

INFORMATION SHEET

UQ GROUNDWATER USE STUDY

Project title: Characterisation of current groundwater uses in the Surat and Bowen Basins

Project leader: Dr Greg Keir, The University of Queensland

Project end date: Mid-late 2016

Funding body: Centre for Coal Seam Gas, The University of Queensland

Survey available online at: <https://survey.its.uq.edu.au/Checkbox/UQGroundwaterUse.survey>



What is the study about?

The University of Queensland (UQ) is conducting a research project to better estimate the amount of water extracted by groundwater bores in and around the Surat Cumulative Management Area (CMA). This work is being undertaken to independently improve the accuracy of groundwater flow models used by government and the coal seam gas (CSG) industry.

To accomplish this, we are inviting landholders to assist us with our study. Participating in the study:

- is entirely voluntary and confidential;
- will not affect your existing water licences or allocations;
- will not affect your water supply; and
- will help assess the potential impacts of groundwater extraction by the CSG industry.

The study consists of two stages.

Stage 1 - landholder survey (underway)

Survey (online, paper, or telephone) to determine:

- General details about your property, including lot and plan numbers and what your property is used for;
- A list of groundwater bores on your property, including Registered Numbers (RNs) if known;
- Additional details about each of your bores, one by one, such as pumping equipment and flow rate; amount, frequency and type of usage; number and type of stock watered by the bore; crop type and area irrigated by the bore; and details of water storages (e.g. dams) supplied by the bore.

You can take the survey online now at <https://survey.its.uq.edu.au/Checkbox/UQGroundwaterUse.survey>, or contact the researchers via the details on the back of this flyer to receive a paper survey pack or a telephone call.

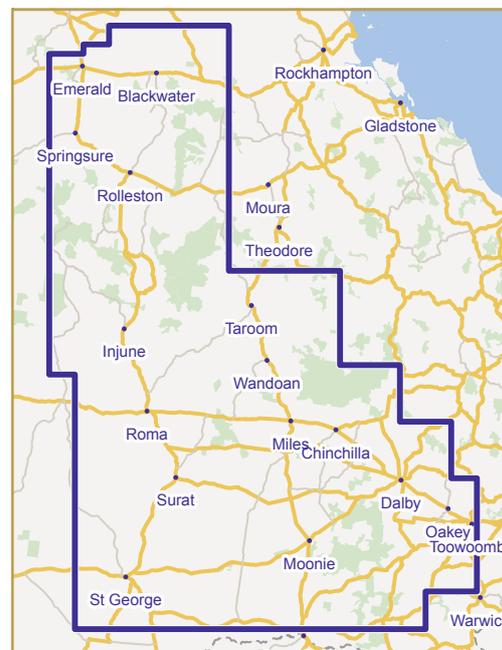
Stage 2 - voluntary flow metering (late 2015)

On-property voluntary metering of extraction rates:

- Temporary, self-contained, non-invasive flow meters will be installed externally on distribution pipes from selected groundwater bores.
- Data will be collected until late 2016.
- Bores will be selected based on a number of factors including bore suitability and amount of participant interest.
- Number of bores metered will depend on available funding.

We are looking for expressions of interest from landholders who would be willing to have their bores metered. We are seeking to provide an independent water quality assessment for any bores selected for flow meter installations to thank landholders for their participation (subject to funding approval).

For more details, and answers to some frequently asked questions, please turn over.



The Surat CMA, shown above, covers the area of planned CSG development in the Surat Basin and the southern Bowen Basin.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do you need my information?

Currently, measurements of the amount of groundwater used across the Surat CMA are very limited. However, this information is important to understand and predict potential impacts to groundwater by the CSG industry and other future developments. Better understanding of groundwater use from landholders' properties will assist in improving groundwater extraction estimates across the greater region.

How can I get involved in this study?

Interested landholders can participate by:

- Completing a groundwater use survey (online, paper form, or by telephone interview); and optionally
- Volunteering to have temporary, non-invasive flow meters installed on their bores.

Do I have to be involved in both the survey and bore metering?

No. If you want to participate in the survey only, we would still greatly appreciate your participation. However, if you also wish to participate in metering, that would be highly beneficial to the study.

How will my information be used?

The information will be used to produce basin-wide estimates of water extraction



amounts. These results and the new techniques we use to produce them will be passed on to government and CSG companies. The actual data we collect from you will not be passed on, unless you specifically authorise us to do so.

Will information I provide be used for monitoring or regulatory purposes?

No, this study is being carried out independently by UQ to better estimate the amount of water extracted by groundwater bores in the Surat and Bowen Basins. This study will not affect your existing water licences or allocations.

Will my information be handed over to government, CSG companies or other third parties?

No, all data collected and details of participation in this study will be kept in confidence by UQ and not passed on to any third parties. The data will be used to produce basin-wide estimates of water extraction amounts. These results, and the new techniques we use to produce them, but not your individual data, will be passed on to government and CSG companies. (Note: it will be possible to opt-in to allow your data to be passed on if you wish).

If I volunteer to have my bore metered, will it affect my water supply?

No. The metering program will use only self-powered external ultrasonic flow meters (example shown in the photograph to the left) which clamp onto pipes coming from bores, and do not require any disassembly of the bore works or removal of pumps.

How much of my time will this study require?

The once-off groundwater use survey will take 20 – 30 minutes to complete and will not require researchers to visit your property.

If you are interested in participating in metering, researchers will need to carry out a preliminary site inspection (around one hour for each bore) of metering participants to assess before we can confirm that it will be possible to install a meter. Follow up site visits will occur twice a year.

Will I be able to get the results?

Yes, a copy of all survey responses will be made available to participants. Metering participants will also receive copies of all flow metering data collected.

What are the benefits of participating?

- Data collected will help better assess the impact of groundwater extraction by the CSG industry.
- Accurate recording of groundwater use can help landholders plan and manage their operations better.
- Copies of all collected data will be provided to the landholder.
- Metering participants will also receive an independent water quality assessment (subject to funding approval).

Who is funding this study?

This study is funded by the Centre for Coal Seam Gas, which itself is currently funded by UQ 22% (\$5 million) and Industry members 78% (\$17.5 million) over five years. For more information about the Centre's activities and governance see <http://www.ccsq.uq.edu.au>.

Further information

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