



## AgForce brings big issues to grass roots

Natural disaster, Coal Seam Gas and industry best practice are all on the agenda this week as AgForce president Brent Finlay visits producers at regional meetings in Central and North Queensland.

Mr Finlay said his first stop this week was the AgForce Central Queensland regional meeting at Nebo Shire Hall, where more than 60 members and guests heard from AgForce representatives and industry on a range of industry issues.

“Mineral and resource exploration and extraction are big issues in Central Queensland, and AgForce policy director Drew Wagner was on hand to help producers understand their rights and to explain AgForce’s policy position on the juggernaut industry that is coal seam gas,” Mr Finlay said.

“Vice president/treasurer Chris Rolfe and AgForce Cattle and Grains representatives also attended to discuss a wide range of issues from government legislation to industry outlook.

“AgForce also ensures members have access to representatives from other organisations and from government, and invited Tony Robison from the Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy to give an update on the National Broadband Network.”

Mr Finlay and other AgForce representatives will also meet AgForce members in Proserpine on Wednesday 13 April where the impact of natural disaster, Wild Rivers and vegetation management will be hot topics.

“AgForce leads the way to ensure members to understand the unique issues that impact them and their businesses across Queensland and as part of this we run regional meetings to ensure producers have local access to information and industry leaders.

“AgForce disaster coordinator Noel Brinsmead will speak to producers about what assistance is available to producers who are recovering after Cyclone Yasi, and recap on the AgForce ‘On The Road To Rebuilding’ tour that travelled through north Queensland in late March.

“Recovering fully from disaster must also include consideration about how you can improve your business and change your business practices to become a more efficient and sustainable enterprise.

“AgForce Training Kate Scott will talk to producers about what training is available to help them and their employees boost their skills, and AgForce Projects Marie Vitelli will speak to grains growers about how to improve productivity by using the Grains Best Management Practice initiative.”

AgForce invites all producers to come along to the AgForce North Regional meeting in Proserpine on Wednesday 13 April. To find out more, call AgForce North regional managers Tahna Jackson on 0408 786 057 or John Hardaker on 0488 002 038.

**For comment, contact Brent Finlay on 0414 415 361.**

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