



GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Minutes of the NSW Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 6 held via Webex on Wednesday, 16 November 2022

OPENING

The meeting of the CSIRO GISERA NSW Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was called to order at 1.04 pm (AEDT) on Wednesday, 16 November 2022.

PRESENT

Damian Barrett: GISERA Director (CSIRO)
Ken Flower: General Manager (Kaputar Motors) and Chief Flight Instructor (Namoi Aviation)
Alison Sheridan: Emeritus Professor, UNE Business School (University of New England)
Jack Warnock: Retired irrigation farmer from Namoi Region
David Mitchell: Leader Water Policy and Planning, DPI Agriculture (NSW DPI)

Other participants:

David Midgley: GISERA NSW State Leader (CSIRO)
Jizelle Khoury: GISERA Executive Officer (CSIRO)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The GISERA Director welcomed all members to the meeting. The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Action *04-04-22 Item 3C* will remain open until the technical reference group for 'Microbial communities and their ability to degrade prospective chemicals used in CSG activities' project is convened.

3. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Risks of fragmentation from CSG activities for species and ecosystems in the Pilliga Forest

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- More information is required on why the mycorrhizal fungi is being looked at as part of this project. Explain why the project is focusing on mycorrhizal fungi in relation to the distribution of the rare and threatened species and what fragmentation might mean for that.
- When providing information on fragmentation more generally in proposal, the research proponent should also include the idea of cost and benefits that may be associated with the process that leads to fragmentation e.g., when putting in infrastructure such as roads or fire trails and refer specifically to the two known benefits 1) fire prevention and 2) greater ability to manage feral animals.
- The impact pathway describes the setting up of a framework to look at long term impacts and baseline data but does not list where the databases will be held. It is important know where data will sit particularly within the NSW Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Program (MER) framework and whether it will link to the NSW SEED or NSW BioNet databases. The research proponent should talk to NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) or NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Forestry about those long-term databases and legislative reporting requirements, particularly that EHG have in response to some of these threatened species.

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

Action: The research proponent to provide greater detail on the inclusion of mycorrhizal fungi in the proposal.

Action: The research proponent to include benefits that may be associated with the process of fragmentation.

Action: The research proponent to explore possibility of depositing data from this project into other government repositories.

4. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Review of beneficial reuse or end-use options for brine from the Narrabri Gas Project region

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- The proposal states that the research team will ‘communicate and consult with the stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle’ but there is insufficient detail on this engagement plan. There should be greater focus on the community understanding being developed and opportunities identified.
- The proposal should include engagement with key stakeholders early in the project and again at project completion. This may include a similar model to the community wellbeing studies where key stakeholders were identified and invited to a closed workshop where project objectives and key messages were explained, and useful feedback received from those stakeholders on what aspects are of greatest concern/interest.
- A list of key stakeholders identified and the nature of the engagement to be made explicit in proposal.

Outcome: The NSW RAC would like the research proponent to revise the proposal taking to account all the points raised and submit a revised proposal via email to the RAC for consideration.

Action: The research proponent and GISERA Communications Manager to have a discussion with the CSIRO’s CWB project social scientists to identify steps in the engagement model previously used.

Action: A list of key stakeholders identified and the nature of the engagement to be made explicit in proposal.

Action: Communication with key stakeholders to be incorporated at a point early in the project and at completion of the project.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The GISERA Director provided an update on the recent media regarding CSIRO’s GISERA.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the NSW Research Advisory Committee is yet to be scheduled. It is anticipated that a meeting will occur once further proposals are established.

MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm (AEDT).

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM GISERA NSW RAC MEETING #6 – 16 NOVEMBER 2022

| Agenda Item | Action |
|--------------------|---|
| 16-11-22 Item 3 | The research proponent to provide greater detail on the inclusion of mycorrhizal fungi in the proposal. |
| 16-11-22 Item 3 | The research proponent to include benefits that may be associated with the process of fragmentation. |
| 16-11-22 Item 3 | The research proponent to explore possibility of depositing data from this project into other government repositories. |
| 16-11-22 Item 4 | The research proponent and GISERA Communications Manager to have a discussion with the CSIRO's CWB project social scientists to identify steps in the engagement model previously used. |
| 16-11-22 Item 4 | A list of key stakeholders identified and the nature of the engagement to be made explicit in proposal. |
| 16-11-22 Item 4 | Communication with key stakeholders to be incorporated at a point early in the project and at completion of the project. |

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

| Agenda Item | Action |
|--------------------|--|
| 04-04-22 Item 3C | The research proponent to invite Lukas Van Zwieten or Guna Nachimuthu to participate on project technical reference group. |