

# Media Release

14<sup>th</sup> September 2012

## Setting the record straight on landholder rights

The Flinders Land Access Advisory Board today rejected claims that new laws have reduced landholders' rights specifically in relation to Coal Seam Gas (**CSG**) projects.

Contrary to a recent article in Beef Central on 6 September 2012 that the recent law change 'strips occupiers of rights', the changes have only brought the definition of occupier into line with other legislation and have not reduced any rights.

Mr Angus Adnam, Managing Director of AAA Livestock Services Pty Ltd and Chairman of the Flinders Land Access Advisory Board said that he is disappointed with the scaremongering in relation to CSG.

Barrister Mr Allan Lonergan, a member of the Land Access Advisory Board, confirms that occupier's rights to compensation have not changed despite recent changes to the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 (P&G Act)*.

"The definition of an occupier in the Act includes a person who owns the land, is the registered lessee or a person given the right to occupy by the owner or lessee. "

This does in fact mean the rights and entitlements of all occupiers are protected, contrary to what Mr Shannon of Shannon Donaldson Province Lawyers said in the article on 6 September.

Mr Adnam said CSG is already benefiting Queenslanders and the continued pressure by uninformed individuals could negatively affect the growth of an industry that is an important part of Queensland's economic future.

"The definition of an occupier in the P&G Act has not changed in any real sense, any person or company occupying the land given that right by the owner or lessee is covered by the second part of the definition," Mr Adnam confirmed.

Mr Lonergan says landholders concerned about compensation should seek further clarification from their lawyer.

The Flinders Land Access Advisory Board was formed to help create an industry of land access professionals and provide a platform for the development of policy to improve the coal seam gas industry.

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