



Australia's National  
Science Agency

**GISERA** | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

# Progress report

Baseline assessment of the biodiversity of the Canning Basin



Australian Government  
Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources



Supported by  
Government of  
South Australia



# Progress against project milestones

Progress against milestones/tasks are approved by the GISERA Director, acting with authority in accordance with the [GISERA Alliance Agreement](#).

Progress against project milestones/tasks is indicated by two methods: [Traffic light reports](#) and descriptive [Project schedule reports](#).

1. Traffic light reports in the Project Schedule Table below show progress using a simple colour code:

- **Green:**

- Milestone fully met according to schedule.
- Project is expected to continue to deliver according to plan.
- Milestone payment is approved.

- **Amber:**

- Milestone largely met according to schedule.
- Project has experienced delays or difficulties that will be overcome by next milestone, enabling project to return to delivery according to plan by next milestone.
- Milestone payment is withheld.
- Milestone payment withheld for second of two successive amber lights; project review initiated and undertaken by GISERA Director.

- **Red:**

- Milestone not met according to schedule.
- Problems in meeting milestone are likely to impact subsequent project delivery, such that revisions to project timing, scope or budget must be considered.
- Milestone payment is withheld.
- Project review initiated by GISERA Director.

2. Progress Schedule Reports outline task objectives and outputs and describe, in the 'progress report' section, the means and extent to which progress towards tasks has been made.

## Project schedule table

TASK NUMBER	TASK DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULED START	SCHEDULED FINISH	COMMENT
1	Compilation of species records	August 2020	October 2020	
2	Identification of significant species	October 2020	November 2020	
3	Identification of poorly surveyed species	October 2020	December 2020	
4	Identification of geographical gaps in sampling	October 2020	December 2020	
5	Final Report providing outline of options for further biodiversity sampling	January 2021	February 2021	

## Project schedule report

### TASK 1: Compilation of species records

#### BACKGROUND

A large amount of data exists on the biodiversity of the Canning Basin, but this has not been compiled and interrogated cohesively. The Atlas of Living Australia data indicates that there are over 750 species of vertebrate animals in the Canning Basin.

#### TASK OBJECTIVES

To compile available published and unpublished records of plants and animals of the Canning Basin.

#### TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

The outputs will be: a) lists of species of plants and animals that have been recorded in the Canning Basin; and b) data on occurrence and relative abundance (number of records) of each species. The deliverables will be a database and a report (following completion of task 5).

#### PROGRESS REPORT

This task is complete.

Published and unpublished records of plants and animals from the Canning Basin have been compiled from all accessible sources and amalgamated in an Excel spreadsheet. Lists of plants and animals in the Canning Basin have been prepared along with details on the locations and relative abundance of each species.

## **TASK 2: Identification of significant species**

### **BACKGROUND**

Significant species include those of conservation significance (listed under the Commonwealth's EPBC Act and Western Australia's BC Act) and those of cultural significance to Aboriginal people.

### **TASK OBJECTIVES**

To identify which species that occur in the Canning Basin are of conservation and cultural significance.

### **TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES**

The outputs will be lists of: a) species of plants and animals that are classified as threatened nationally (EPBC Act) and/or in Western Australia (BC Act); b) species of plants and animals that are culturally significant to Aboriginal people; and c) ecological communities that are classified as threatened. The deliverables will be a database and a report (following completion of task 5).

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

This task is complete now. Significant species have been identified in a series of tables.

## **TASK 3: Identification of poorly sampled species**

### **BACKGROUND**

Because there has not been a systematic baseline survey of the biodiversity of the Canning Basin, the approach to compiling species lists and occurrence records being undertaken as task 1 will be incomplete. Therefore, it is necessary to use expert knowledge to identify species and groups of species that will be more widespread or more common than indicated.

### **TASK OBJECTIVES**

To assemble a list of under-represented (as a result of inadequate survey effort) species and groups of species for the Canning Basin, with an emphasis on threatened species

### **TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES**

The output will be a list of species and groups of species that are expected to be more common and/or widespread in the Canning Basin than indicated by existing data.

The deliverables will be a database and a report (following completion of task 5).

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

This task is complete now. Poorly sampled species have been identified.

## **TASK 4: Identification of geographical gaps in sampling**

### **BACKGROUND**

Because there has not been a systematic baseline survey of the biodiversity of the Canning Basin, not all areas have been adequately surveyed for biodiversity. Therefore, it is important to identify the geographic locations that have been undersampled.

### **TASK OBJECTIVES**

To map the occurrence of records of species of plants and animals in the Canning Basin to identify both biodiversity hotspots and undersampled geographical locations.

### **TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES**

The output will be a list of areas in the Canning Basin that have not been adequately sampled for biodiversity. The deliverables will be a map (or series of maps) showing the location of species' records.

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

This task is complete now. We have prepared a series of maps showing the distribution of species records. A map has been produced for each of the major groups of animals and for plants as a whole.

## **TASK 5: Final Report providing outline of options for further biodiversity sampling**

### **BACKGROUND**

The current project will provide an assessment of the current state of knowledge of the composition and distribution of the biodiversity of the Canning Basin. In addition to consolidating available information, it will identify gaps in knowledge that will need attention. The project team will be in a good position to provide recommendations for the way forward.

### **TASK OBJECTIVES**

To outline options for future survey programs in the Canning Basin that focus on filling gaps in poorly sampled geographic locations and on poorly known species/groups of species.

### **TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES**

The output of this final task will be a series of options for additional survey work. The specific deliverable will be a final report.

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

This milestone is complete.

The final report titled [Baseline assessment of the biodiversity of the Canning Basin, Western Australia](#) has been publicly released and is available on the GISERA website.

## Variations to Project Order

Changes to research Project Orders are approved by the GISERA Director, acting with authority, in accordance with the GISERA Alliance Agreement. Any variations above the GISERA Director's delegation require the approval of the relevant GISERA Research Advisory Committee.

The table below details variations to research Project Order.

Register of changes to Research Project Order

DATE	ISSUE	ACTION	AUTHORISATION

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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, greenhouse gas emissions, 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.