

RTI Application 15-006

Documents containing information about:

- (a) the number of coal seam gas wells in state forests and/or parks;
- (b) the number of coal seam gas wells in state forests and/or parks approved but not yet commenced at time of this application;
- (c) the location of such wells;
- (d) the total area of state forest and/or parks cleared for such wells;
- (e) general information regarding the potential impact of coal seam gas wells on state forest and/or parks; and
- (f) general information regarding the requirements for rehabilitation in relation to coal seam gas wells in state forest and/or parks.

Time period: 12 May 2011 to 12 May 2015

Response:

a) The number of coal seam gas wells in state forests and/or parks;

State Forests -

- 632 gas wells are located, or have been approved to be located, on State forests.
- Of these, 505 wells were approved in the period between May 2011 and May 2015.

National Parks, and Regional Parks (general use areas) -

- The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (section 27) prohibits mining (including petroleum and gas exploration and production) on national parks, and on 'general use areas' of regional parks.

Regional Park (resource use areas) -

- Petroleum and gas exploration and production activities can be allowed on areas of regional parks that are declared as 'resource use areas' (formerly known as resources reserves).
- However there are no wells currently located, or approved for construction, on 'resource use areas'.

b) The number of coal seam gas wells in state forests and/or parks approved but not yet commenced at time of this application;

- See response for (a) above. The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR) does not collect information about which wells are approved but not yet commenced.

c) the location of such wells;

State forests -

- The wells are located in south western Queensland on the following State Forests:
 - Beilba State Forest;
 - Boondandilla State Forest;
 - Braemar State Forest;
 - Condamine State Forest;
 - Daandine State Forest;
 - Dunmore State Forest;
 - Forrest State Forest;
 - Hallett State Forest;
 - Hinchley State Forest;
 - Kumbarilla State Forest;
 - Waterton State Forest, and;
 - Western Creek State Forest.

- The specific locations of these wells are available publicly through a number of free applications including
 - Queensland Globe (plugin to Google Earth) (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/support-tools-grants/services/mapping-data-imagery/queensland-globe>);
 - MinesOnlineMaps (<https://minesonlinemaps.business.qld.gov.au/>); and
 - the Resources Queensland Mobile App (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/mining/mining-online-services/resources-queensland-app>)

National Parks and Regional Parks -

- N/A

d) the total area of state forest and/or parks cleared for such wells;

State forests -

Queensland has 409 State Forests covering a total of 3,110,311 hectares.

- 650 hectares of State Forest have either been cleared, or are approved to be cleared, for coal seam gas wells only.
- Of this, 515 hectares of clearing was approved between May 2011 and May 2015.
- The total area of State Forest either cleared, or approved to be cleared, for all coal seam gas infra-structure (pipelines, access tracks and coal seam gas wells) is about 2,008 hectares.
- Of this, 1,726 hectares of clearing was approved between May 2011 and May 2015.

National parks and regional parks –

- Nil

e) general information regarding the potential impact of coal seam gas wells on state forest and/or parks; and

State Forests -

The potential impacts of coal seam gas wells on State Forests include:

- cumulative ecological degradation through clearing, land disturbance and fragmentation;
- loss of State-owned commercial timber;
- increasing the demand for State-owned quarry material (i.e. for access track construction);
- adverse implications for management activities such as fire and pest programs, and timber harvesting;
- a reduction in resource availability or land access for existing forest users and authority holders (for example: graziers, apiarists, and electricity and telecommunication providers), and;
- loss of opportunities for alternative land uses (including tourism and recreation) for the duration of the coal seam gas activities.

National parks and regional parks –

- N/a

f) general information regarding the requirements for rehabilitation in relation to coal seam gas wells in state forest and/or parks.

- Remediation and rehabilitation requirements for coal seam gas activities are addressed in Environmental Authorities issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.