



Barcaldine forum sheds light on CSG water concerns

Media release: 18 June 2013

MORE than 70 landholders and CSG industry stakeholders gathered in Barcaldine last Thursday for a CSG Water Field Day jointly hosted by AgForce Projects and the GasFields Commission Queensland (GFCQ).

The field day featured an open panel forum chaired by GFCQ Chairman John Cotter. The forum provided landholders with the opportunity to air concerns and raise questions about groundwater issues in the Galilee Basin to representatives of State and Federal Government, industry regulators, gas companies and hydrogeologists.

AgForce General President, Ian Burnett, told the forum landholders in the region were understandably anxious about CSG and the field day was designed to ensure they were well informed about the industry and what is likely to occur in the area.

Independent hydrogeologist, John Hillier, told landholders while there are some vulnerabilities in areas where coal seams are in close proximity to aquifers, the current and proposed CSG activity in the Galilee is being conducted where there is a significant separation between the two.

“The report looked at all of the bores in the area and the depth of the aquifers they are tapping in relation to the coal seams to determine the likelihood of interaction and potential impact,” Mr Hillier said.

“What is very important to understand is that what we have here in the Galilee Basin is a very different situation to the Surat Basin.

As well acknowledging the geological differences between the Galilee and Surat basin, local CSG operators AGL and Comet Ridge also told landholders the intensity and scale of activities in the Galilee Basin was likely to be significantly less than in the Surat Basin.

Government representatives from the CSG Compliance Unit, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment and the Federal Office of Water Science outlined the various regulatory and policy frameworks in place to manage and monitor the CSG industry including the requirement for CSG companies to enter into Make Good agreements and undertake Underground Water Impact Reports.

CSG Compliance Unit Acting Executive Director, Ian Heiner, told landholders the unit played an important role investigating landholder complaints, including concerns about water bore impacts. He said landholders should contact the CSG Compliance Unit if they think their bore has been affected (CSG Compliance Unit - 4529 1500).

The field day was the latest in a series of landholder field days coordinated by AgForce Projects to help keep landholders up to date on the latest CSG industry developments. For further event dates or to register your interest in hosting a field day in your town, visit www.agforceprojects.org.au.