

Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 15
Submitted by: Ian Hayllor
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:

Subsidence Management Plan

- Must be a simple but effective process to identify, rehabilitate and compensate farmers for economic losses.

All landholders must be protected from economic impacts not just farmers with wells on their properties.

- Must be science and accurate data based, not emotions and unproven claims.

Professional farmer generally have years of accurate data from their GPS yield monitoring equipment and in many cases elevation data.

Economic impacts should be readily identified from this data.

- The Bore Makegood process has proven to be very successful in identifying and managing impacted bores... baseline assessment, monitoring plan, impacts proven, replacement water supply funded by Gas Company.

Bore makegood has a proven history of working, and I would suggest that loss of access to water has a much greater economic impact on a farming business than minor subsidence.

Makegood works, it is science and information based, relatively simple, not open for abuse and accepted by Landholders throughout the Surat Basin.

- OGIA identify at risk areas and landholders contacted by OGIA and Gas Company

OGIA and CSG Companies have collected data for a number of years, this provides the baseline assessment that is needed before any agreement can be made with landholders.

- A standard contract signed by Farmer and Gas Company.

Process needs to be as simple as possible, an agreement to compensate for impact if proven by independent professional person with expertise in loss adjusting area.

- Crop hail Insurance scheme

Something simple like the widely used hail insurance scheme, farmers have a contract with an insurance company to compensate for loss from hail damage. The impacted crop is assessed by a qualified assessor using an industry accepted process and a compensation offer is made.

Sometimes the crop is written off and other times the crop is grown for the remainder of the season and any shortfall in yield is compensated.

- Our experience with subsidence, No visual or cropping impacts, only identified by OGIA Lidar data.

Gas wells have been on our neighbours farms for 7 or 8 years and our land closest to the wells has subsided 7 cm, and reduces to no impact 2 to 3 kms away.

Many farm practices have a greater impact on surface levels, one way ploughs use for many years caused 2-300mm banks around the perimeter of the fields and 100 – 150mm depressions in the centre of the fields. Can still be seen in satellite photos today.

Wheel tracks are changing the direction water flows across the flood plain due to change in elevation from compaction and soil movement.

- Subsidence as predicted by OGIA Model, area wide drop, rather than melon hole appearing on surface.

This is our experience, and from what I understand it because the subsidence is more pressure related rather than water extraction related.

- Ex Government Hydrologist believes Condamine Alluvium extraction a great risk of subsidence.

There are numerous report from Australia and around the world that extracting ground water can lead to subsidence.

Ground water users are doing the thing as the Gas Companies, so as a ground water user I understand there is potential to cause subsidence from my ground water extraction.

- Anti Gas landholder must not have ability to delay or stop development or spread untruths about subsidence. (where is their independent data)

The Subsidence Management Plan must not give anti gas landholders the power to hold up development. The CSG industry has provided numerous job opportunities in the area of operation. Roads and intersections have been upgraded and cooperating farmers now have guaranteed income for the first time in their farming lives.

The Qld Government has received millions of dollars of much needed funding from the CSG industry.

I am happy to say that our business is more sustainable & profitable because of the gas industry and the financial security it brings.

- Not aware of any cooperating farmers who have identified subsidence on their farm, OGIA data identified changes. No reports of economic impacts.

I've spoke to a number of farmers from across the Surat Basin who farm very flat land and have CSG development on their property for a number of years, none report any financial impacts from subsidence.

- Need to understand how Land Court could be involved in Governments Subsidence Plan.(what would the Land Court rule on?)
- **Take away message**

Make the Subsidence Management Plan Legislation,

A simple, independent science based process that can easily identify negative economic impacts and address them to the satisfaction of the farmer.

Grey areas cause, uncertainty, wastes time and creates stress.