

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Risks of coal seam gas water to be investigated

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) has welcomed recent confirmation that a Queensland Government working group had been formed to investigate the use of water extracted from coal seam gas fields.

“We were relieved to hear that this issue is finally being looked into,” said QMDC CEO, Geoff Penton, yesterday.

QMDC said that it had been contacted by concerned landholders worried about the potential for salt impacts on the land and soils.

“We were already concerned about suggestions from gas mining companies regarding the use of water extracted from the gas fields as a resource, because coal seam gas water may have a very nasty side to it,” said Geoff.

Given the high salt concentrations found in water that is extracted with coal seam gas, Geoff said that the risks to soil and water quality could also be high.

“There are some options within the region to use gas extracted water for irrigation, town supplies and to augment environmental flows. This could be great news, but the potential contamination issues need to be carefully investigated and managed,” he said.

“If extracted water is used in untested ways, or is not stored appropriately, we could end up with wide reaching salt scalds, permanently damaged soils, salt runoff into rivers and creeks, and damage to underground aquifers.”

“We’re hoping that this new working group will carefully investigate a range of options to reduce the risks of coal seam gas water, including restrictions for use, guidelines for lining storage facilities, and the long-term goal of reducing the need to extract water with the gas, leaving this contaminated water where it belongs, underground.”

**ENDS**

### Media contact/s

**Written and released by:** Amelia Radford, Communication Officer, QMDC, 07 4637 6234

**More information:** Geoff Penton, CEO, QMDC, 0408 871 978

### Image



Salt residue from coal seam gas water storage facilities... natural resource management groups are calling for careful investigation before governments and mining companies begin using this water for irrigation, town supplies and environmental flows.

Contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234, or [ameliar@qmdc.org.au](mailto:ameliar@qmdc.org.au), for electronic copies of this image.