

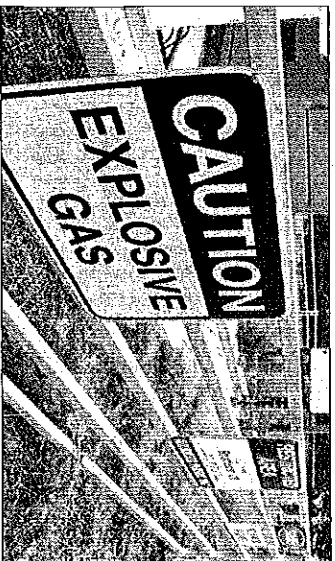
## Qld Party leader says CSG developments 'rushed'

**QUEENSLAND** Party leader Aidan McLindon believes the recent moratoriums imposed on coal seam gas mining in France and South Africa and the calls for a similar freeze by a majority of senators in New York State prove that the Queensland Government, with the full support of the LNP, is supporting a flawed industry.

The French Government imposed a moratorium early this year and just last week France's lower house voted to ban the CSG process of fracking in the country.

A moratorium on fracking has also been enforced in South Africa's Karoo region due to environmental and health concerns.

"The Queensland Government is



LEFT: Coal seam gas developments are being rushed through despite the overwhelming concern, says Aidan McLindon.

supposed to put the long-term interests of the State first. Instead, coal seam gas developments are being rushed through despite the overwhelming concern of Queenslanders

and international action to end the flawed mining practice," Mr McLindon said.

financial position that it is desperate for a quick dollar before the good of our State."

"It is even more concerning that the LNP opposition are lock-step behind the ALP with their support for CSG mining, when they should be holding the government to account. However, the LNP's vested interests and close links to mining companies mean that they are taking exactly the same approach as Labor."

Mr McLindon said he supports the petition launched by LNP MP Howard Hobbs. "He is the one LNP MP to show even the slightest courage on this issue," Mr McLindon said.

"Unfortunately, even he was silenced by the LNP hierarchy and he voted against his own petition on the

same day that The Queensland Party's motion for a moratorium was debated in the Parliament on November 24, 2010.

"Campbell Newman, as a non-elected member of the public, is in a unique position to sign this petition. Mr Newman now has a choice to listen to the concerns put forward by the democratically elected Member for Warrego, or to follow the direction of his political adviser, who was previously the public relations officer for the British Gas owned QCC."

"A vote for the LNP at the next election might replace Premier Bligh with Jeff Seeney or Campbell Newman, but it will not make one iota of difference over CSG mining or the direction Queensland is heading."

# Brave Rob's epic 'backyard stroll'

SELDOM are we witness to such courage, determination and, to put it bluntly, sheer guts as has been displayed by Rob Cook.

On September 30, 2008 the helicopter Rob was in crashed and it was seven hours before he could be rescued from the scrub and airlifted more than 200km to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

He spent nine weeks on life support and endured several operations.

This was followed by a seven-month stint at the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre where he had to learn to speak, eat, sit and hardest of all, face life in a wheelchair.

Now just two years after the crash, Rob is setting out on an incredible journey. He is crossing the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory in a wheelchair. A distance of 730km.

The epic journey through the Tanami which Rob calls "a stroll in my backyard" began on May 23 and will cover the 730km in 24 days.

The journey began at Rob's family property, Superjack, 640km north-east of Alice Springs which is the most isolated cattle station in Australia.

One of the reasons he gave for setting out on such a difficult journey was that he wanted to prove he had the determination and commitment to do such a feat.

I would like to motivate others who are in a similar situation to me.

"Secondly I would like to motivate others who are in a similar situation to me and thirdly to become the first quadriplegic to ever cross the Tanami Desert from the seat of a 4x4 wheelchair," Rob said.

Rob Cook is not your ordinary individual - at 29 years old he has accomplished more than most would have accomplished in a lifetime.

His youth was filled with sporting achievements including representative teams in rugby league, soccer, tennis, athletics, boxing, equestrian and rodeo.

But coming from the backyard he does, the cattle industry remains his passion. Earlier this year he was awarded a Nutfield Farming Scholarship which will allow him to travel the world to study innovation and technology within the beef industry. He hopes it will also encourage

injured producers to remain productive within the industry.

Rob will require financial assistance to achieve his goals and he is determined to succeed in his journey across the Tanami to achieve that.

Rob will use his Nutfield scholarship experience to learn more about global beef industry technologies that are relevant to northern Australia.

In particular he hopes to meet farmers in similar situations as him around the world, to learn how they have overcome the challenges they face day to day.

He hopes with the knowledge he will gain travelling, and by sharing his own experiences, he will be able to prevent farmers who get injured having to walk off or be pushed off their properties.

Rob says keeping his experience in the industry would be hugely beneficial.

Rob would like to travel to Brazil, which he says is the lowest cost producer of beef in the world, Argentina, whose residents consume more beef individually than any other country as well as America, Indonesia and Egypt.

Good luck Rob, rural Australia is behind you.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Rob can contact Lenny Cook on (08) 9856 8764 or visit his website at [www.robcook.com.au](http://www.robcook.com.au)



Rob Cook, with Luke Bevan, takes a break during the journey. Inset: On the road again.

### NEWS BEAT

#### Mackay field day a success

UP to 1800 people attended the BSES Limited Mackay field day on May 19-20. With 90 exhibitors showcasing their wares and fares there was something for everyone, from machinery displays, to interactive video demonstrations on different crop processes. Mackay BSES Senior Extension Officer Bradley Hussey said that this year they tried something a little different compared to other years and it's paid off.

"The usual poster board type marquee has been converted to a more relaxed cafe style layout where visitors can sit and chat to local BSES and AgriServ staff," said Bradley. BSES CEO Eoin Wallis said "the event gives local industry the opportunity to get together and talk about emerging technologies, and to view current products."

On day one of the field day two new BSES products were officially launched. The online nutrient calculator based on the Six Easy Steps program branded NutriCalc and the next soil reference booklets titled 'Self-specific nutrient management guidelines for sugarcane production in the Plane Creek district.'

[mqfarmonline.com.au](http://mqfarmonline.com.au)

#### Journey to top all part of ag plan

DAVID PEARSE's career journey to the top of the RM Williams Agricultural Holdings started in Britain with a geography degree. In the 1980s his mineral exploration knowledge secured him a job with commodities giant, Cargill, which later evolved into trading foreign exchange in Switzerland, then moving to Africa where he was introduced to agricultural commodities, and farming. Cargill's broad network of commodity trade interests in Africa saw Mr Pearse involved in developing cotton and hybrid maize seed production and managing a whole gambit of other commodity businesses from cattle to cocoa, coffee and tea. He later moved to the investment banking sector, joining Deutsche Bank, trading energy commodities and eventually setting up the world's first carbon trading desk. He also worked with the World Bank advising governments on carbon trading. On a return trip to Australia, he met up with RM Williams principal, Ken Cowley. The two shared a common interest in evolving environmental markets and the desire to build an agricultural company that could manage the landscape sustainably and with efficient supply chain goals.

#### Water gets priority funding

RESIDENTS of Mackay and its surrounds will benefit from a further \$3m investment by the Gillard Government to expand the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon announced today that the government would provide funding to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital through the 2011-12 budget. She said Mercy Health and Aged Care Central Qld, would also contribute \$2.04m to the project. "The planned expansion of the operating facilities will allow the hospital to take more patients for surgery and eliminate long waiting times, now and in future," Ms Roxon said. Ms Roxon said the project would build a new operating theatre, bringing the total to five, double the number of procedure rooms from one to two and construct a sixth operating theatre as a shell for future projected expansion. Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government Simon Crean said the Mater Mackay project was one of many major projects to improve regional health and hospitals to be funded from the Government's Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Regional Priority Round.

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North Queensland Register, May 26, 2011 — Page 7