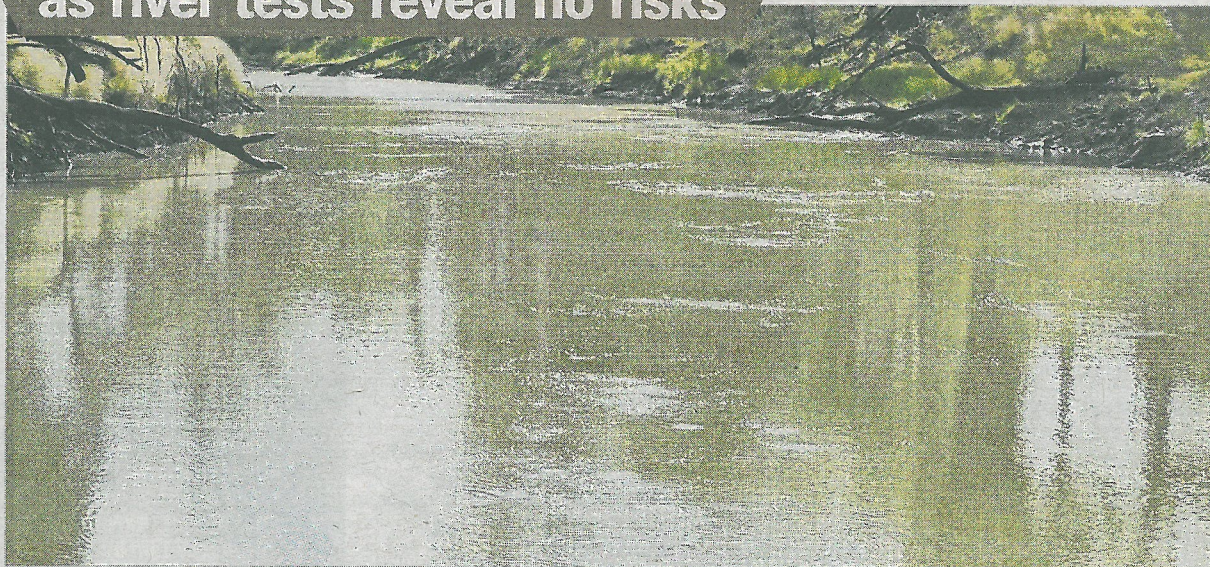


## Coal seam gas industry still under scrutiny as river tests reveal no risks



**LEFT:** An investigation report into the gas leaks bubbling up in the Condamine River found they were not caused by nearby coal seam gas operations. **ABOVE:** Natural Resources Minister Andrew Cripps has given the area a clean bill of health, but producers aren't convinced.

PHOTO: AAP

# Alliance keeping watch

**BSA looks forward to ... follow-up studies.**

BSA chairman  
David Hamilton

**Daniel Burdon**  
APN Newsdesk

PRIMARY producers on the Darling Downs remain unsure whether gas leaks bubbling up through the Condamine River are not due to nearby coal seam gas operations.

The gas bubbles were first recorded last year, with environmentalists and some farmers worried the bubbles could be associated with CSG operations.

But an investigation report, released by the Natural Resources Minister Andrew Cripps on Monday, gave the area a clean bill of health.

Mr Cripps said the Condamine River Gas Seep Investigation Report had confirmed the leaks posed no risk to environmental or human health.

"My department has mapped along 60km of the Condamine River downstream from Chinchilla Weir, as well as 10km of the Charley's Creek tributary. Gas safety testing of four gas seeps and adjacent properties at key sites has also been conducted," Mr Cripps said.

"The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has also conducted water and soil sampling at targeted seep and background sites along the river.

"Analysis of these results has, to date, found no evidence of gas safety or water quality risks to the community from the gas seeps or any evidence of environmental harm."

But Basin Sustainability Alliance chairman David Hamilton said while he welcomed the investigation, the government had still not identified the

definite cause of the leaks, and whether it was related to CSG.

"BSA looks forward to further announcements as to the cause of the problem and whether or not remedies need to be put in place, along with follow-up studies, which will determine if these higher levels of methane are as a result of CSG activities," Mr Hamilton said.

"If it is established that CSG activities in the region are the cause of these methane leaks, the CSG industry will need to demonstrate how it intends to eliminate or manage methane leakage into the environment."

Mr Cripps said the gas that had been found during the investigation was "predominantly methane", consistent with natural gas originating from the Surat Basin below the surface.