

First progress report on Gas Supply Strategy (GSS) Implementation

The COAG Energy Council agreed to the Gas Supply Strategy (GSS) Implementation Plan for Collaborative Actions on 19 August 2016. The table below provides detail on progress made during the period 19 August 2016 to 31 October 2016. Officials note that Victoria is not in a position to participate in this implementation plan at this time.

Work to implement all 14 collaborative actions has commenced and relevant progress updates were provided at UPR, LARWG and GMPIT meetings held in September and October 2016.

During this period, the Senior Committee of Officials (SCO) approved an out-of-session proposal to transfer responsibility and funding to support the implementation of GSS Collaborative Actions #7, #11 and #12 from GMPIT to UPR. The change was required to reflect machinery of government changes arising from the 2016 Federal Election as project management responsibility for the actions remained with staff within the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

SCO has also approved the renaming of the Exploration Investment and Geoscience Working Group (EIGWG) to the Geoscience Working Group (GWG).

GMPIT	Gas Major Projects Implementation Team
GWG	Geoscience Working Group (formerly known as the Exploration Investment and Geoscience Working Group – EIGWG)
LARWG	Land Access for Resources Working Group
SCO	Senior Committee of Officials
UPR	Upstream Petroleum Resources Working Group

	GSS Collaborative Action	Lead	Progress report
1	Ensure that pre-competitive science and geological programs, including petroleum and water, continue to be developed in consultation with industry and other relevant stakeholders	GWG in cooperation with UPR	<p>Geoscience Australia’s \$100.5m <i>Exploring for the Future Programme</i> (2016-2020) will deliver a suite of new precompetitive geoscience data and knowledge that will improve our understanding of mineral, energy and groundwater resource prospectivity in Northern Australia.</p> <p>The programme is being developed in close collaboration with the geological surveys of Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australia, and also includes discussion with industry.</p>
2	Agree on detailed geoscience data standards to support inter-operability of data management systems, reduced submissions costs, and enhance data search and integration capability for exploration study analysis and interpretation.	UPR in cooperation with GWG and LARWG	<p>A set of geoscience data standards have been developed by GWG for minerals exploration data. The Resources Data Initiative (RDI) Project is considering how to extend these to environmental and other resource-related datasets.</p> <p>South Australian officials have suggested an early pilot to enable easy accessibility to all water data from minerals and petroleum resource, resource, water, and environmental databases from all jurisdictions. A fully costed project proposal will be developed for consideration by UPR and RDI Project officials - should the project be accepted it will be provided to SCO consideration in 2017.</p>

3	Define programs that will enhance the characterisation of interactions between hydrocarbon and water resources, and the ready access to this information to increase inform project plans and stakeholders' knowledge.	UPR & GWG	<p>South Australian officials are finalising three research reports relevant to informing this action. The reports are anticipated to be published by the end of 2016.</p> <p>The Australian Government's Bioregional Assessments Programme and the South Australian Oil and Gas Roundtable Working Group 3's (use water wisely) work programs have been identified as opportunities for alignment with this action.</p> <p>Western Australian officials note that its Interagency Science Needs Research Program included hydrodynamic modelling to study impacts of hydraulic fracturing fluid injection on adjacent aquifers and could provide relevant information to support implementation of this action.</p>
4	Look at options to develop a database to provide a mechanism for jurisdictions to share a nationally agreed set of statistical data on industry activity, including the addition of environmental data to improve public availability of baseline environmental and monitoring results.	UPR in cooperation with LARWG	<p>The Resources Data Initiative (RDI) Project has the potential to address the accessibility of environmental data but is not currently considering statistical data.</p> <p>The South Australian Oil and Gas Roundtable Working Groups 4's (reducing red tape) and 8's (share information) work programs and Department of Industry, Innovation and Science RDI workshops held in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth in October 2016 and the associated next steps are helping in the alignment with this action.</p>
5	Agree on a statistical dataset that can be shared and compiled for UPR's Coal Seam, Shale and Tight Gas in Australia: Resources Assessment and Operation Overview including expansion to cover all onshore gas reserves, resources, drilling activity, well performance, and production data.	UPR	<p>The 2016 Report is on track to be finalised by the Energy Council meeting in December 2016.</p> <p>UPR has identified a need to consider whether it would be better to approach the market to undertake the collation of expanded data for the 2017 report, once scope of data requirements is finalised. The recently released Core Energy Report - <i>The Cooper-Eromanga Basin Outlook Report</i> - has provided some salient data for this action. The report is available at http://petroleum.statedevelopments.sa.gov.au/prospectivity/cooper_basi/core_energy_cooper-eromanga_basi_outlook_2035.</p>
6	Expand the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) model into New South Wales and ensure arrangements/framework allows for other jurisdictions to join the alliance in the future.	Australian Government – CSIRO in cooperation with jurisdictions	<p>GISERA initiated four research projects in NSW relating to baseline assessment of water, greenhouse gas and socioeconomic issues in the Narrabri region. On 27 October 2016, the NSW Regional Research Advisory Committee approved an additional six research projects for commencement in the Narrabri and Camden regions of NSW. Researchers are expected to commence work on these six new projects in Q4 2016. Initial discussions have been held with Northern Territory to understand the respective current government positions on the potential to expand GISERA into those jurisdictions.</p>

		Western Australian officials note that while WA is not currently involved with GISERA, a preliminary form of this type of alliance has been initiated through the Midwest Consortium of four oil and gas companies, Department of Mines and Petroleum and CSIRO for baseline characterisation of environmental indicators in the Perth Basin. Further information about this research is available at http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/News/Perth-Basin-baseline-monitoring-16632.aspx .	
7	Coordinate the development of a common set of FAQs for use by all jurisdictions, including hosting a forum of representatives from relevant agencies such as Geoscience Australia and state and territory based regulators to consider and publish agreed facts and answers to FAQs.	UPR <i>(transferred from GMPIT)</i> in cooperation with LARWG and GMPIT	Request for quote documentation prepared to engage a forum facilitator. Forum to develop FAQs and discuss community engagement and dispute resolution approaches planned to be held in Adelaide in early 2017. The South Australian Oil and Gas Roundtable Working Group 8's work program and outcomes include FAQs and 'THE FACTS' sheets for Fracking and the Offshore Bight Basin – these could be an input to this effort.
8	Continue efforts to encourage better community engagement, particularly in respect to land access case studies and community acceptance research through sharing communications tools and resources that have proven to be successful. This will include: hosting a forum and development of a better practice case studies document, which will include, CSIRO community engagement and acceptance research, review of jurisdictional approaches to native title issues and pursue better visibility of LARWG on COAG Energy Council website.	LARWG in cooperation with UPR and GMPIT	Request for quote documentation issued to engage supplier to finalise the Better Practice Community Engagement Case Studies Handbook. See also: update for GSS collaborative action 7.
9	Host a forum of Government officials to discuss pursuing Australian standard(s) on relevant onshore gas issues that will underpin productivity.	UPR	Initial consideration of timing and location of the forum planned for Q1 2017. An opportunity for alignment with NERA's standards work has been identified. Government officials invited to attend the 2016 Standards and Conformance Conference in Canberra on 9 November 2016. Standards Australia has approved the formation of an Australian Mirror committee under ISO/TC 67 for international oil and gas standards. South Australia awaits

		<p>invitation to participate on this mirror committee that will help to facilitate the delivery of this action.</p> <p>The South Australian Oil and Gas Roundtable Working Group 4's (reduce red tape) work program has also been identified as an opportunity for alignment with this action.</p>
10	Develop and share work-flow diagrams to document the robustness and equivalence of upstream petroleum licensing and activity approval processes across Australian jurisdictions.	<p>UPR in cooperation with LARWG</p> <p>Jurisdictions requested to provide / commence development of work-flow diagrams. Website links to South Australia's work-flow diagrams circulated to UPR members as an example of content expected to be provided for the completion of the first milestone by April 2017.</p>
11	Review of the National Harmonised Regulatory Framework for Natural Gas from Coal Seams (NHRF).	<p>UPR <i>(transferred from GMPIT)</i></p> <p>Request for quote documentation prepared to engage a consultant to undertake the review and obtain legal advice services to support the review process.</p>
12	Review of relevant Inquiry reports (e.g. into hydraulic fracturing) to identify common recommendations that could be address in the NHRF update and/or point to further work that could be done at a national level.	<p>UPR <i>(transferred from GMPIT)</i></p> <p>Initial information gathering process completed. Analysis will be ongoing to support implementation of GSS collaborative action #11.</p>
13	Lead development of a paper to seek national alignment of objectives for the regulation of shale and tight gas developments.	<p>UPR</p> <p>A paper has been developed by Western Australia titled 'National Harmonised Regulatory Framework for Petroleum – a Western Australian perspective'. The paper will be presented for Energy Council consideration at its December 2016 meeting.</p> <p>Western Australia is also conducting a review of fugitive emissions monitoring practices across jurisdictions to identify gaps and develop appropriate guidelines for monitoring fugitive emissions from shale and tight gas operations</p>
14	Support and promote the National Energy Resources Australia (NERA) and METS Ignited Growth Centres.	<p>Australian Government – Department of Industry, Innovation and Science</p> <p>A number of jurisdictions were actively involved in promoting the Growth Centres' sector consultations and project workshops during the reporting period.</p> <p>NERA and METS Ignited progressed development of their 10-year sector competitiveness plans in consultation with stakeholders. (METS Ignited released its mining equipment, technology and services sector competitiveness plan on 8 November 2016. NERA is on track to finalise its energy resources sector competitiveness plan by February 2017.)</p> <p>METS Ignited launched its first round call for Expressions of Interest for dollar-for-dollar matched investment for collaborative, industry-led projects with clear</p>

	<p>commercialisation objectives. Projects relevant to the onshore gas industry may be in scope. This round closes on 23 December 2016. Two further rounds are planned. Approximately \$3.6 million is available under METS Ignited Project Funds in 2016/17.</p> <p>In October 2016 NERA announced a project on mapping skills development capability and capacity for the oil and gas industry nationally, across the oil and gas hubs of Perth, Karratha, Darwin, Brisbane, Central Queensland and Adelaide. The project will differentiate available capacity and capability by a range of criteria including criticality to industry, and will identify gaps in delivery across the oil and gas hubs.</p> <p>NERA presented an update at the UPR meeting in September 2016.</p>
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