

COMMUNIQUE 20

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 Geoscience (DRG), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water) and the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

Summary of 11 July 2017 meeting

- Santos Operations Update
- EPA Monthly Update
- EPA – NSW Government Air Quality Monitoring Network Expansion
- EPA – Gas Monitor Demonstration
- GISERA Project Update – Human Health Effects of Coal Seam Gas Activity Study Design

There was a discussion amongst committee members on the difference in measuring bore water levels by mAHD (Australian Height Datum) and Standing Water Level (SWL) where the mAHD value represents the height of the groundwater in metres above approximate mean sea level and SWL which measures the water level from a fixed point on the surface.

Members were advised that GISERA (CSIRO Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance) have released their six-monthly newsletter and that a subscription option for the newsletter is available on the website. A link to the newsletter on the CSIRO website was distributed to members out of session.

An EPA representative provided information to members on the recent announcement by the Minister for the Environment in relation to the Air Quality Monitoring Network Expansion with monitoring in the Namoi Valley (Gunnedah and Narrabri areas) planned to commence by the end of this year. An EPA representative advised that the Terms of Reference for the proposed Namoi Regional Air Quality Advisory Committee are presently under development which prompted a discussion amongst committee members in relation to representation on that committee.

The monitoring will be undertaken by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) with real time data available from the OEH website. Monitoring sites will be determined by OEH in liaison with EPA and relevant local governments. There was general discussion amongst members in relation to regional air quality monitoring, with the Chair referring members to information contained in the *NSW Status Report Project – Gunnedah/Narrabri Region* that were distributed to members in May 2017. The Chair also requested that a copy of the *Final Report on the Independent Review of Rail Coal Dust Emissions Management Practices in the NSW Coal Chain* published by the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer in August 2016 be distributed to members out of session in response to committee members' comments referencing the coal industry.

An EPA representative provided an informative overview to committee members on two different gas monitors used in field inspection and compliance activities: the Eagle 2 and the Detecto Pak-Infrared (DPIR). The presentation provided information on field use of the equipment and the differences in sensitivity, response time, the type of sensors that the equipment use and operation and calibration of

COMMUNIQUE 20

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equipment. A practical demonstration of the monitors using material samples that emitted common gases of varying types was provided to the committee.

Dr Andrea Walton from GISERA provided an update on Phase 1 of the GISERA health project and scoping workshop that was held in Brisbane in June 2017. Dr Sharon Grant from the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Science provided information on the literature review that has been undertaken and outcomes from the workshop discussion. There was a discussion amongst committee members that literature examples from the United States are not generally relevant to the New South Wales context.

A progress report (including community survey results) on the GISERA project *Social baseline assessment of the Narrabri region of New South Wales: community perceptions and expectations, community wellbeing, and resilience in relation to CSG development* is due to be published in August 2017.

A Santos representative provided copies of the Monthly Activity Update that is emailed to members each month and answered questions arising from the update. A copy of the Monthly Activity Update for July is available from the Narrabri Gas Project website.

An EPA representative provided a draft copy of the monthly Narrabri CCC EPA Newsletter to members for June 2017, with the final newsletter being available from the EPA website and via the subscription service.

The Narrabri Gas Project CCC meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

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.