

## Know your rights, says AgForce

Local landholders are now well equipped to negotiate with coal seam gas companies courtesy of free AgForce Projects information sessions held in Morven, Cunnamulla and Charleville last week.

As the state government begins to investigate claims a coal seam gas (CSG) company attempted to gain access to 14 properties without authority, AgForce Projects officer Dan Corfe said it is more important than ever that landholders understand their legal rights and responsibilities to CSG companies.

Farmers in the area are feeling shocked and confused by the rapid expansion of CSG development in the region, but praised AgForce for providing up-to-date information to help them deal with their individual circumstances.

The session provided landholders with independent information about their rights and obligations under the current legislation and gave tips on how to manage any potential risks to their property and negotiate an effective conduct and compensation agreement (CCA).

While AgForce continues to call on government to restrict CSG operations until the industry's cumulative impacts are known, Mr Corfe told landholders that tenures across the Surat Basin are expanding and landholders need to be prepared.

"We are here to give landholders an understanding of the legal framework surrounding the CSG industry and practical tools they can use when approached by a CSG company," Mr Corfe said.

The sessions emphasised the importance of the negotiation process and outlined how effective a CCA can be in mitigating the impact of CSG activities by securing a fairer deal for the property owner.

"You are the landholder, so you have the right to negotiate where CSG companies can go on your land and how they conduct themselves," Mr Corfe said.

"Recent amendments to the Land Access Code provide landholders with greater rights to negotiate a fair deal both in terms of conduct and compensation."

Mr Corfe said landholders have the right to tailor an agreement that best suits their individual property needs and considers all impacts to their business and lifestyle.

"You need to have a think about how the proposed CSG activities will affect the way you run your property today and into the future, and ensure your CCA takes this into consideration."

The sessions also outlined tools landholders can use to record impacts from CSG activity on their property.

Workshops are free and open to all producers through AgForward, an initiative of AgForce within its project division, funded by the Queensland Government.

To express interest in holding a workshop in a town near you, contact (07) 3238 6048 or visit [www.agforceprojects.org.au](http://www.agforceprojects.org.au)

**For comment call AgForce Projects manager 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**