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Northern Territory shale gas explorers Tamboran and Empire join CSIRO's GISERA

Onshore gas exploration and production companies Empire Energy Group Limited and Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd (a 50:50 Joint Venture between Tamboran Resources Corporation and Daly Waters Energy, LP) have joined CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA).

GISERA is a collaboration between CSIRO, Commonwealth and state and territory governments and industry, established to provide quality assured scientific research and information to communities living in gas development regions, focusing on social and environmental topics.

Empire and Tamboran are seeking to develop shale gas resources in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Sub-basin. The companies' decision to join GISERA reflects the key role played by CSIRO's independent scientific studies and research programs that can help inform Northern Territory communities and government decisions about potential shale gas development in the Beetaloo Sub-basin.

GISERA is working with the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments to conduct a range of scientific studies in the Beetaloo Sub-basin.

These studies include baseline measurement of methane, groundwater and seismicity, and research into stygofauna, biodiversity, groundwater dependent ecosystems (hot springs), transport impacts, well decommissioning, fugitive emissions, microbial degradation of gas industry chemicals and options for greenhouse gas mitigation and offsets.

CSIRO Research Director, Energy Resources, and GISERA Director, Dr Damian Barrett, said CSIRO research in the Northern Territory is important for understanding potential impacts of the onshore gas industry.

"In regions where natural gas development is occurring or being proposed it is vital that local communities, business, industry and policy makers are able to make development decisions based on CSIRO's world-leading scientific analysis," Dr Barrett said.

"By working closely with industry, CSIRO can access on-ground engineering used in actual onshore gas activities by these companies in the Beetaloo Sub-basin, resulting in accurate data on potential environmental and social impacts, and more certainty for communities and policy-makers."

CSIRO research proposals in the Beetaloo Sub-basin are assessed by GISERA's Northern Territory Research Advisory Committee, which is majority controlled by community and independent Northern Territory members. Dr Barrett said CSIRO's GISERA operates under a strict governance model that ensures delivery of independent, high quality, peer-reviewed and publicly available science.

Empire is an Australian oil and gas company that holds exploration tenements in the McArthur Basin and the Beetaloo Sub-basin in the Northern Territory. Tamboran is the operator of the Beetaloo Joint Venture between Tamboran B2 (77.5%) and Falcon Oil and Gas Australia Ltd (22.5%).

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