



## Importance of CSG sessions reconfirmed

**Media release: 24 July 2012**

AgForce Projects has launched its second phase of CSG information sessions to packed-out crowds in Roma and Mitchell, a clear sign the industry is ramping up in the region and landholders want more specific information about how to prepare to negotiate with CSG companies.

AgForce Projects CSG project officer Daniel Phipps told participants it was great to see landholders taking steps to get the information needed to help put them in the best position to negotiate a fair deal.

“The negotiation stage is crucial to help you get the best outcome for your property,” Mr Phipps said.

“When it comes down to it you are a business negotiating with another business so you need to know exactly what the resource company will be doing on your property, and this means finding out more than just the number of wells they want to construct.”

“To determine the true impact on your business you need to have all of the information relating to the construction and operation of these wells as that is where the real impacts lie.”

“You need to also find out if they will be constructing roads, how they will be getting power to the wells and any other associated activity.”

Mr Phipps said while the Land Access Code and resource companies have standardised conduct and compensation agreements (CCA), these should only be considered a starting point to help landholders develop an agreement specific to their property.

“You need to look at the standard conduct provisions in relation to your individual property requirements and ask yourself whether this goes far enough to safeguard your property and business from unwanted impacts.”

“If not, you need to develop and negotiate provisions specific to your individual circumstances.”

Landholders should consult legal professionals before signing any agreement.

Mr Phipps said it is important landholders understand the importance of conduct provisions and don't focus solely on compensation.

“Too often landholders focus on compensation, but having conduct provisions in place to prevent impacts from occurring in the first place can help alleviate unwanted stress.

“Having a say in how the company conduct themselves while on your property can make life a lot easier down the track but it means you need to identify as many risks to your property as possible and set conduct provision in place to prevent these from happening.”

Mr Phipps said one example of why landholders may need to build on the standard CCA is the issue of weeds.

“It is a legal requirement that resource companies prevent the spread of declared weeds, but what if you have just undertaken pasture improvements or want to prevent certain grasses or weeds from coming onto your property?”

“Think about negotiating a conduct provision restricting vehicle movement on your property or requiring localised wash-down facilities.”

“With these provisions in place you can greatly reduce the risk of unwanted weeds entering your property and avoid the need for compensation and unwanted stress.”

Mr Phipps said landholders need to include a provision for the agreement to be reviewed periodically to allow for any unforeseen impacts to be worked into the agreement down the track.

Landholders were provided with a list of possible conduct and compensation considerations as a guide to help them prepare their own impact assessment before entering into negotiations.

Upcoming CSG sessions: Moonie, Tara and Cecil Plains – 31 July-2 August; Injune, Taroom, Wandoan and Miles – 24-27 September.

These sessions were delivered free through funding from the Queensland Government. For more information or to register visit [www.agforceprojects.org.au](http://www.agforceprojects.org.au) or call 07 3238 6048.

**Image captions:**

*Jenny York, Fergus Seawright and Trevor York, all of Wallumbilla, said the CSG information session they attended in Roma on Thursday provided great tips for negotiating the best deal with a CSG company.*

*IMG 0465 – More than 40 landholders attended the launch of the second phase of AgForce Projects CSG information sessions in Roma on Thursday.*

**For comment call Kate Dunn on (07) 3236 3100 or 0429 123 099**

**Media contact: AgForce Projects communications officer Madeline Cooper (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091**