



AgForce Projects Media release: 29 August 2011



## Farmers empowered by AgForce CSG sessions

As coal seam gas (CSG) development in the Surat Basin accelerates, AgForce Projects will arm landholders with greater negotiating power at free CSG information sessions in Warwick, Inglewood and Talwood on 6-8 September.

AgForce Projects CSG project manager Kate Dunn said the sessions will cover farmers' rights and responsibilities under current legislation, tips on negotiating an effective conduct and compensation agreement (CCA) with a CSG company and how to monitor and record the impacts of CSG activity.

Despite AgForce's continued calls for government to restrict CSG operations until the industry's cumulative impacts are known, Ms Dunn said landholders need to understand they do have rights under the current legislation and should exercise these rights in order to secure a fair deal.

"There is the potential for this industry to have massive impacts, both short and long term, so landholders need to be armed with the tools and resources to prepare themselves for any future negotiations with resource companies," Ms Dunn said.

"Recent amendments to the Land Access Code give landholders more rights when negotiating with a CSG company, which includes having a say in where CSG companies can go on their land and how they conduct themselves.

"By negotiating an effective CCA, landholders can put in place some checks and balances so that the impacts on their business are minimal," Ms Dunn said.

More than 900 Queensland producers have attended one of AgForce Projects CSG sessions held in the Surat Basin since March.

Cattle producer Rae Webster said she no longer feels anxious about the prospect of CSG exploration on her property since attending a session in Goondiwindi earlier this year.

"For a long time I had been very nervous about CSG and had just hoped they wouldn't come; but after attending the CSG information session I feel better prepared for their arrival," Mrs Webster said.

"I now feel informed about CSG production and the importance of seeking legal and professional assistance to negotiate the best outcome to mitigate the effects of CSG on our property."

Upcoming CSG landholder information sessions include; Inglewood - 7 September, Talwood - 8 September, Morven - 13 September, Cunnamulla - 14 September, Charleville - 15 September, Roma - 27 September, Moonie - 28 September, Goondiwindi - 29 September, Nindigully - 11 October, Thallon - 12 October, Mungindi - 13 October.

Sessions are delivered free to all producers through AgForward, an initiative of AgForce within its project division, funded by the Queensland Government.

Producers wishing to attend a free information session can call (07) 3238 6048 or visit [www.agforward.org.au/calendar .htm](http://www.agforward.org.au/calendar.htm)

**For comment call Sue Dillon on (07) 3236 3100 or 0417 760 481 or Kate Dunn on (07) 3238 6043 or 0429 123 099.**

**Media contact: AgForce Projects Communications Officer Madeline Cooper (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091**