



AGFORCE PROJECTS – Media Release

CSG survey results show need for continued landholder support

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Results from a survey of Queensland landholders dealing with coal seam gas (CSG) companies shows that landholders are still in need of support before and during negotiations.

The AgForce Projects survey of 242 landholders conducted in November 2015 showed that landholders were still unsure about impacts and that 82percent (pc) of respondents felt it was extremely important that landholders have access to free information and support regarding CSG, such as the services provided by AgForce Projects.

CSG Project Leader Daniel Phipps said that most surveyed landholders were very concerned about the potential weed/biosecurity and groundwater impacts of CSG, as well as how much of their time is taken away from their property and business dealing with CSG activities.

Mr Phipps said these concerns echoed similar sentiments from the CSG Project's 2014 Survey, including that landholders remained convinced that infrastructure would increase on their property, further demonstrating the need for ongoing factual information and landholder support.

"46pc of surveyed respondents believe that the number of CSG wells and infrastructure on their property would increase while another 47pc are not sure. With so much uncertainty in the industry, free services like the AgForce Projects CSG Project are essential to give landholders more confidence to negotiate better agreements and be aware of industry developments and impacts."

"I would encourage all landholders to come along to our workshops and ensure they understand their rights and responsibilities in regards to CSG and have an opportunity to learn from other landholders," Mr Phipps said.

The CSG Project Leader said the workshops are the perfect opportunity for landholders to discuss their concerns and successes with each other and have the opportunity to get support from the CSG team and government compliance representatives.

With over 50pc of surveyed landholders indicating they went to neighbours, family, friends and other landholders for advice AgForce Projects believe it's important for landholders to have the opportunity to talk openly with each other.

Landholder confidence and trust in the CSG Project remained high with over 70% of respondents indicating that they trust the project as a source of factual information and support for landholders dealing with CSG. Surveyed respondents said the AgForce Projects CSG Project also helped them with:

- Understanding their rights and responsibilities (64pc);
- It gave them a starting point for their own research (53pc); and
- It gave them confidence to negotiate from a strong position (52pc).

The survey also measured landholder satisfaction with conduct and compensation agreements (CCA) with 52% of respondents indicating that they were not satisfied with their CCA compared with 35% being somewhat satisfied with the outcomes of negotiations.

Of those landholders who have negotiated agreements the top three pieces of advice landholders would give others who are preparing to negotiate with a CSG company included:

- Utilise AgForce Projects CSG team for negotiation support, information on rights and free advice (71pc);
- Engage of solicitor from the start of negotiations (74pc); and
- Undertake a bore baseline assessment before activities start (69pc)



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To feel more confident in negotiating a land access agreement survey respondents said they would need the following information from CSG companies:

- 3-5 year plan of the company's activities (79pc);
- More information and advice from other landholder experiences (78pc);
- A Make Good clause in a Conduct and Compensation Agreement about groundwater impacts (78pc);
- Ability to review the agreement periodically (77pc); and
- More information on groundwater impacts to their property and the region (76pc)

In response to survey results the CSG Project will continue to deliver Advanced CSG support workshops across Queensland bringing together landholders to share their experiences, concerns and to receive factual information and support from project staff and resolve compliance issues with Government regulators.

The Project will continue to deliver field days including groundwater and biosecurity issues and management allowing landholders access to expert information.

Mr Phipps said the team looks forward to continuing to deliver the much-needed service into 2016.

These workshops are delivered with the support of the Queensland Government, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, Queensland Resources Council and the GasFields Commission Queensland.

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For more information contact AgForce Projects Media and Communications Officer Caitlin Boucher on (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091.