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# **SOCIAL RESEARCH OTWAY CCS PROJECT**

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# SOCIAL RESEARCH REGIONS, SOUTH-WEST VICTORIA



# SOCIAL RESEARCH

- **Aim: assess public perceptions of CO<sub>2</sub> geosequestration and the Otway project in South-Western Victoria.**
- **A two-stage research program undertaken to address the research objectives:**

**Preliminary qualitative research to identify the issues and attitudes that exist amongst the community in relation to geosequestration**

**Quantitative research to tell us the extent to which attitudes and perceptions are held amongst the target population**

# LARGE GEOSEQUESTRATION PROJECT

- How comfortable or uncomfortable would you feel about a large commercial geosequestration project being conducted in your region? Would you say
- Very comfortable 5%
- Quite comfortable 28%
- Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable 19%
- Quite uncomfortable 25%
- Very uncomfortable 13%
- Don't know 2%
- Don't know enough to give a response 7%

# PERCEIVED RISKS ACROSS 7 SHIRES

**What types of concerns or worries do you have about geosequestration?**

**Top five of 12 responses**

- 1. Whether it's safe for the environment/community 38%**
- 2. Leakage of the carbon dioxide 33%**
- 3. Adverse effect on geology 17%**
- 4. Just a short-term fix 13%**
- 5. Don't know enough/need more information 10%**

# WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

- **What aspects about the project would you like to know more about?**

<b>1. Storage options/how/ containers/amount/how long</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>2. How it works</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>3. Safety issues</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>4. Effects on environment</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>5. Chance of leakage into groundwater/consequences</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>6. Storage locations</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>7. Health issues</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>8. Long term effects storage</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>9. How it will effect the community</b>	<b>3%</b>

# **SOCIAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

- **Qualitative**

- **The community where the project is occurring (Nirranda)**
- **The nearby regional town (Warrnambool)**

- **Contrasts between the two communities:**

- **In Nirranda concerns were confined to the impact in their local area**
- **Warrnambool respondents were concerned with how the pilot would affect the community at large**

# PERCEIVED RISKS

**Perceived risks**

**visual amenity; leakage; groundwater;  
effects on the environment; stable geology;  
why Nirranda?**



# CONCERNS OF NIRRANDA RESIDENTS - LOCAL IMPACTS

- While many of the individuals who were interviewed were supportive of the project. They still had concerns about:
- The timeframe for the pilot
- Who will receive compensation?

“It is clear that the pilot will take place on certain farming land, but what is not clear is apart from those farms which are directly being utilised in the pilot, who else is being financially compensated [for noise, emissions, odour]? What are the zones, in kilometres, for this financial compensation?”

# WARRNAMBOOL RESIDENTS CONCERNED WITH BROAD POLITICAL, SOCIAL ISSUES

- How the pilot research project was going to be economically viable and energy efficient

What amount of energy will it expend?

What emissions will be produced to compress and store the CO<sub>2</sub>?

What will happen with any by-products from the process?

What are all the physical dimensions in terms of the width, capacity and storage?

- The pilot research results may not have any practical application to other sites.

# WARRNAMBOOL RESIDENTS CONCERNED WITH BROAD POLITICAL, SOCIAL ISSUES

- Respondents were cynical that the CO2CRC will be around for the lifetime of the project

“Who’s going to say that in fifty years the gas isn’t going to come back up? And in fifty years time I doubt that they would still be monitoring.”

- The motives for the pilot and geosequestration were questioned:

“It’s about the politics of coal, the politics of our reliance on coal for our own energy and for our own export.”

“Geosequestration is a short-term fix and is not concerned with long-term solutions for the environment.”

# Social Research

- **CO2CRC also explored:**
  - **Community reaction to key messages**
  - **Preferred methods of communication and consultation**
  - **Geosequestration as a greenhouse gas mitigation option**

# CONSULTATION PLAN

- The research results fed into the community consultation plan

Changed communication activities and key messages to address perceived risks; communication methodology – reconsidered use of media.

Major task of the plan is to gain trust by addressing:

- Perceived risks
- Scientific uncertainty
- Responding to inquiries/issues/concerns as soon as possible
- Being a responsible community member

# CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- **Identify issues and track issues through periodic social research through meetings/ Q&A sessions; and questionnaires.**
- **Develop appropriate materials and messages to address perceived risks. Use appropriate methods of communication.**
- **Communicate with local community directly and before they hear about it in the media.**
- **Review and revise the consultation strategy regularly.**

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# **SOCIAL RESEARCH – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

- **Questions**