



Australia's National
Science Agency

GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Progress report

Examination of stygofauna ecosystems of the Beetaloo Sub-basin



QGC



Santos



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	Knowledge discovery phase	01 Jul 22	30 Sept 22	This task will be completed in Feb/March 2023.
2	Planning and approvals for drilling of observation bores + drilling contractor procurement	1 Oct 22	30 Sept 23	
3	Field trip 1 – initial campaign	1 Oct 22	29 Feb 23	
4	Field trip 2 – wide-scale campaign	1 Apr 2023	29 Feb 24	
5	Construct observation bores for Stygofauna	1 Jul 23	29 Feb 24	
6	Field trip 3 – small, targeted campaign	1 Mar 24	31 May 24	
7	Analysis and reporting	01 Nov 22	31 Jul 24	
8	Communicate findings to stakeholders	Full duration of project		

Project schedule report

TASK 1: Knowledge discovery phase

BACKGROUND

While some work has now been carried out on Stygofauna in the Beetaloo Sub-basin, along with a significant amount of work into the ground water system, it will be important to ensure all the relevant information is captured prior to commencing work. It is important that this knowledge base, combined with the latest findings from current projects in the NT inform the proposed activities and that they will address the important issues associated with industry. The task involves a workshop with industry, stygofauna and groundwater experts to elicit what regulators and industry need to know to make decisions.

TASK OBJECTIVES

- 1) collate all relevant groundwater and stygofauna literature
- 2) carry our work shop that includes evaluation of the proposed scope of works, ensuring works address industry needs

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

A document addressing task objectives.

PROGRESS REPORT

The process of gathering the diverse collection of information for the knowledge discovery phase has turned out to be larger than anticipated and as a consequence, it will continue into next year. So far, the team have concentrated on collecting water chemistry and physical properties of the ground water. This information has now been used to inform the first field trip that is scheduled for late October/early November 2022. We are anticipating having access to the SREBA Stygofauna data set late this year. This will be the most comprehensive and relevant data set on the biology of the Beetaloo biota. Collection of relevant groundwater data is also ongoing.

The team will be giving a presentation to a small group of stakeholders on Oct 17th. This presentation will set the scene for engaging with relevant stakeholders who can make further input to the direction of the project. The presentation is a fore runner to the planned workshop, which will be held early in 2023. The timing of this workshop is such that it will be able to inform the major field campaign, and any drilling activity scheduled for later in 2023.

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.

As Australia’s national science agency and innovation catalyst, CSIRO is solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology.

CSIRO. Unlocking a better future for everyone.

Contact us

1300 363 400
+61 3 9545 2176
csiro.au/contact
csiro.au

For further information

1300 363 400
gisera.csiro.au

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.

DATE	ISSUE	ACTION	AUTHORISATION