



Treatment rocks in filtration study

CQU aids in coal seam gas research

CQUINIVERSITY has helped establish a research partnership to test new coal seam gas water treatment technology which uses volcanic rock filtration.

University researcher Ben Kele is the linchpin in the project through his company Midell Water.

CQUiversity is also involved as an institution through a memorandum of understanding with other key players and will be arranging one or two postgraduate students to help.

Midell Water and Queensland Coal Seam Gas (CSG) producer and explorer WestSide Corporation Limited have announced the establishment of the research partnership to test new CSG water treatment technology.

The companies have executed an agreement to build and operate the water treatment facility

incorporating Midell Water's technology at the Meridian SeamGas CSG joint venture business operated by WestSide at Moura in Queensland's Bowen Basin.

The aim of the pilot plant is to treat the CSG water to a standard that will enable it to be reused beneficially. To this end one of Australia's leading consulting firms on the beneficial reuse of treated water, Arris Pty Ltd, has joined the partnership.

Midell Water, Arris, and CQUiversity have signed a memorandum of understanding to work collaboratively on sustainable industry projects. Arris has a strong track record of successfully engaging rural communities in the safe management and reuse of recycled water.

The safe treatment and sustainable management of water

co-produced by the CSG industry has become a key concern for all stakeholders. CSG water typically has high levels of salinity, sodicity and some metals such as boron that require treatment before the water is fit for safe reuse.

As the CSG industry expands, conservative estimates indicate that at least 100 gigalitres of CSG water per year will need to be treated in Australia. The majority of this water will be produced in-land, adjacent to agricultural areas, where the soils and the waterways need protection from sodium salts.

Midell Water has extensively researched and developed a range of ion exchanging volcanic rock filter media blends that reduce sodium salts, selected heavy metals, and hydrocarbons associated with the petroleum and gas industries.



FILTER MEDIUM: Ben Kele with volcanic rocks that could be used in filtering CSG water.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED