Australia's National
Science Agency

GISERA | Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance

Progress report

Monitoring community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG in Narrabri (Pre-construction phase)

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
Task 1	Revising and conducting the 2022 survey	Jan-22	May-22	Completed
Task 2	2022 data analyses, interim report, and stakeholder communications	Jun-22	Nov-22	Completed
Task 3	High level literature review and revision of survey	Oct-24	Feb-25	Completed
Task 4	Conduct survey, analyse findings, draft report	Jan-25	Aug-25	This task will be completed in November 2025
Task 5	Finalise report, dissemination of findings (presentations, papers, and conference)	Jul-25	Dec-25	

Project schedule report

TASK 1: Revising and conducting the 2022 survey

BACKGROUND

While the survey needs to stay essentially the same for monitoring over time purposes, there is an opportunity to make small revisions to ensure the survey is as useful as possible to the local community, industry and government. This task also involves interviewing selected key informants from community, government, and industry about potential revisions that may be useful.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) To obtain ethics approval; 2) To establish technical reference group; 3) To revise the survey questionnaire, where useful and feasible, using interviews and related research data, and 4) to conduct a representative survey of residents in the Narrabri Shire

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

1. Ethics approved obtained
2. Technical reference group established
3. A revised survey instrument, while still being comparable to the 2017 survey on all the main dimensions of community wellbeing and social licence to operate.
4. A clean and representative dataset for 2022.
5. A factsheet outlining the project.

PROGRESS REPORT

This milestone is complete.

The outputs and deliverables for Task 1 were completed in August 2022:

- Ethics approved obtained
- Technical reference group established
- Survey revised and conducted
- A clean and representative dataset for 2022 obtained.
- A factsheet outlining the project posted to the GISERA website.

TASK 2: 2022 data analyses, interim report, and stakeholder communications

BACKGROUND

These interim findings will report on changes between the pre-approval and the continuing appraisal phase (post-approval).

TASK OBJECTIVES

To assess any changes in community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG development after government approvals were given

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

1. A weighted 2022 dataset for representativeness, which is linked to the 2017 dataset
2. An interim report
3. A knowledge transfer session and presentation of 2022 interim findings to key community, industry and government stakeholders. This may include a presentation of interim findings in Narrabri (COVID restrictions permitting).
4. A factsheet outlining the interim results

PROGRESS REPORT

This milestone is complete.

- A 2022 dataset has been weighted and linked to the weighted 2017 dataset.
- The main findings have been analysed, as well as more detailed analyses conducted.
- The final 2022 survey report Community wellbeing and attitudes to coal seam gas development: Narrabri Shire, NSW 2017 to 2022 has been finalised and published on the website.
- A presentation of preliminary findings was given to the Narrabri Community Consultative Committee in November 2022 outlining the main findings. Additional presentations on main findings will be offered to local council and industry during a visit to Narrabri in September 2023.
- A factsheet outlining the 2022 survey results is available on the website Community wellbeing and attitudes to coal seam gas development in 2022, in Narrabri Shire, NSW

TASK 3: High level literature review and revision of survey

BACKGROUND

The second survey will now pivot focus to measure the effect of uncertainty about major regional development projects proceeding or not proceeding on local community wellbeing. A high-level literature review on the effects of uncertain regional development projects on community wellbeing will be conducted along with revision of the survey instrument and design to enable the measurement of any such impacts.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) Conduct literature review
2) To revisit the survey questionnaire

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

1) Revisiting the survey and sample design, ensuring that it is still comparable with the 2017 and 2021 surveys on measures of community wellbeing and social licence to operate.
2) Develop and incorporate measures associated with uncertainty of major regional developments

PROGRESS REPORT

This milestone is complete.

- The literature review has been conducted, which informed revising this survey with a focus on the effect of uncertainty about major regional developments on local community wellbeing.
- The survey has been revised, including developing new measures associated with uncertainty of major regional developments, while keeping overall measures of community wellbeing and attitudes to CSG development for comparison over time.
- The revised survey has been submitted to CSIRO ethics for approval.
- The survey sampling design is comparable to previous years.

TASK 4: Conduct survey, analyse findings, draft report

BACKGROUND:

The finalised findings will include changes between the pre-approval phase and continuing appraisal plus the effect of uncertainty about major regional developments.

TASK OBJECTIVES

1) To conduct a representative survey of residents in the Narrabri Shire, using the same methodology as in 2017 and 2022.
2) To assess community wellbeing and perceptions of CSG development in the region, and the effect of uncertainty of major regional developments on communities.
3) To serve as new benchmarks for measuring any changes during any construction phase, if it were to proceed.

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

1) A weighted 2025 dataset for representativeness which is linked to the 2017 and 2022 datasets
2) A draft report ready for peer review.

PROGRESS REPORT

The final report has been prepared and is currently under peer review. This task will be completed November 2025.

TASK 5: Finalise report, dissemination of findings (presentations, papers, and conference)

BACKGROUND

The finalised findings will include changes between the pre-approval phase and continuing appraisal plus the current effect of uncertainty about major regional developments.

It is important to share learnings from this project to the broader public and scientific audiences, beyond key community, industry and government stakeholders. The two scientific papers will enhance the credibility to the project's findings, as well as further developing the science of social licence in the onshore gas industry.

TASK OBJECTIVES:

1) To measure the effect of uncertainty about major regional development projects proceeding or not proceeding on local community wellbeing
2) To serve as new benchmarks for measuring any changes during any construction phase, if it were to proceed.
3) To ensure that the information generated by this project is documented and published to a wider audience

TASK OUTPUTS AND SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

1) A final report plus a knowledge transfer session and presentation of 2025 findings to key community, industry and government stakeholders.
2) Preparation of article for GISERA newsletter
3) Two scientific papers submitted to e-Publish
4) Attending a conference or open access for a scientific paper

PROGRESS REPORT

This task will be completed December 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
03/12/2021	To allow for the purchase of vouchers that survey participants would have the opportunity to win/draw, an additional $4,000 is required.	An additional $4,000 ($3,200 GISERA funding & $800 CSIRO in-kind) is allocated to overall project budget.	
07/05/2024	The second survey will now pivot to focus to measure the effect of uncertainty about major regional development projects proceeding or not proceeding on local community wellbeing. This involves an additional task being introduced to conduct a high-level literature review on the effects of uncertain regional development projects on community wellbeing and revision of the survey instrument and design to enable the measurement of any such impacts. A revised delivery schedule for milestones 3-5 has been approved by the NSW RAC.	Milestone 3 now 'High level literature review and revision of survey' will commence 1 October 2024 with delivery date 31 December 2024. Milestone 4 now 'Conduct survey, analyse findings, draft report' will commence 1 January 2025 with delivery date 30 June 2025. Milestone 5 now 'Finalise report, dissemination of findings (presentations, papers, and conference)' will commence 1 July 2025 with delivery date 30 September 2025. An additional $42,631 ($34,105 GISERA funding and $8,526 CSIRO funding) is allocated for variation and introduction of literature review.	
11/12/2024	Due to variation in Narrabri Gas Project proponent activities, a variation was approved by the GISERA NSW RAC to have a second survey of this project focus on likely impacts on wellbeing around the uncertainty of a major gas	Milestone 3 due date has been extended from December 2024 to February 2025.	

DATE	ISSUE	ACTION	AUTHORISATION
	development in the Narrabri region. The NSW RAC also approved the inclusion of a literature review. This literature review is taking longer than anticipated to complete and a variation is being sought to extend the milestone by two months. The revised timing takes into account the Christmas/New Year break.		
15/04/25	The research proponent has sought a variation to push back timing of second survey due to proximity of the 2025 Federal Election to the sample period. This is to avoid election issues potentially distorting the outcomes of the research.	Milestone 4 extended from 30 June 2025 to 31 August 2025 and milestone 5 extended from 30 September 2025 to 12 December 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.