



## GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

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### Minutes of the NT Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 9 held in Darwin on Thursday, 22 June 2023

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#### OPENING

The meeting of the CSIRO GISERA NT Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was called to order at 9.30 am (ACST) on Thursday, 22 June 2022.

#### PRESENT

Damian Barrett: GISERA Director (CSIRO)  
Julie-Ann Stoll: Independent Representative retired, formerly Central Land Council  
Greg Ireland: Chief Executive Officer (Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory)  
Daniel Capps: Industry Liaison Officer (Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association)  
Devon Turner: Senior Project Officer – Resources & Energy (Northern Land Council)  
– for Chris Brady  
James Pratt: Senior Executive Director- Energy Development (NT DITT)  
Andrew Stannard: Acting Environment Manager, Corporate (Santos)

#### Other participants:

Cameron Huddlestone-Holmes: GISERA NT State Leader (CSIRO)  
Jizelle Khoury: GISERA Executive Officer (CSIRO)  
Melina Gillespie: GISERA Communication & Stakeholder Engagement Manager (CSIRO)

#### Apologies:

Chris Brady: Acting Branch Manager – Resources & Energy (Northern Land Council)  
Simone Cameron: Director of Regions and Projects (Northern Territory Farmers Association)

## 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The GISERA Director welcomed all members to the meeting including new member Andrew Stannard and Devon Turner who was standing in for Chris Brady. Apologies were received from Chris Brady.

It was noted that with the sale of assets in the Northern Territory, Origin Energy will now redirect their GISERA membership contribution to Queensland.

Concern was expressed by the RAC members that both Tamboran Resources and Empire Energy have not yet joined GISERA. Empire has been in the Beetaloo since GISERA was formed and Tamboran have one permit. With the interest from the community in the Beetaloo and social licence need, both companies should be involved in GISERA who are working to eliminate misinformation and reduce uncertainty, for the benefit of the Beetaloo.

## **2. GISERA COMMUNICATIONS**

The GISERA Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Leader provided an overview of the types of stakeholder engagement activities and communication tools developed to supplement the research being undertaken in GISERA. It was noted that all communication materials are available for viewing on the GISERA website. The team also deal with media management issues, Senate Estimates briefings and Questions on Notice, and community enquiries.

The Communication team are working on developing a 3D digital model of the Beetaloo basin which aims to help people understand the geology of the basin. This is a tool that will be used when engaging with people on country and as a supplementary tool for CSIRO's researchers when engaging with stakeholders. CSIRO will engage with the Northern Territory Government in the development of the model.

A two-day community stakeholder knowledge sharing session with 8-10 CSIRO scientists in Katherine is planned for Q4 2023. This event will be by invite only.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **3. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Action item (27-04-22 Item 4) has been closed.

Action item (27-04-22 Item 6) has been closed.

### **4. PROJECT PROPOSAL**

#### **Environmental baseline characterisation of the springs in Hot Springs Valley, NT**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- This project will not include a risk assessment as it would not be feasible to do so without specifics of activities and controls. The research proponent should look at language in the proposal to ensure this is clear e.g.,
  - in the ‘need & scope’ section where ‘risk’ is quoted from SREBA Regional Report
  - the third bullet point in ‘objectives’ section to be rephrased to be more explicit on what ‘review the implications’ means – i.e., CSIRO can provide comment or understanding of potential connectivity at various setback distances from Hot Springs Valley.
  - Last paragraph bottom of page 12/13 ‘The potential for impacts will be evaluated by superimposing the causal network developed’.
- As part of task 7, include consideration of the benefits of establishing a bore in the future (to maximally enhance the information) and advice on where it should be located.
- The technical reference group should also include technical expertise in geology.
- A member of the Petroleum Operations group, Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) be invited to participate in the project’s Technical Reference Group.
- As the hot springs have significant environmental and cultural value to those communities living in that area, it will be important to commit more communication resources to interact with the community on research findings, including exploring the feasibility of developing translated material.

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

Action: The research proponent to look at language in the proposal to make clear that a risk assessment is not being undertaken by this project.

Action: The research proponent to include in task 7 description on pages 24-25, consideration of the benefits of establishing a bore and advice on where that bore will be located.

Action: The research proponent to include a representative with geology expertise on the TRG.

Action: The research proponent to include a representative from the Petroleum Operations group, from the NT DITT to participate in the project’s Technical Reference Group.

Action: The importance of communication and engagement with local stakeholders be further emphasised in the proposal (Methodology Part 1, Tasks 1 and Task 9).

## 5. PROJECT PROPOSAL

### UAV-LiDAR and spaceborne remote sensing for site survey and habitat condition monitoring in the Beetaloo

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- The RAC supported the proposal in principle, but thought it required further detail including:
  - specifics around how many locations, where and what will be addressed in terms of the landscape features. Need an understanding of what is going to be surveyed.
  - some criteria on why sites have been selected.
  - In the methodology – how each of those snapshots will be used to go to that broadscale application. If the researchers are focusing on some areas, explain why.
  - Will they be targeting existing infrastructure?
  - Are linear features going to be included e.g., will they measure an existing pipeline?
- IP rights should be clarified in the proposal - will the data be made publicly available or shared with the Northern Territory Government royalty free for future use?
- Santos may be able provide an additional airborne LiDAR data set with a sampling density of 16 points per m<sup>2</sup> over 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> in the Beetaloo. The researchers can use it as a scaling up from the UAV high-resolution sensor to the airborne sensors which would be a great extension to this work. The use of this dataset will need to be incorporated into the methodology.
- The proposal would benefit from the inclusion of location maps of the sites.
- A spatial scientist from the Rangelands group (Northern Territory Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS)) be invited to participate in the project's Technical Reference Group.

Outcome: The NT RAC approved this project, subject to the actions below being addressed to their satisfaction. The revisions made to the proposal will be forwarded to the NT RAC via email out of session.

Action: The research proponent to include more details on criteria, type of landscape features, any targeted infrastructure and number of locations of intensively studied sites to be examined in this project.

Action: The research proponent to clarify IP rights for future data availability.

Action: The GISERA NT State Leader and research proponent to work with Santos to ascertain availability and use of an additional LiDAR dataset, controls and Commercial in Confidence aspects.

Action: The research proponent to update the methodology section to incorporate use of the Santos LiDAR dataset.

Action: If feasible, the research proponent to include location maps of selected sites.

Action: The research proponent to invite a spatial scientist from the NT DEPWS to participate in the project's Technical Reference Group.

## **6. PROJECT VARIATION**

### **Examination of stygofauna ecosystems of the Beetaloo Sub-basin**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project variation.

Key points raised:

- The research proponent is seeking approval to:
  - Revise delivery date of task 2 (planning and approvals for drilling of observation bores + drilling contractor procurement) to 30 November 2023
  - Proceed with task 4 (field trip 2 – wide-scale campaign) prior to the stage gate
  - Push-back the stage gate/NT RAC decision point to early November 2023
  - Revise delivery date of task 5 (construct observation bores for Stygofauna) to 30 June 2024
- The RAC suggested that task 5 (construct observation bores for Stygofauna) start date be pushed back to 1 December 2023 which would align with completion of task 2 (planning and approvals for drilling of observation bores + drilling contractor procurement).
- The RAC agreed that delivery dates for tasks 5-8 would remain unchanged until the committee reconvenes in early November 2023 for the stage gate/decision point where details of the intended drilling campaign and sampling of the new bores will be explained.
- The RAC would like to ensure there is sufficient time allowed for the new bores to settle, be sampled and results included in this project's analysis and reporting, noting that sampling may not be possible immediately after drilling.
- It was reiterated that a local company is to be contracted to drill the observation bores. The group NT Industry Capability Network (NTICN) can assist with sourcing a registered company.

Outcome: The RAC approved project variations for revision of task 2 delivery to 30 November 2023, proceeding with task 4, pushing back of stage gate/decision point to early November 2023 and revision of task 5 start date to 1 December 2023. Any other changes would be considered when the RAC reconvene in November 2023.

Action: The research proponent to present details of drilling campaign, sampling of new bores and delivery timeframes for remainder of the project to the RAC at the stage gate/decision point in early November 2023.

Action: The research proponent to work with NT ICN to source registered local drilling company.

## **7. PROJECT VARIATION**

### **Methane emissions quantification of well drilling to completion processes in Beetaloo Sub-basin**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project variation.

Key points raised:

- The research proponent is seeking approval to:
  - Reduce the number of wells to be measured using AEMS to three (task 2)
  - Carry out an additional field campaign to conduct manual emission rate quantification using the tracer measurements on additional well
  - Increase budget by \$34,743 for unplanned third set of tracer measurements on additional well
  - Push back delivery date of tasks 2, 3, 5 and 6
  - Push back overall delivery date of project to 31 July 2024
- It was noted that Tamboran Resources are drilling wells in the coming months and that it would be beneficial to obtain data from all of these wells and to obtain additional manual tracer measurements from at least one of these new wells near a pipeline area (i.e., MacArthur Pipeline).
- The RAC agreed for the researchers to proceed with the AEMS and tracer measurements at EP117 and requested an additional variation be put forward for measurements of any additional wells. The proposal to include:
  - costs and availability of AEMS trailers to measure both additional wells and likely timing of those measurements
  - costs to conduct additional manual tracer measurements at wells near a pipeline area and timing of these measurements (provide costings for one well)
  - revised delivery dates of remaining tasks and overall project.

Outcome: The RAC only approved project variations for revision of task 2 delivery to 30 December 2023, proceeding with AEMS and tracer measurements at EP117 which includes an overall project budget increase of \$34,743. The RAC also requested an additional variation be put forward to measure additional wells.

Action: The research proponent to prepare additional variation which will include costs, availability and timing for measurement of additional wells and revised timing of tasks 2, 3, 5 and 6.

## **ITEMS FOR NOTING OR DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION**

### **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

No matters raised.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the NT Research Advisory Committee will be scheduled for early November 2023 when the stage gate/decision point for the 'Examination of stygofauna ecosystems of the Beetaloo Sub-basin' project will be presented.

### **MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 1.23 pm (ACST).

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM GISERA NT RAC MEETING #9 – 22 JUNE 2023

| Agenda Item     | Action   |
|-----------------|--|
| 22-06-23 Item 4 | The research proponent to look at language in the proposal to make clear that a risk assessment is not being undertaken by this project.   |
| 22-06-23 Item 4 | The research proponent to include in task 7 description on pages 24-25, consideration of the benefits of establishing a bore and advice on where that bore will be located.                                    |
| 22-06-23 Item 4 | The research proponent to include a representative with geology expertise on the TRG.  |
| 22-06-23 Item 4 | The research proponent to include a representative from the Petroleum Operations group, from the NT DITT to participate in the project's Technical Reference Group.  |
| 22-06-23 Item 4 | The importance of communication and engagement with local stakeholders be further emphasised in the proposal (Methodology Part 1, Tasks 1 and Task 9.  |
| 22-06-23 Item 5 | The research proponent to include more details on criteria, type of landscape features, any targeted infrastructure and number of locations of intensively studied sites to be examined in this project.       |
| 22-06-23 Item 5 | The research proponent to clarify IP rights for future data availability.  |
| 22-06-23 Item 5 | The GISERA NT State Leader and research proponent to work with Santos to ascertain availability and use of an additional LiDAR dataset, controls and Commercial in Confidence aspects.                         |
| 22-06-23 Item 5 | The research proponent to update the methodology section to incorporate use of the Santos LiDAR dataset.   |
| 22-06-23 Item 5 | If feasible, the research proponent to include location maps of selected sites.  |
| 22-06-23 Item 5 | The research proponent to invite a spatial scientist from the NT DEPWS to participate in the project's Technical Reference Group.  |
| 22-06-23 Item 6 | The research proponent to present details of drilling campaign, sampling of new bores and delivery timeframes for remainder of the project to the RAC at the stage gate/decision point in early November 2023. |
| 22-06-23 Item 6 | The research proponent to work with NT ICN to source registered local drilling company.  |
| 22-06-23 Item 7 | The research proponent to prepare additional variation which will include costs, availability and timing for measurement of additional wells and revised timing of tasks 2, 3, 5 and 6.                        |