BJD’s red herring

QUEENSLAND’s chief biosecurity officer, Jim Thompson, provides no evidence for the claim that BJD’s ‘greatest impact is on access to BJD-susceptible markets in Australia and overseas’ (GCL 6-2-14). That’s because there is little basis to this claim. Later in the article Mr Thompson says: “the maintenance of the protected zone status is necessary for ongoing exports to BJD-susceptible markets, including Indonesia”, Indonesia is also sensitive to 11 other diseases, one of which are present on most Queensland farms – e.g. pestivirus. So media repetition of BJD-sensitive markets that singles out BJD as a special case is clear sign of misinformation. These other diseases are managed on-farm and do not result in a protected zone. If BJD was in Queensland it was a BJD management area and not a protected zone status, all current practices that Queensland producers could send cattle to Indonesia. Being only suspect means they have no confirmed infection and clearly comply with Indonesia’s requirement that their property “co has been free from clinical evidence of Johne’s disease, which officially reported during the five years prior to shipment”, quoting from the Indonesian list of import requirements. Only five properties of the 15,000 beef properties in Queensland currently do not meet this requirement. This is why Queensland (DAFF recently released a report titled ‘Summary of factors and costs currently could not meet this requirement. Queensland government has given irrevocable consent to the process to ensure the land and water resource and negotiate commercial compensation for the necessary regulations, you can live in the landscape, recarbonise the soil and plant trees as a wide range of grazing situations and soil types. Mr Lauder has not dismissed the holistic management of farms or the support the government has given education relating to basic farming techniques, but is trying to say that when producers understand the concept of carbon flows, current extension services becomes easier to understand. He says that it is following the path of carbon that makes it easier to understand the landscape functions, and in turn, easier to manage resources sustainably and profitably. It is rightly suggesting that these concepts are missing from current extension and general programs, and would promote good practice and the goal – best practice. encourage the decision-makers in both

I will not buckle to mining

DESPITE Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney’s urging that Powerlink Queensland requires a social licence to operate, mine policy changes and attitudes in regards to negotiating accommodation. Despite the fact that they have done the full court and are back at the start. Landholders request change almost 12 months ago for resource under the Allocation of Land Act 1967, which has not been granted with locals’ resources boom. The ALA 1967 is allowing the coal seam gas companies to on their hands and say we are merely consultant Powerlink. This infrastructure is not advancing the act’s purpose under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, and ensuring accountable consultation occurs or seeks to provide for equity between present and future generations in agriculture. Fast-tracking the resources sector may be a Queensland government priority, but to fulfill the four pillars of the economy, a more fair and equitable outcome is needed for rural Queenslanders and the productivity of their properties. ‘Co-existence’ and ‘social licence’ have little meaning for agriculture at the moment between the Regional Planning Interests Bill, Queensland Resources Council’s Michael Roche in a memorandum recently said: “The current evaluation for resource development of all things the family, housing etc provided an annual opportunity for neighbours to object to your house because they don’t like the way it looks. QGC is then quoted as saying: “Who would you build your house and invest your family’s funds in Queensland, or would you go live in another state where you have certainty that as long as you meet all the necessary regulations, you can live in the house, observing the laws, for decades to come.”

The trouble is that resource development, so flippantly called the ‘family home’, actually cannot exist on our homes. We liken the resources sector and Powerlink to having a skinny kiss in our back yard compared to having a large industrial site and never knowing who or what will be there next. Landholders must have the right to object and negotiate commercial compensation for the 88-year life of the projects. – Kerry Lauder, Bundah, Yalata.

Landholders at risk

DENYING Mr Seeney is trying to hoodwink Queenslanders into believing he is standing up to the mining industry to protect landholders. The government’s proposed Regional Planning Interests Bill does nothing to protect landholders, and Queensland’s best agricultural land will continue to be overrun by mining. Jeff Seeney thinks he can simply say ‘no’ and think nothing of it. That thinking is to protect them and their livelihoods, but then be completely oblivious to the reality. The reality is the LNP is continuing to allow open cut coal mining and large coal mines wanting to open-cut some of the best farming lands. The rush to pass this bill, the government is ignoring the fact that they haven’t finished mapping the ‘priority agricultural areas’ and that there are 2 million hectares that will not be incorporated. To be surprised FM Seeney or anyone in his government read any of the landholders’ letters or reports on mining impacts. The rush to pass this bill means the ramifications of this bill – Drew Hutton, national president, Lock the Gate.

Santos takes water responsibility seriously

In regards to the article ‘Narribri probe uncovers CSG contamination’ (GCL, 13-3-14), I would like to set the facts regarding groundwater. A pond that is being decommissioned at our operations near Narribri in NSW. Santos has long been aware of the facts that certain facilities constructed by the previous owner did not meet our high operating standards. After we took over the Narribri operations and became aware of the issues, we immediately worked to shut down the water-treatment facilities and promptly installed monitoring wells. Last year we carried out detailed levels of trace elements in localised groundwater underneath a held pond constructed by the previous owner. We proactively reported this finding to the NSW government and the local council, and Santos is currently working with the NSW government to reflect the minimal environmental impact, Santos’ responsible reporting and the remedial actions we are undertaking. The facts are: - The elevated elements in the water under the pond are naturally occurring.