



GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Minutes of the NT Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 10 held via video on Thursday, 30 November 2023

OPENING

The meeting of the CSIRO GISERA NT Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was called to order at 10.33 am (ACST) on Thursday, 30 November 2023.

PRESENT

Damian Barrett: GISERA Director (CSIRO)
Julieann Stoll: Independent Representative retired, formerly Central Land Council
Simone Cameron: Northern Australia, Senior Policy Manager (Cotton Australia)
Greg Ireland: Chief Executive Officer (Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory)
Adam Thompson: Manager – Resources & Energy Branch (Northern Land Council)
James Pratt: Senior Executive Director- Energy Development (NT DITT)
Andrew Stannard: Acting Environment Manager, Corporate (Santos)
Matt Kerneke: Environment and Approvals Manager (Tamboran Resources)

Other participants:

Cameron Huddlestone-Holmes: GISERA NT State Leader (CSIRO)
Jizelle Khoury: GISERA Executive Officer (CSIRO)

Apologies:

Daniel Capps: Director of Policy and Industry Development (NT Cattlemen's Association)
Greg McDonald: Managing Director (Good Advice Pty Ltd)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The GISERA Director welcomed all members to the meeting including new member Adam Thompson. Apologies were received from Daniel Capps and Greg McDonald.

Broader independent membership of the RAC composition was discussed with the view of bringing in further independent members.

2. ADMISSION OF NEW PARTNERS

It was noted that Tamboran Resources and Empire Energy formally requested admission to GISERA and that all existing members had provided unanimous support for their inclusion. A Deed of Accession is currently being executed for their admission to GISERA.

As a tier one member, Tamboran would be entitled to nominate a representative to participate in the NT RAC. The RAC agreed to allow Matthew Kernke (as Tamboran's representative) to join the meeting (prior to execution of Deed) given matters to be discussed at the meeting would include activities on Tamboran leases.

Matthew Kernke joined the meeting at 10.51 am.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- The NT RAC noted progress with some actions remaining open.
- The RAC would like a status update and expected date for convening of technical reference group for projects:
 - Environmental baseline characterisation of the springs in Hot Springs Valley, NT
 - UAV-LiDAR and spaceborne remote sensing for site survey and habitat condition monitoring in the Beetaloo

Action: The state leader to provide the RAC with a status update on the formation of both technical reference groups out of session.

4. PROJECT STAGE GATE / DECISION POINT **Examination of stygofauna ecosystems of the Beetaloo Sub-basin**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of two options being presented for consideration by the RAC as part of the stage gate / decision point.

Key points raised:

- Both options presented would involve an extended field campaign and option 2 would also include drilling of new monitoring bores.

- Based on information that has been acquired in the project to date, including the observations from the wide scale field campaign (field trip 2) suggest that a strong determinant on detecting the presence of larger stygofauna species is the presence of karstic features.
- The proposed extended field campaign will collect more data from the collated database of bores using a higher resolution camera to test the presence of larger stygofauna in relation to these karstic formations. It will also involve the geophysical logging of approximately 20 cased bores to determine whether bores have intersected karstic features.
- The research proponent's proposed locations of new observation bores in option 2 were on publicly owned land, adjacent to NT government owned monitoring bores where large stygofauna animals have been observed along with karstic features. The researchers noted that if they proceeded with the drilling campaign, there was no guarantee that a new bore would intersect karstic features, potentially resulting in little scientific gain at a significant drilling cost. There are also the risks during drilling of bore collapse or loss of equipment.
- It was noted that the drilling sites proposed were outside the core Beetaloo development area and as this is outside the highly prospective areas, it may move away from understanding what impact onshore gas development could have on these features. It could be of greater value to have a bore drilled along the Carpentaria Highway where the Gum Ridge Formation is 80 metres below surface.
- The RAC expressed a preference to proceed with option 1, but requested that:
 - Testing/data should be obtained from bores across a wider span of the basin, from all operators including Empire's leases on the eastern side of the basin.
 - A proposed map be developed and emailed to the RAC out of session that shows the locations of:
 - where stygofauna have been found in bores
 - where the bores are that will be targeted
 - where the current permits are (for Petroleum exploration and production leases).

Outcome: The RAC confirmed approval to proceed with option 1 (including timelines and budget reductions outlined in meeting paper), subject to the action below being addressed to their satisfaction. The map will be forwarded to the NT RAC via email out of session.

Action: The research proponent to reexamine the database to expand the range of existing bores for wider coverage of the basin (which includes all operators) and provide the RAC with a proposed map.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION

5. OTHER BUSINESS

No matters raised.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the NT 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 11.46 am (ACST).

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM GISERA NT RAC MEETING #10 – 30 NOVEMBER 2023

Agenda Item	Action
30-11-23 Item 3	The state leader to provide the RAC with a status update on the formation of both technical reference groups out of session.
30-11-23 Item 4	The research proponent to reexamine the database to expand the range of existing bores for wider coverage of the basin (which includes all operators) and provide the RAC with a proposed map.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Agenda Item	Action
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 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	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.