

Tuesday September 2020

CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance welcomes Federal funding

The CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance welcomed a Federal Government decision to commit \$13.7 million for new research into the impacts of onshore gas developments across Australia.

GISERA Director Dr Damian Barrett said the new funding would build on significant existing research conducted by CSIRO scientists into social and environmental impacts of onshore gas development in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

"In regions where natural gas development is occurring or being proposed it is vital that local communities, business, industry and policy makers are able to make development decisions based on CSIRO's world-leading scientific analysis," Dr Barrett said.

"Since 2011 CSIRO's GISERA has completed 47 research projects into various aspects of social and environmental impacts of onshore gas development, with a further 16 projects underway."

Dr Barrett said CSIRO's GISERA operates under a strict governance model that ensures delivery of independent, high quality, peer-reviewed and publicly available science.

"There are clear safeguards in the GISERA agreement around CSIRO's ability to publish independent peer reviewed scientific research. All research is made publicly available once it has cleared CSIRO's established peer-review process," Dr Barrett said.

This year GISERA expanded its operations to include Western Australia and negotiated eleven new research projects across regions in which it operates.

In addition to two new projects in WA's prospective Canning Basin region, GISERA also secured five new projects in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Sub-basin and four new projects in South Australia's Limestone Coast region.

These new projects apply CSIRO's scientific rigour to explore and improve understanding in areas of interest and concern to communities in regions where natural gas development is being considered.

Research focus areas for the new projects were selected by Regional Research Advisory Committees in which community and independent representatives have majority voting rights.

The new GISERA projects provide research into groundwater resources, biodiversity, land management, greenhouse gas emissions, baseline studies, and social and economic analyses.

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