

AgForce Projects

CSG NEWSLETTER



[Edition 21, April/May 2017]

WELCOME to the April/May edition of the AgForce Projects CSG & Mining newsletter.

In this newsletter, we provide our regular update on CSG and mining activity across regional Queensland as well as updates to legislation and company activities.

In addition, the projects team provide an update on new mining approvals and recent changes to groundwater laws, the 2016 GasFields Commission Review, and new research being conducted into the interactions between agriculture and the resources sector in Queensland.

AgForce Projects has released our annual CSG & Mining Survey, and we want to hear from you. Surveys conducted in 2014 and 2015 provided our projects team with invaluable information about landholder satisfaction with land access agreements (CCAs), identifying what information landholders feel they need to better manage resource activities/negotiations while also telling us how we can better support landholders through this process.

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2016 was a big year for the CSG & Mining project, delivering more than 40 regional events to more than 800 landholders while also marking the sixth year of support provided to landholders managing resource activities. Since the inception of the project in 2011, more than 5,800 landholders have received information and support through more than 280 events to assist in negotiating agreements and managing activities on property.

Throughout 2016 there have been some significant legislation changes and policy amendments, which are important for landholders to be aware of. This newsletter provides an overview of these changes and we encourage landholders to register for local workshop events or contact a team member for more information.

If there is a particular CSG or mining related workshop or field day you would be interested in having in your region, [please register your interest on our website](#) or email the [CSG & Mining Team](#).

AgForce Projects would like to thank those who attended workshops and participated in events over the past year and for your support in helping us to deliver factual, balanced and useful information to landholders regarding CSG & mining. We look forward to continuing the project through this year.

We recently released our annual survey providing landholders with the opportunity to share their experiences with the resources sector and help AgForce to understand what information and support services landholders need to better manage land access negotiations and/or activities on property.

The Projects Team conducted a survey in 2014 and 2015 and are encouraging landholders who have had interactions with the resources industry to complete the survey to provide AgForce will up to date information about support services landholders need, how AgForce Projects can help landholders better manage negotiations or activities and what AgForce can do to improve existing frameworks.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE](#)

SOME KEY FIGURES FROM OUR LAST ANNUAL SURVEY

- Highest rated concerns for landholders included groundwater and biosecurity/weed impacts;
- Many landholders who had signed a CCA (Conduct and Compensation Agreement) did not feel satisfied with their agreement/s;
- Landholders want to see more upfront information about activities and potential impacts from resource companies;
- 100% of landholders feel it is important to continue to have access to the information and support provided by the AgForce CSG & Mining Project;
- Trust in the resources industry & State Govt remains low; and
- There is a need to continue to engage & work with landholders and communities about agri/resource interactions.

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Government and Legislation Update

Queensland Government Releases Review of the GasFields Commission

The GasFields Commission was established in 2013 in response to the significant development and expansion of the CSG industry in Queensland and was tasked with the role of managing and improving the sustainable 'co-existence' of CSG and agriculture. After three years of operating, the Commission underwent a review process commencing in March 2016 by Mr Bob Scott, a retired member of the Land Court of Queensland.

The review into the Commission and recommendations were released by the Queensland Government in December 2016. For more information on this review and the Queensland Government response you can view the [December 2016 edition of the AgForce Projects CSG & Mining newsletter](#) where the team outlined the recommendations and their importance to landholders. You can also visit the Department of State Development website to [view a copy of the report here](#).

As a result of the review, the new look commission has reduced to three part-time Commissioners and a new chair, former Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) CEO Ruth Wade.

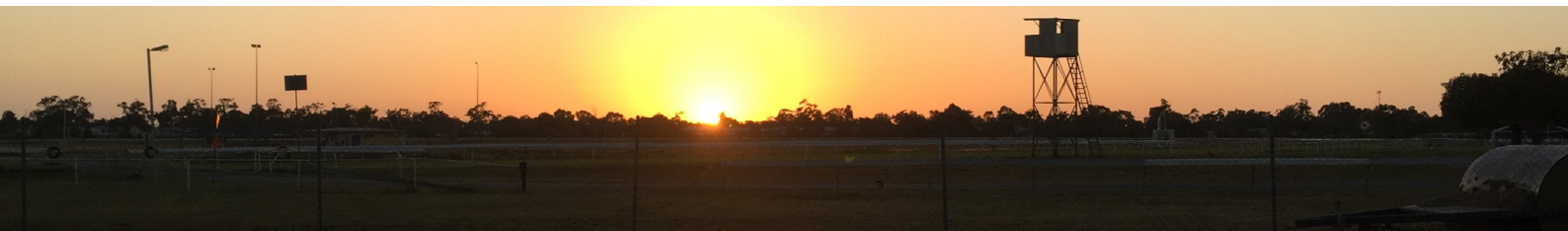
The other commissioners include:

- Fleur Anderson, a landholder from Theodore and non-executive Director on the Board of Cotton Australia;
- Ian Hayllor, Darling Downs irrigator and GasFields Commissioner since 2013; and
- Rick Wilkinson, Chief Technical Officer for the APPEA and GasFields Commissioner since 2013.

Some of the changes from the review included:

- Reduce to one chair and three part-time commissioners;
- improve the information that is available to landholders;
- set up a community reference group to focus on health and wellbeing concerns for residents and their families in areas such as the Tara Estates; and
- work with the various agencies in the CSG industry to clarify their responsibilities and how they respond to inquiries and complaints.

AgForce and the CSG & Mining Project will continue to work with the GasFields Commission throughout 2017 to improve the information and support services available to landholders to assist in negotiating agreements and managing activities on property. The CSG & Mining Team will also continue to advise landholders of the evolution of the new Commission as it advances.



New Look GasFields Commission

By Ruth Wade
Chair, GasFields Commission Queensland

As the newly appointed Chair of the revamped GasFields Commission Queensland, I look forward to working with landholders, regional communities and the onshore gas industry to facilitate balanced and respectful relationships.

As a new comer to the Commission, I acknowledge the tremendous work done by a broad range of stakeholders, particularly the previous Chair and Commissioners. It's not been an easy road and we are not there yet, but the groundwork has been laid for the onshore gas industry and landholders to work better with each other and ensure there are benefits for all concerned.

There will be new directions for the Commission too, following an independent review last year which will provide guidance and direction for the organisation as it looks to the future.

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We now have considerable data about the coal seam gas industry in Queensland. It is critical we use this information to help build awareness and understanding of the role of the gas industry in the economy, and its impacts on regional communities, our natural resource base, and agricultural sector.

The community wants to see our state's gas reserves developed in an environmentally and socially safe and responsible manner, balancing the needs of landholders and local communities. The industry has worked hard to improve its social licence to operate and build community trust. The ongoing task of improving performance must be a shared effort between government, industry, and the community, with the Commission playing an important role as a facilitator, monitor, communicator and strategic advisor.

Government and legislation Update Continued

Queensland Government Land Access Ombudsmen

As part of the 2016 review into the GasFields Commission, the Government also received a recommendation to develop and implement an independent ombudsman to be appointed to work with Queensland landholders and the resource sector on CSG and resource issues. State Development Minister Dr Anthony Lynham said the new land access ombudsman was a central element of a revamp of the CSG and resource industry dispute resolution system.

“The new ombudsman will give landholders a trusted and independent decision maker to resolve issues before they escalate into full blown legal disputes”. Dr Lynham said.

The Land Access Ombudsmen will be a separate and an independent body from the GasFields Commission and will play a role in hearing disputes between resource companies (both CSG and mining) after an agreement has been signed. It is important to be aware that the Ombudsmen will not be involved in disputes during the negotiation or development of a CCA, only after a CCA has been signed.

For example, the Ombudsmen may hear disputes relating to the conduct of a resource company on property and work to resolve where other methods have failed, or in making recommendations to Government on ways to improve interactions or dealings between landholders and resource companies.

The Ombudsmen will be able to hear disputes between resource companies and landholders regarding Conduct and Compensation Agreement (CCA) issues. This will apply to all aspects of CSG activities that require a CCA and any mining activity, such as exploration activities, that require a CCA to be developed between a landholder and resource company.

AgForce and the CSG & Mining Project are continuing to work with all stakeholders and the Queensland Government on the development and implementation of the Land Access Ombudsmen to ensure the final model provides the best outcome and most effective process to resolve disputes for landholders.

AgForce encourages landholders that have been involved in CCA disputes to contact the CSG & Mining team to share your experiences so that we can provide direct examples and information to this process.”

Please contact a CSG & Mining team member to discuss further- (07) 3236 3100 – csg@agforceprojects.org.au

For more information on this story or to view the full review [click here](#).

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES FROM 2016 FOR LANDHOLDERS

Throughout 2016, the Queensland Government made a series of important legislative and policy changes that relate to the interactions between agriculture and the resources sector. The CSG & Mining team has been running workshops across Queensland to bring landholders up to speed with these changes and explain how they may affect your dealings with a resource company.

AgForce resources spokesman Wayne Newton said the new laws, some of which have already taken effect, were part of a large suite of reforms developed over the past two years relating to how mining and CSG companies interact with landholders and the community.

“Coal seam gas and resources developments are an important issue for landholders and will continue to be into the future, so we need landholders to be as informed as possible in order to protect their properties, their businesses and their livelihoods,” he said.

Throughout 2017 the CSG & Mining Project will be running workshops, field days and webinars to ensure landholders have access to the most up to date information and are aware of these changes and how they may impact on dealings with resource companies.

Landholders are encouraged to contact a CSG & Mining Team member to learn more- (07) 3236 3100 – csg@agforceprojects.org.au

Did you know?

The CSG & Mining team have also delivered a series of webinars explaining these changes and allowing landholders to access this information at their convenience.

Webinars topics include:

- The changes to the land access framework and groundwater management process;
- Presenting and outlining the 2016 Surat Basin Cumulative Impact Underground Water Impact Report;
- Explaining the introduction of standardised ‘restricted land’ buffers, for which resource companies must gain landholder consent for activities within certain areas; and
- The recommendations resulting from the 2016 GasFields Commission Review and the proposed implementation of the Land Access Ombudsmen.

To access these webinars and more visit the [AgForce Projects CSG & Mining website](#).

2016/17 legislative amendments to be aware of:

Changes/ Amendments	Importance for Landholders	Further Information
Ability for landholders to agree to enter into an 'opt-out' agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landholders can choose to sign an 'opt out agreement' rather than negotiate a conduct and compensation agreement (CCA) with a resource company; Landholders need to be aware that opt out agreements are not mandatory, must be accompanied by a special information form, be made in the prescribed form, are subject to a 10 day cooling off period and do not negate a company's liability to compensate an eligible claimant 	<p>The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) have developed a fact sheet explaining the op-out provisions for landholders and AgForce encourages landholders that are considering this approach to review this document and contact the CSG & Mining team for any questions. Before you sign any agreement we encourage landholders to contact us for further information.</p> <p>To view the fact sheet click here.</p>
Development of standardised restricted land buffers around certain property infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50m buffer around key infrastructure such as principal stockyards, bores and artesian wells, dams and artificial water storages connected to a water supply; and 200m buffer zone around permanent buildings including places of residence. 	<p>These changes will only apply to tenures that were applied for and granted after the 27th of September 2016. Tenures that were granted and existed before the 27th of September will not be bound by these restrictions. These restricted areas only set a minimum distance not a maximum and companies must still comply with light, noise and dust provisions of their environmental authority (EA) and any other conditions you negotiate.</p> <p>For more information on these changes visit the Department website.</p> <p>See figures one and two for examples of this framework.</p>
Under Chapter 3 of the Water Act (2000), landholders negotiating a Make Good agreement will now be able to engage professional hydrogeological advice to assist in negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments provides the right for a bore owner to be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary hydrogeological costs associated for negotiating a make good agreement; AgForce Projects is working with industry groups including the International Association of Hydrogeologists to develop a list of potential advisors for landholders. 	<p>Any landholders that have been approached to negotiate a make good agreement, following the approval of the 2016 Surat Basin Underground Water Impact Report, are encouraged to contact the CSG & Mining Team for more information relating to these changes.</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has updated their website to explain these changes to landholders and are encouraged to visit for more information.</p>
Development of dispute resolution processes for make good agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to the dispute resolution process for CCAs, the Department has developed a graduated process for disputes in make good negotiations; It is important to note that during this process, the costs of an ADR (alternative dispute resolution) facilitator will be the responsibility of the tenure holder; Landholders are now provided with a 5 business day cooling off period to terminate a make good agreement without penalty. 	<p>AgForce Projects encourages any landholders that have been approached to negotiate a make good agreement to contact a team member for more information about these changes and to visit the Department website containing updated information for landholders.</p>
Landholder rights expanded to include a 'make good' agreement for bores that are or are likely to be impaired due to free gas generated by a tenure holder (i.e. gassy bores).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of reducing pressures or water levels in coal seams or aquifers to extract CSG, it may result in the liberation of 'free gas' from coal cleats which have the potential to enter nearby bores; The introduction or increase of 'free gas' into a nearby bore may result in a supply issue and due to these legislative changes, bores that are experiencing an impact from this increase of gas are entitled to a make good agreement; AgForce encourages landholders that have activity on their property to negotiate in their CCA that property bores have a baseline assessment conducted and that an appropriate ongoing monitoring strategy is developed. 	<p>The CSG Compliance Unit, DNRM, has a project called CSG Net, which works with landholders to help provide the knowledge, tools and support to develop an effective bore monitoring program and to also assist in filling in gaps in regional water monitoring networks.</p> <p>AgForce Projects encourages all landholders that are dealing with CSG or concerned about groundwater impacts to be involved in this project.</p> <p>For more information on CSG Net, visit the Department website here or contact the CSG Compliance Unit on (07) 4529 1500.</p> <p>For more information on these changes visit the Department website.</p>
Conduct and Compensation Agreements (CCAs) and 'opt-out' agreements must now be noted on title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreements will be noted on title, similar to that of an easement agreement; No details of the CCA, such as compensation, number of wells or infrastructure will be visible-only that an agreement is registered and will act as a trigger to potential buyers. 	<p>To find more information about this process, visit the Department website.</p>

Changes/Amendments	Importance for Landholders	Further Information
The powers of the Land Court will be broadened to include the ability to review conduct matters rather than just compensation in CCA negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously the Land Court jurisdiction was limited to only review matters related to the compensation payable as part of CCA negotiations; The Court will now have the power to consider and review matters of conduct of both resource companies and landholders. 	<p>AgForce Projects is continuing to work with all stakeholders and the Queensland Government as part of this process and will continue to advise landholders of any changes as they are released.</p> <p>Landholders that have had experience with the land court are encouraged to contact the CSG & Mining team to share your experiences on how this process can be improved to provide more value and effective results to landholders managing resource developments.</p>
New mining projects will now come under the Make Good provisions of Chapter 3 of the Water Act, similar to that for CSG companies, and transitional arrangements being developed for existing mines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) all mines currently under development in Queensland that will have an impact on groundwater, will be required to obtain an "associated water licence"; The Director-General of DNRM must consult with the Director-General of EHP before making a decision on an associated water licence; and The Director-General of EHP must form their opinion regarding groundwater impacts based on advice from an independent panel; According to Environment Minister, Dr Steve Miles, "The panel will be formed by the Director-General of EHP and Director-General of DNRM and will consist of the Queensland Chief Scientist and three other members qualified in the law, public administration and natural resource matters"; Dr Steven Miles said "future" mining projects will have the environmental impacts of their groundwater take initially assessed under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 as part their environmental authority application. 	<p>See Table One below for more information and an outline of this process.</p> <p>These changes mean that mining projects will need to develop underground water impact reports/models and will need to proactively identify bores that may potentially be impacted by their mining operations and enter into make good negotiations. This framework will provide more clarity to landholders about the 'make good' process for mining projects and provide assurance to their rights and pathways to a make good agreement.</p> <p>AgForce will continue to work with all stakeholders including the State Government and resource industry peak bodies about the implementation and transitional arrangements for this process.</p> <p>More information on these changes can be found on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) website here.</p> <p>Landholders with any questions regarding these changes are encouraged to contact the CSG & Mining Team for more information- (07) 3236 3100 csg@agforceprojects.org.au</p>

Figure one showing the buffer zones for bores, dams and houses and the restrictions for potential resource development

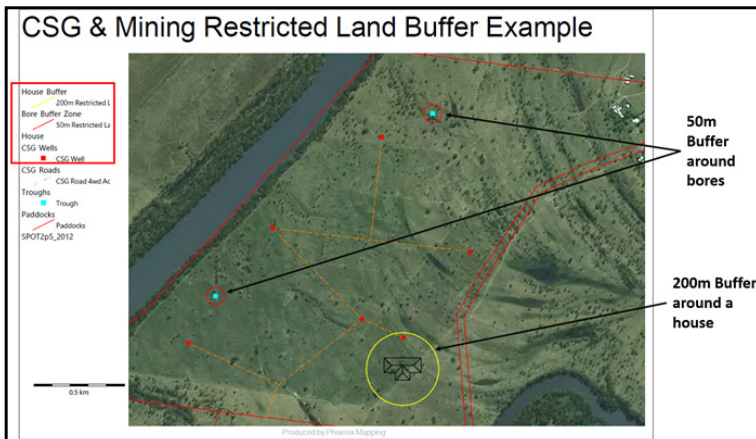
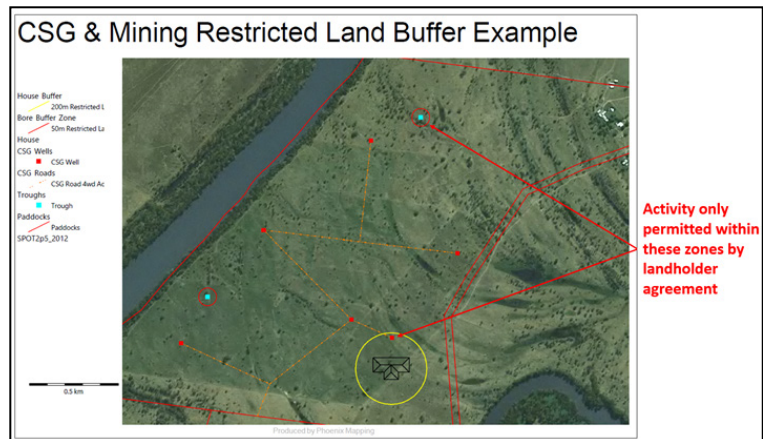


Figure two showing the buffer zones for bores, dams and houses and the restrictions for potential resource development



The table below outlines the new groundwater management framework for new coal mines

Groundwater model identifies a potential/likely impact to bore as a result of resource activities (mining or CSG)	Landholder or other detects a water supply loss/impairment and is found to be or likely as a result of resource activity (mining or CSG)
Landholder is entitled to a make good agreement	Landholder is entitled to a make good agreement
As a result of the make good agreement a suitable supply or alternative arrangement is negotiated (i.e. a new bore, surface water or compensation)	

Government and Legislation Update Continued...

Gas pilot aims to keep energy for domestic market

The Queensland Government will allocate a small volume of potential gas supplies for Australian use only from a pilot exploration project in the state's main CSG development region, the Surat Basin.

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Dr Anthony Lynham announced in January the release of land for exploration with strict Australia-only sale conditions on gas produced.

According to the Queensland Government, with gas shortages on the Australian eastern seaboard the focus of regulators and industry nationally, the government will release about 58 square kilometres of land for gas exploration, under the condition any gas produced must be used in Australia.

"Reliable supply for energy and feedstock is critical to business and industry, and the jobs and revenue they generate," Dr Lynham said.

What does this mean for landholders?

AgForce Projects will continue to work with the Government to ensure that landholders and community members are made aware of tenure releases in their area and that constructive engagement is started to ensure landholders and community members are aware and informed of their rights.

The CSG & Mining Project is able to support landholders who have or may be approached to negotiate an agreement as well as landholders with general questions.

"Gas is a significant transitional energy source as we head to a renewable energy future."

"This is a pilot to see what can be achieved and how the market reacts."

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines released the land in southwest Queensland to competitive tender in February. Tenders close on 20 April 2017.

The government will use existing legislative powers to place a condition on the tenure preventing the gas operator exporting the gas.

The land release comes on top of 11,000 km² recently awarded for gas exploration in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins, and 450 km² in the Surat and Bowen basins.

The successful tenderer will be required to complete environmental and other requirements before any tenure can be granted. This includes negotiating land access agreements with landowners and native title parties.

We encourage landholders to contact a project team member with any questions and remind landholders not to sign an agreement (CCA or 'opt-out' agreement) or an entry notice for preliminary activities without first seeking advice from our team or talking with staff at the CSG Compliance Unit.

Rural landholders urged to check new valuations

AgForce is urging rural landholders to check new land valuations released 8th March are correct to ensure they don't end up paying more than they should. These valuations may also be important when dealing with resource companies.

AgForce rural property valuer John Moore said the Department of Natural Resources and Mines was issuing 88,000 rural valuations in 28 council areas across Queensland with increased sales in rural markets to result in rising land values in various agricultural sectors, including grazing.

"The rural property market over the past 18 months has been particularly buoyant on the back of strong commodity prices, with general rises of up to 25 per cent in parts of the market," he said.

"Unimproved value - which is the amount for which rural land could be expected to sell for without physical improvements such as structures, fences, clearing, yards and water - generally follow market trends so we can expect there will be rises in unimproved values as well.

"Unimproved values determine what council rates rural landholders pay and are also used to calculate leasehold rents, so it's important the figures are right."

Mr Moore encouraged rural landholders who receive new valuations to check them using the Land Valuations Globe online and see how they compare to surrounding properties.

"Landholders need to check their valuations so they don't end paying more than they should," he said.

Landholders have 60 days in which to object to their new valuation, and rural landholders who want more information or wish to lodge an objection can contact AgForce on 3236 3100 to book a consultation with John Moore.



John Moore, AgForce Rural Property Valuer

*Government and Legislation Update Continued...***Department of Environment & Heritage Protection release new landholder Make Good guidelines**

In response to legislative and policy changes made throughout 2016, as outlined earlier, the Department of Environment has released new guidelines for landholders explaining the Make Good framework.

The Make Good framework is administered under Chapter 3 of the Water Act (2000) and provides a statutory right for landholders whose bore/s have been impacted by CSG, and now in future mines, a right to a make good agreement. A make good agreement may include:

- Deepening the bore;
- Drilling another bore into a different aquifer;
- Increasing the pump size or capacity;
- Providing surface water; or
- Compensation

Landholders should be aware that these agreements are a negotiation between you and the responsible company.

As a result of amendments, landholders can now be reimbursed for their necessary and reasonable hydrological profession advice as part of an agreement. This is in addition to necessary and reasonable legal, accounting and valuation advice.

To obtain a copy of this updated guideline and learn more about these changes visit the [Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website](#).

Queensland Government Environmental authority register to add transparency

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) has expanded the online environmental authority (EA) register to add public transparency surrounding these documents.

Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles said the upgraded register would dramatically increase the number of EAs available online.

“Previously we only had petroleum, gas and mining EAs online. Now we are placing all EAs online, almost 7000 of them,” Dr Miles said. The revised register came online in February.

Dr Miles said EAs, licences and other environmental approvals were required under various legislation EHP handled.

Any company that carries out an environmentally relevant activity requires an EA.

Environmentally relevant activities are those that could potentially release contaminants into the environment, such as mining or resource activities, chemical manufacturing, waste treatment, petroleum and gas activities, and in some cases agricultural activities.

“EAs are public documents and members of the public are always interested in seeing what they contain and how the government ensures the environment is protected,” Dr Miles said.

Dr Miles said the revised EA register was part of EHP’s move to its new Connect system – a digital platform to streamline business services and provide easier access and more economical business interactions for customers and members of the public.

For more information on this register and about environmental authority documents [visit the Departmental website](#).

**Call for research participants from Alpha and Jericho for: A study of public participation in the development of coal mining in the Galilee Basin, by Katie Meissner, University of Queensland PhD student.**

I am currently conducting a PhD research project with The University of Queensland. The purpose of my study is to gather information from those who took part in one or more of the public participation processes for the Alpha, Kevin’s Corner, China First and South Galilee coal mines in the Galilee Basin.

Examples of taking part in the public participation processes include attending a public meeting, making a formal submission on the EIS, or being on a relevant committee or reference group.

Sharing your experience of these public participation processes will contribute to the body of knowledge on public participation best practice.

Participating in the research project involves an interview of approximately 45 minutes at a time suitable to yourself.

For further information on this research project, please contact Katie Meissner on 0422 298 444 or email katie.meissner@uqconnect.edu.au.

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

Government and Legislation Update Continued...

Gas contamination of land south of Chinchilla

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) is continuing to test and monitor soil gas contaminants in the Hopeland/Chinchilla region and surrounding region.

This is part of an extensive ongoing investigation involving Linc Energy and their trial Underground Coal Gasification project (UCG). Readers should recognise that UCG is a very different process from Coal Seam Gas (CSG).

For both areas DEHP has provided cautionary advice about excavating such as:

- Avoid conducting works unaccompanied that involve excavation or disturbing the soil at depths greater than two metres;
- Remove or avoid ignition sources completely from the immediate vicinity of the disturbance and;
- Keep other flammable items and liquids well clear of the excavation / disturbed area.

On the Department's website there is greater detail about this advice. We encourage landholders to [visit the website for more detailed information](#).

Timeline of events

In February 2015, EHP identified the presence of particular gases, such as hydrogen, at unexpected levels in soil depths below two metres underground at a number of locations around the Hopelands/Chinchilla region nearby Linc Energy sites. These gases were not detected above undisturbed ground surfaces or in the air.

EHP then established an excavation caution zone as a result of these findings and provided cautionary advice to the community in relation to the risk that these gases pose during excavation or trenching works below depths of two metres from the surface.

EHP has been advised that the gases detected are not associated with coal seam gas development.

The present excavation caution zone remains in place. The areas shaded on the map below are areas presently under investigation by EHP. The cautionary advice described applies to the excavation caution zone and the investigation area and surrounds.

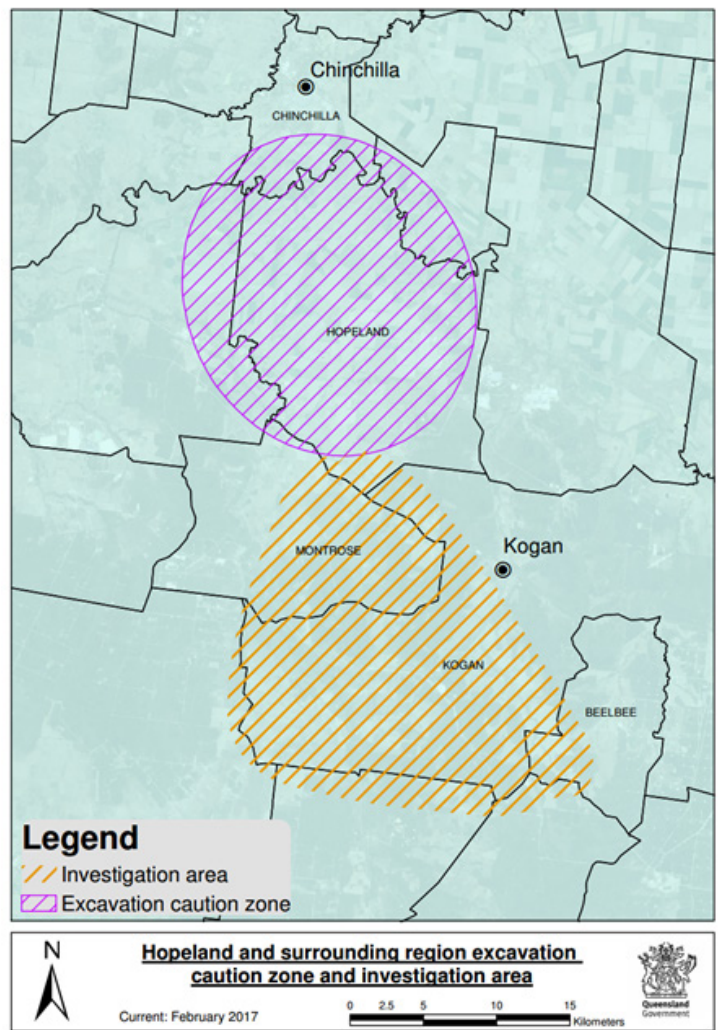
"Phase Two testing"

Recently EHP conducted a second phase of soil gas testing in Hopeland and surrounding areas. The aim of this phase was to better characterise the behaviour of the contaminant gases over time.

This testing program involved drilling approximately 70 additional bore holes to test soil gas vapours within the soil profile and re-testing long-term soil vapour monitoring bores installed in 2015.

EHP's second phase of testing has revealed hydrogen contamination at potentially hazardous levels outside the boundary of the existing excavation caution zone.

As a result DEHP have updated the map to show both the initial excavation caution zone and the additional areas under investigation.



The map shows both the investigation area and the excavation caution zone around Hopeland. Map provided by The Department of Environment Protection.

Air quality in the Hopeland region has been monitored by the [Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation \(DSITI\)](#) through two rounds of air quality sampling and assessment.

The monitoring did not find any evidence of subsoil gases leading to unsafe levels of air pollutants in the community. According to the Department, these results suggests that any surface emissions of the soil gases that may be occurring are likely to be gradual and quickly diluted by surrounding air to very low levels.

Surface soils, surface water and groundwater

EHP is advised that because the gases are found at depth in the soil, immediate impacts to grazing animals and stock are considered very unlikely.

To provide further certainty, EHP and its independent experts commenced specific assessments of air, soil, surface water and groundwater on landholder properties within the soil gas contamination area in addition to the ongoing soil gas sampling being undertaken.

Testing of surface soils, surface and groundwater on 18 properties have not revealed any associated impact.

AgForce Projects will continue to liaise with the Environment Department to ensure that project staff are able to provide the most current and correct information to enquiring landholders.

We encourage anyone with questions to contact the dedicated DEHP email ehpinvestigation@ehp.qld.gov.au or contact EHP's pollution hotline on 1300 130 372.

Fact: Chinchilla's town water supply

Chinchilla's town water supply was assessed by Queensland Health when soil gas contamination in the area was first discovered.

Queensland Health advised that the results of testing undertaken on Chinchilla's town water supply were all within the range of historical data for each water quality parameter, or within the expected range for surface water in Queensland.

They also advised there was nothing in the water quality data that would indicate a health risk from Chinchilla's treated drinking water. Testing of the Condamine River and Chinchilla Weir during 2015 also identified no associated impact.

Carmichael licences safeguard water

Multi-million dollar financial and regulatory safeguards, and a stringent monitoring regime, are now in place to manage water supply in and around the \$21.7 billion Carmichael coal project, according to the Queensland Government.

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Dr Anthony Lynham said

Adani had to provide the government \$20.15 million before drawing any surface water from a special reserve set aside for significant projects.

"The water licences provide the mine with a volume of water about 1 per cent of what farmers are able to use in the Burdekin catchment now," he said.

"Adani has to pay the government more than \$20 million before they can use the surface water, and pay for it at a rate about three times what farmers currently pay in the lower Burdekin irrigation area.

"They have to have make good agreements in place with landholders whose existing ground water entitlements might be affected.

"There are now almost 270 conditions on this project to protect the natural environment and the interests of landholders and traditional owners.

"More than 100 of these conditions relate to groundwater.

"Most importantly, the government has the ability to require a mine to stop operations if any of these licences are breached."

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has granted Adani two licences- one for surface water, and one for groundwater.

"The surface water licence grants the project 10,800 megalitres of surface water a year at \$1866 per megalitre. Farmers currently have access to 1,229,000 megalitres. Water for agricultural purpose is currently trading in the lower Burdekin catchment at approximately \$570/ megalitre.

"Almost another 140,000 megalitres remain untapped in reserve in the Burdekin. The licences also allow Adani to remove enough water from the mine to allow it to operate safely", Dr Lynham said.

"My Department of Natural Resources and Mines advises that the modelling it assessed shows that up to 4550 megalitres of groundwater could be taken a year,"

"This is roughly equivalent to the amount used each year by a 450 hectare cane farm in the Lower Burdekin.

"Every operational mine in Queensland is authorised to remove groundwater that flows into the mine to make the mine safe, and reuse it if they wish.

"This project has been through extensive scrutiny by State and Federal Governments, and the community, during public consultation and in the courts.

"This project will generate thousands of jobs, as well as business opportunities in northern and central Queensland as well as royalties that will benefit the state as a whole.

"These safeguards will ensure that water resources are protected, and that this critical project progresses sustainably."

Company Update

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

Senex invests \$50m in Western Surat Gas project

Senex Energy has approved its first major investment in the Western Surat Gas project in Queensland, providing \$50 million to the project's well drilling campaign.

The investment involves the drilling of 30 wells and the construction of gas and water handling infrastructure. The first wells online are expected in mid 2017, set to produce approximately 10 TJ of gas a day by mid 2018.

Senex managing director and CEO Ian Davies said the work program would provide large gas volumes from drill ready acreage. He added that the company has a clear plan to ramp up the project.

"We have seen immediate gas to surface from the Glenora pilot wells, brought online for continuous production in early February," Davies said.

"We have also seen evidence of strong gas flows from wells on the Eos block during rehabilitation works being undertaken on legacy QGC wells. These results demonstrate that coal seams in the Glenora and Eos blocks have already been partially dewatered by neighbouring operations."

The Glenora and Eos blocks are located south-east of the Western Surat Gas project, north of Santos' GLNG Roma field. Mr Davies added that the work program will provide the company a greater understanding of the resource to support an accelerated project timeline.

Senex also aims to drill, complete and connect an additional 30 to 50 wells throughout 2018.

"Under this scenario and subject to regulatory approvals, Senex can seamlessly transition to development phase targeting gas production of over 16TJ per day by 2019, equivalent to one million barrels of oil equivalent per annum," he said.

The company plans to sell the raw gas to GLNG/Santos export project.

What does this mean for landholders?

The development of this project by Senex demonstrates further that the CSG industry is continuing to develop and expand across Queensland and that the industry will continue to operate in the region for many years to come.

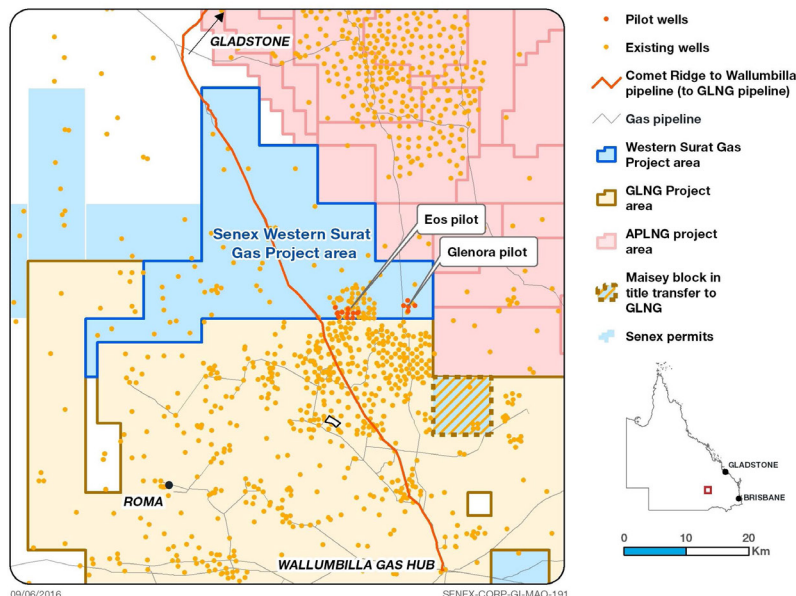
Although the Senex project is a much smaller scale compared to other CSG projects Santos (GLNG), QGC (QLNG), Origin (APLNG) or Arrow Energy, the potential cumulative on groundwater systems or neighbouring landholders is important to recognise.

Any landholders that are negotiating or have been approached to negotiate are encouraged to contact the CSG & Mining Team for free information and support on your rights during this process, tips on effective property management and conduct considerations as well as assistance developing property maps.

Having a property map and property plan are valuable tools that can be used in both the negotiation process but also managing activities post agreement.

AgForce Projects can provide free training and support services to map your property, identify key infrastructure (i.e. bores, dams, yards, houses) and use this as a tool to determine where and when a resource company can or cannot operate.

For more information contact AgForce Projects (07) 3236 3100 – csg@agforceprojects.org.au



For more information on this project visit the [Senex Energy website](http://www.senexenergy.com.au).

Company Update continued...

AGL seeking buyers for Queensland gas assets

According to the reports in the Australian Financial Review (AFR), Australian energy company AGL is chasing buyers for their gas storage and exploration assets in Queensland.

The AFR's Street Talk section reports that AGL is looking to offload the Silver Springs gas storage facility in the Surat Basin, the nearby Churchie gas field and some undeveloped discoveries and exploration tenements.

These assets were transferred to AGL following its takeover of Mosaic Oil in 2010. The AFR reports that the sale is still in the early stages, with confidentiality agreements yet to be signed and an information memorandum still to be released.

AGL is said to have hired Highbury Partnership to assist with the asset sale.

[Click here](#) for more information on this story.

St George CSG Workshops

AgForce Projects and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, CSG Compliance Unit held a joint workshop in St George on the 14th of March, attended by more than 45 local landholders, community members and business professionals.

The workshop was to educate landholders on their rights regarding CSG or petroleum development as well as outline the assessment and approvals process that the Department follows when considering new projects.

Presentations to the group showed there were no applications pending or current for any CSG or petroleum development in the region.



Bowen Basin Coal Project Progresses

Progress continues on the \$1 billion Olive Downs mine proposal near Moranbah, as the Bowen Basin's existing coal mines await the return of rail transport post-Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Whilst in Moranbah to talk to local businesses about the potential impact of ex-TC Debbie, State Development Minister Dr Anthony Lynham said the rigorous environmental assessment process was underway for Pembroke Resources proposed coking coal mine.

Member for Mirani Jim Pearce said the best news for local communities was that Pembroke Resources would encourage workers to live in local towns like Nebo and Dysart.

When the open cut mine is up and running, it could maintain up to 960 operational jobs. It would operate for more than 30 years and produce up to 14 million tonnes per year.

"The resources sector is fundamental to jobs and business opportunities, particularly in our regional communities, and rigorous environmental processes are important to keeping this vital industry sustainable," Dr Lynham said.

"The draft terms of reference for the environmental impact assessment are now available for public comment.

"This is the first step in a rigorous process for this mine proposal that could create more than 500 construction jobs a year over two years.

"The Coordinator-General will consider all comments and release the final terms of reference for the environmental impact statement which the proponent will then be required to fully address."

The proposed mine would be midway between Moranbah and Dysart and includes an 18 kilometre rail spur to the Norwich Park Branch railway, a water pipeline connecting to the Eungella pipeline network, an electricity transmission line and access roads. The proposed mine is a coordinated project, which means the independent Coordinator-General efficiently coordinates the environmental assessment process across State and Federal agencies.

The draft terms of reference are available online and in local libraries. Submissions are open until 12 May 2017.

For more information visit the [State Development website](#).

Bowen basin gas pipeline gets green light

A proposed pipeline (PPL) connecting the resource-rich Bowen Basin and Gladstone is one step closer.

Arrow Energy's 428km Bowen Pipeline, which will deliver coal seam gas from the Bowen Basin fields near Moranbah to Gladstone, will receive its petroleum pipeline licence shortly.

The proposed Bowen Pipeline involves constructing a buried high-pressure steel pipeline to transport coal seam gas from the Bowen Basin to a gas hub 22km north-west of Gladstone.

If built, it's hoped it will help supply Gladstone's three Curtis Island LNG export plants, which are under scrutiny over a looming domestic gas shortage. DNRM confirmed the PPL was issued at the end of April, and the company is expecting official notice shortly.

The approval follows setbacks caused by “production challenges” in the Bowen Basin last year, which delayed both the Bowen Gas Project and the Arrow Bowen Pipeline.

“In the meantime, Arrow has continued to progress project planning and secondary approvals, which included applying for a petroleum pipeline licence and an Environmental Authority for the Arrow Bowen Pipeline,” an Arrow Energy spokesperson said.

Despite Moranbah being dubbed as having “resource rich” gas fields, the area isn’t connected to the southern gas market. For years Moranbah’s gas production has been piped to Townsville, but none is seen in Gladstone.

The pipeline and Bowen Gas Project are Arrow’s major gas proposals for Queensland, after in January 2015 the company confirmed it would not proceed with a stand-alone Arrow LNG plant on Curtis Island.

Anyone who has been approached by Arrow Energy or a land access representative is encouraged to speak with the AgForce CSG & Mining team to discuss. For more information on this story [click here](#).

Dr Lynham said the Coordinator-General was expected to release draft terms of reference for the environmental impact statement in March.

“I’d encourage people to get involved and make a contribution to the draft terms of reference when they are released next month.”

For more information visit the [State Development website](#).

What does this mean for landholders?

Any landholders whose properties are under or nearby this proposed development are encouraged to contact the CSG & Mining Team for information regarding this assessment process and their rights now and moving forward.

Landholders and community members will have the opportunity to raise questions, concerns and comments to the project once the study terms of reference are released as well as through the assessment and review process.

New wave of exploration in south-west Queensland

Two Australian-based companies, Bridgeport Energy and Metgasco, will explore for more petroleum and gas in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins in south-west Queensland.

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Dr Anthony Lynham said the exploration companies won the tenders to explore approximately 2,150 km² of the Basins.

“The Cooper Basin is a highly prospective region that has been supplying petroleum and gas to New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland for 50 years,” Dr Lynham said.

“Bridgeport Energy and Metgasco’s exploration activity will build on jobs and business opportunities that the Cooper Basin’s resources have already fuelled.

“Exploration is vital to ensure we have a strong resources sector that continues to generate royalties, support jobs and business opportunities for Queensland communities.”

Bridgeport Energy has accepted an offer of three areas covering about 1,250 km² and Metgasco has accepted two areas covering about 900 km², in an area bounded by Windorah, Betoota, Eromanga and the South Australian border.

The successful tenderers are expected to conduct seismic surveys and to drill between five and 10 wells once they are granted licences.

More than 75 per cent of Queensland’s portion of the Cooper Basin is currently covered by petroleum and gas exploration or production authorities. This has seen about 1,500 wells drilled, 103,000 km² of two-dimensional seismic and 7,500 km² of three-dimensional seismic investigation undertaken.



Queensland’s latest coal mine proposal - the \$1 billion Olive Downs mine near Moranbah - is a step closer after been given ‘coordinated project status’.

Minister for State Development Dr Anthony Lynham said the Coordinator-General could now efficiently coordinate the environmental assessment process for the Pembroke Resources coking coal mine across State and Federal agencies.

“This marks the beginning of a process, including comprehensive environmental impact assessment, towards the development” Dr Lynham said.

“When the open cut mine is up and running, it could maintain up to 960 operational jobs. It would operate for more than 30 years and produce up to 14 million tonnes per year”.

Fully developed, the complex 40 kilometres south east of Moranbah, will be one of the largest coking mines in the world.

The project includes:

- coal handling and crushing facilities at the mine’s Olive Downs South and Willunga precincts;
- a rail link to transport coal to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal; and
- a water pipeline and power transmission line.

Research Update



AgForce Projects recognises the value and importance that quality research into the potential impacts of CSG and mining brings to the discussion surrounding these industries as well as the interaction with agriculture and how it works to provide greater knowledge and informed debate. The CSG and Mining Project has been working with numerous research organisations including the University of Queensland Centre for CSG and CSIRO to bring this important and quality research to landholders as well as communities.

University of Queensland Update

UQ researchers have been investigating the impacts on farms and communities from CSG development, as you know. The results to date have interested and engaged landholders, community, government, and the CSG industry.

There is ongoing UQ research assessing changes in communities, and a hope to extend the investigation of factors that help small businesses in the Darling Downs to thrive - pending Commonwealth government funding. There is also a UQ student project developing a consistent and reliable way to measure dust deposition on fields.

Future research that benefits you? UQ would like to know your particular concerns. Get in touch by contacting our Mining and CSG team at csg@agforceprojects.org.au

CSIRO Update

"Queensland communities remain lukewarm about coal seam gas: CSIRO survey"

- Andrea Walton, Rod McCrea and Rosemary Leonard

How do people feel about coal seam gas (CSG) in the regions where the industry is active? In 2014 we surveyed residents in Queensland's Western Downs region, at the end of a major construction phase.

According to our new survey, now that the industry has started operating, Western Downs residents have maintained their moderate or lukewarm views on CSG. And even though overall community wellbeing has remained similar, some aspects declined and some improved.

There was no single community view on CSG, with 68% saying they either "tolerated" or "accepted" it. A minority (19%) "approved" or "embraced" CSG and a smaller minority (13%) "rejected" it. Even though most people have a moderate or lukewarm view on CSG development, the 2016 survey showed that on average there was a tendency towards more negative views than in 2014.

While around half of residents thought their communities were resisting or struggling to adapt to changes (51%), the other half (49%) thought their communities were "adapting to changes" or "changing into something different but better". This is similar to how residents perceived their communities back in 2014.

However, there were pockets across the region where considerable proportions of residents indicated that their community was "resisting" or "only just coping".

Nevertheless, residents' perceptions of their overall community wellbeing in the Western Downs region were favourable and remained relatively unchanged between 2014 and 2016. This meant that residents still thought that their community was a good place to live overall.

As in our 2014 survey, we conducted a telephone survey asking 400 people living in and around the towns of Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Tara about their attitudes to CSG, as well as their opinions on the wellbeing and resilience of their communities.

This time we surveyed 500 people as we also included 100 residents from the eastern Maranoa region for comparison, an area next to the Western Downs which has had CSG wells since the mid-1990s and has less intensively cropped farmland. It includes the towns of Roma, Injune, Surat and surrounding areas.

In both the 2014 and 2016 surveys people had mixed feelings about CSG development. However, attitudes tended to be slightly more negative in 2016 than in 2014.

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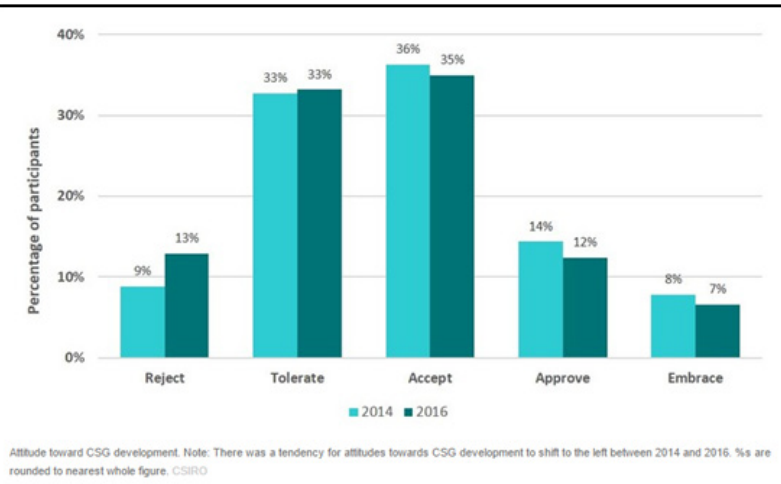
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In both the 2014 and 2016 surveys people had mixed feelings about CSG development. However, attitudes tended to be slightly more negative in 2016 than in 2014.

Residents' overall feelings about CSG development in the region - such as being angry, worried, pleased or optimistic - also became more negative in 2016. They declined from 3.0 out of 5 in 2014, which reflected a neutral feeling on average, to 2.8 (slightly negative on average) in 2016. However, more than 10% of residents had extremely negative feelings about CSG in both 2014 and 2016.

Research Update continued...

These differences probably reflect people's previous experiences and current situations, individual needs and wants, and personal world views and beliefs about gas development. They include perceptions of community functioning, environmental management, trust and fairness.



When asked about how they saw their communities responding to change, only half (49%) thought their communities were "adapting to changes" or "changing into something different but better", which is similar to how residents viewed their communities back in 2014.

Overall community wellbeing in the Western Downs was favourable. But wellbeing in the neighbouring eastern Maranoa was higher than in the Western Downs. This suggests that while overall community wellbeing in the Western Downs is robust, it can be improved.

For the full story from CSIRO and more information about this project visit [The Conversation](#).

Does CSG bring indirect jobs?

New CSIRO research has forecast job trends for industries which are indirectly affected by the Coal Seam Gas industry (CSG) in Queensland over the next twenty years. The research focused on the impact of several different operating scenarios of the CSG industry on indirect jobs, that is the jobs generated in sectors other than gas industry directly.

The research, which was conducted for the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA), looked forward into the CSG operations phase and the potential impacts on regional economies to better inform local businesses on how to respond.

Building on previous research about the CSG construction phase in the Western Downs in Queensland, this research modelled several scenarios and compared employment numbers prior to the construction phase, referencing the 2006 Census.

Across all scenarios there was a general upward jobs trend from 2014 to 2024, then a general downward trend from 2024 to 2034, as well as smaller oscillations along the way; however, in all scenarios the number of jobs in 2034 were still higher than the total number of jobs in the region in 2006.

Most jobs generated will be in construction, accommodation and food services, and other service industries such as mechanics and other repairers.

The research reviewed the effects of the CSG construction phase on small to medium business enterprises (SMEs). From this, CSIRO researchers have developed 10 lessons to help local SMEs prepare for the future in areas which may experience increased economic activity, including the small peaks and troughs.

An animation describing the trends in indirect jobs and lessons for SMEs has been produced as part of the GISERA-funded research. You can see the animation [here](#), and you can also read more about the economic assessment and forecasting project on the GISERA website www.gisera.org.au.

GISERA is a collaborative alliance established to undertake publicly-reported independent research addressing the socio-economic and environmental impacts of Australia's natural gas industries. The governance structure for GISERA is designed to provide for and protect research independence and transparency of funded research.

See www.gisera.org.au for more information about GISERA's governance, funding and research findings.

AgForce Projects supports sharing research

Research is critical to improving knowledge and understandings of the potential and observed impacts from CSG and mining towards agriculture and communities as well as identifying the interactions between these industries and presenting options to improve.

AgForce Projects supports quality research into the resources sector and its interactions with agriculture and regional communities and recognises the important contribution it makes to the debate.

In 2015 and 2016, AgForce Projects partnered with the University of Queensland Centre for CSG and CSIRO to present two research forums, Roma (August, 2015) and Chinchilla (December, 2016), to provide landholders and communities with up to date information on current and completed projects.

These forums provided attendees with the opportunity to share their experiences with CSG and mining directly with researchers and to present options for future research.

AgForce Projects believes it is important for landholders and regional communities to have direct access to this information and to be included in conversations about future research requirements and to have a say about how research findings are used to provide the most benefit to those directly affected by industry development.

AgForce Projects encourages landholders and communities to contact our project team if you would like to request a similar forum in your region. Follow these links below to view the presentations and summarised information from our [2015 Research Forum](#) and [2016 Research Forum](#).

AgForce Projects CSG team	(07) 3238 6048 csg@agforceprojects.org.au
CSG Compliance Unit	(07) 4529 1500 csg.enquiries@dnrm.qld.gov.au
Advance Western Downs	www.advancewesterndowns.com.au/major-projects.html#IBK
AgForce member contacts	3236 3100
Beyond Blue	1300 22 4636
Lifeline	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) 4542 7800 www.gasfieldscommissionqld.org.au/gasfields
MinesOnlineMaps	https://minesonlinemaps.business.qld.gov.au/
Mining Registrar contacts	http://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	http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/safety-and-health/petroleum-gas-safety.htm
Pollution reporting hotline	1300 130 372
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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