

Actions from GISERA NSW Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting 8 June 2021

Key

| |
|--------------------------|
| Action Open |
| Action Due/overdue |
| Action complete/in train |

| | Item | Action | Owner | Due | Status |
|----|-----------------|--|-----------------|--------------|---|
| 1. | 18-06-19 Item 3 | Action 5 : The GISERA Director to contact the EPA to ascertain whether there is value in GISERA undertaking a risk-based study on alternative uses of water. | GISERA Director | 31 July 2019 | CSIRO will follow up with NSW Government in the new financial year. |

Minutes
GISERA NSW Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 4
Tuesday, 8 June 2021
Via Webex

OPENING

The meeting of the GISERA NSW Regional Research Advisory Committee (RRAC) was called to order at 9.05 am (AEST) on Tuesday, 8 June 2021.

PARTICIPANTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Damian Barrett: | GISERA Director (CSIRO) |
| Ken Flower: | General Manager (Caputar Motors) and Chief Flight Instructor (Namoi Aviation) |
| Alison Sheridan: | Emeritus Professor, UNE Business School (University of New England) |
| Jack Warnock: | Lower Namoi Cotton Growers' Association and Managing Director (Warnock Agronomics P/L) |
| Deborah Hailstones: | Manager Science Strategy (NSW Department of Primary Industries) |
| Stephanie Stanhope: | State President (Country Women's Association of NSW) |
| Joshua Gilroy: | Studies Coordinator (Santos) |
| Cameron Huddlestone-Holmes: | Principal Research Scientist, Energy (CSIRO) |

Other attendees:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Kaydy Pinetown: | GISERA NSW State Leader (CSIRO) |
| Jizelle Khoury: | GISERA Executive Officer (CSIRO) |

Apologies:

Nil

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ITEM 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The GISERA Director welcomed all members to the meeting.

It was noted that the 'Assessing and projecting on-shore gas effects on regional economic activity' project had recently been completed and the final report was available for viewing on the GISREA website.

ITEM 2. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Actions 1-4 from the previous meeting have been completed.

Action 5 from the previous meeting remains open. CSIRO will pursue discussions with NSW Government in next financial year to better understand the regulatory environment and determine the value in GISERA undertaking a risk-based study on alternative uses of water.

ITEM 3. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Monitoring community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG in Narrabri (Pre-construction phase)

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- This project will monitor any changes in local community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG during the pre-construction phase. This will include two surveys at different time points – the first being post-approval and the second to be conducted following a financial investment decision by Santos.
- This new proposal aims to fill the gap between the pre-approval baseline assessment survey that was conducted by GISERA in 2017 and the intended future survey now delayed and to be conducted during a construction phase (should it proceed).
- This will contribute to a longitudinal study over the next 5 years around community wellbeing and local attitudes towards CSG in Narrabri.
- Based on the research team's previous experience with the 2017 Narrabri survey, and more recent GISERA surveys in other states, the CSIRO Human Research Ethics approval process has taken approximately one month, which fits comfortably within the timeframe for Task 1 of this project.
- In the 2017 survey, Ethics approval was attained without the need to engage specific expertise on the basis that indigenous groups were not being specifically targeted. In this project, we expect the same to apply.
- This project will proceed to completion irrespective of Santos' FID decision.

Outcome: The NSW RRAC approved this project without amendment.

Ken Flower departed the meeting at 10.12 am AEST.

ITEM 4. PROJECT VARIATION

Monitoring community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG in Narrabri (Construction phase)

Key points raised:

- Due to the extended Narrabri Gas Project approval process, a new project proposal was developed which would incorporate a pre-construction phase survey. The Narrabri Gas Project approval process delay will also impact the commencement of the previously approved construction phase survey project. It is proposed that the project be pushed back to commence in January 2025 to better align with the timing of any future construction phase (should it proceed).
- This would result in a project budget increase from \$254,869 to \$289,388 to account for a slight shift in salary increases, a minor increase in operational expenditure and sub-contractor fees. Any budget overrun will be absorbed by CSIRO.
- It was noted that this study will go beyond the current term of GISERA, however under the Alliance Agreement, CSIRO is obligated to see out all projects to end.
- The key objective of this construction phase survey project remains unchanged.
- Approval and commencement of this project remains contingent on a construction phase proceeding.

Outcome: The NSW RRAC approved this project variation to push back the commencement date to January 2025 and the increase of overall project budget to \$289,388.

ITEM 5. NEXT PHASE OF GISERA

The GISERA Director updated the NSW RRAC on developments for GISERA. Key points raised:

- The Alliance Agreement established with industry is due to expire on 30 June 2021.
- In the October 2020 Federal budget, additional funding to GISERA was announced. \$13.7M was made available to CSIRO for the purpose of extending activities over another 4 years.
- This agreement was executed in January 2021 and will go through to 30 June 2024.
- It is expected that over \$2 million of the Commonwealth funds will be allocated to research, communications and engagement activities in NSW.
- CSIRO is currently in discussion with industry around their future contributions to GISERA.
- CSIRO will supplement all funding with a 20-30% in-kind contribution.
- Under the new Alliance Agreement, we are introducing a tiered membership for industry. This agreement will also run for 4 years.
- The current NSW RRAC would come to an end under the present Alliance Agreement. The committee will be reconstituted and continue over the next 4 years. The community/independent composition (as a majority) will remain at the core of the GISERA governance structure. The requirement for a state government representative also remains unchanged. The committee will no longer include CSIRO membership, but internal input will

be sought during development of proposals. CSIRO will also bring in a state leader to assist throughout the process including identification of concerns and priorities, development of proposals, RRAC discussions.

- We will also introduce national-interest Research Advisory Committee that would consider a small number of proposals that would be of national interest. The committee will comprise: one Commonwealth Government representative; one industry representative (drawn from the State or Territory RACs); and at least three Independent Representatives (drawn from the State or Territory RACs). Membership to the committee will be fluid as expertise will be drawn from each of the RACs that is relevant to each research proposal.
- Over the next few months CSIRO will ramping up engagement with NSW State Government and will be developing priority areas around the issues that are of community concern where GISERA will invest funds in NSW. CSIRO will be looking to scope proposals during this time.

ITEM 6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Narrabri Gas Project CCC and Advisory Groups

- A condition of the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) consent for the Narrabri Gas Project is the establishment and operation of a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and the establishment of the following advisory groups:
 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Group (ACHAG)
 - Biodiversity Advisory Group (BAG)
 - Water Technical Advisory Group (WTAG)
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Advisory Group (GGEAG)
- The new Narrabri Gas Project CCC has been established with Mr Garry West appointed to the position of Independent Chair and Jack Warnock as a community representative. Jack is also participating in the WTAG.
- At the May 2021 Narrabri CCC meeting, an action was noted that CSIRO (GISERA) would be invited to attend a future CCC meeting to provide an update on the research undertaken.
- The CSIRO's GISERA Communications and Engagement team will be in touch with the Narrabri CCC Chair to schedule a presentation in the new financial year.

NEXT MEETING

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

The GISERA Director adjourned the meeting at 11.00 am (AEST).

Minutes submitted by: **Jizelle Khoury**

Minutes approved by: **Damian Barrett**