

Actions from CSIRO's GISERA Western Australia Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting 3 June 2020

Key

Action Open
Action Due/overdue
Action complete/in train

	Item	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1.	03-06-20 Item 4A	Action 1 : Research proponent to consult the EPA around data sources and information that may be relevant.	Research proponent	Upon project commencement	
2.	03-06-20 Item 4A	Action 2 : Research proponent to consult with Acting CEO of Kimberly Land Council and CEO of WA Farmers for a representative to be involved in the Technical Reference Group.	Research proponent	Upon project commencement	
3.	03-06-20 Item 4A	Action 3 : Research proponent to incorporate content that emphasises the connectivity between groundwater and cultural ecosystems, which will be valuable for future research.	Research proponent	19 June 2020	
4.	03-06-20 Item 4B	Action 4 : Scope needs to reflect that this work is high-level framework setting and does not allow for significant data interpretation and analysis.	Research proponent	19 June 2020	
5.	03-06-20 Item 4B	Action 5 : Research proponent to contact Acting CEO of Kimberley Land Council to obtain a key contact from the ranger network for researchers to connect with, to support the baseline work in the region.	Research proponent	Upon project commencement	

Minutes
GISERA Western Australia Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 1
Wednesday 3 June 2020
Via Webex video

OPENING

The meeting of the GISERA Western Australian Regional Research Advisory Committee (RRAC) was called to order at 11.05 am (AWST) on Wednesday, 3 June 2020.

PARTICIPANTS

Damian Barrett:	GISERA Director (CSIRO)
Allison Hortle	Acting Research Program Director, Oil, Gas & Fuels (CSIRO)
Trevor Whittington	CEO (WA Farmers) and Chairman (Wines of Western Australia)
Tyronne Garstone	Acting CEO (Kimberley Land Council)
Jeffrey Haworth	Executive Director, Geoscience and Resource Strategy (WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety)

Other attendees:

Dan O'Sullivan:	GISERA Deputy Director (CSIRO)
Jizelle Khoury:	GISERA Executive Officer (CSIRO)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ITEM 1. Welcome, Introductions, overview of GISERA

The GISERA Director introduced and welcomed all members to the inaugural meeting.

ITEM 2. Overview of GISERA and goals for the meeting

The GISERA Director provided an overview of GISERA and outlined the role of the Regional Research Advisory Committee (RRAC).

ITEM 3. Opening comments or questions

The GISERA Director provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and make comments relating to CSIRO's GISERA.

ITEM 4A. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Groundwater baseline study of the Canning Basin

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- The key objective of this project is to bring together information and summarise the current state of knowledge around the groundwater systems in the Canning Basin. Information generated from previous studies of different aquifers cover a highly dispersed geographic location and the findings remain segregated. This project is aiming to develop a framework to define the scope of and data requirements for groundwater baseline characterisation, including hydrogeological setting, groundwater balance, flow and interaction between aquifers, groundwater quality, environmental function and current use.
- Understanding groundwater resources and their dynamics is critical to local communities and industries and having a baseline in place before any further exploration and development activities occur will aid in the context of water allocations and the sustainable development of water resources in the long term.
- It was noted that from the view of the Geological Survey of WA, this project is worthwhile and that current information available is not well correlated.
- This work will also provide useful information on water resources to the agricultural industry in the northern Canning Basin.
- It was noted that the research proponent should endeavour to apply greater focus on the Northern part of the basin where the industry interest is but acknowledged the value in an overarching framework for all of the basin.
- If there is any relationship with Geoscience Australia's recent work on Palaeovalley Groundwater Resources, this should be considered as part of this project.
- The research proposal to incorporate connectivity between the social aspects and the culturally significant aspects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Canning Basin. Greater emphasis on the groundwater dependant ecosystems and water dependant asset links. Ensure it is duly recognised and part of the reporting
- Researchers needs to consult the EPA around data sources and information from water reports that may be relevant.
- Kimberley Land Council and WA Farmers to be invited to nominate a representative to participate in the project's Technical Reference Group.

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

Action 1: Research proponent to consult the EPA around data sources and information that may be relevant.

Action 2: Research proponent to consult with Acting CEO of Kimberly Land Council and CEO of WA Farmers for a representative to be involved in the Technical Reference Group.

Action 3: Research proponent to incorporate content that emphasises the connectivity between groundwater and cultural ecosystems, which will be valuable for future research.

ITEM 4B. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Baseline assessment of the biodiversity of the Canning Basin

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- The key objective of this project is to provide an assessment of the current state of knowledge of the composition and distribution of the biodiversity of the Canning Basin. It will use this information to both understand gaps in knowledge and recommend further investigations to fill these gaps. The main outputs will be lists (in the form of databases) of all species of plants and animals recorded from the Canning Basin as well as lists of species that are classified as threatened at a national and state level and that are of cultural significance. This desktop assessment will provide a baseline to which future work could be undertaken.
- RRAC members noted that the scope of the work was substantial, particularly when compared to the resources committed. The committee reached the understanding that this work is less about data interpretation and analysis, and more about establishing a framework for future research.
- Limited stakeholder interactions due to travel restrictions was noted. Researchers will benefit from early engagement with the ranger network to support the research. This will also be beneficial for future research.
- Given limited resources and time, it was noted that the research proponent may need to have greater focus on the Northern part of the basin, where the industry interest is, but acknowledged the value in an overarching framework for all of the basin.

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

Action 4: Scope needs to reflect that this work is high-level framework setting and does not allow for significant data interpretation and analysis.

Action 5: Research proponent to contact Acting CEO of Kimberley Land Council to obtain a key contact from the ranger network for researchers to connect with, to support the baseline work in the region.

ITEM 5. OTHER BUSINESS

No items raised.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the WA 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 12.45 pm (AWST).

Minutes submitted by: **Jizelle Khoury**

Minutes approved by: **Damian Barrett**