



Field day to shed light on CSG water issues for Galilee

Media release: 3 June 2013

Landholders in Central Western Queensland will have the opportunity to hear first-hand and to ask questions of groundwater experts, regulators and industry representatives on current and future coal seam gas (CSG) activity in the Galilee Basin at a special CSG Water Field Day in Barcaldine this month.

Hosted by AgForce and the GasFields Commission Queensland, the field day on Thursday 13 June, aims to provide landholders with the latest information on water issues specific to the Galilee Basin including an open panel discussion to raise any questions and concerns with key experts and representatives.

AgForce President, Ian Burnett says the field day will cover water issues, policy and regulation and be a great opportunity for landholders to gain a better understanding of the interaction between aquifers and the potential for impacts resulting from CSG activity

He said the Barcaldine field day was the latest in a series of producer information days coordinated by the AgForce Projects team to help keep graziers up to date on the latest CSG industry developments.

Co-host, GasFields Commission Chair, John Cotter said while it was early days for the CSG industry in the Galilee it is vital that landholders and the community are fully engaged and informed.

He said the Commission had hosted an information day in Longreach in February and this latest Barcaldine event was an opportunity for landholders on the eastern and northern sides of the Galilee Basin to get involved.

One of the key speakers, independent hydrogeologist, John Hillier, will be presenting the findings of the RPS 'Galilee Basin Report on Hydrogeological Investigations', commissioned by members of the Galilee Basin Operators' Forum (GBOF).

Mr Hillier said the RPS report is the first of its kind to be conducted in the Galilee Basin and looks at the depth of aquifers in comparison to CSG beds and the potential for CSG water extraction to affect the aquifers.

In addition, Mr Hillier said with the expansion of more large scale mining developments in the region it is vital to understand the potential effects on the GAB before they occur.

Other speakers and panelists include Ian Heiner from CSG Compliance Unit; Randall Cox from the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment; Josh Lean from Environment and Heritage Protection; and Peter Baker from the Federal Office of Water Science. Representatives from AGL and Comet Ridge will also provide updates on their regional activities and groundwater management.

The field day will run from 8.30am to 2pm on Thursday 13 June. Cost is free but registrations are essential for catering purposes. To register for this field day visit www.agforceprojects.org.au or call (07) 3238 6048.

This field day is delivered by AgForce Projects through funding from the Queensland Government and in partnership with the GasFields Commission Queensland.

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