

# Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) – SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC STUDY

## Fact Sheet

### What is a SREBA and why is it being done?

SREBA stands for Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment. It is a set of research studies to understand the current situation of the local people in the region along with plants, animals, water, and air quality, so that any changes over time can be measured through ongoing monitoring programs. This will give the Northern Territory Government (NT Government), industry and community up-to-date and accurate information to make decisions about the development of the onshore gas industry in the Beetaloo region.

### What is the Social, Cultural and Economic (SCE) Study?

The Social, Cultural and Economic (SCE) Study is an important part of the Strategic Regional Environmental & Baseline Assessment (SREBA). Unlike other SREBA studies, it involves information about people, culture, communities and livelihoods. This information needs to be collected and treated with respect.

The SCE SREBA is intended to capture a baseline understanding of life and livelihoods in the Beetaloo region as a reference point for ongoing monitoring, particularly in relation to potential onshore gas development.

The SCE studies seek to understand the wellbeing of people and communities in terms of:

- cultural identity
- local economies
- strong voice
- living environment
- healthy country
- infrastructure and services

### Who is undertaking the SCE Study?

The University of Queensland (UQ) engage people in the Beetaloo region to participate in the SCE study. Ranked in the world's top 50, UQ is one of Australia's leading research and teaching institutions. UQ is committed to research excellence and ethical conduct. UQ researchers operate according to a range of UQ and National Standards to ensure their work is impartial and rigorous.

### Where and when will the studies take place?

The Beetaloo Sub-basin is a geological delineation of an area that lies around 500 km south-east of the capital city of Darwin. It is a vast and sparsely populated area covering approximately 28,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Although land is currently used mainly for grazing cattle and Aboriginal practices, the geology of the Beetaloo Sub-basin has been identified as holding globally significant onshore gas resources.

The SCE SREBA includes communities within and proximate to the Beetaloo Sub-basin. There are few towns and communities located within the Beetaloo Sub-basin the scope includes townships proximal, and/or relevant to the region. These include larger townships such as Katherine, Borroloola and Tennant Creek, and smaller towns and localities such as Elliott, Marlinja, Mataranka, Beswick, Barunga, Ngukurr and Jilkminggan, Daly Waters and Larrimah.

Initial consultation for the studies commencing in early 2022 will take a flexible approach due to COVID-19 restrictions and to ensure community safety, comfortability and consultation wishes are informed through the process.

# Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) – SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC STUDY

## Fact Sheet

### How will the findings be used?

The primary purpose of the SREBA studies is to provide the information necessary for sound decisions to be made about the development of the onshore unconventional gas industry in that region of the NT. The studies making up the SREBA should address knowledge gaps and establish appropriate baselines against which the potential impacts of proposed onshore gas activities can be assessed. The baselines will also assist in the design and planning of future development, particularly at a regional scale, in order to minimise negative impacts; and provide a reference point for ongoing monitoring. The objective of providing a robust evidence base is to inform management and regulatory decisions.

The findings from the SCE study will be integrated in a final report with the other SREBA studies to provide a strategic regional perspective, and identify areas of particular sensitivity and potential for cumulative impacts.

### More information

Visit [nt.gov.au/sreba](http://nt.gov.au/sreba) for further information or contact us via [sreba@nt.gov.au](mailto:sreba@nt.gov.au)

### UQ Contact information

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of UQ and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contactable on +614 1861 9341 or [sce-sreba@uq.edu.au](mailto:sce-sreba@uq.edu.au)) if you would like to speak to an officer of the UQ not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinators on 07 3365 3924 / 07 3443 1656 or email [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au)

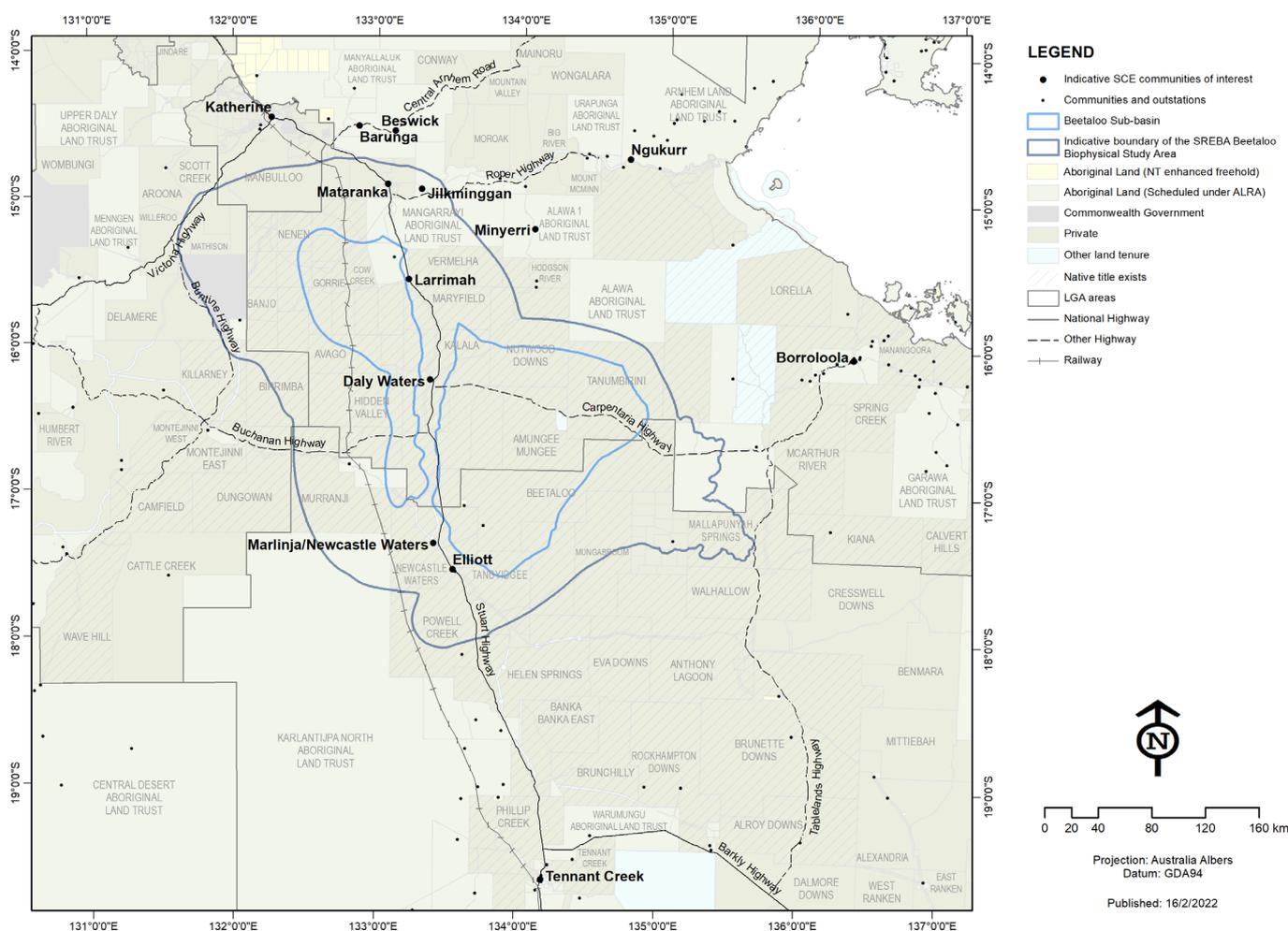


Figure 1 - map of the Beetaloo Sub-basin