

COMMUNIQUE 12

NARRABRI GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

About the CCC

The Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) brings together community, industry, local and state governments to explore and discuss issues relating to the exploration and extraction of natural gas in the Narrabri Gas Project area.

Chaired by the NSW Land and Water Commissioner, members of the dialogue include Narrabri Shire Councillors, independent community members, senior Santos representatives and senior agency officers from the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water) and the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E).

Summary of 10 May 2016 meeting

- Action items from last meeting
- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- EPA Presentation - How produced water in the Narrabri Gas Project is assessed and comparison to other water sources used for irrigation
- CSIRO (GISERA) introduction and overview

The Chair and members discussed action items from the last meeting and a member stated that he considered that some of the information relating to water quality from web-based water information databases provided at a previous meeting of the CCC was difficult to access. The Chair advised that Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining Interim Report had been released on 4 May 2016 and was available online. A copy of EPA Factsheet titled *CSG Produced Water Irrigation* was distributed to members again as an action item from the April meeting. The Fact Sheet had been distributed previously to the Committee in April 2015.

Santos discussed the Monthly Activity Update for May 2016 and answered questions arising from the update. There was a discussion in relation to the timing of rehabilitation activities for Bohena sites.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the *Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter May 2016* to members and advised that the final version would be available on the EPA website. There was a brief discussion on where to find the Newsletter on the EPA website with the path being www.epa.nsw.gov.au; click on the tab at the top titled *Protecting Your Environment*; click on the link third down on left hand side titled *Gas Industry*; scroll down to link titled *Community Involvement*; scroll down to the section *Narrabri Community Consultative Committee Newsletters* and current and former newsletters are listed. An EPA representative referred briefly to a school education program and further information will be provided in due course. EPA representatives provided an update on staff recruitment activities for roles based in Narrabri and advised that the keys to the office had been received.

Representatives from EPA delivered a presentation on *Irrigation of Treated Water*, providing an overview of legislative framework applicable to EPA licensing decisions (*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*) and matters that must be considered by EPA. There followed

COMMUNIQUE 12

NARRABRI GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

a discussion on effluent reuse by irrigation and some examples of where this is used and policy and guidelines that are considered. There was a discussion on salinity and irrigation and a slide was included in the presentation that provided some examples of water quality of various water sources in the regional area for context and comparison. There was a discussion on the proposed irrigation of treated produced water from reverse osmosis plant at Leewood. It was noted that the indicative Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) on the slide relevant to Leewood was prior to water amendment and this will be clarified on the slide prior to distribution of presentation.

A representative from CSIRO Gas Industry Social and Environment Research Alliance (GISERA) delivered a presentation that provided an overview of GISERA's objectives. These include to carry out research and provide information for the benefit of communities in gas regions and provide information to governments and policy-makers of key research outcomes. GISERA has been established in Queensland since July 2011, and has now expanded to NSW. A slide was included in the presentation showing the financial contribution for the national GISERA budget with contributions from the CSIRO, Federal Government, New South Wales Government and industry. Research by GISERA may include potential social, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities of the gas industry. A handout was distributed that had examples of areas of research to date include: Surface and groundwater; Greenhouse gas footprint; Agricultural land management; Terrestrial biodiversity; Marine environment; and Socio-economic. There was a discussion at the meeting in relation to the NSW Research Advisory Committee (RAC) members and process for groups to suggest possible research priorities. Three members of the Narrabri Gas Project CCC will be part of the RAC – Jock Laurie, Jack Warnock and Neale House.

The Chair advised that the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation would attend the July 2016 meeting to present an update and demonstration on the progress of the Environmental Data Portal.

Information Links:

Please see the following table for each nominated community/industry group delegate contact details:

Name	Organisation	Contact details
Matt Norrie	NSW Farmers	matthewnorrie@bigpond.com
Phillip Kirkby	Local Land Services	phillipkirkby@bigpond.com
Jack Warnock	Cotton Australia	jackwarnock@bigpond.com
Jon Maree Baker	Namoi Water	eo@namoiwater.com.au
Russell Stewart	Narrabri Chamber of Commerce	fourstewarts@bigpond.com
Jocelyn Cameron	NSW Country Women's Association	dcandjcameron@bigpond.com
Tony Pickard	People for the Plains	deere@activ8.net.au
Cr Catherine Redding	Narrabri Shire Council	cr.redding@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Cr Maxine Booby	Narrabri Shire Council	cr.booby@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Annie Moody	Santos Ltd	annie.moody@santos.com
Andrew Ellis	Division of Resources and Energy	andrew.ellis@trade.nsw.gov.au

NOTE: The content contained within the document above is a record of the Narrabri Gas Project Community Consultative Committee #12. The views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by all Committee members.