



26 May 2023

Mr Patrick Hodder  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hodder

**RE: Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee: Invitation to respond to adverse comment**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 12 May 2023 and invitation to respond to comments made by Mr Rod Campbell, The Australia Institute Research Director, regarding CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA).

The claims made by Mr Campbell in the Committee's public hearing on 2 May about CSIRO's GISERA are not correct.

There are genuine concerns about the gas industry's potential impacts on communities, water resources and the land, and CSIRO's GISERA is designed to undertake independent and peer reviewed research that helps reduce these uncertainties.

GISERA brings the significant resources and expertise of the CSIRO to bear on such questions. Reducing uncertainties about potential impacts using the best available science is in the national interest; that is, the interests of everyone.

The governance structure for CSIRO's GISERA (available at: <https://gisera.csiro.au/governance/>) is designed to provide for and protect research independence and transparency of research outputs. The GISERA Research Advisory Committees which determine the topics and approve funding for research are majority controlled by independent community members who have no connection to or interest in the gas industry. The minority industry, government and CSIRO representation provides other independent committee members with an understanding of industry operation, government regulation, and science. All minutes of every committee meeting are publicly available on CSIRO's GISERA web site including decisions around research funding.

All research reports and results are similarly publicly available on the GISERA website (<https://gisera.csiro.au/>).

When companies sign up to CSIRO's GISERA they agree to the complete transparency of reporting under these conditions before project proposals have been approved. Companies do not have rights to alter, edit or respond to research reports written by CSIRO scientists and researchers through GISERA.

These are standard protocols CSIRO enters into in all of its major GISERA alliance arrangements and are specifically employed to ensure the national science agency's independence.

Yours sincerely

Dr Peter Mayfield  
Executive Director – Environment, Energy and Resources  
CSIRO