



9 December 2011

Senate report highlights concerns

The Senate Inquiry recently handed down its interim report on the impact of mining coal seam gas. BSA was pleased with the report as it highlighted the importance of agriculture and the uncertainty that exists around the potential for the CSG industry to cause long term damage to both land and water supplies. The Senate committee picked up on many issues raised by BSA over the last 18 months, particularly the importance of the Great Artesian Basin to rural areas, concerns about Adaptive Management, and the need for reviews of past land access agreements. [Read more >>](#)

Invitation to join the BSA committee

Are you passionate about preserving groundwater resources for future generations? Would you be interested in representing the concerns of landholders and rural communities, and working with government and industry, to achieve a CSG industry that has minimal adverse environmental, economic and social impacts and preserves groundwater resources for future generations? Then why not consider nominating for the BSA committee? If you're interested, and would like to find out more, [please contact Ian Hayllor or Anne Bridle.](#)

Land Access Review

The Government has appointed a panel, chaired by Dr David Watson, to review the land access law framework and its effectiveness. Submissions from stakeholders and industry are invited (**closing on 19th December**) and the panel is to provide a final report, including any recommendations to the Government, in February 2012. Nominated landholders and resource companies who have been directly affected by the framework and have gone through the Conduct and Compensation Agreement process will be consulted individually by the panel. If you'd like to find out more, contact the Land Access Review Secretariat directly at landaccessreview@deedi.qld.gov.au or email BSA secretary@basinsustainabilityalliance.org with your feedback on the current land access laws. Info about land access can be found [here >>](#)

Surat Basin Engagement Group meets

A Surat Basin Engagement Group (SBEG) meeting was held in Dalby on Thursday 1 December. BSA Chair Ian Hayllor said that the meeting had some good discussion around topics including fire safety and controlled burning (around CSG sites), land access review, social impacts and CSG companies' no smoking policies. The SBEG is a body that was formed in March this year to address issues surrounding the CSG industry. The committee, chaired by former AgForce Queensland president John Cotter, includes representatives from landholder groups, mining companies, environmental groups, Local and State Government and the Queensland Water Commission. If you'd like matters raised at the SBEG, please contact Ian Hayllor at chairman@basinsustainabilityalliance.org. The minutes from the SBEG meetings are available on the [BSA website](#).

Reinjection top of the list in water management policy

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) has developed draft amendments to the CSG Water Management Policy June 2010 which establishes aquifer injection as the first priority water management option for CSG water. BSA encourages members to review the policy and discussion paper and provide feedback before **23rd December**. If you'd like input into the BSA response to this policy please contact the secretary secretary@basinsustainabilityalliance.org or [read more here >>](#)

Independent research a step in the right direction

BSA applauds the recent announcement by the Commonwealth Government to fund an Independent Expert Scientific Committee to research and address concerns on CSG extraction. BSA Chairman Ian Hayllor said this was a positive step forward for ensuring the CSG industry does not come at the detriment to Australia's essential water and land resources. BSA, which represents the concerns of landholders and rural communities, has spent almost two years calling for science to lead the debate. "It's been a long time coming, but BSA is pleased to hear of plans for independent research. If carried out appropriately we hope to see the full environmental impacts on groundwater systems and agricultural land understood and addressed. There is potential for this to provide the missing link in regulations around the industry, ensuring that future policy decisions like environmental approvals and licencing decisions are backed with the best scientific information." [Read more about the announcement here >>](#)

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