

[Edition 11, July 2014]



WELCOME to the July edition of the AgForce Projects CSG newsletter.

In this edition we provide our regular update on CSG company activity across the Surat, Bowen and Galilee Basins, new mining approvals and how these could potentially impact landholders.

We have also provided a comprehensive overview of new mining legislation and Regional Planning Laws, including important information about how landholders could be affected by these changes.

AgForce Projects has hosted a number of groundwater and biosecurity field days recently and you can access information about these events as well as presentations online by visiting www.agforceprojects.org.au/csg.

Didn't receive this newsletter in your inbox? **SUBSCRIBE**

Thank you for completing our survey!

We received a great response to our landholder CSG Survey conducted earlier this year, with more than 170 landholders completing the survey. The information collected will help AgForce Projects gauge the needs of landholders and get a better understanding of the information and support they require. The survey also uncovered some very important information about ongoing issues facing landholders.

AgForce Projects will use this information to develop information resources, workshops and technical field days. Congratulations to the survey prize draw winner who won a copy of Phoenix Mapping software (valued at \$585).

AgForce Projects

is the first port of call for landholders who have issues or concerns with a CSG company or other industry concern.

Best advice to others who are starting to negotiate with a CSG company (top responses):

78%

Employ a solicitor

70%

Develop a property map/plan

85%

said they need more information about groundwater impacts in order to feel confident to negotiate an agreement

70%

said the AgForce Projects CSG workshops were useful preparing to negotiate with a CSG company



62%

said they want continued access to independent input/support from a third party

Uncertainty about future of the industry

45%

were unsure whether the number of wells and infrastructure on their property would increase in the future.

Key concerns for landholders impacted by CSG:

Cumulative water impacts 89%

Weed and biosecurity 97%

Land valuation 98%

Road use 100%

CSG PROJECT TO CONTINUE

We are pleased to announce that funding for the AgForce Projects CSG Project has been secured for a further 12 months.

This is great news for Queensland landholders, who will continue to have access to the free services offered by AgForce Projects' CSG Team including workshops and one-on-one support to help prepare for CSG negotiations.

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) joins the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) and the GasFields Commission as AgForce Projects partners.

Since June 2013, the project has been funded through a partnership with CSG industry via APPEA and government, and we welcome the opportunity to further our partnership with mining industry through QRC.

Over the next 12 months the CSG team will deliver CSG negotiation support workshops, water and other technical field days, property computer mapping workshops and webinars.

Contact the team today or visit www.agforceprojects.org.au for useful fact sheets and resources, and upcoming event dates.

Company updates

The information below provides a brief overview of the key activities and projects currently being undertaken by resource companies in Queensland. If you have any concerns or need further detail please contact the CSG Project Team on (07) 3238 6048 or [email](#).

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) reports that Conduct and Compensation Agreements (CCA) are being signed at a rate of 2.8 per day across Queensland. **Click here** for more information.

- i** This signifies the development that is occurring across Queensland and why it is important that landholders remain informed about their rights and how to negotiate an agreement if required.

Comet Ridge update - Barcaldine Area

- Comet Ridge (Galilee Basin) has a pilot production program located approximately 130km north of Barcaldine
- The Underground Water Impact Report (UWIR) has been approved for 744P ATP tenure.
- Comet Ridge is targeting the Betts Creek coal measures in the Galilee basin at a depth of **800m**.

- i** Landholder bores in the area target the Moolayember and Clematis aquifers, which are generally **no deeper than 350m**. According to the UWIR there will be no impact on these aquifers because the Rewan formation, which is the sealing aquitard between these aquifers and the coal seams, is approximately 300m thick. This acts to isolate the coal seams and shallower aquifers - stopping the movement of water.

Click here for more information.

Comet Ridge has indicated that it expects to produce 22ML of water over the three year production period (2014-2017). The UWIR also includes a groundwater monitoring strategy to detect any changes in water levels of movement of water as a result of production testing.

i What is a UWIR?

An Underground Water Impact Report (UWIR) is a groundwater model that is required under the Water Act (2000) in QLD.

CSG companies are required to develop and submit a UWIR to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) for approval. A UWIR predicts groundwater impacts on bores as a result of their activities and includes an immediately affected area (IAA) where bores are expected to drop by more than a trigger threshold within three years and also a long term affected area (LTAA), which includes any bores likely to experience an impact outside the initial three years.

Click here for a full list of other UWIRs approved by DEHP including the Comet Ridge model.

Santos update

\$500,000 for wash down facility in Roma

Santos has provided \$500,000 in funding for a new weed wash-down facility in Roma while also announcing a new plan for weed and pest management across their operations. The facility will be managed by the Maranoa Regional Council and is for use by CSG company and private vehicles.

Click here for more information.

- i** AgForce sits on a committee with CSG companies, local government, the CSG Compliance Unit and the GasFields commission to review and develop guidelines into weed and pest management of the CSG industry. For more information contact AgForce Projects on 3238 6048

Aquifer vs Aquitard?

(Source: National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training)

Aquifers are underground layers of very porous water-bearing soil or sand.

Aquitards, by contrast, are compacted layers of clay, silt or rock that retard water flow underground; that is, they act as a barrier for groundwater. Aquitards separate aquifers and partially disconnect the flow of water underground. Also known as cap rocks, aquitards limit and direct the surface water which seeps down and replenishes aquifers. Although water cannot flow very fast through an aquitard, significant quantities of water can seep through aquitards in some conditions.

Origin update - Miles Area

Irrigation scheme

Origin Energy has reported that its Fairymeadow Road Irrigation project is up and running and now supplying treated CSG water to landholders around Miles. Landholders that are participating in the scheme have agreements with Origin to use the treated CSG water as supplementary irrigation water on property.

The water is treated by Origin to a suitable standard before being supplied to landholders (13 properties) via pipelines along the Fairymeadow Road. Origin estimates that during peak production the project will handle up to 15 GL a year and the project includes a 1873 ML irrigation dam to allow for a buffer in supply.

For more information **click here**.

- i** AgForce encourages any landholders that are negotiating water sharing agreements to seek appropriate advice about the suitability of water and the length of supply. For example, ensure the water being offered meets your operational requirements and quality standards, and also be aware of the requirements (if applicable) to take your full water allocation even in times of flood.

Landholders also need to talk with their company representative to understand how long the CSG water supply will be available, especially when considering investing in new infrastructure. Rather than being seen as a waste product, treated CSG water can be a valuable resource that landholders can use, particularly given the critical importance of water to the agricultural industry.

Government updates

Budget released

The State Government budget addresses a number of measures related to the CSG and mining industry including:

- \$3.8 million for the Coal Seam Gas Compliance Unit to further boost compliance monitoring of Queensland's CSG industry
- \$6 million for the Abandoned Mines Land Program to manage legacy remediation and environmental issues at abandoned mine sites on State land.

Rail corridor policy defined

The Queensland Government has released its final policy on rail development in the Galilee Basin connecting to ports. The final policy is for two rail corridors instead of the initially proposed three or four.

The Government is working to develop and finalise the area covered by the Galilee Basin State Development Area (SDA), which comprises two 500m wide corridors from the Galilee Basin to Abbot Point.

Click here for more information on the Galilee Basin SDA.

Within an SDA, the Coordinator-General can compulsorily acquire land or easements for projects of significance. If these powers are used, landholders need to be aware of the changes in how land is compensated and agreements are negotiated. Legal advice is recommended through this process.

Click here for map of the Galilee Basin SDA.

Federal Reinvestment needed to protect GAB

AgForce has called on the Federal Government to continue funding the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) which provides assistance to landholders to cap free-flowing groundwater bores and to replace high-evaporation bore drains with piped systems. Funding for this initiative ceased on 30 June. Without the continuation of funding, primary producers' ability to implement efficient land management will be impacted.

GABSI promotes sustainable groundwater management, reduces negative environmental impacts and gives primary producers tools to manage land in a way that is both responsible and productive. Under GABSI and its predecessor programs, 674 bores have been capped and more than 14,000km of bore drain replaced with more than 16,000km of piping in Queensland. GABSI has also resulted in more than 78 per cent of eligible uncontrolled bores being rehabilitated and more than 70 per cent of bore drains replaced with piping. Within the Great Artesian Basin, GABSI has led to an estimated water saving of approximately 200,000 million litres each year.

Under the initiative, landholders contribute between 20 - 40 per cent of the cost of projects, with the remainder met by government-contributed funds. Approximately 215 bores still require rehabilitation and around 5,500km of associated bored drains need to be replaced with pipe in Queensland.

CSG water use approval released

On Friday 16 May the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) released a revised General Beneficial Use Approval for Associated Water that relates to the use of CSG-associated water for purposes other than irrigation. This process is intended to support the Government's 2012 CSG Water Management Policy by encouraging the beneficial use of this water in a way that protects the environment and maximises its productive use as a valuable resource.

The revised Approval covers water directly supplied to the user for purposes relating to domestic, livestock, intensive livestock, aquaculture, revegetation, dust suppression, and research and development activities. Water quality for livestock and domestic water uses must comply with the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC and ARMCANZ 2000). Further information on the General Use approval is **available here**.

i Any landholder negotiating for a water agreement should contact AgForce for more information.

Decision on Galilee Mine

The Coordinator-General has approved the proposed Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail project north-west of Clermont.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney said the project proposes a combination of open-cut and underground coal mining and

is forecast to produce 60 million tonnes of thermal coal per annum for export.

190 conditions have been set to cover impacts to landholders, local flora, groundwater resources, surface water and air quality, and controls on dust and noise.

The proponent, Adani, will be required to reach make good agreements with all affected landholders including the identification and provision of alternative water supplies. Adani will have to contribute water monitoring data and funding to a Galilee region water resource model.

The report now goes to the Commonwealth Environment Minister for a decision which is expected by 1 August 2014.

Click here for more information.

Bowen Basin mine approved

The Coordinator-General has approved a new open-cut coal mine 140 kilometres west of Mackay. The Byerwen Coal project may supply up to 10 million tonnes of coal per annum.

The project is subject to 122 conditions protect groundwater resources, surface water quality and fauna, as well as controls on air quality, dust and noise. The proposal will now go to the Commonwealth Environment Minister for a decision.

Click here for more information.

Condamine River update

Origin has released the results of a study conducted by independent scientific analysis and environmental consultant, Norwest Corporation.

The initial report recommends further assessment and monitoring to determine the cause and source of gas bubbles in the Condamine river.

Norwest determined several possible mechanisms which could contribute alone or in combination to the seeps:

Depressurisation – either from natural causes such as drought, or human activity such as water bores tapping the coal seams, CSG wells, or numerous open coal exploration bores;

Repressurisation - impact of floods and aquifer recharge;

Fractures, faults and springs - natural pathways for water and gas; and

Capping and trapping - geological structures which "cap and trap" natural gas movement.

CSIRO is also conducting its own research into methane emissions from both land and waterways and any relationship to CSG activities in the Surat Basin - in particular the methane seepage in parts of the **Condamine River** is being investigated for links to CSG.

Click here for more information on the Norwest report.

Click here for more information about the CSIRO research.

Click here for more information about the Condamine River gas seep investigation.

CSG News

New Regional Planning laws introduced

On Friday 13 June, the new Regional Planning Interests (RPI) Act and Regulation commenced. This legislation aims to provide certainty to the agriculture and resource sectors about the management of future growth and land use competition.

The framework supersedes the Strategic Cropping Land and Wild Rivers legislation and introduces a new assessment process for resource and other identified developments proposed to occur on government-identified *priority agricultural areas* (PAA), *strategic cropping areas* (SCA) and *strategic environmental areas* (SEA).

Importantly the new framework provides greater incentives for resource companies to reach agreement with landholders on the state's most productive agricultural lands about the impacts of proposed activities to their properties. In the absence of a voluntary agreement, the framework sets the acceptable limits on impacts on the land and water resources and the operation of priority agricultural land uses.

i This delivers an increased say for landholders and follows active lobbying by a coalition of producer groups including AgForce, the Queensland Farmers Federation, Cotton Australia and landholders in Central Queensland and on the Darling Downs.

Assessment criteria for state Government approvals that must be met if no agreement is reached on a proposed activity include that all reasonable steps were taken to negotiate with the landholder, that the activity avoids and minimises its footprint on priority land (PAA and SCA) used for cropping, and the activity will not cause a loss of more than two per cent of priority agricultural land use or strategic cropping land on a property.

Resource developments occurring outside of these identified PAA and SCA remain subject to the existing land access framework and still requires negotiation of conduct and compensation agreements with landholders.

New tenures and Environmental Authorities

New EAs issues by DEHP:

EPPG 01233213 [click here](#) for more information.

- Boulia Shire
- Diamantina Shire

EPPG00928713 [click here](#) for more information

- Maranoa Regional
- Banana Shire

EPPG00781813

- Barcoo Shire

For a full list of EAs granted in 2014 [click here](#).

New role for the Commission

The GasFields Commission has a new statutory role in relation to new regional planning laws.

Section 7 of the GasFields Commission Act 2013 (Commission's functions) has been amended to reflect this new statutory role.

It requires the Commission to respond to requests for advice from the Chief Executive of the Department of State Development, Planning and Infrastructure (DSDPI) under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 about assessment applications under that Act.

The Commission will be required to provide advice to the chief executive about the ability of landholders, regional communities and the resources industry to coexist within the area that is the subject of the application.

The Queensland Government also released an exposure draft of regulations to the Act for further consultation. For more information on the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 and the draft regulations visit the DSDPI website [here](#).

New wash down facility at Chinchilla

A new wash down facility has been opened in Chinchilla to provide weed wash down services for resource and private vehicles. The facility is part of the State Government's 'Royalties for the Regions' initiative along with Western Downs Regional Council.

[Click here](#) to read more.

CSG BIOSECURITY FIELD DAYS

AgForce Projects held CSG Biosecurity Field Days in Roma and Taroom on 1 and 2 July. The field days were held in conjunction with the Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) and provided landholders with information about how to ensure a CCA includes comprehensive biosecurity provisions to mitigate the spread of weeds and pests.



Dr Sarah Jane, LBN Regional Manager - Northern Australia with landholders in Taroom.

For any landholders negotiating CCAs, please contact CSG Project staff for advice about biosecurity considerations.



Kim McIntyre, DAFF Grains Biosecurity Officer and Peter Thomas, Roma, Roma Biosecurity Field Day.



AgForce Regional Manager Melissa Nobbs and Dulacca grazier Adele Hughes at the Roma Biosecurity Field Day.

DNRM Groundwater Update

The CSG Compliance unit is also working with landholders to develop an online groundwater monitoring portal called CSG Net. It is a groundwater monitoring network which the Unit hopes will include up to 50-60 landholders across the Surat Basin. The program will include drilling some dedicated groundwater monitoring bores and also equipping landholder bores with monitoring equipment. [Click here](#) for more information.

Amendments to "water trigger"

In our August 13 edition of the CSG newsletter we brought your attention to amendments to the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC), which stated that any coal or CSG developments that were predicted to have a significant impact on a water resource ("water trigger") needed to undergo Federal assessment (as well as existing state legislation) under the EIS referral process. The change gave the Federal Minister the power to approve or reject a project based on its potential impact specifically to water resources.

Under the new Federal Government's commitment to deliver a 'one stop shop' for environmental assessment and approval process for nationally protected matters, the Government is amending the EPBC Act to allow the Minister to accredit state and territory processes for approving projects involving the water trigger.

On 14 May 2014, Minister Hunt introduced a bill into Parliament that would allow the Minister to accredit state and territory approval decisions on large coal mining and coal seam gas developments that are likely to have a significant impact on a water resource (commonly known as the 'water trigger').

Geoscience Australia releases new groundwater data

Geoscience Australia has released a new groundwater portal which includes new data for the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) and new water chemistry information for the Surat and Galilee Basins. According to Geoscience Australia, the new datasets will provide valuable baseline data for assessing any potential future impacts on groundwater within the GAB.

This will be valuable in terms of defining any impacts on the GAB from agriculture, mining and petroleum (CSG, oil, shale) and greenhouse gas underground storage. This is the first time some of the deeper aquifers of the Surat Basin have been sampled for isotopic data (ageing) and some of this water may be older than one million years. The work was undertaken by Geoscience Australia, the Geological Survey of Queensland and the Queensland Department of Mines and Energy. The dataset is now available for download via [Geoscience Australia's website](#).

Goodbye Madeline!



The team was saddened to say goodbye to Madeline Cooper in July, after three and a half years as the Communications Officer for AgForce Projects. Madeline was a wonderful member of the team and she will be sorely missed but we wish her well in her adventures overseas.

In Madeline's place we welcome Caitlin Boucher back to the team. Caitlin has recently returned from working in media and communications in the United Kingdom.

Mining Legislation notice

i Landholders who are affected by mining and resources will be interested in the changes proposed under the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014. This Bill has been referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee. The Bill has a number of objectives. Click **here** to read some of the main objectives which have implications for producers.

Upcoming AgForce Projects events

Agribusiness information session

Specifically designed for agribusiness professionals who are seeking information about the CSG industry to help them provide information to their clients.

DALBY - 5 August, 5 - 6pm

TOOWOOMBA - 6 August, 8 - 9am

ROMA - 25 August, 5 - 6pm

CSG Negotiation Support Workshop

ROMA - 26 August, 9am - 1pm

MILES - 27 August, 9am - 1pm

CSG Property Computer Mapping Workshop

Learn the basics of mapping and develop the skills to use a property map to demonstrate to a CSG company where and when it can conduct mining activity.

MOONIE - Thursday 28 August, 9am - 4pm

CSG/Mining, Pest, Grazing BMP and Mapping Multi-Topic Field Day

GAYNDAH - 15 September, 4-8pm

THEODORE - 16 September, 2-6pm

ROLLESTON - 17 September, 2-6pm

AgForce Projects CSG team	(07) 3238 6048
CSG Compliance Unit	(07) 4529 1500
Advance Western Downs	www.advancewesterndowns.com.au/major-projects.html#IBK
AgForce member contacts	3236 3100
Beyond Blue/Lifeline	1300 22 4636 / 13 11 14
CSG Globe	www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/mapping-data/queensland-globe/using-coal-seam-gas-globe
DEHP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process	www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/impact-assessment/eis-processes/index.html
DEHP Environmental Authority lists	www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/env-authorities/index.php
DEHP fact sheets	www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/coal-seam-gas/index.html
DEHP Make Good Guideline	www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/pdf/good-obligations-guide.pdf
DEHP Permit and Licensing Management Unit – Mining Environmental Authorities (EA)	www.ehp.qld.gov.au/land/mining/chapter-5-notifications.html
GasFields Commission Qld	(07) 4688 1327 www.gasfieldscommissionqld.org.au/gasfields
IRTM	www.mines.industry.qld.gov.au/geoscience/interactive-resource-tenure-maps.htm
Mining Registrar contacts	www.mines.industry.qld.gov.au/mining/contacts.htm
OGIA UWIR online bore database	www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/ogia/surat-underground-water-impact-report/bore-search
Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate	www.mines.industry.qld.gov.au/safety-and-health/contacts-petroleum-gas-inspectorate.htm
Pollution reporting hotline	1300 130 372
QLD Government mines and energy fact sheets	www.mines.industry.qld.gov.au/mining/landholder-information.htm
Industry	
Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA)	www.appea.com.au
Arrow Energy	www.arrowenergy.com.au
Origin	www.originenergy.com.au/1143/Coal-seam-gas
QGC	www.qgc.com.au
Santos	www.santos.com/coal-seam-gas.aspx

For more information or to register or request a CSG workshop in your town visit:

www.agforceprojects.org.au

The CSG Project Team is dedicated to helping you safeguard the future prosperity of your farming enterprise.

Contact the team today with any enquiries.



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