



GISERA – 10 YEARS ON

The Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance continues to conduct research on the impacts of onshore gas

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The CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) is a collaboration between CSIRO, government and industry. GISERA was launched in July 2011, with research directed at the environmental and socio-economic impacts of Queensland's coal seam gas-liquefied natural gas 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.

In addition to conducting research, GISERA's other key purpose is to provide information to communities living in gas development regions, gas industry and government. Access to evidence based information for all stakeholders to make informed decisions and policy about onshore gas development is essential.

Governance

CSIRO's GISERA has a governance framework in place to ensure research independence and transparency (Fig. 1). Funding from State, Territory and Federal governments, and from gas companies is pooled together. What the funding is spent on is decided by the Research Advisory Committees (RAC) for each State and Territory, of which the majority of members are from local communities or non-governmental organisations.

All of our research is for the public good and is made publicly available once it has cleared CSIRO's internal review process.

Companies do not have any rights to alter, edit or influence research outcomes or reports written by CSIRO under GISERA. CSIRO's researchers need to report any risk to public or environmental health and safety identified to the relevant authorities. This results in the sharing of clear, trusted information.



Figure 1: Governance approach to approving projects in the national interest

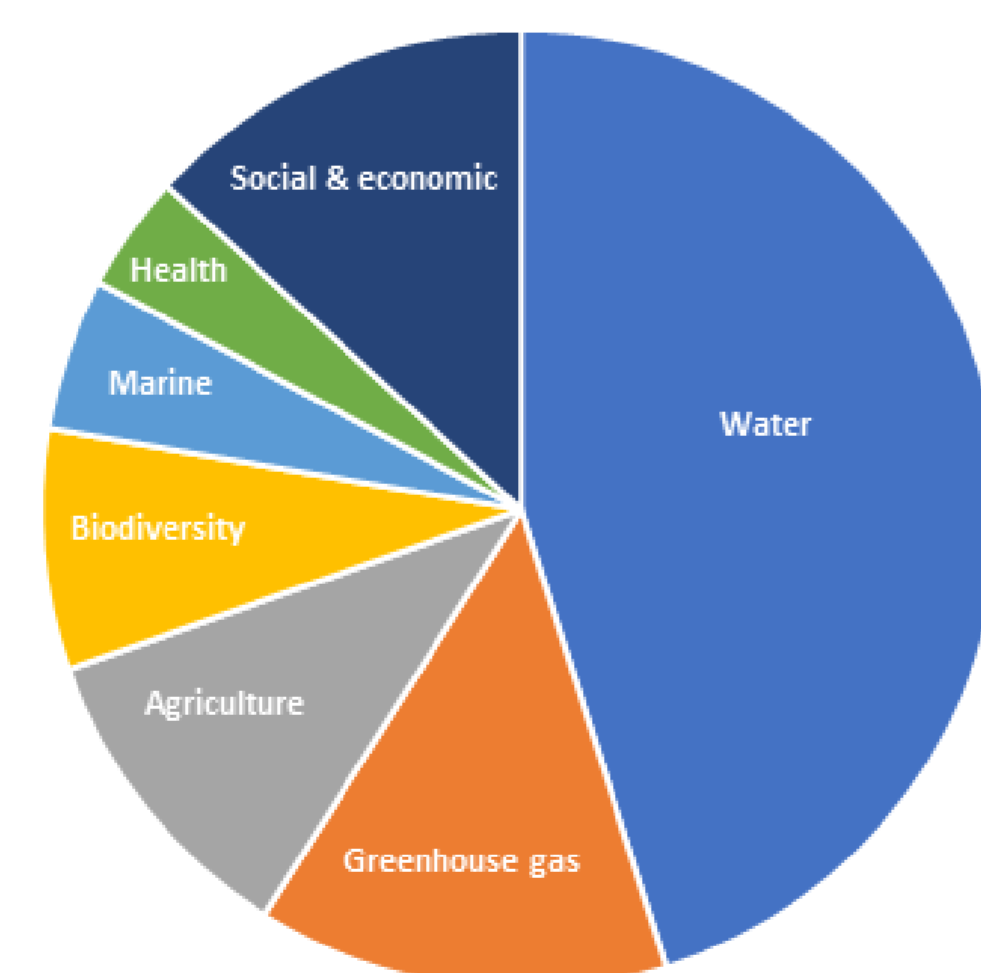


Figure 2: Research investment by research subject areas across all states and territories



Figure 3: Number of projects conducted in each state as of August 2021

Summary of achievements over the life of GISERA

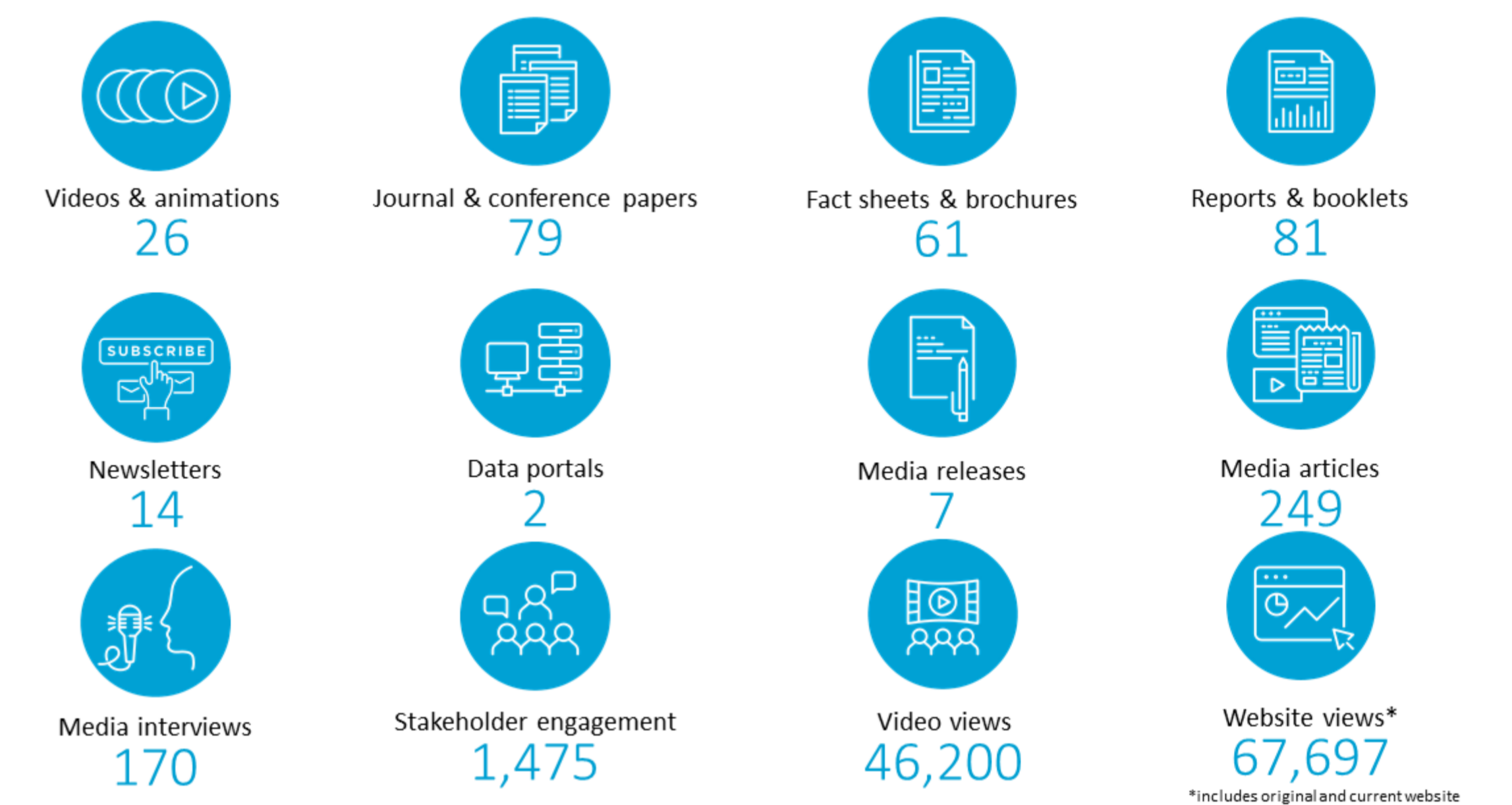


Figure 4: GISERA Project outcomes are shared widely with stakeholders, community and government.

Making a difference

Over the last 10 years, CSIRO researchers have conducted over 70 projects across Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. Provision of research results and outcomes are communicated widely across many platforms and to a range of stakeholders.

New funding, new focus areas

New Commonwealth investment in GISERA activities will allow new projects to be conducted in defined basins across Australia, augmented by industry funding. New projects will provide information to government, industry and communities where the gas industry is most active. New research topics are being identified to measure, monitor and inform the social and environmental impacts of the industry for the next 4 years.

Research Areas

Discussions with stakeholders, outcomes of State and national inquiries and surveys have identified broad areas of concern, and their relative levels of importance (Fig. 2). This information is used to prioritise research focus.