

Record number of land agreements signed between gas companies and Queensland farmers

New natural gas industry data released today shows that natural gas development is underpinning Queensland's economy while simultaneously in NSW vital gas development has almost reached a standstill, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association said today.

Queensland landholders are saying yes to natural gas development in big numbers having signed more than 4500 land access agreements with gas companies since 2011.

The industry data to the end of 2013, shows 4516 agreements have been signed in Queensland where almost \$70 billion worth of coal seam gas/liquefied natural gas projects are progressing towards completion, with the first LNG tanker likely to leave Queensland shores by year's end.

APPEA Chief Operating Officer Eastern Australia, Paul Fennelly said: "Queensland landholders have been signing agreements at a rate of 2.8 a day over the last year and there have been no formal land access disputes to date.

"We recognise negotiating such agreements can be a daunting experience for landholders but communicating early and often can lead to compromise and mutually beneficial arrangements between gas companies and landholders.

"Such achievement reflects hard work undertaken in good faith between companies, the state government, local councils, farmers, Ag Force, the Queensland Gasfields Commission and local community reference groups.

"Queensland has set a benchmark other eastern Australian states

must match if they are to address supply shortfalls by safely exploring and producing local natural gas resources.

“NSW in particular should be looking and learning from the Queensland experience.”

In Queensland more than 40,000 people, direct employees and contractors, were working in the industry as at the end of 2013. The number of direct jobs has dropped from 7068 in June 2013 to 6821.

Mr Fennelly said: “Industry remains a significant employer in Queensland but we can expect to see jobs taper off over time as projects move from construction to operation.

“There remains enormous potential for the state, through an appropriate regulatory framework, to attract further resource investment in exploration and production.”

Since 2011, the natural gas industry in Queensland contributed almost \$124 million to community projects from funding for aeromedical media rescue services to new equipment for local hospitals.



Natural Gas Industry Statistics Q4 2013

No of Employees

Direct Employees



201

Contractors



57

Total Employees



258

Community Contributions

\$124 m

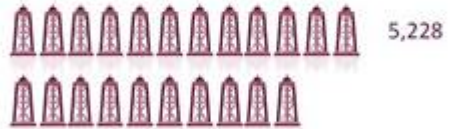
\$1 m

Land Access Agreements



285

Wells



232

Community Consultation Events

1803

775

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