



**25th January 2012**

## **Chairman's New Year message to members**

It was nice to welcome in the New Year without having to wear a life vest, wade through silt or look at water damaged crops. I think everyone has enjoyed a bit of CSG free time, but we are back into it now. Wayne and I recently met with the Land Access Review Panel and discussed our submission and answered their questions. The Panel has travelled throughout the Basin and met with a number of stakeholder groups and also with Peter Shannon and his team. We reinforced the need for a compensation review period, no increased liability on landholders and good planning by the resource company should not necessitate the need of the 20, 20, 10 day land court referral process to be implemented. It was also discussed that if companies were genuine in building relationships with landholders the legislation should set the minimum standard and companies should work at a level which is over and above legislated requirement.

DEEDI has made around \$20,000 available for a facilitator to help landholder groups on the Surat Basin CSG Engagement Group better identify the key issues of landholders that need to be addressed by Government and CSG companies over the next 12 months. The successful tender will be announced shortly.

Our next Surat Basin CSG Engagement Group meeting is on 2nd February in Brisbane. If anyone has an issue that needs addressing, please contact me. Also on the agenda is a National Farmers Federation (NFF) Mining and CSG Taskforce meeting in Sydney on 10th February and I have been asked to present at an AMP Capital CSG Forum in Sydney on 17th February.

I believe because of the tremendous effort from so many people over the last 12 months Government and CSG companies are starting to address many of the legitimate concerns being raised. We still have

a long way to go but we are making progress and hopefully within the next 12 months we will have CSG industry adopting the sustainability principles we desire.

Ian Hayllor - BSA Chairman

## **CSG companies seeking baseline data on water bores**

A number of CSG companies are actively seeking access to landholder's water bores in the Dalby area in order to conduct baseline bore assessments. Conducting such assessments is part of the company's statutory obligations. Landholders are advised to co-operate with a CSG company seeking baseline assessment on water bores as otherwise the company may be relieved from this obligation. Without appropriate baseline assessment on water bores, it may be difficult to establish a starting point from which to ascertain if there has been an adverse impact on a water bore from CSG activity in the future.

Section 395 of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* states that the Chief Executive is to make guidelines for the baseline assessments. The Baseline Assessment Guideline can be found on DERM's website and details the minimum requirements of the baseline, essential elements of the baseline and how the companies are to complete it. The guidelines appear reasonably robust however landowners need to consider whether they are satisfied with them and may want to get independent hydrogeological assessment of them and/or what may be appropriate for their circumstances. [View the DERM Baseline Assessment Guideline here>](#)

## **Land access review**

BSA recently released our Land Access Review Submission outlining our concerns about the land access framework. [View the submission here>](#) BSA has asked the CSG companies, in the interest of transparency and openness, to provide us with a copy of their Land Access Review submissions. So far we have received QGC's and Santos'. [View QGC submission here>](#) [View the Santos submission here>](#)

## **Best use CSG water policy draft**

Also newly issued was our draft policy for CSG Best Water Use which includes the importance of environmental sustainability of water and land resources and scientific studies before development. We ask all members for their feedback on this document. [View the draft policy here>](#)

## **BSA rep joins GISERA research advisory committee**

The Gas Industry Social & Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) is seeking to undertake research into the social and environmental challenges and opportunities arising from coal seam gas developments, and to make the results of that research freely publicly available. GISERA, which is an alliance between CSIRO and APLNG, invited BSA to nominate a representative to join its research advisory committee. BSA Vice Chair Anne Bridle has been nominated to this position. The Research Advisory Committee will play a critical role in constructing GISERA's portfolio of research. In particular, the advisory committee will work with the Alliance Director and advise GISERA's Management Committee on technical issues and science directions and gaps. [Find out more about GISERA here>](#)

## **Free business seminar for farmers**

Farmers will be able to tap into the local experience of finance and employment experts at BMO at a new complimentary business series called *The Farmer Wants a Life*, aimed at helping farmers find balance in

today's hectic world, to be held at five locations throughout the Darling Downs in February. The seminar series will deliver advice, information and practical ideas to assist primary production, agribusiness and rural-based businesses to get on top of their finances, succession planning, retirement planning, and obligations as employers. For more information please [visit the website here>](#)

## **BSA committee meeting**

BSA committee is meeting next Wednesday (1st Feb) at the BMO Business Centre in Dalby. If you have any matters you'd like raised at the meeting please email [meganj@bmo.com.au](mailto:meganj@bmo.com.au).

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