



Australia's National
Science Agency

GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Progress report

CWB4: Trends in community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG development – Comparisons across industry phases from 2014 to 2024



Progress against project milestones

Progress against milestones/tasks are approved by the GISERA Director, acting with authority in accordance with the [GISERA Alliance Agreement](#).

Progress against project milestones/tasks is indicated by two methods: [Traffic light reports](#) and descriptive [Project schedule reports](#).

1. Traffic light reports in the Project Schedule Table below show progress using a simple colour code:

- **Green:**

- Milestone fully met according to schedule.
- Project is expected to continue to deliver according to plan.
- Milestone payment is approved.

- **Amber:**

- Milestone largely met according to schedule.
- Project has experienced delays or difficulties that will be overcome by next milestone, enabling project to return to delivery according to plan by next milestone.
- Milestone payment is withheld.
- Milestone payment withheld for second of two successive amber lights; project review initiated and undertaken by GISERA Director.

- **Red:**

- Milestone not met according to schedule.
- Problems in meeting milestone are likely to impact subsequent project delivery, such that revisions to project timing, scope or budget must be considered.
- Milestone payment is withheld.
- Project review initiated by GISERA Director.

2. Progress Schedule Reports outline task objectives and outputs and describe, in the 'progress report' section, the means and extent to which progress towards tasks has been made.

Project schedule table

TASK NUMBER	TASK DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULED START	SCHEDULED FINISH	COMMENT
1	The narrative study	Mar 2023	Nov 2023	Completed
2	Survey preparation	Sept 2023	Dec 2023	Completed
3	Conduct survey, analyse data, commence reports	Jan 2024	Oct 2024	Completed
4	Draft report(s) and academic papers and present findings	Jul 2024	Dec 2024	Completed
5	Communicate findings more broadly	Mar 2023	May 2025	Completed

Project schedule report

TASK 1: The narrative study

BACKGROUND

The narrative study will explore how issues have been discussed over the past decade in relation to CSG development in Queensland, as well as informing edits to the 2024 community wellbeing survey and assisting with interpreting the survey data.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) To establish Technical Reference Group; 2) To plan and prepare for media data collection and obtain ethics approval for interviews and small group discussion; 3) To collect online media data, analyse data, and develop draft concept maps and narrative themes; 4) To ground truth concept narratives with key community stakeholders using interviews or small group discussions.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

1. Technical Reference Group established
2. Ethics approval obtained
3. Narrative data collected, analysed and draft concept maps and narrative themes developed
4. Narrative themes discussed and ground-truthed with key community stakeholders

PROGRESS REPORT

Task 1 is now complete.

- Contact made with technical expert in relation to the study.
- Ethics approval for narrative study interviews and Community wellbeing and attitudes to gas survey, 2024 submitted and approved.
- Narrative data collection and synthesis completed, and synthesis methodology refined. The narrative study has explored how issues have been discussed in the media

over the past decade in relation to CSG development in the Western Downs region. Key themes have been identified for four time periods that respond to different phases of the industry cycles.

- The narratives were used to revise and prepare the survey, allowing the researchers to use current insights from the field to inform the 2024 survey.
- The interview method with key informants has been piloted. Based on the pilot, the focus of the interviews will shift to a reflection of community wellbeing changes over time. The interviews will support interpretation of survey findings and have been moved to be part of Task 4 to assist in write up of survey findings.

TASK 2: Survey preparation

BACKGROUND

While the survey methodology and sampling frame will remain essentially the same as in previous community wellbeing surveys, for comparability reasons, minor edits will be made to enhance the survey.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) To obtain ethics approval for survey; 2) To revise the survey instrument; 3) To prepare the sampling frame and organise data collection through third party market research company

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

1. Ethics approval obtained
2. A revised survey instrument prepared
3. Sampling frame and data collection organised

PROGRESS REPORT

This task is complete.

Ethics approval has been obtained and privacy approval also received for the survey. The survey instrument has been reviewed and revised accordingly. The sampling strategy has been finalised and the project is ready for data collection to commence in April 2024. Data collection was originally planned for early March but was re-scheduled to avoid overlap with another survey being conducted in the same region. It is anticipated that data collection time will conclude in June with data analysis to be completed by August 2024. This will likely result in a delay of two months to Task 3 compared to the original schedule.

TASK 3: Conduct survey, analyse data, and commence reports

BACKGROUND

This task involves both assessing community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG development in the region in 2024, as well as linking this data to the 2014, 2016, and 2018 dataset to analyse any significant changes over the past decade.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) To conduct a representative survey of residents in the Western Downs and eastern Maranoa regions; 2) To assess community wellbeing and perceptions of CSG development for 2024 and how this has changed over time (2014 – 2016 – 2018 – 2024); and 3) To commence write up of findings

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

1. A weighted 2024 dataset for representativeness prepared and linked to previous data sets
2. Analyses underway, writeup commenced and report(s) drafted

PROGRESS REPORT

This task is complete.

The *Community wellbeing and local attitudes towards CSG development* survey went into the field in July – August 2024 and data collected as planned. Telephone interviews were used to collect the data with 400 residents from the Western Downs region and 200 residents from the eastern Maranoa completing the survey. The data has been weighted for representativeness as planned and the 2024 dataset linked to the previous 2014, 2016, and 2018 datasets. Analysis is almost completed, and reports are well progressed. Four open-text questions have also been analysed to add further depth to research findings.

Interim findings have been presented to a Southeast Qld forum of industry, government and research stakeholders with an earlier presentation in the year provided to community stakeholders in Chinchilla.

An interactive website is also being developed and is well progressed. The website will support the written report and allow community, government, and industry stakeholders to explore results for 2024, and how these have changed over the decade.

Once the draft report is finalised in December plans will be made to present findings to community stakeholders in February - March 2025. The academic papers will be drafted during January.

TASK 4: Draft report(s) and academic papers and present findings

BACKGROUND

Project report(s) and paper(s) will be drafted, and the findings presented to regional councils and other key stakeholders. The project report(s) will be finalised following feedback from these presentations as a way of further ground-truthing our findings.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) To draft survey report(s); 2) To communicate survey findings; 3) To draft academic papers

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

1. Survey report(s) submitted to e-publish
2. Survey findings presented to regional councils (planned or completed)
3. Knowledge transfer session (planned or completed)
4. Academic papers drafted

PROGRESS REPORT

This task is completed.

The *Community Wellbeing and Local Attitudes Towards CSG Development: 2014 – 2024* report has been submitted to e-publish as planned, and the peer review process is complete. Minor revisions to the report are currently underway.

The data visualization tool is well-developed and will be ready for sharing upon the report's release. Presentations and feedback on interim survey findings to stakeholders are progressing well and are on track. Presentations to regional councils and industry are being organized for March and April 2025. A presentation to Co-existence Queensland was completed in February 2025, resulting in excellent discussions and an exchange of learnings. A knowledge transfer session is scheduled for April 2025.

An academic manuscript is also in progress. Completing the stakeholder presentation sessions will likely extend Task 5 beyond March, and an extension of the project finish date to May 30 will be sought. This extension will allow the project team to communicate findings to a broader audience and complete the academic paper.

TASK 5: Communicate project objectives and findings more broadly

BACKGROUND

This task involves conveying our findings with wider public and academic audiences. An interactive digital product (web or app based) will be developed to enable audiences to view the data visually and discover the story behind the data. This involves graphic web designers and developers, and science communication professionals to co-design and develop the visualisation tool with the research scientists.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) To finalise report(s), data visualisation, and other communication products; 2) To communicate findings to a range of audiences including key government, industry, and community stakeholders; 3) To finalise academic papers

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES:

1. Final project report(s)
2. Visualisation tool
3. Fact sheet(s)
4. Presentations to key stakeholders on project
5. Academic papers submitted to e-publish

PROGRESS REPORT

This task is complete.

- The final report peer reviewed report has been published 'Trends in community wellbeing and local attitudes to coal seam gas development, 2014 - 2024 Western Downs and eastern Maranoa regions, Queensland'.


- An online interactive tool has been developed which allows users to easily compare research data from different survey years, subregions and demographic categories.
- An overview of project objectives and interim results were presented at the 'CSIRO's GISERA - Presenting Southern Queensland Research Forum' in Chinchilla for community stakeholders and in Brisbane for government and industry stakeholders.
- A knowledge transfer session to present survey results was conducted in April 2025 with industry and government partners.
- A series of presentations on survey results have also been conducted with various stakeholders including Maranoa Regional Council, Western Downs Regional Council and Coexistence Queensland.
- The following academic papers have been drafted for submission to ePublish for peer review:
 - 'Perceived community wellbeing and adapting to onshore gas development over different industry phases' (Indicative title) – for submission to the Journal of Rural Studies
 - 'In Their Own Words: What Gas Communities Can Teach Us About Social License for Renewable Energy Infrastructure' (Indicative title) – for submission to Renewable and sustainable Energy Reviews
- A fact sheet was published at commencement of project and another two fact sheets that incorporate the final results are being prepared.




Variations to Project Order

Changes to research Project Orders are approved by the GISERA Director, acting with authority, in accordance with the [GISERA Alliance Agreement](#). Any variations above the GISERA Director's delegation require the approval of the relevant GISERA Research Advisory Committee.

The table below details variations to research Project Order.

Register of changes to Research Project Order

DATE	ISSUE	ACTION	AUTHORISATION
19/09/23	More time is needed as the project team is waiting on ethics approval for the narrative study interviews and <i>Community wellbeing and attitudes to gas survey, 2024</i> .	Milestone 1 extended from August 2023 to November 2023.	

DATE	ISSUE	ACTION	AUTHORISATION
03/04/2024	Data collection was originally planned for early March however was rescheduled as the project team did not want to overlap with another survey being conducted in the region.	Milestone 3 extended from June 2024 to August 2024.	
26/06/2024	The CATI provider will not finish conducting survey until June 2024 therefore requiring an extension to milestone 3 and this affects the delivery date of milestone 4.	Milestone 3 extended from August 2024 to October 2024 and Milestone 4 extended from October 2024 to December 2024.	
11/03/2025	Stakeholder presentation sessions will likely extend beyond current delivery date.	Milestone 5 extended from March 2025 to May 2025.	

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GISERA is a collaboration between CSIRO, Commonwealth and state governments and industry established to undertake publicly-reported independent research. The purpose of GISERA is to provide quality assured scientific research and information to communities living in gas development regions focusing on social and environmental topics including: groundwater and surface water, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, land management, the marine environment, and socio-economic impacts. The governance structure for GISERA is designed to provide for and protect research independence and transparency of research.