



AgForce CSG Project to Continue to Provide Essential Information

AGFORCE Queensland's highly successful Coal Seam Gas Information Workshop program will continue beyond its December expiration date after funds were secured through a five-way partnership with industry and government to maintain the project.

The workshops were first established in late 2010 following the introduction of the Land Access Framework and were designed to allay confusion surrounding landholder rights and responsibilities when negotiating with CSG companies. Since that time, more than 2500 landholders have accessed the workshops throughout the Surat, Galilee and Bowen Basins.

The new funding and delivery partnership includes Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, GasFields Commission Queensland and AgForce.

AgForce General President, Ian Burnett, said the new funding partnership would ensure the continued provision of key information to landholders who, until creation of the workshops, lacked an independent source of data.

"This five-way partnership is critical to landholders having access to the data they need to best position themselves in negotiating with CSG companies so they can enter the process as informed as possible," Mr Burnett said.

"Given the rate of growth of the CSG industry information is fundamental to ensuring the wellbeing of both the agriculture and resource sectors.

"The AgForce model of delivery, experience, networks, project management and staff combined with this additional resourcing from the partners is a key step towards a sustainable agriculture-resources interface."

Over the course of 2013-2014, thirty five (35) information sessions will be rolled out across all basins providing information pertaining to legal and land access frameworks, the rights and responsibilities of both parties, the process for assessing impacts on property using mapping products and a number of other important negotiation elements.

Additionally, nine water and technical field days will be held and include information from independent hydrology and geology experts, CSG company representatives, Government representatives, the GasFields Commission and a range of other presenters to discuss a variety of technical issues including water and brine management.

- The project launch will occur:
 - **12pm, Tuesday, 18 June 2013**
 - Gold Room, Tor St Conference Centre, Toowoomba (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Department of Natural Resources and Mines)
- For more information contact Sue Dillon, AgForce Projects Manager 0417 760 481.

Ends

For media enquiries, contact

AgForce media and communications: Stacey Milner 0418 733 102 or milners@agforceqld.org.au

Nadine Long 0427 626 853 or longn@agforceqld.org.au

Who is AgForce? AgForce represents thousands of Queensland broadacre producers who recognise the value in having a strong voice. AgForce leads the way to ensure agriculture's social, economic and environmental contribution is recognised by all levels of government. AgForce works alongside landholders, encourages and supports the next generation, builds industry partnerships and skills and promotes agriculture - for secure, sustainable, progressive and profitable food and fibre into the future.