

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Dalby Town Council & Arrow Energy

27th July 2005



Research Begins on Future Water Source

Dalby Town Council's water treatment team are again at the forefront of regional water initiatives, this week unveiling the small-scale desalination plant designed to treat by-water produced during the extraction of coal seam gas by Arrow Energy.

The research project is being conducted in partnership with Arrow Energy at their Tipton West gas fields, 20km south west of Dalby, where under an EPA licence the by-water is currently left to evaporate.

"By-water is rich in minerals and is suitable within limits only for livestock. Untreated by-water is unsuitable for domestic or irrigation use and unsafe to release into the environment. There are obvious benefits all round if by-water can be successfully treated," said Council's Utilities Manager Terry Fagg.

"If the plant is successful and the process proves to be economical, Council will further investigate coal seam gas by-water as a future source for Dalby's town water supply.

"However by-water like all water resources is finite. So whether or not this project becomes a reality we still need to consider the scarcity of our water resource and use it wisely," said Mr Fagg.

Arrow Energy's Environmental and Land Manager Ralph Gunness said that with the entire region facing a water deficit, the prospect of easing the strain on some of our existing water resources is an environmental plus.

"Sourcing coal seam gas by-water instead of current methods sourcing water from the upper aquifer would mean being able to spell the upper aquifer.

"At the same time, not having to draw from overland flows would see the recharging of some riverine systems," said Mr Gunness.

Council will invest \$30,000 over the term of the project, providing the pilot plant and water expertise. Arrow Energy will provide the by-water and up to \$10,000 assistance with on-site services such as power and access.

Testing at the pilot plant will continue until the end of the year to determine the feasibility of desalinating coal seam gas by-water for town water supply.

-Ends-

Media Contact

Dalby Town Council Spokesperson Utility Services
Dalby Town Council Utilities Manager
Arrow Energy Environmental and Land Manager

Cr Barry O'Shea	07 4662 3396
Mr Terry Fagg	0417 615 876
Mr Ralph Gunness	07 3303 0650

Photo Opportunity: 11.30am - Thursday July 28 at Tipton West Gas Field. Transport available from Dalby Town Council, departing 10.30am.