



Australia's National
Science Agency

GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Progress report

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



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources



Supported by
Government of
South Australia



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT



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	Preparation and stakeholder mapping	1 July 2024	31 Aug 2024	Completed
2	Conduct baseline study	1 Sept 2024	31 Jan 2025	Completed
3	Face to face stakeholder engagement/focus groups	1 Feb 2025	31 Jul 2025	Completed
4	Communication of project objectives, progress and feedback to participants, stakeholders, identifying collaborative actions and final report	1 Jul 2024	1 Oct 2025	

Project schedule report

TASK 1: Preparation and stakeholder mapping

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

PROGRESS REPORT

This milestone is complete.

- CSIRO has appointed the Curtin Institute for Energy Transition (CIET) to conduct this community wellbeing study in WA. CIET have reviewed previous surveys conducted by GISERA and constructed a draft survey that aims to take a pulse on communities that may feel affected by the increased activity in their region with respect to energy generation and the energy transition.
- The ethics application has been submitted to Curtin University and now approved.
- Five individual reports outlining the data for the communities have been prepared by CIET and reviewed by CSIRO. These encompass the towns and or cities of Dongara, Eneabba, Geraldton, Mingenew and Three Springs and their shire's or LGA regions. The reports show significant differences in many aspects of these local areas – from small hamlets to city scales and with correspondingly varied amenities, services, demographics and economics.
- Key stakeholder mapping for each town has been conducted.
- The draft survey has been completed and shared with CSIRO staff for review and feedback.
- The technical reference group (TRG) has been established. It is made up of 5 Midwest facing institutions, along with a representative from CIET and CSIRO. The first TRG meeting will be conducted on 7 November 2024.

Task 2: Conduct baseline study

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

PROGRESS REPORT

- The baseline survey has been undertaken. Two rounds of postcards have been distributed. The project Technical Reference Group (TRG) have provided numerous additional methods for socialising the survey and increasing its discoverability. Additional outreach to schools, agricultural societies and other local social media, print media have been used to increase interest and participation.
- A note has been prepared for Research Advisory Committee for providing further information on the number survey responses received and the recruitment process for initiating and boosting survey participation.
- The winners for completion of the survey have been announced.
- An early assessment of data show meaningful differences between city and country cases has been provided and will be used to direct the focus groups in Task 3.
- Extensive interactions with TRG members has taken place in efforts to boost recruitment over the duration of Task 2.

TASK 3: Face-to-face stakeholder engagement/focus groups**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

PROGRESS REPORT

The milestone outputs and specific deliverables have been met.

There have been additional interviews to support the outreach. Focus groups have been conducted both in person and on-line to try to meet proposed numbers of people engaged.

A yarn was held with the Prescribed Body Corporation (PBC) of the Yamatji Southern Native Title Determination Area.

A summary report has been prepared and delivered.

Feedback town factsheets have been delivered for Geraldton, Dongara and a combined Three Springs, Eneabba and Mingenew, in the same manner as the results have been synthesised.

At least two TRG meetings have been held, as well as several email exchanges to facilitate responses for the focus groups and to identify individuals for interview.

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

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.

PROGRESS REPORT

This milestone will be completed in October 2025.

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

As Australia's national science agency and innovation catalyst, CSIRO is solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology.

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Contact us

1300 363 400
+61 3 9545 2176
csiro.au/contact
csiro.au

For further information

1300 363 400
gisera.csiro.au

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.