

## Smear on water drillers

WITH regard to the asbestos being found in drilling mud, I find it very disappointing and irresponsible that Mayor Ray Brown finds a need to place the water drilling industry under the same umbrella as the CSG drilling industry with his statement "the same mud is used in many water bore drills".

The drilling mud additive in question is NUTPLUG, consisting of mainly ground walnut shells used in the drilling process to stop lost circulation.

This is where the mud is lost to porous formations.

While this product and others similar are freely available to all in the drilling industry, it is not favoured by most water drillers as they tend to block the aquifers and make it difficult to develop a bore to its full potential.



Ian  
Hansen

Could Mr Brown, as Mayor of the Western Downs and also a GasFields commissioner, please explain why CSG water isn't being used?

I have been drilling water bores within the artesian basin of Queensland for more than 36 years and have never had the need to use these products in any of the formations within the Great Artesian Basin.

Also with current restrictions on town water supplies after major flooding in the recent past, and a moratorium stopping townspeople drilling bores to supply their own water, people are becoming increasingly frustrated watching millions of litres of precious groundwater from CSG production being wasted

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in evaporation ponds.

This is after the original big sales pitch by the CSG industry that there would be abundant water for industry, urban and some agriculture needs.

With Origin applying for 100ML of allocation a year from the Huttons to supply their power station and Miles being granted 800ML a year from the Precipice sandstone, would it not be more beneficial to first utilise the CSG water rather than placing only more pressure on our ground water supplies?

Could Mr Brown, as Mayor of the Western Downs and also a GasFields commissioner, please explain why CSG water isn't being used?

Is it because of CSG companies demanding cheaper options; is it because the quality of the water can't be guaranteed or is it because consistent volumes can't be supplied?

Why is it necessary for the CSG drilling industry to use lost circulation products, such as NUTPLUG, when water drillers have been able to construct water bores in these same formations without it.

I find it very disappointing that Mayor Ray Brown sees the need to try to involve the water drilling industry in this issue.

Ian Hansen,  
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