

# Contact is key to problems

## Be empowered, landholders told

LANDHOLDERS concerned about coal seam gas development were told to keep in close contact with the CSG Compliance Unit and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to ensure their voice continues to be heard, at the Basin Sustainability Alliance meeting in Dalby on Wednesday afternoon.

More than 50 people from across Western Downs, Toowoomba, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, along with Gasfields Commissioners, Ian Hayllor and Ray Brown, attended the meeting.

Guest speakers, David Free, senior hydrologist with the government's CSG Compliance Unit, and Anne Lenz executive director with the DEHP, encouraged landholders to contact the

department with their queries and questions rather than sitting back worrying about issues.

Chair David Hamilton said he appreciated the openness of the guest speakers and their willingness to listen to legitimate concerns being raised by BSA and its members.

"Ms Lenz told our members that if we don't communicate regularly with government then we risk allowing government to only hear a one-sided view of the industry from the perspective of the CSG companies," Mr Hamilton said.

At the meeting Mr Hamilton took the opportunity to unveil BSA's proposed new initiative called "CSG Watch" that

would see landholders band together to solve problems associated with the CSG industry locally.

"CSG Watch will empower landholders to keep a watchful eye on CSG issues and assist BSA to look for trends, common concerns and cumulative impacts so we can effectively and credibly communicate with the Gasfields Commission and the CSG Compliance Unit," he said.

"We want to be very clear that this is not about spying or hidden cameras, it's about empowering local groups to help solve problems."

**DON'T WORRY: Shine Lawyers' Peter Shannon speaks at the BSA meeting in Dalby last week.**

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

