

Make good agreements for bore owners



Protection for bore owners

Resource companies are required to take a number of steps to ensure water bore owners are not disadvantaged by their operations.

All authorised private bores within the immediately affected area of gas operations are assessed by the company to determine if their activities have impaired the capacity of the bores, or are likely to impair the capacity in future.

A **make good agreement** is then negotiated between the resource company and bore owner, which outlines:

- outcomes of the bore assessment
- any planned actions for the company to periodically monitor the bore
- measures to address any reduction in bore performance that occurs as a result of the company's activities.



Make good measures may include:

- **reconditioning the bore**
- **deepening the bore**
- **replacing parts or the whole bore**
- **drilling a new bore**
- **providing an alternative water supply**
- **compensation.**

Bore capacity

Underground gas resources are harnessed through the extraction of groundwater. This can potentially lower underground water levels and impair the capacity of bores.

Make good measures must be undertaken if your water bore has impaired capacity as a result of resource company activities.

Impaired capacity is recognised if your water bore shows:

- a decline in **water level**, where the bore is no longer supplying a reasonable amount of water for its purpose
- **free gas** emerging through the bore, which is causing damage to the bore's pumps or other infrastructure, health or safety concerns, or declines in the amount of water being supplied.



Tips for success

1. Get advice

Seek appropriate professional advice when considering a make good agreement. The resource company is required to compensate you for reasonable accounting, hydrogeological, legal or valuation costs associated with a make good agreement.

2. Provide alternatives

Suggest alternative make good measures other than those proposed by the resource company if you believe there is a better solution.

3. Think long-term

Consider the long-term implications of proposed make good measures, especially if you're considering monetary compensation instead of new water supply.

4. Do your own monitoring

Learn how to measure groundwater levels in your own bore to become aware of water level patterns and identify any bore capacity or maintenance issues. The Queensland Government's [Groundwater Net](#) program can teach you how.

For more information:

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