



GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Project Order

Short Project Title

Community wellbeing and attitudes to the energy transition in the North Perth Basin

Long Project Title Community wellbeing and attitudes to the energy transition including onshore gas development in the North Perth Basin

GISERA Project Number S.20

Start Date 01/07/2024

End Date 01/10/2025

Project Leader Linda Stalker



GISERA State/Territory

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Queensland | <input type="checkbox"/> New South Wales | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Territory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Australia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National scale project | | |

Basin(s)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adavale | <input type="checkbox"/> Amadeus | <input type="checkbox"/> Beetaloo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> Carnarvon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarence-Morton | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper | <input type="checkbox"/> Eromanga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Galilee | <input type="checkbox"/> Gippsland | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloucester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gunnedah | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryborough | <input type="checkbox"/> McArthur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Bowen | <input type="checkbox"/> Otway | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perth – North |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Nicholson | <input type="checkbox"/> Surat | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

GISERA Research Program

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity Research |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social & Economic Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land and Infrastructure Management Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

1. Project Summary

There are a number of plans for the development of conventional natural gas fields in the North Perth Basin region. While the Basin extends in a long narrow strip from Perth, Western Australia, the focus of this social research program is from Geraldton south to Perth. Some of this is motivated for potential future demand for the ongoing supply of gas for generating electricity, as well as green field projects for manufacturing fertilizers, ammonia, and hydrogen from natural gas onsite. There is also potential for geothermal projects, natural hydrogen exploration and underground hydrogen storage. These new projects would see the deployment of a range of infrastructures locally such as carbon capture, utilisation and storage, chemical manufacturing facilities, wind and solar farms, pipelines as well as carbon offset facilities in the context of the energy transition.

The extent of ongoing local community support for conventional gas developments, large scale renewable projects and other associated energy infrastructure is not clearly understood. However, evidence from previous projects across Australia has demonstrated that any opportunity for such projects will be impacted by the level of acceptance and support they receive from local communities.

This project aims to provide an in-depth understanding of how such projects would affect the functioning and well-being of all local communities. Online surveys of identified communities will provide a snapshot of the communities' well-being and issues pertaining to trust, and distributional and procedural fairness. Face-to-face interviews with community groups and individuals will also be used to identify the extent of knowledge communities hold in relation to the perceived risks and benefits of such projects, and identify any concerns they may have in relation to local developments. This may include local community groups, associations, agriculture, industry members and alliances. In recognising the role of First Nations People as rights holders across the region, we also propose to hold yarns with representatives from the Amangu people of the Yamatji/Marlpa Nation to better understand what is important to them and how such projects might benefit Traditional Owner Communities within the region.

2. Project description

Introduction

The economic and industrial development of the Mid-West region of Western Australia under the guidance of the Mid-West Development Commission is well underway.

Forming part of the Mid-West energy expansion are developments centered around the natural gas fields of the North Perth Basin. Natural gas fields such as the Waitsia, Beharra Springs and South Erregulla fields are focused on supplying LNG to meet Western Australia's short- and medium-term energy demands. However, there are also plans by companies such as Mitsui E&P Australia (MEPAU) and Strike Energy for the development of more complex industrial sites utilising natural gas production in the manufacturing of blue hydrogen, ammonia and urea, incorporating carbon capture and storage (and utilisation) technologies, and renewable wind and solar energy infrastructure. Other opportunities relevant to the energy transition include geothermal and natural hydrogen exploration and underground hydrogen storage.

New developments, such as the Oakajee Strategic Industrial Area (SIA), as of 2022, has received State approval for land allocation including in 2023 the Hydrogen Hub and BP's Geraldton Export-Scale Renewable Investment (GERI) establishing large integrated renewable energy and green hydrogen projects.

The proposed Oakajee Narngulu Infrastructure Corridor (ONIC) will facilitate road, rail and utility service connections between Geraldton and Oakajee. There are also a number of renewable energy projects planned east of Geraldton including BP's phased construction of 14GW+ of wind and solar generation north of Mullewa. Linked to these, is the ongoing development of the Northern Sector of the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) to meet future electricity demand of the Mid-West development and large renewable energy projects.

The principal towns of the focus of this regional study include the coastal town of Dongara 200 km south of Geraldton (population approximately 1400), Eneabba 260 km south (population approximately 140), and the wheatbelt towns of Three Springs 230 km southeast of Geraldton and Mingenew 260 km south-east of Geraldton (populations approximately 600 and 420, respectively¹), and the city of Geraldton. The diversity of these existing and new projects presents a complex set of challenges to local farmers, communities, and authorities in these areas as they seek to understand how they will be impacted socially, environmentally, and economically.

Whilst on the one hand projects such as these can provide benefits to local communities, they can also be seen to have negative social impacts on property values and aesthetics, perceived health and safety impacts, trust, possible (or perceived) contamination of water and the environment. In addition, at a time where society is looking to "green" solutions, it is unclear what impacts these proposals that directly aim to decarbonise fossil fuels, have on people's attitudes.

As part of planning for onshore gas developments and potential carbon capture and storage projects, their social and economic impacts as identified by the local communities will be assessed. Such information can create an evidence base to be used by governments and industry to address communities' concerns, engender trust, and create support for a social license to operate these facilities.

Prior Research

Conventional gas extraction in the Mid-West has co-existed with other land uses since the 1960's and has been an important source of gas for the Perth market since 1971. The Waitsia gas field, discovered in 2014, is the largest in the onshore northern Perth Basin and one of the largest onshore gas fields discovered in Australia. There are no published studies on social attitudes or acceptance of gas projects from the Mid-West Region and only a few studies of the social impact of gas developments in Western Australia, restricted to larger developments across the Kimberley and Pilbara Regions (Haslam, 2013).

A GISERA study in 2020 (Walton, et al., 2020) on community attitudes to conventional gas in South East Australia found that trust in the gas industry and in governance issues was low and that improving these was key to increasing social acceptance. Additionally, distributional fairness was also important to acceptance and whilst knowledge and understanding of the industry by people were not

¹ Based on 2021 ABS Census data.

direct drivers of trust and acceptance, it helped shape perceptions of impacts and of risk manageability and ultimately influenced acceptance.

Coal seam gas (CSG) social studies can also provide insights as their greater landscape footprint and more significant environmental impact brought an increased level of complexity to community acceptance. Longitudinal studies of natural gas in the Western Downs district of Queensland from 2014 to 2018 found most people tolerated or accepted natural gas, and this remained relatively unchanged across the four years of the study (Walton and McCrea, 2018). Whether they lived in town or out of town, the district they were in, all impacted how they felt towards natural gas. Environmental impacts, particularly underground water security, were key concerns. Positive attitudes to natural gas were found to be associated with: a community feeling that they are building resilience and working together effectively to deal with changes; that the environment is being managed well for the future; and that there are good employment and business opportunities. Historically, farmers have believed that place identity was not well understood by natural gas companies from non-rural backgrounds and differences in the way they interpreted their landscape caused much frustration, with farmers feeling that this situation led to severe impacts on mental health and wellbeing (Huth, et al., 2018).

A baseline study in Narrabri (Walton, et al., 2018), Western NSW, looked at local attitudes and perceptions of natural gas and found the majority of residents in town and surrounding areas were either negative or only lukewarm towards natural gas developments. However, a follow-up comparison published in 2022 demonstrated that residents' attitudes had become more positive (CSIRO, 2022). Trust in industry, governance, and unfair distribution of costs and benefits in the community were important concerns for these people, though confidence in their knowledge about natural gas was high.

Based on the research from other areas of Australia, attitudes towards gas development, and issues pertaining to trust and fairness are likely to be similar in Mid-West communities. However, without community interaction and collected evidence, it is impossible to confirm what those views may be.

This leads to the question of what would the community views be for gas projects where renewable, conventional gas, manufacturing and CCS are being combined as may happen in the Mid-West? How would they change or differ from conventional stand-alone gas projects? To date there has been little work in Australia on social acceptance of facilities with multiple, energy and renewable components at the one site in the one region.

Broadly, support for CCS in Australia is impacted by the perception that CCS extends the life of fossil fuel usage (Ashworth, et al., 2019). At a local level, studies have shown a lack of technical awareness and a desire by impacted communities for knowledge in this area (Ashworth, et al., 2014). A literature review on social and economic issues surrounding large-scale solar suggests local community acceptance of solar farms may differ from wider public acceptance, due to the local impacts of such projects (Measham, et al., 2021). This includes aesthetics, competition for land use and a lack of perceived benefits to local communities. The review also found that social license for solar farms appears easier to gain than some other renewable energy projects (including wind farms) and much easier than transitional energies like onshore gas development. Other studies have also found knowledge and support for different energy technologies in Australia varies significantly (Ferguson and Ashworth, 2021). This suggests that there are likely to be interesting opportunities based on the benefits (perceived or actual) that projects might bring to the region, and challenges (in

relation to how proposed projects fit with local values, norms and beliefs) ahead for the energy operators working in this new area.

This project will capture Mid-West community attitudes in relation to existing and new gas developments as well as seek to understand how those attitudes to gas developments may differ with the potential addition of decarbonisation focused assets.

Need & Scope

The Mid-West Development Commission has embraced Australia's plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050 as an opportunity to secure the region's economic future. As part of this development, the decarbonisation of conventional gas and related projects in the regions are likely to happen over the next two decades.

This project aims to focus on the areas and communities surrounding existing and proposed onshore North Perth Basin gas production facilities. The region to be surveyed will be that encompassed by the towns of Dongara, Mingenew, Three Springs, Eneabba and the city of Geraldton. This will also include representatives of the Traditional Owners of the region, the Amangu, through the Yamatji/Marlpa Aboriginal Land Corporation. As the major regional centre, we have also included Geraldton as an area of study.

Only through the accurate measurement of community views, using principles of transparency and co-design that encapsulates local values including sense of community, the importance of water, along with strength of attachment to particular landmarks and locations (place attachment), will future planning and decisions be considered for altering existing and initiating new energy developments in this geographic region. This will require an open and accurate assessment of the potential impact of any of these suggested changes on Mid-West communities. These views become particularly important when the extent of concern around issues, knowledge gaps, and information needs across a community are not known, and if issues and concerns are likely to vary both between communities and within communities. Quantitative metrics of community attitudes to the energy transition and decarbonisation over the next two decades will be critical to assessing the level of social acceptance of new low-carbon energy developments and devising programs to inform communities of the costs and benefits of these developments. This study represents the first step towards an ongoing longitudinal assessment of these metrics.

The analysis and findings of this research project can present a basis to inform new opportunities and risks for these industries in the region by providing evidence around the social and economic benefits projects can bring, along with the perceived negative impacts. Understanding how communities assess the risks and benefits of conventional gas projects is important for determining how the risks and benefits can be distributed fairly and equitably. It can also help to inform how discrepancies may be addressed, or risks mitigated in the light of the need to conduct meaningful emissions reductions to comply with new regulations.

This will better enable communities, industries, and government to co-exist and respond to changes that arise from development of the gas fields or potentially from other resource industries in the future.

Objectives

- Assess the level of understanding of the industrial developments occurring through the North Perth Basin by Mid-West communities through undertaking a baseline survey. This would cover attitudes to climate change, energy policy and knowledge of energy developments in their region.
- Measure community functioning and well-being that are challenged by gas developments and other associated projects, and identify any aspects that are bolstered. The fifteen wellbeing parameters to be measured will be derived from the work of Walton et al., (2014), and include, amongst others, personal safety, community spirit, community cohesion and local trust.
- Determine the positive and negative social, demographic and economic impacts on communities surrounding current and future gas developments combined with CCS in conjunction with other developments associated with energy supply. This analysis will provide impartial evidence to communities, industry and policymakers around the regional socioeconomic outcomes of an industry over the medium term.
- Evaluate and communicate the implications of the analysed impacts for communities, industry and policymakers. This will provide insights for these regional economies to inform the development of future resource industries.
- The results may be used to inform and support change arising from onshore gas developments to enhance regional and community benefit, and will provide a legacy of knowledge that enables communities in this and other regions to benefit from future resource developments.

Methodology

The project will be conducted in 4 phases comprising qualitative and quantitative methods.

Phase 1. Preparation and Stakeholder mapping.

Following ethics approval for the conduct of the project, a desktop review will be completed of the local areas to include a compilation of ABS statistics, employment, crime, available services, existing policy developments/shortfalls etc.

Stakeholder mapping will also be undertaken in order to understand the local context, key stakeholders and community segments. A small group of individuals that have been connected to the various communities will assist in completing this process.

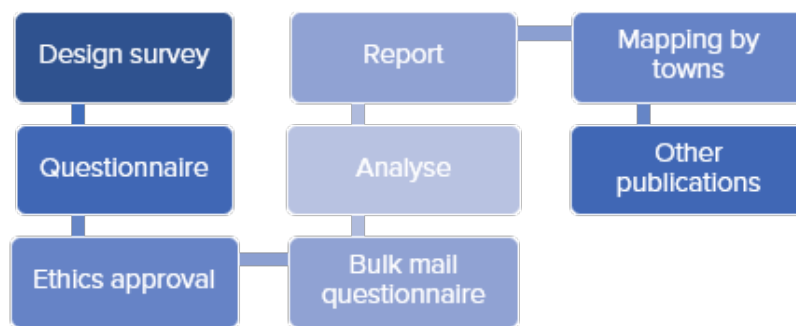
Phase 2. Conduct Baseline Study.

Consistent with recent GISERA social impact projects, a 'community functioning and well-being' (CFWB) survey will be conducted to understand and measure community functioning and well-being in the context of an expanding energy industry (including conventional gas) in the Mid-West.

We are recommending, to maintain independence of the study, that a postcard be designed and sent to all postal private addresses in selected towns and the City of Greater Geraldton, using the unaddressed bulk mail service.

The postcard will include a web link and QR code that respondents can use to access the online survey. We suggest providing the option for individuals to request a paper-based survey if pen and paper is their preferred method of completion. We would also use various local nominated social media to enhance the completion of the survey. Regardless, responses to such surveys can be low. To improve response rates, participants who complete the survey would be offered the opportunity to participate in a random draw of 1 of 20 \$50 gift vouchers, subject to ethics approval for such an incentive. We have budgeted for a reminder postcard to be sent after two weeks to improve responses.

Figure 1: Survey design and implementation steps



Because of the in-situ dependence of CFWB on local conditions, the constructs and variables the survey will examine must be allowed to emerge from the initial examinations of communities.

However, the following issues are likely to be important:

- Relationships between communities and gas developers
- Community leadership and influence networks
- Social capital
- Social infrastructure (e.g. medical facilities)
- Sense of place and attachment to location
- Patterns of social inclusion and exclusion arising from demographic shifts (e.g. from the use of FIFO/contract workers).

As part of this process a summary report will be completed of the major findings arising from the analyses of the data, including a short summary for each of the communities who participated in the research.

In order to maximise local farmer participation, the Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC) and the Growers Group Alliance (GGA) will be contacted to promote and encourage survey participation.

The aim is to obtain a minimum of 350 survey participants based on the information provided in Frederiks et al. (2020). That is, where the probable response rate for a plain bulk mail with reminder

and a prize is 10.51%. Based on the total private mail numbers (N=3,626), with a return to sender rate of 8.21% (n=297) results in a sample of 3,329. In addition to the local farmer groups outlined above we will also seek to promote through the local community Facebook pages and ABC radio as appropriate.

As part of this process the Research Advisory Committee will receive (2-3 weeks after postcard reminder is distributed) a survey response update on whether adequate numbers are reached, and if not, what modification will be made to ensure sufficient responses are achieved. If the Research Advisory Committee is not happy with the final result, we can investigate supplementary CATI surveys, but this would be at an additional cost not covered in the current quotation.

Phase 3. Face-to-face stakeholder engagement/focus groups

Following the postcard CFWB survey results, community focus groups will be conducted at each of the specified locations. We have allowed for 4 focus groups in Geraldton and 2 each in Dongara, Eneabba, Three Springs and Mingenew. Participants will be recompensed (normally \$110 for 2.5 hours) for their participation and will include farmers and other local residents as the need arises.

As with the survey, it is not possible to pre-empt the topics of discussion, however they are likely to cover the following areas:

- Perceived impacts and risks
- Perceived benefits – local and societal
- Perceived fairness – procedural and distributional
- Trust – in government and gas companies
- The quality of relationships and responsiveness of gas companies
- Governance – formal (compliance, regulations) and informal (planning, collaboration)
- Knowledge, information sources, and previous experience with the sector
- Feelings towards conventional gas, CCS, hydrogen, ammonia, wind, solar - both individually and in combination - measuring positive emotions (pleased, optimistic) and negative emotions (angry, worried)
- Attitudes towards potential geothermal related projects in the area, natural hydrogen exploration and underground hydrogen storage.
- Attitudes towards gas development – acceptance of gas development in the LGA.
- Attitudes towards climate change and decarbonisation developments in general.

Meetings with First Nations representatives from the Amangu people of the Yamatji/Marlpa Nation will also be conducted through the Prescribed Body Corporates identified within the area. Early yarns will focus on understanding their aspirations and what is important to them. This research will be conducted by Curtin Institute for Energy Transition (CIET) First Nations engagement experts. The First Nations representatives will be remunerated for their time and petrol costs.

As part of this process a summary report will be completed including a short summary for each of the communities who participated in the research.

Phase 4. Feedback to participants, stakeholders, identifying collaborative actions and final report

In order to communicate the findings and identify further opportunities for collaboration between stakeholders, the findings will be presented to communities, industry and government and a report completed.

3. Project Inputs

Resources and collaborations

Researcher	Time Commitment (project as a whole)	Principle area of expertise	Years of experience	Organisation
Linda Stalker	6 days	Petroleum Geochemistry, Carbon Capture and Storage	30+	CSIRO

Subcontractors (clause 9.5(a)(i))	Time Commitment (project as a whole)	Principle area of expertise	Years of experience	Organisation
Professorial	34 days	Engagement, mixed methods, report writing	25	Curtin University
Associate Professorial	64 days	Engagement, Survey design and analysis, report writing	10 to 15	Curtin University
Research Assistant	128 days	Desktop review, transcription, coding and report writing	3 to 5	Curtin University

Technical Reference Group

The project will establish a Technical Reference Group (TRG) aimed at seeking peer-to-peer technical advice on contextual matters and to discuss research needs as well as outputs as the project progresses. The TRG will include the project leader and a group of different stakeholders as appropriate, which may include:

- Farming/growers alliance representative
- Mid-West Development Corporation
- And others identified during Phase 1

Budget Summary

Source of Cash Contributions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	% of Contribution	Total
GISERA	\$0	\$179,462	\$49,503	\$0	70.1%	\$228,965
- Federal Government	\$0	\$179,462	\$49,503	\$0	70.1%	\$228,965
Total Cash Contributions	\$0	\$179,462	\$49,503	\$0	70.1%	\$228,965

Source of In-Kind Contribution	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	% of Contribution	Total
CSIRO	\$0	\$76,546	\$21,115	\$0	29.9%	\$97,661
Total In-Kind Contribution	\$0	\$76,546	\$21,115	\$0	29.9%	\$97,661

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	-	TOTAL
All contributions	\$0	\$256,008	\$70,618	\$0	-	\$326,626
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$0	\$256,008	\$70,618	\$0	-	\$326,626

4. Communications Plan

Stakeholder	Objective	Channel (e.g. meetings/media/factsheets)	Timeframe (Before, during at completion)
Regional community stakeholders including landholders, traditional owners and wider public	To communicate project objectives, and key messages and findings from the research	A fact sheet at commencement of the project that explains in plain English the objectives of the project.	At project commencement
		Liaise with small group of individuals connected with various communities in stakeholder mapping exercise in preparation for survey	Phase 1 of project
		Conduct community functioning and wellbeing survey	Phase 2 of project
		Project progress reported on GISERA website to ensure transparency for all stakeholders including regional communities.	Ongoing
		Public release of final reports. Plain English fact sheet summarising the outcomes of the research.	At project completion
		Preparation of article for the GISERA newsletter and other media outlets as advised by GISERA's communication team.	At project completion
		Conduct community focus groups at 4 towns and 1 city location and meetings with First Nations representatives	Phase 3 of project
Gas Industry & Government	To communicate the outcome of the project.	Fact sheet that explains the objectives of the project.	At project commencement
		Project progress reporting (on GISERA website).	Ongoing
		Final project report and fact sheet.	At project completion
		Presentation of findings at joint gas industry/government Knowledge Transfer Session.	At project completion

In addition to project specific communications activities, CSIRO's GISERA has a broader communications strategy. This strategy incorporates activities such as webinars, roadshows, newsletters and the development of other communication products.

5. Project Impact Pathway

Activities	Outputs	Short term Outcomes	Long term outcomes	Impact
Preparation, ABS review and stakeholder mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual town reports Key stakeholder maps for each town to inform future engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved understanding of socio-demographic status of each community in the GISERA study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will help to inform governments, regulators and industry stakeholders on expectations of these communities being studied in Western Australia. Greater clarity for government, industry and CSIRO around the concerns and questions communities need answered in relation to onshore gas projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced understanding of local community requirements for environmental protection in relation to onshore gas projects. Will assist projects to progress while ensuring there are adequate regulations in place to protect the local environment and minimise any negative impacts.
Conduct baseline study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of survey results, including analyses by town Summary fact sheet for each town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline understanding of community functioning and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced community stakeholder understanding and awareness about the economic, social and environmental impacts and benefits of onshore gas and related CCS projects. The project findings will help industry understand what are the important characteristics that are valued by each of the individual communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings from this research targeted at understanding community functioning and well-being will highlight social impact areas that could be improved or enhanced. By identifying areas that individuals value will enable opportunities for local councils and governments to help support areas that are important to local communities.
Face to face stakeholder engagement/focus groups		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of stakeholder attitudes towards onshore gas projects and CCS Improved community understanding of the benefits such projects can bring Clarification of stakeholder expectations (including TOs) for projects to operate successfully alongside communities 		
Communication of project objectives, progress and feedback to participants, stakeholders, identifying collaborative actions and final report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community feedback sessions and summary report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities will feel like their views have been heard. Greater transparency surrounding the project findings. Improved collaboration between locals and project developers, government and CSIRO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information will help industry be more targeted in their communications and engagement activities. At the same time should help them to better understand the requirements from communities for the license to operate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity for onshore gas projects to be successfully developed will bring added economic returns to local communities through local purchasing and assuming some additional workers being present in town.

Activities	Outputs	Short term Outcomes	Long term outcomes	Impact
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will likely be expectations for community benefits which may not have been there before. • Projects may help local host farmers derisk their operations through alternative income streams. • If projects are successful, then there should also be greater economic benefits to all Australians through revenue and taxes etc.

6. Project Plan

Project Schedule

ID	Activities / Task Title	Task Leader	Scheduled Start	Scheduled Finish	Predecessor
Task 1	Preparation and stakeholder mapping	Linda Stalker/Curtin Institute for Energy Transition	1 July 2024	31 August 2024	-
Task 2	Conduct baseline study	Linda Stalker/Curtin Institute for Energy Transition	1 September 2024	31 January 2025	Task 1
Task 3	Face to face stakeholder engagement/focus groups	Linda Stalker/Curtin Institute for Energy Transition	1 February 2025	31 July 2025	Task 1, 2
Task 4	Communication of project objectives, progress and feedback to participants, stakeholders, identifying collaborative actions and final report	Linda Stalker/Curtin Institute for Energy Transition	1 July 2024	1 October 2025	-

Task description

Task 1: Preparation and stakeholder mapping

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: 2 months (1 July 2024 – 31 August 2024)

BACKGROUND:

- Gather previous GISERA surveys and workshop processes to inform ethics application.
- Desktop research on communities of study.
- Identify and contact Technical Reference Group members, ensure Terms of Reference are drafted.
- Draft and submit ethics application.

TASK OBJECTIVES:

- Gain ethics approval.
- Gather ABS statistics and other relevant data for each of the communities.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

- Project ethics approved.
- Individual reports on socio economic status for each of the towns being studied.
- Key stakeholder map for each community
- First Technical Reference Group Meeting

Task 2: Conduct baseline study

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: 5 months (1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025)

BACKGROUND:

- Finalise survey sampling method.
- Assimilate findings and relevant information from preparation activities (including local social media).
- Finalise survey in Qualtrics.
- Print postcards and organise distribution with Australia Post.
- Contact local media outlets to also promote the survey.
- Contact Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC) and Growers Group Alliance (GGA) to promote and encourage participation.

TASK OBJECTIVES:

- Assess the level of understanding of the industrial developments occurring through the North Perth Basin by Mid-West communities through undertaking a baseline survey. This would cover attitudes to climate change, energy policy, knowledge of energy developments in their region.
- Measure community functioning and well-being that are challenged by gas developments and other associated projects, and identify any aspects which are bolstered. The fifteen wellbeing parameters to be measured will be derived from the work of Walton et al., (2014), and include amongst others, personal safety, community spirit, community cohesion and local trust.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

- Announce winners for the competition to complete the survey.
- Undertake baseline survey of the identified regions: Geraldton, Dongara, Eneabba, Three Springs, Mingenew using postcard distribution method with a follow up reminder after two weeks.
- Update Research Advisory Committee (two weeks after postcard reminder is distributed) on survey response numbers and whether adequate numbers are reached, and if not, what modification will be made to ensure sufficient response are achieved.
- Complete report of the data as a summary with comparative statistics by each town as appropriate.
- Hold at least 2 Technical Reference Group Meetings

Task 3: Face-to-face stakeholder engagement/focus groups

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: 6 months (1 February 2025 – 31 July 2025)

BACKGROUND:

- Build on findings from survey and stakeholder mapping to frame questions for the focus groups.
- Undertake a desktop review of current activities occurring in each of the towns.
- Recruit participants, through word of mouth, advertising on local radio and through local social media.

TASK OBJECTIVES: Determine the positive and negative social, demographic and economic impacts on communities surrounding current and future gas developments combined with CCS in conjunction with other developments associated with energy supply. This analysis will provide impartial evidence to communities, industry and policymakers around the regional socioeconomic outcomes of an industry over the medium term.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

- Undertake community focus groups at each of the 5 town locations (4 in Geraldton, 2 each in the other communities).

- Hold yarns with identified First Nations representatives from the Amangu people of the Yamatji/Marlpa National in both Geraldton and Dongara.
- Complete summary report and individual feedback town fact sheets for each of the communities, including results of First Nations yarns.
- Hold at least 2 Technical Reference Group Meetings

Task 4: Communication of project objectives, progress and feedback to participants, stakeholders, identifying collaborative actions and final report

OVERALL TIMEFRAME: Full duration of project (1 July 2024 – 1 October 2025)

BACKGROUND: Communication of GISERA’s research is an important component of all research projects. The dissemination of project objectives, key findings and deliverables to relevant and diverse audiences allows discourse and decision making within and across multiple stakeholder groups.

TASK OBJECTIVES: Communicate project objectives, progress and findings to stakeholders in collaboration with the GISERA Communication and Engagement Team.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES: Communicate project objectives, progress and results to GISERA stakeholders according to standard GISERA project procedures, which may include but are not limited to:

1. Knowledge Transfer Session with relevant government/gas industry representatives.
2. Preparation of progress and final report outlining the scope, objectives, methodology and, project progress/ findings
3. Provide feedback to each of the individual towns engaged on the findings
4. Preparation of an article for the GISERA newsletter and other media outlets as advised by GISERA’s communication team.
5. Two project fact sheets: one developed at the commencement of the project, and another that will include peer-reviewed results and implications at completion of the project. Both will be hosted on the GISERA website.

Project Gantt Chart

Task	Task description	2024-25												2025-26			
		Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25
1.	Preparation and stakeholder mapping	█	█														
2.	Conduct baseline study			█	█	█	█	█									
3.	Face to face stakeholder engagement/focus groups								█	█	█	█	█	█			
4.	Communication of project objectives, progress and feedback to participants, stakeholders, identifying collaborative actions and final report	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

6. Budget Summary

Expenditure	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Labour	\$0	\$9,742	\$5,036	\$0	\$14,778
Operating	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontractors	\$0	\$246,266	\$65,582	\$0	\$311,848
Total Expenditure	\$0	\$256,008	\$70,618	\$0	\$326,626

Expenditure per task	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Task 1	\$0	\$32,075	\$0	\$0	\$32,075
Task 2	\$0	\$93,333	\$0	\$0	\$93,333
Task 3	\$0	\$128,164	\$2,518	\$0	\$130,682
Task 4	\$0	\$2,436	\$68,100	\$0	\$70,536
Total Expenditure	\$0	\$256,008	\$70,618	\$0	\$326,626

Source of Cash Contributions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Federal Govt (70.1%)	\$0	\$179,462	\$49,503	\$0	\$228,965
Total Cash Contributions	\$0	\$179,462	\$49,503	\$0	\$228,965

In-Kind Contributions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
CSIRO (29.9%)	\$0	\$76,546	\$21,115	\$0	\$97,661
Total In-Kind Contributions	\$0	\$76,546	\$21,115	\$0	\$97,661

	Total funding over all years	Percentage of Total Budget
Federal Government investment	\$228,965	70.1%
CSIRO investment	\$97,661	29.9%
Total Expenditure	\$326,626	100%

Task	Milestone Number	Milestone Description	Funded by	Start Date (mm-yy)	Delivery Date (mm-yy)	Fiscal Year Completed	Payment \$ (excluding CSIRO contribution)
Task 1	1.1	Preparation and stakeholder mapping	GISERA	Jul-24	Aug-24	2024/25	\$22,485
Task 2	2.1	Conduct baseline study	GISERA	Sep-24	Jan-25	2024/25	\$65,426
Task 3	3.1	Face to face stakeholder engagement/focus groups	GISERA	Feb-25	Jul-25	2025/26	\$91,608
Task 4	4.1	Communication of project objectives, progress and feedback to participants, stakeholders, identifying collaborative actions and final report	GISERA	Jul-24	Oct-25	2025/26	\$49,446

7. Intellectual Property and Confidentiality

Background IP (clause 11.1, 11.2)	Party	Description of Background IP	Restrictions on use (if any)	Value
				\$
				\$
Ownership of Non-Derivative IP (clause 12.3)	CSIRO			
Confidentiality of Project Results (clause 15.6)	Project Results are not confidential.			
Additional Commercialisation requirements (clause 13.1)	Not Applicable			
Distribution of Commercialisation Income (clause 13.4)	Not applicable			
Commercialisation Interest (clause 13.1)	Party	Commercialisation Interest		
	CSIRO	N/A		

8. References

- Ashworth, P., Talia J., & N. Ranasinghe. (2014). Understanding Stakeholder Attitudes to CCS in Victoria, Australia. *Energy Procedia* 63, 6982–90. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egypro.2014.11.731>.
- Ashworth, P., Yan S., Michele F., Katherine W., & S. She. (2019). Comparing How the Public Perceive CCS across Australia and China. *International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control*, 86, 125–33. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijggc.2019.04.008>.
- CSIRO. (2022). *Community wellbeing and attitudes to coal seam gas development in 2022, in Narrabri Shire, NSW*. GISERA Factsheet. CSIRO, Australia.
- Ferguson, M., & P. Ashworth. (2021) Message Framing, Environmental Behaviour and Support for Carbon Capture and Storage in Australia. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 73, 101931. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.101931>.
- Frederika, E., Romanach, L.M., Berry, A. & P. Toscas. (2020) Making energy surveys more impactful: Testing material and non-monetary response strategies. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 63, 101409. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2019.101409>.
- Haslam, M. (2013). Delivering Enduring Benefits from a Gas Development: Governance and Planning Challenges in Remote Western Australia. *Australian Geographer* 44, (3), 341–58. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00049182.2013.817032>.
- Huth, N., Cocks, B., Dalgliesh, N., Poulton, P., Marinoni, O. & J. Garcia. (2018). Farmers Perceptions of Coexistence between Agriculture and a Large-Scale Coal Seam Gas Development. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 35, (1), 99–115. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-017-9801-0>.
- Measham, T., McCrea, R., Poruschi, L., Walton, A. & D. O'Sullivan. (2021). *The role of large-scale solar in transitioning to a low carbon energy system: Social and economic issues and an emerging research agenda*. CSIRO, Australia.
- Walton, A. & R. McCrea. (2018). *Trends in community wellbeing and local attitudes to coal seam gas development, 2014 – 2016 - 2018: Western Downs and Eastern Maranoa regions, Queensland. Survey report*. CSIRO Australia.
- Walton, A., McCrea, R. & T. Jeanneret. (2018). *Social Baseline Assessment: Narrabri project- Final Report. A final report to the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA)*. CSIRO, Canberra.
- Walton, A., McCrea, R., & T. Jeanneret. (2020). *Community wellbeing and local attitudes to conventional gas development in the South-East of South Australia*. CSIRO, Australia.
- Walton, A., McCrea, R. & R. Leonard. (2014). *CSIRO survey of community wellbeing and responding to change: Western Downs region in Queensland*. CSIRO, Australia.