

1 November 2011

## **Tara seismic program completed**

QGC has successfully completed a seismic survey north of Tara near the Wieambilla rural estates.

Seismic surveys have been used around the world for decades to get pictures of geological formations deep beneath the earth's surface without having to drill holes.

They work by bouncing sound waves off different rock layers beneath the earth's surface to identify particular formations, including coal seams.

The reflected vibrations are picked up by microphones on the surface and recorded on a computer.

The data are used to create images of the earth's structure so geophysicists can identify coal seams and decide the best locations for wells and so minimise land disturbance.

Some local residents were concerned that the survey might damage nearby pipelines or affect a wetland on Mary Road near the Wieambilla rural estates.

QGC and the seismic contractor discussed the work with residents, environment groups, the pipeline operators, and government regulators to resolve concerns.

QGC limited vibration strength near the pipelines to 50% or less of internationally recognised standards in response to residents concerns.

QGC Senior Vice President Jim Knudsen said the outcome was a good example of what could be achieved with sensible discussion.

"The seismic program also helped improved relationships with residents who have previously raised concerns about our activities in the area," he said.

Mr Knudsen said officers from the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation monitored the work along with local residents.

**Caption:**

*Geophysicists monitor vibration strength as seismic vehicles proceed along Joseph Road north of Tara*

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