



Media Release

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TO: NEWS EDITOR

SCL marks a step in the right direction

The Basin Sustainability Alliance (BSA) welcomes the announcement today by Department of Natural Resources and Mines Minister Kate Jones on the Strategic Cropping Land (SCL) Protection Areas.

Chairman Ian Hayllor congratulates all parties that have been involved in the often difficult and visionary process.

“When you have two very important industries competing for the same land, conflicts are bound to arise and some strong leadership is needed by Government and competing industries to ensure a positive outcome for all parties,” he said.

“Queensland has vast deposits of coal and only limited areas of the prized SCL. The importance of this milestone announcement today cannot be understated and we hope will set a trend of long term planning of natural resource assets.”

Mr Hayllor said that developing legislation that sets out to protect the best cropping land from destruction, keeping it available to rural communities must be applauded.

“Rural communities and farmers now wait for the legislation to enact this policy so that the ever increasing challenges of world food demand can be met with confidence. Australia feeds up to 60 million people per year worldwide and needs to feed twice that number within 30 years. It would be viewed very poorly by our grandchildren if Queensland had squandered its ability to help feed the world,” he said.

BSA will continue to pressure Government and the coal seam gas (CSG) industry to adopt sustainable water and land management practices. Communities continue to hold grave concerns that the long term impacts of CSG extraction are not fully understood and demand Government adopt SCL type legislation to protect the Great Artesian Basin’s aquifers, sub artesian aquifers and the fertile farm and grazing lands of Queensland.

“The Government must invest in the science needed to develop a CSG industry that has minimal long term impacts. The SCL protection proves that if the commitment is made to the people of Queensland, it is possible to introduce legislation that protects Queensland’s valuable assets for future generations,” Mr Hayllor said.

ENDS

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