

About us

CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) uses the significant and trusted research capabilities of Australia's leading scientific agency and combines this with a governance structure to deliver independent, trusted and transparent information and advice on gas development issues and opportunities.

Onshore gas development within Australia has the potential to meet domestic energy demands, contribute to the economic wellbeing of communities and the nation, and supply energy to the global community.

CSIRO is Australia's national science research agency and has for many years worked with industries, governments, communities and landscapes now engaged with or impacted by gas development. This research has long supported communities and industries with interests in managing agriculture, biodiversity and water. GISERA undertakes research into the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the natural gas industry.

Aims

GISERA aims to ensure its research is informed by and of benefit to the broader community and industry. It seeks a broad range of members to encourage a better understanding and perspective of the effects of the natural gas industry on Australia's society, economy and environment.

GISERA seeks the membership of:

- other natural gas companies and their suppliers
- research purchasers and providers such as universities and government agencies
- stakeholders such as agricultural industries and communities.

GISERA seeks to provide a whole-of-industry focus, using a multi-developer approach to research the impacts of the industry. This is crucial to providing a coherent conduit for knowledge that can inform future regulation and monitoring of natural gas developments around Australia.

GISERA's research aims to help inform decision-making in 7 major subject areas:

- Surface and groundwater
- Greenhouse gas footprint
- Agricultural land management
- Terrestrial biodiversity
- Marine environment
- Socio-economic impacts and opportunities
- Health impacts

All GISERA research outputs, fact sheets and video updates are available to view and download at gisera.csiro.au.



Image: Australia Pacific LNG

GISERA partners

The initial research focus, since GISERA was launched in July 2011, was directed at Queensland's coal seam gas-liquefied natural gas (CSG-LNG) industry. Based on the success of the research programs in Queensland GISERA has expanded its research into regional New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia.

Members of GISERA now include Australia Pacific LNG, QGC, Santos, Origin Energy, Pangaea Resources and CSIRO. GISERA also receives funding from the Australian Government, and the Governments of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

CSIRO's research status and experience in social, economic and ecological sciences allows it to provide impartial, integrated research to industry, regulators and the wider Australian community. The research assists industry, government and communities to make decisions about natural gas developments and manage their effects on society, the economy and the environment.



Image: CSIRO



CSIRO researcher measuring methane emissions from termite mounds in the Northern Territory.

Communication and governance

Communities around Australia want trusted information about coal seam and shale gas, the techniques used in the extraction processes, the environmental risks and social and economic impacts associated with these developments.

GISERA aims to achieve credibility, trust and respect from all stakeholders through the open and transparent conduct and communication of its research and related activities. Since GISERA began in 2011, over 1,200 engagements with a wide range of stakeholders through forums such as workshops, seminars, conferences and technical briefings have been provided across mainland Australia.

GISERA is inclusive in its science communication and engagement with advocates and opponents of CSG and shale gas development. Its communication program is based on providing trusted, accessible and effective communication in situations where the community has little to no shared values and high uncertainty about desirable outcomes.

An outline of the GISERA communication objectives and protocol and all GISERA research and outcomes are publicly available at gisera.csiro.au. General fact sheets and short animated videos on coal seam gas, shale and conventional gas can also be found on the GISERA website.

The GISERA governance model is central to ensuring independence and transparency in the research undertaken by CSIRO. The Regional Research Advisory Committees are critical to GISERA's values and value proposition. With a majority of members who are not affiliated with industry, the committees oversee and approve all research projects within GISERA to ensure CSIRO's independence. A copy of the Alliance Agreement can be obtained at gisera.csiro.au/research-independence/national-gisera-agreement/

ABOUT CSIRO's 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 about GISERA's governance structure, projects and research findings.

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