



Australia's National
Science Agency

GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Progress report

Understanding and managing impacts to biodiversity from
roads and pipelines in the Beetaloo



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 | Identify sampling sites | 1 Jul 2021 | 30 Sep 2021 | Completed |
| 2 | Map connectivity in the study area | 1 Sep 2021 | 30 April 2022 | This milestone will be complete by end of May 2022. |
| 3 | Investigate patch mosaics and edge effects | 1 Apr 2022 | 30 Sep 2022 | |
| 4 | Investigate movement ecology, road mortality and dust effects | 1 Apr 2022 | 30 Sep 2022 | |
| 5 | Analysis of field data | 1 Oct 2022 | 16 Dec 2022 | |
| 6 | Develop mitigation measures | 1 Nov 2022 | 16 Dec 2022 | |
| 7 | Communication activities | 1 Jul 2021 | 16 Dec 2022 | |

Project schedule report

TASK 1: Identify sampling sites

BACKGROUND

Suitable field sites need to be located within the Beetaloo Sub-region where studies on patch mosaics and edge effects and movement ecology, road mortality and dust effects can be undertaken. This task involves carrying out desktop assessments using GIS to locate potential areas and then to ground truth site suitability. A critical aspect of the task is to begin establishing a relationship with land managers and traditional owners through face-to-face visits.

TASK OBJECTIVES

Undertake preparations for the field component of the project including:

- Identification of suitable sites at which to undertake research on the impacts on biodiversity of fragmentation
- Permission from landowners and traditional custodians to undertake the work
- Necessary ethics approvals and wildlife permits.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

A list of suitable study sites including geospatial data and knowledge of the land managers and traditional owners of each site

PROGRESS REPORT

This milestone is complete, fieldwork is scheduled to commence in May 2022.

TASK 2: Map connectivity in the study area

BACKGROUND

This task will look at existing mapping for the study area to develop a mapping product that shows habitat linkages, wildlife corridors and areas 'at risk' from road and pipeline development.

TASK OBJECTIVES

To develop a habitat connectivity map for the study area that uses the latest mapping technology to identify connectivity corridors and linkages that are 'at risk' from roads and pipelines. The intention is that the map serves as both a decision-support tool and a basis for prescribing site-specific interventions.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

A map of the study area that provides information on location of corridors of critical habitat and existing and future roads and pipelines. A scientific paper that describes the approach used in task 2.

PROGRESS REPORT

Milestone 2 has commenced. The four research areas within the Beetaloo sub-basin are being assessed using remote sensing and a range of fragmentation metrics are being calculated. The work is being undertaken in collaboration with CSIRO's Space FSP (i.e. Space Technology Future Science Platform). The completion of this milestone will be May 2022.


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 |
|------------|--|--|---|
| 01/03/2021 | <p>Due to effects of COVID and restrictions on travel, the research proponent requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The project commencement date and delivery date be pushed back by 6 months.The order of milestones be changed to move the original task 5 to task 2 | <p>Milestone 1 pushed back to commence July 2021.</p> <p>Milestone 5 moved to become milestone 2 with commencement date Sept 2021.</p> <p>Milestone 2 now becomes 3 with commencement date Apr 2022.</p> <p>Milestone 3 now becomes 4 with commencement date Apr 2022.</p> | <p>The NT RRAC approved the project variation.</p> <p>Refer to Minutes.</p> |

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| | | <p>Milestone 4 now becomes 5 with commencement date Oct 2022.</p> <p>Milestone 6 pushed back to commence Nov 2022.</p> <p>Milestone 7 (final milestone) pushed back to commence in Jul 2021 and finish Dec 2022.</p> | |
| 17/03/2022 | <p>Due to the circumstances associated with the change of sample sites based on information from Origin Energy, delays have occurred to milestone 1 & 2</p> | <p>Milestone 1 extended from December 2021 to March 2022 and milestone 2 extended from December 2021 to April 2022</p> |  |

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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.