

COMMUNIQUE 15

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 29 November meeting

- Action items from last meeting
- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- CSIRO Presentation – GISERA Research Project Update
- Environmental Protection Authority – Tintfield Ponds Monitoring – PRP Closure Update

The Chair and committee members welcomed guests from the CSIRO Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA); the Onshore Gas Section of the Federal Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; and the Environment Protection Authority.

There was no Communique prepared for the October 2016 meeting as members were advised prior to the meeting that attendance was optional. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Committee to new Narrabri Shire Council committee representatives and cover key subjects to date.

The Chair introduced Professor Damian Barrett, GISERA Research Director who presented an update on research projects being undertaken by GISERA in NSW and discussed some of the research that has been undertaken in Queensland over the past 5 years. The presentation provided members with information on the GISERA funding model and governance structure. The NSW GISERA Regional Research Advisory Committee has ten members - with two members from gas industry, four Independent members; two members from Government and two members from CSIRO. Prof. Barrett spoke about the CSIRO governance standards for research and internal and external peer review processes. Members were advised of the information available on the GISERA website on current research projects and reports.

It was acknowledged that many community questions and concerns in relation to the industry in NSW were related to groundwater and there has been a focus on addressing questions arising from this topic in the prioritisation of GISERA research projects. Approximately 40% of the total research budget in GISERA is spent on research projects relating to water. Prof. Barrett spoke on the geology and hydrology of the Gunnedah and Surat basins and answered members' questions in relation to groundwater and the methodology of research activities being undertaken. Members were advised that GISERA will be undertaking a health related project in NSW as there is limited research in this field relating to the gas industry nationally or internationally, however some work has been undertaken by the Qld Department of Health. GISERA will attend the Narrabri Gas Project CCC again during 2017 to provide updates on research projects to members.

Dr Kyle Horner from the EPA delivered a presentation on the groundwater monitoring that EPA has been undertaking in the vicinity of the Tintfield Water Management Facility. Monitoring has been undertaken since May 2013 when Santos informed the EPA that data from the site had identified slightly elevated

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total dissolved solids in groundwater in two areas adjacent to the Tintfield ponds . The EPA has completed an assessment of groundwater monitoring data and determined that the Tintfield Water Treatment Facility is not impacting on the local groundwater system. A link to the investigation report and presentation was made available to members.

Santos provided a hard copy of the previously distributed Monthly Activity Update for November 2016 and answered questions arising from the update. A question from a member related to whether Santos uses organic polymers in drilling fluids. A member sent a list of questions following the meeting in relation to the commencement of activity associated with the installation of a centre pivot irrigation system at Leewood for which a response was provided out of session to all members.

EPA provided a draft copy of the Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter November 2016 to the Committee and advised that the final version would be available on the EPA website. The EPA has developed a subscription option for the wider community to access the newsletter and interested parties can subscribe through the EPA website. Committee members will still receive a copy of the Monthly Newsletter via email from Committee secretariat.

The invitation to member groups to make a submission to the EPA's review of the Load-Based Licensing (LBL) scheme was distributed to members out of session via email on 22 November 2016. LBL applies to the gas industry. A member had further questions on the relevance of the LBL scheme to the Narrabri Gas Project and the EPA will liaise with that member directly to provide further information. The EPA will accept submissions on the issues paper for the LBL review up until 5pm on 23 December 2016.

Copy of the final *Community Consultative Committee Guidelines – State Significant Projects* that was published by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in November 2016 was distributed in hard copy to members. Clarification will be sought from the Department of Planning and Environment as to whether the guidelines apply to the Narrabri Gas Project CCC at this stage of the project and in consideration of the Narrabri Gas project CCC being established by the Minister for Resources and Energy.

A member requested that information from meetings be available on the Narrabri Shire Council website. A check was made after the meeting and it was confirmed that the Council has a link in place at the path Economic Development – Narrabri Shire Industries – Mining and Gas Exploration.

Through discussion, Tuesday 31 January 2017 was set as the next meeting date. A schedule of 2017 meetings will be set then, at which time the 2017 Narrabri Shire Council meeting date schedule will be known so as to avoid meeting clashes for Council representatives.

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

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