

# **MEO Australia Limited**

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## **Quarterly Activities Summary for** Period Ended 31 March 2016

### Highlights during quarter

Cuba

- Prospectivity review of Block 9 continuing •
- Results to date confirm the significant petroleum potential of the block with oil identified in a number of previously drilled wells

#### WA-488-P

Seismic reprocessing and inversion studies over Beehive prospect under way, results so far significantly enhancing prospectivity

### Corporate

Cornerstone investor secured raising \$1.4 million via private placement for Cuban • exploration

### Melbourne, Australia (29 April 2016)

MEO Australia Limited (ASX: MEO) ("MEO" or "Company") provides the following summary in relation to its activities during the guarter ended 31 March 2016.

## **Activity Summary**

### Cuba

During the quarter MEO continued its detailed assessment of the prospectivity of Block 9 based on the considerable quantity of historical technical data from Block 9 that has been received. The oil recoveries from numerous historical wells as well as natural seeps and tar deposits in Block 9 indicate a wide spread and prolific petroleum system. Initial analysis has also indicated the presence of a number of prospective structural trends in Block 9. In addition a 2D seismic reprocessing project is currently underway, the results of which will be incorporated into the prospectivity assessment that will be concluded in mid-2016.

The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Block 9, onshore Cuba, was executed on 3 September 2015. The Block 9 PSC area is in a proven hydrocarbon system with multiple discoveries within close proximity, including the multi-billion barrel Varadero oil field. It also contains the Motembo field - the first oil field discovered in Cuba. As an early mover into Cuba, MEO is now one of the few western companies with a footprint in the expanding Cuban hydrocarbon sector.

### WA-488-P

MEO commenced 2D seismic reprocessing and inversion studies over the Beehive prospect during the quarter. Initial results from the seismic reprocessing are showing a significant enhancement to data quality with higher guality definition of key aspects of the prospect that are expected to result in an encouraging enhancement of the prospectivity of Beehive. The seismic reprocessing and inversion study is to be completed by mid-2016. The potential drilling of the prospect has also been deferred by 12 months until late 2017.

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#### **MEO Australia Limited**

### New Zealand – PEP51153

MEO was advised during the quarter that liquidators of Kea Petroleum Limited (Kea), Operator of PEP51153 had entered into a conditional agreement for the sale of its 70% interest in the permit. The transaction is subject to New Zealand regulatory approvals. The proposed acquirer is an Operator with existing production in the region potentially bringing significant operational synergies. MEO is a joint venture participant in PEP51153 (MEO 30%), and its interest in the permit is not affected by the appointment of liquidators to Kea. Details of the incoming party will be released in due course.

### **Corporate Summary**

During the quarter MEO executed a private placement agreement with London listed Leni Gas Cuba Limited to raise \$1.4 million. Approximately 140 million shares were issued at a modest premium to the previous closing share price. The funds are to be used to advance exploration on Cuba Block 9. The placement makes Leni Gas Cuba Limited the largest single shareholder in MEO with a 15.8% interest in the company.

### Cash balance at end of quarter

Consolidated cash balance at 31 March 2016 was \$4.95 million.

### **New Ventures**

MEO recognises the current business environment is conducive to acquiring assets at an attractive price. Screening for corporate options, early entry and asset opportunities consistent with our strategy continues.

### Priorities for the current quarter ending 30 June 2016

- Progress activities in the Block 9 PSC, Onshore Cuba.
- Complete seismic reprocessing & inversion over Beehive prospect, WA-488-P.
- Assist with transfer of Operatorship of PEP51153 (onshore New Zealand).
- Continue screening for corporate options and asset opportunities that enhance MEO shareholder value.

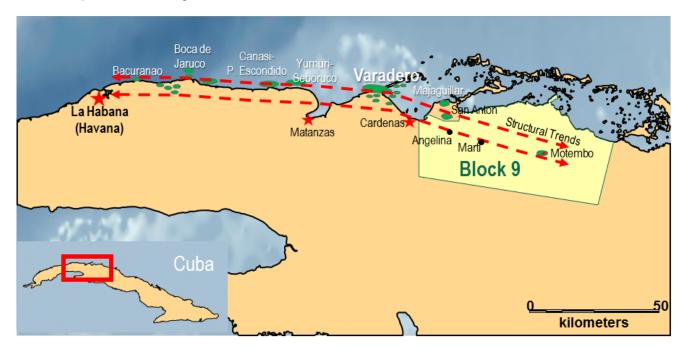
Peter Stickland Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Activity Summaries by Project Area

## <u>Cuba</u>

The exploration period of Block 9 PSC is split into four sub-periods with withdrawal options at the end of each sub-period. MEO is currently evaluating the existing exploration data in the block and reprocessing selected 2D seismic data before determining whether to proceed with a subsequent 24-month exploration sub-period that includes acquisition of new 2D seismic data.

As an early mover into Cuba, MEO is now one of the few western companies with a footprint in the expanding Cuban hydrocarbon sector. The geology of the block has analogies to petroleum systems in which MEO's technical personnel have significant experience, and MEO sees substantial potential in Cuba overall and Block 9 in particular. MEO looks forward to working closely with the Cuban national oil company, CUPET, to explore and develop Cuba's oil and gas resources.



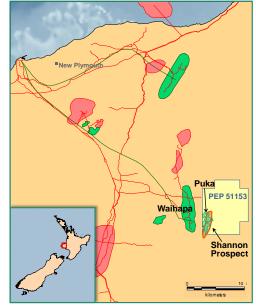
## New Zealand: Taranaki Basin

### PEP 51153 (MEO 30%, Kea Petroleum Limited\* 70% & Operator)

MEO holds a 30%, non-Operator interest in PEP 51153, located in the productive onshore Taranaki Basin of New Zealand. PEP 51153 contains:

- the Puka oil accumulation, which has previously produced from two wells under extended production test, but is currently shut-in; and
- a number of exploration opportunities, such as the Shannon Prospect. This prospect is at the deeper Tikorangi objective updip of Douglas-1 (which encountered oil shows at this level) and is analogous to the nearby Waihapa oil field. The Shannon Prospect is a potentially high impact wildcat opportunity analogous to the nearby Waihapa oil filed with potentially very robust economics as initial production can be routed through the existing Puka production pad.

MEO has been advised by the liquidators of Kea Petroleum Limited of a binding conditional sale of Kea's 70% interest in PEP51153 to an existing regional operator. This transaction is subject to New Zealand regulatory approvals.



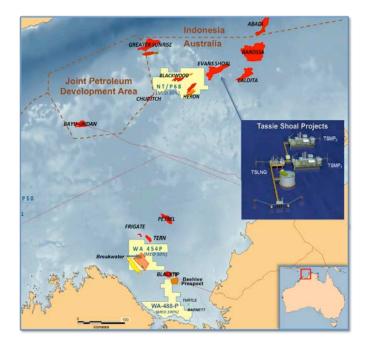
MEO considers the regional operating capability of the incoming party and their general strategic alignment with MEO's objectives for the permit as supporting a strong joint venture on a go-forward basis. Details of the incoming party will be released in due course.

The work plan for PEP 51153 is currently under review and will be determined once the new operator has been confirmed.

\* During the quarter MEO was advised by the liquidators of Kea of a binding conditional sale of Kea's 70% interest in PEP51153 to an existing regional Operator, subject to regulatory approval.

## **Bonaparte Gulf: Petrel sub-Basin**

### WA-488-P (MEO 100%)



WA-488-P is located in the southern Bonaparte Gulf and covers an area of 4,105 km<sup>2</sup>. The permit was awarded to MEO in May 2012 as part of the acreage Gazettal Round.

MEO has identified the giant Beehive prospect, a new play type within the Bonaparte basin, leveraging the 2011 Ungani-1 oil discovery in Carboniferous aged reservoirs in the nearby Canning Basin.

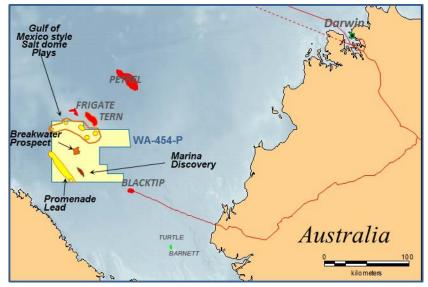
During the quarter, MEO commenced 2D seismic reprocessing and inversion studies to enhance the prospectivity of the Beehive prospect. Initial results from the seismic reprocessing are showing a significant enhancement to data quality. The seismic reprocessing and inversion study is to be completed by mid-2016. The potential drilling of Beehive has been deferred 12 months until 2017.

#### **Indicative Activity Schedule**

Permit	WA-488-P		20	15					20	)16				2017								
MEO PI	100%	Sep	Qtr	Dec	Qtr	Mar	Qtr	Jun	Qtr	Sep	o Qtr	Dec	Qtr	M	ar Qtı	Ju	n Qtr	Sep C	Qtr	Dec C	Qtr	
Operator	MEO	JΑ	S	O N	D	JF	M	ΑN	1 J	J A	A S	ΟΝ	D	J	FΜ	A	ΜJ	JΑ	S	ΟΝ	D	
	Permit Year						2										3					
Work program		S	tudi	es	S	eismic Reprocessing & Inversion							1 Well <sup>×</sup>									
<b>Activities</b>																						
Reprocess 2D se	ismic & Inversion	Inve					rsion	1														
Partial sale proc	ess																					

# **Bonaparte Gulf: Petrel Sub-Basin**

### WA-454-P (MEO 50%, Origin Energy 50% & Operator)



WA-454-P contains the Breakwater prospect and a number of promising leads as well as the Marina gas discovery.

The permit is currently in Year 5. Year 6, which includes the commitment to drill a well, commences in December 2016. MEO has the option to withdraw from WA-454-P prior to entering Year 6.

The Breakwater-1 well is anticipated to be drilled in late 2017 to fulfil the drilling commitment in Year 6. MEO's share of well costs are expected to be greater than A\$12 million based on current well cost estimates.

MEO does not intend to participate in the well at current cost exposure levels. MEO is seeking to farm down or sell a further interest in WA-454-P, but intends to withdraw from WA-454-P if a farm down or sale of WA-454-P is not possible.

### **Indicative Activity Schedule**

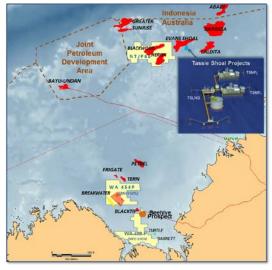
Permit	WA-454-P	2	2015				2	201	6							20	017			
MEO PI	50%*	Sep Q	tr D	ec Qtı	· Ma	r Qtr	Jun Q	r S	Sep (	Qtr	Dec	: Qtr	Ма	r Qtr	Ju	n Qtr	Se	p Qt	Dec	c Qtr
Operator	Origin	JAS	S <mark>0</mark>	N D	JΙ	FΜ	AM	IJ	ΙA	S	0	I D	J	FΜ	А	ΜJ	J	A S	1 0	N D
	Permit Year	4	1				5									6				
Work program						Stud	ies									1 wel	I I			
<b>Activities</b>																				
PSDM Reproces	sing																			
Mature Breakwa	ater prospect																			
Fund 20% residu	ual drilling obligation					Pa	artial sal	e												
MEO option to v	withdraw									<>										
Drill Breakwater	r-1 <sup>×</sup>										•									

\* Origin contributing 80% of Breakwater-1 drilling cost up to ~A\$43m well cost cap (using an exchange rate of A\$=US\$0.75)

# **Tassie Shoal Gas Processing Projects**

### (MEO 100%)

During the quarter, MEO continued its direct dialogue with political and regulatory stakeholders to update them on the current status of efforts to commercialise the regional stranded high  $CO_2$  gas resources as feedstock to Tassie Shoal. A significant quantity of discovered high  $CO_2$  gas in the region remains with no identified viable development plan. The current turbulence in the global oil and gas industry is expected to result in an eventual renewed focus on the holding costs of these stranded discovered resources by titleholders and either divestment or development opportunities may arise.



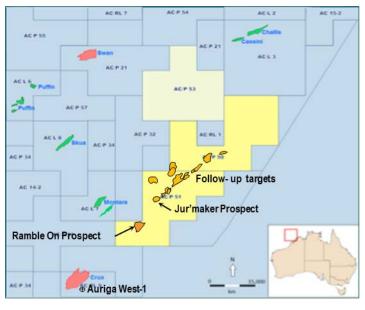
# Ashmore Cartier Region, Timor Sea: Vulcan Sub-Basin AC/P50, AC/P51, AC/P53 (MEO 100%)

MEO acquired the 507  $\rm km^2$  Zeppelin 3D seismic survey across both AC/P50 and AC/P51 in early 2012.

Identification of the Ramble On prospect is the result of applying new ideas to old basins. It represents a new play type that has proven analogues in other Basins. Naturally, any new play type in a region will initially be assigned a higher risk until that play type can be demonstrated to work.

Earlier in 2015 MEO renewed both AC/P50 and AC/P51 for a further 5 years with a minimum work program requirement of studies and seismic reprocessing.

Ramble On prospect is on trend with the recent reported West-1 (Auriga) discovery near Crux resulting in renewed industry interest in the region. As a result, MEO is looking to farmout AC/P50 and AC/51 and is currently in discussion with a number of interested parties.



MEO's assessment of AC/P53 has not identified any commercially attractive prospects, and MEO expects to surrender AC/P53 in the current quarter.

### Indicative Activity Schedule

Permit	AC/P50	2015							20	16				2017								
MEO PI	100%	Sep	Qtr	Dec	Qtr	Mai	r Qtr	Jun	Qtr	Sep	Qtr	Dec	: Qtr	Ma	ır Qtı	Ju	n Qtr	Se	ep Qt	r Dec Qt		
Operator	MEO	J A	S	O N	D	JF	F M	ΑN	1 J	JΑ	N S	0 1	I D	J	FΜ	А	ΜJ	J	A S	ΟΝΕ		
	Permit Year			1							2	2							3	÷		
Work program				Stuc	lies				Reprocessing										Studies			
<b>Activities</b>																						
Seismic Interpret	tation																					
Reprocessing		_																				
Partial sale proce	ess							Part	ial s	ale												

Permit	AC/P51	20	15		20	16			20	17	
MEO PI	100%	Sep Qtr	Dec Qti	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr
Operator	MEO	J A S	OND	JFM	AMJ	JAS	OND	JFM	AMJ	JAS	OND
	Permit Year		1				2			3	
Work program			Studies			Repro	cessing			Studies	
Activities											
Seismic Interpre	tation										
Reprocessing											
Partial sale proc	ess				Partial s	ale		1			
Permit	AC/P53	20	)15		20	)16			20	17	
Permit MEO PI	AC/P53 100%		-	<sup>.</sup> Mar Qtr	20 Jun Qtr	_	Dec Qtr	Mar Qtr			Dec Qtr
			Dec Qti			_				Sep Qtr	Dec Qtr O N D
MEO PI	100%	Sep Qtr J A S	Dec Qti	JFM	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	ΟΝΟ		Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	
MEO PI	100% MEO	Sep Qtr J A S	Dec Qtr	JFM	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	OND (	JFM	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	
MEO PI Operator	100% MEO Permit Year	Sep Qtr J A S	Dec Qtr	J F M	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	OND (	JFM 8	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	
MEO PI Operator Work program	100% MEO Permit Year	Sep Qtr J A S	Dec Qtr	J F M	Jun Qtr A M J	Sep Qtr	OND (	JFM 8	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	
MEO PI Operator <u>Work program</u> Permit relinquis	100% MEO Permit Year h election <sup>x</sup>	Sep Qtr J A S	Dec Qtr	J F M	Jun Qtr A M J	Sep Qtr	OND (	JFM 8	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	
MEO PI Operator <u>Work program</u> Permit relinquis	100% MEO Permit Year	Sep Qtr J A S	Dec Qtr	J F M	Jun Qtr A M J	Sep Qtr	OND (	JFM 8	Jun Qtr	Sep Qtr	