit in interviewing the same people. Other members were supportive of this idea.
- It was noted that should additional funding be provided to GISERA, CSIRO would proceed with the development of a proposal. CSIRO would also engage with the necessary stakeholders to determine the best time to conduct a second study.

Action 14: CSIRO to consult with stakeholders and determine suitable timing to conduct a second community wellbeing study and to prepare a proposal for consideration by the SA RRAC. This is conditional upon additional funding being provided to GISERA.

#### ITEM 3B. Development of summary document

- Request for a summary document covering basic facts regarding gas exploration in the south-east (physical impacts of gas exploration, locations, key questions, maps etc.). CSIRO Communications to follow up with Anne regarding this.

Action 15: CSIRO Communications Manager to liaise with Anne Jensen to discuss the development of a summary document that provides the community with basic facts regarding gas exploration and potential impacts relating to production in the south-east.

#### ITEM 3C. Information to Chief Scientist

- GISERA summary to be provided to Lynne Cobiac for inclusion in future discussions with the Chief Scientist.

Action 16: CSIRO Communications Manager to liaise with Lynne Cobiac on provision of information to Chief Scientist on GISERA's research in the south-east.

### NEXT MEETING

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

Damian Barrett adjourned the meeting at 12.30 pm (ACST time).

Minutes submitted by: **Jizelle Khoury**

Minutes approved by: **Damian Barrett**