# Leigh Creek Energy

### **INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT**

### 31 December 2017



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#### DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors of Leigh Creek Energy Limited (or 'Leigh Creek Energy') present their Report together with the financial statements of the Consolidated Entity, being Leigh Creek Energy Limited ('the Company') and its Controlled Entities ('the Group') for the half-year ended 31 December 2017.

#### Director details

The following persons were Directors of Leigh Creek Energy during or since the end of the financial half-year:

- Daniel Justyn Peters
- Gregory English
- Murray Chatfield
- Zhe Wang (appointed 01.07.2017)
  Phillip Staveley (appointed 05.12.2017)
  Zheng Xiaojiang (appointed 05.12.2017)

#### Review of operations and financial results

#### Leigh Creek Energy Project:

During the period the Company submitted the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and accompanying draft Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) documents. These are key documents required for Government approvals for the Pre-Commercial Demonstration (PCD) operations. To secure geotechnical information required by the Regulator to augment existing information the Company was requested to undertake further drilling. The drilling program required three holes which commenced in early December 2017 and were completed in January 2018.

Information from the additional drilling program has enabled the Company to provide the Regulator with the required information that reaffirms there are no significant geological structures in proximity to the intended PCD gasifier location. Updated EIR and SEO documents were provided to the Regulator enabling the commencement of its formal assessment process, which includes a public consultation period that will conclude at the end of February 2018.

The requirement for the additional geological information has necessitated an adjustment to the time line for PCD operations. All key components for the PCD operations have been ordered or contracted and major plant items are near completion.

#### Finance and Corporate:

The consolidated operating loss for the half-year to 31 December 2017 was \$2,820,669 (2016: loss of \$3,100,615). Expenditure incurred on the Leigh Creek Energy Project (LCEP) capitalised as Exploration and Evaluation expenditure was \$5,368,923 (2016: \$1,508,580). The current period expenditure is net of the R&D rebate receivable for 2017/18 of \$1,583,800.

On 27 October 2017, China New Energy Group Limited (CNE) completed the final tranche of their \$20 million investment in the Company increasing their interest to 32.78% of capital on issue.

In July the Company appointed Zhe Wang as Non-Executive Director and subsequently announced on 6 December 2017 the appointments of Mr Zheng Xiaojiang as Non-Executive Director and Mr Phillip Staveley as Managing Director, further strengthening the board.

The Company received an R&D tax offset refund for the 2016/17 year of \$2,173,372 in September 2017 which was utilised to pay down the \$1,950,000 drawn under the R&D working capital facility through Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The R&D working capital facility limit was increased to \$6.5 million in August 2017 in anticipation of further eligible expenditure relating to the LCEP during the 2017/2018 financial year. A total of \$750,000 was drawn under the extended facility as at 31 December 2017.

#### After reporting date events

On 31 January the Company announced that as the closing date for all public submissions on the EIR and SEO documents is February 28 and the Regulator needing to be able to respond and address any issues raised during that process, it is unlikely that the demonstration plant will be operating (subject to approvals being granted) in the first quarter of 2018. The Company believes it will have the plant operating in the second quarter of 2018.

In the Directors' opinion, no other events or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period that have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Company or the Group.

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under s307c of the Corporations Act 2001 is included on page 3 of this financial report and forms part of this Director's Report.

ACN: 107 531 822

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

D J Peters - Director

Dated at Adelaide, South Australia this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2018



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## Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of Leigh Creek Energy Limited

In accordance with the requirements of section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*, as lead auditor for the review of Leigh Creek Energy Limited for the half-year ended 31 December 2017. I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the review; and
- b No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD

**Chartered Accountants** 

IS Kemp

Partner - Audit & Assurance

Adelaide, 22 February 2018

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#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the half-year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	31 December 2017 \$	31 December 2016 \$
Other income		55,000	34,180
Other expenses		(1,323,206)	(1,444,870)
Depreciation		(18,364)	(14,073)
Employee benefits expense		(1,491,549)	(1,695,823)
		(2,778,119)	(3,120,586)
Finance income		98,153	22,528
Finance costs		(140,703)	(2,556)
Loss before tax		(2,820,669)	(3,100,615)
Tax expense		-	-
Loss for the period from continuing operations		(2,820,669)	(3,100,615)
Total other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) for the period		(2,820,669)	(3,100,615)
Earnings per share Basic and Diluted (cents per share)	6	(0.01)	(0.01)

ACN: 107 531 822

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2017

	Notes	31 December 2017 \$	30 June 2017 \$
CURRENT ASSETS	Notes	¥	ş
Cash and cash equivalents		13,443,386	8,757,787
Trade and other receivables		1,874,674	2,358,752
Total current assets		15,318,060	11,116,539
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment		259,725	220,720
Exploration and evaluation expenditure	7	11,354,648	5,985,725
Total non-current assets		11,614,373	6,206,445
TOTAL ASSETS		26,932,433	17,322,984
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables		2,976,132	1,656,968
Borrowings	8	750,000	1,540,049
Employee entitlements		413,802	298,499
Total current liabilities		4,139,934	3,495,516
Total liabilities		4,139,934	3,495,516
NET ASSETS		22,792,499	13,827,468
EQUITY			
Equity attributable to the owners of the parent			
Share capital	9	52,851,077	41,100,034
Reserves		1,490,801	1,456,144
Retained losses		(31,549,379)	(28,728,710)
TOTAL EQUITY		22,792,499	13,827,468

ACN: 107 531 822

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the half-year ended 31 December 2017

	SHARE CAPITAL \$	RETAINED LOSSES \$	SHARE OPTION RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
BALANCE 1 July 2017	41,100,034	(28,728,710)	1,456,144	13,827,468
Total comprehensive income				
Total profit or (loss)	-	(2,820,669)	-	(2,820,669)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	(2,820,669)	-	(2,820,669)
Transactions with members in their capacity as owners:				
Issued share capital (net of costs)	11,751,043	-	-	11,751,043
Employee share-based payment	-	-	34,657	34,657
Total transactions with owners	11,751,043	-	34,657	11,785,700
BALANCE AT 31 December 2017	52,851,077	(31,549,379)	1,490,801	22,792,499

	SHARE CAPITAL \$	RETAINED LOSSES \$	SHARE OPTION RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
BALANCE 1 July 2016	32,361,720	(22,969,950)	1,395,284	10,787,054
Total comprehensive income				
Total profit or (loss)	-	(3,100,615)	-	(3,100,615)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	(3,100,615)	-	(3,100,615)
Transactions with members in their				
capacity as owners:				
Issued share capital (net of costs)	-	-	-	-
Employee share-based payment	-	-	(137,301)	(137,301)
Total transactions with owners	-	-	(137,301)	(137,301)
BALANCE AT 31 December 2016	32,361,720	(26,070,565)	1,257,983	7,549,138

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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the half-year ended 31 December 2017

		31 December 2017	31 December 2016
	Notes	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Sundry income received		55,000	20,000
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,831,882)	(2,913,742)
R&D rebates received		2,173,372	790,684
Interest received		112,439	22,528
Interest paid		-	(2,556)
Net cash (used in) operating activities		(491,071)	(2,083,086)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(63,944)	(58,573)
Proceeds from disposal of assets		-	1,932
Capitalised exploration costs		(5,576,613)	(3,599,175)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(5,640,557)	(3,655,816)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Issue of shares		12,531,736	-
Share issue transaction costs		(783,693)	-
Proceeds from borrowings		1,090,000	-
Borrowing costs		(73,816)	-
Repayment of borrowings		(1,950,000)	-
Net cash provided by financing activities		10,817,227	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		4,685,599	(5,738,902)
Cash at the beginning of the year		8,757,787	8,737,946
Cash at the end of the period		13,443,386	2,999,044

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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. Nature of operations

The principal activity of the Group is advancing the development of its Leigh Creek Energy Project.

#### 2. General information and basis of preparation

The condensed interim consolidated financial statements ('the interim financial statements') of the Group are for the six (6) months ended 31 December 2017 and are presented in Australian Dollars (\$AUD), which is the functional currency of the Parent Company. These general purpose interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting*. They do not include all of the information required in annual financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 30 June 2017 and any public announcements made by the Group during the half-year in accordance with continuous disclosure requirements arising under the Australian Securities Exchange Listing Rules and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The interim consolidated financial statements have been approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 22 February 2018.

#### 3. Significant accounting policies

The interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the same accounting policies adopted in the Group's last annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017.

The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the Group for the purposes of preparation of these interim financial statements.

#### 4. Accounting estimates and judgements

When preparing the interim financial statements, management undertakes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions about recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The actual results may differ from the judgements, estimates and assumptions made by management, and will seldom equal the estimated results.

The judgements, estimates and assumptions applied in the interim financial statements, including the key sources of estimation uncertainty were the same as those applied in the Group's last annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017.

#### 5. Significant events and transactions

As detailed in the Director's Report, CNE completed the final tranche of their \$20 million investment in LCK. This increased their interest to 32.78% of the issued capital.

#### 6. Earnings per share

The calculation of basic loss per share at 31 December 2017 was based on the loss attributable to ordinary equity holders of \$2,820,669 (2016: \$3,100,615) and a weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the six months of 368,533,371 (2016: 265,894,441).

The calculation of diluted loss per share at 31 December 2017 is the same as basic diluted loss per share. In accordance with AASB 133 Earning per share, as potential ordinary shares may result in a situation where their conversion results in a decrease in the loss per share, no dilutive effect has been taken into account. Potential ordinary shares relating to listed and unlisted options at 31 December 2017 totalled 42,489,713 (2016: 42,432,463).

#### 7. Exploration and evaluation expenditure

Exploration and evaluation expenditure incurred is accumulated in respect of each identifiable area of interest. These costs are only carried forward to the extent that right of tenure is current and those costs are expected to be recouped through the successful development of the area (or, alternatively by its sale) or where activities in the area have not yet reached a stage which permits reasonable assessment of the existence of economically recoverable reserves and operations in relation to the area are continuing.

During the year the Company applied for R&D Tax Incentives through AusIndustry in relation to eligible research expenditure incurred during 2016/17 for the Leigh Creek Energy Project. The tax incentive is provided as a refundable tax credit and has been credited to Exploration and Evaluation capitalised expenditure. The Company has received a tax refund of \$2,173,372 for the 2016/17 year and booked a receivable (\$1,583,800) in relation to eligible R&D expenditure for the half year to 31 December 2017.

	Six months to 31 December 2017 \$	Year to 30 June 2017 \$
Balance at opening	5,985,725	2,450,480
Licence fees	3,678	7,198
Costs capitalised for Feasibility Studies	359,646	503,987
Costs capitalised for LCEP	6,589,399	5,950,201
Less R&D tax concession rebates	(1,583,800)	(2,926,141)
Total exploration and evaluation expenditure	11,354,648	5,985,725

#### 8. Borrowings

Borrowings are recognised initially at fair value less attributable transaction and finance costs. Borrowings with a determinable payment due less than twelve months from the reporting date are classified as current liabilities.

In February 2017, the Company announced that it had established a Research & Development Working Capital Facility (R&D working capital facility) with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). A total of \$1,950,000 was drawn under this facility before it was repaid in September 2017 from the proceeds of the Company's income tax refund relating to refundable Research and Development tax offsets.

In August 2017, the Company negotiated with CBA to extend and increase the R&D working capital facility to a limit of \$6.5 million subject to the satisfaction of conditions precedent. The first draw down of \$750,000 under the extended facility was completed in November 2017 with remainder of the facility available and undrawn as at 31 December 2017.

	Six months to 31 December 2017 \$	Year to 30 June 2017 \$
Current		
R&D working capital facility	750,000	1,540,049
Total borrowings	750,000	1,540,049
Borrowings		
R&D working capital facility – available	6,500,000	2,000,000
R&D working capital facility – undrawn	(5,750,000)	(390,000)
Total borrowings drawn	750,000	1,610,000
Less unamortised transaction costs		(69,951)
Carrying amount at balance date	750,000	1,540,049

#### 9. Share capital

In March 2017, the Company signed a subscription agreement with CNE for the issue of 136.3 million Leigh Creek Energy Limited shares in three tranches. Further to this agreement, in August 2017, the Company announced that the third tranche would be split into two payments.

In accordance with the announcement, 17,000,000 shares were issued to CNE at \$0.15 per share on 15 August 2017 and 66,544,905 shares were issued to CNE at \$0.15 per share on 27 October 2017, resulting in total proceeds during the period from share issues before costs of \$12,531,736.

	Six months to 31 December 2017 \$	Year to 30 June 2017 \$
Shares issued and fully paid:		
Beginning of the period	41,100,034	32,361,720
Shares issued	12,531,736	9,315,764
Share issue costs	(780,693)	(577,450)
Total share capital at the end of the period	52,851,077	41,100,034
Number of shares	415,912,956	332,368,051

#### 10. Events after the reporting date

On 31 January the Company announced that as the closing date for all public submissions on the EIR and SEO documents is February 28 and the Regulator needing to be able to respond and address any issues raised during that process, it is unlikely that the demonstration plant will be operating (subject to approvals being granted) in the first quarter of 2018. The Company believes it will have the plant operating in the second quarter of 2018.

In the Directors' opinion, no other events or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period that have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Company or the Group.

#### **DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

In the opinion of the Directors of Leigh Creek Energy Limited:

- a) The consolidated financial statements and notes of Leigh Creek Energy Limited are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - i. Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 31 December 2017 and of its performance of the Group for the half-year ended on that date; and
  - ii. Complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting; and

ACN: 107 531 822

There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:

D J Peters - Director

Dated at Adelaide, South Australia this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2018



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## Independent Auditor's Review Report to the Members of Leigh Creek Energy Limited

#### Report on the Half Year Financial Report

#### Conclusion

We have reviewed the accompanying half year financial report of Leigh Creek Energy Limited (the Company), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017 and the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the half year ended on that date, a description of accounting policies, other selected explanatory notes, and the directors' declaration.

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the half year financial report of Leigh Creek Energy Limited does not give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the half year ended on that date, in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial reporting*.

#### Directors Responsibility for the Half Year Financial Report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the half-year financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the half-year financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the half year financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half year financial report is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2017 and its performance for the half year ended on that date, and complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations* 2001. As the auditor of Leigh Creek Energy Limited, ASRE 2410 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of a half year financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

#### Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001.* 

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD

**Chartered Accountants** 

IS Kemp

Partner - Audit & Assurance

Adelaide, 22 February 2018

#### CORPORATE DIRECTORY

#### **Directors**

Daniel Justyn Peters Executive Chairman

Phillip Staveley

Managing Director

Greg D English

Non-Executive Director

Murray K Chatfield
Non-Executive Director

Zhe Wang Non-Executive Director

Zheng Xiaojiang
Non-Executive Director

## Registered & Principal Business Office

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#### **Bankers**

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#### **Auditors**

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#### **Principal Lawyers**

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LCK

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