



Media Release

Landholders flood into OGIA Information Sessions

18 April 2016

The Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA) held information sessions across the Western Downs and Maranoa regions in April as part of public consultation regarding the recent release of the 2016 Surat Basin Underground Water Impact Report (UWIR).

AgForce Projects, along with representatives from the Queensland Government including the CSG Compliance Unit (DNRM), attended each information session and were encouraged to see so many landholders attend. AgForce Projects would like to thank all landholders who attended for proactively taking time out of their busy schedules. Approximately 250 people came to the information sessions held throughout the week in Toowoomba, Dalby, Chinchilla, Wandoan and Roma.

CSG Project Leader Daniel Phipps said it was important for landholders to have their say on the UWIR and to understand the modelling process and the predicted impacts from the coal seam gas (CSG) industry across the region.

“The UWIR predicts the immediate and long term impacts of the CSG industry on aquifers and water users across the Surat Basin Cumulative Management Area (CMA). The model is predicting impacts to 100 bores in the immediately affected area (impacts within three years) and 469 bores in the long term affected area (impacts outside three years) as a result of CSG activities”.

Mr Phipps said that it was important for all landholders using bores within the Surat CMA to understand the potential impacts from CSG activities and be aware of the pathways to get assistance.

“Although the information sessions have been delivered, the UWIR is still open for public consultation and submission until 5.00pm, 29 April 2016. AgForce Projects strongly encourage all landholders within the Surat Basin CMA to have a look at the report and have their say.”

To help landholders and rural communities understand the model and what it means for them, the AgForce Projects CSG team will also be holding a webinar discussing the UWIR for anyone who wasn't able to attend an information session. This webinar will cover model predictions, the make good framework for identified bores and the support services available to help landholders during this process including groundwater monitoring tips.

The webinar ‘*Underground Water Impact Report: What does it mean for you?*’ will be held on Wednesday 27 April from 1.00pm to 2.00pm.

[Photo Caption: Randall Cox, General Manager, The Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment presents at the Underground Water Impact Report Information Session in Toowoomba on 11 April.](#)

Background

OGIA is an independent entity housed within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), responsible for assessing potential future cumulative impacts of CSG on groundwater.

The 2016 Surat Basin UWIR is the next iteration of the first groundwater model released in 2012. Models are delivered every three years with annual report updates released.

The information sessions were delivered by the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment and the Queensland Government. The AgForce Projects CSG Project is delivered with the support of the Queensland Government, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, Queensland Resources Council and the GasFields Commission Queensland.

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