

CSG sessions help landholders mitigate CSG risks

More than 750 Surat Basin landholders have taken steps to prepare for future coal seam gas (CSG) activity and negotiations by attending one of the 20 AgForce Projects CSG Information Sessions held in the region since March.

As CSG exploration continues to expand in the area, landholders in Dulacca, Wallumbilla and Meandarra will have the chance to have their CSG concerns addressed at information sessions from 12 – 14 July.

Roma grazier Helen Wilkin was one of 40 landholders to attend a session held in Roma in May and praised AgForce Projects for providing independent and practical information about the CSG industry. With one gas drill already on the family's 7280 acre property, Helen said the information session provided vital information to help them take action to mitigate the risks of CSG activities on their property.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the session and now feel better prepared," Mrs Wilkin said.

"After they put down the well we haven't heard anything from the resource company for 12 months and we can't get any information from them. After attending the session we now know that we have rights and we understand that we need to seek legal advice to find out what our boundaries are and to seek compensation."

Moonie cattle and grain producers Lynelle and Warren Urquhart of 'Warrowa' said the information session they attended in Moonie in April provided useful tools for navigating the very complex legislation surrounding the CSG industry.

"AgForce Projects put us in the right direction to find out who has a tenure over our property, who to contact when they knock on our door and to know what to ask for when in negotiations with the gas companies," she said.

While AgForce continues to call for a moratorium on the CSG industry until comprehensive research into its collective impact on the environment is conducted, AgForce Projects CSG project manager Kate Dunn said it is important landholders understand that there are actions they can take now to mitigate the potential risks from CSG activities on their property.

"These sessions aim to arm landholders with the tools and resources to prepare themselves for any future negotiations with resource companies," Kate said.

"By negotiating an effective Conduct and Compensation Agreement, landholders can put in place some checks and balances so that the impacts on their business are minimal. Landholders have the right to tailor an agreement that best suits their individual property needs and considers all impacts to their business and lifestyle - and landholders should all be exercising this right."

Sessions are delivered through AgForward, an initiative of AgForce within its project department, funded by the Queensland Government.

Upcoming CSG Landholder Information Sessions in the Surat Basin include;

Dulacca - Tuesday 12 July; Wallumbilla – Wednesday 13 July; Meandarra – Thursday 14 July; Miles - Tuesday 9 August; Warra – Wednesday 10 August; Dalby – Thursday 11 August; Toowoomba – Friday 12 August; Warwick – Tuesday 6 September; Inglewood – Wednesday 7 September; Talwood – Thursday 8 September; Morven – Tuesday 13 September; Cunnamulla – Wednesday 14 September; Charleville – Thursday 15 September; Roma – Tuesday 27 September; Moonie – Wednesday 28 September; Goondiwindi – Thursday 29 September.

Producers wishing to attend an information session can call (07) 3238 6048 or visit <http://www.agforward.org.au/calendar.htm>.

For comment call Sue Dillon on (07) 3236 3100 or 0417 760 481 or Kate Dunn on (07) 3238 6043 or 0429 123 099.

Media contact: AgForce Projects Communications Officer Madeline Cooper (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091.