Leigh Creek Energy

Urea, the Key to Growth



Leigh Creek Energy (ASX: LCK)

April 2021

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Gas Resources Compliance Statement

The PRMS resources estimates stated herein were initially reported to the ASX on 27 March 2019. LCK is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects this information and all the material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed.

Mineral Resource Compliance Statement

The JORC resource estimates stated herein were initially reported to the ASX on 8 December 2015 and were updated on 27 March 2019. LCK is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects this information and all the material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed.



Cautionary Statement

The Preliminary Feasibility Study ("PFS") referred to in this announcement has been undertaken to assess the alternative commercialisation pathways for the produced syngas and recommending a path forward. It is a preliminary technical and economic study of the potential viability of the Leigh Creek Energy Project ("LCEP"). Operating and capital costs are based on a Class 5 scoping study prepared by thyssenkrupp in 2018. A Class 5 study allows for an expected accuracy variation range of Low -20 to -50 and High +30 to +100%. Further evaluation work and appropriate studies are required before LCK will be in a position to provide any assurance of an economic development case. The PFS is based on the material assumptions outlined below. These include assumptions about the availability of funding. While LCK considers all of the material assumptions to be based on reasonable grounds, there is no certainty that they will prove to be correct or that the range of outcomes indicated by the PFS will be achieved. To achieve the range of outcomes indicated in the PFS, total funding of in the order of \$2.6 billion will likely be required. Investors should note that there is no certainty that LCK will be able to raise that amount of funding when needed. It is also possible that such funding may only be available on terms that may be dilutive to or otherwise affect the value of LCK's existing shares. It is also possible that LCK could pursue other 'value realisation' strategies such as a sale, partial sale or joint venture of the project. If it does, this could materially reduce LCK's proportionate ownership of the project. Given the uncertainties involved, investors should not make any investment decisions based solely on the results of the PFS.

Material Financial Model Assumptions

Dollar figures are in AUD unless otherwise stated

Debt Raised	50% of capital costs to be debt funded
Loan Repayments	Rolling 7 year facility extending over the project life
Interest expense	Borrowing rate 6%
Income Tax Payable	Financials included in this report are before income tax
Urea pricing	Available CRU forecast to 2030, escalated thereafter
Royalties	Average 9% of gas revenue, comprising SA Government (subject to negotiation) and overriding royalties
Urea plant operating costs	Per thyssenkrupp 2018 scoping study, ex-plant only
Gasifier operating costs	Management assumed gasifier operating costs based on demonstration plant experience
Gasifier replacement	Management assumed gasifier replacement costs based on demonstration plant experience
Capital costs	Per thyssenkrupp 2018 scoping study





The Urea Opportunity for LCK



The world's population is expected to increase by 2 billion people in the next 30 years, from 7.7 billion to 9.7 billion



With a growing population comes an increase in demand for agricultural produce



Farmers are needing to produce more, using less land and less water



Commercial fertilisers increase yields by 30 to 50% in crops such as wheat, barley and rice



Urea is one of the most popular fertilisers as it has a high nitrogen content, is easy to transport and apply and is quickly absorbed by plants



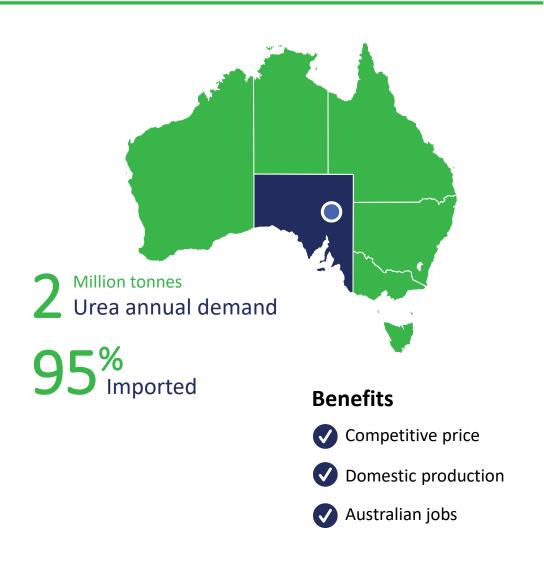
In Australia 20,000 farmers apply urea to more than 11 million hectares of land annually consuming approximately 2Mtpa





Leigh Creek Energy Project

- Leigh Creek Energy's (LCK) flagship project is the Leigh Creek Energy Project (LCEP), located in South Australia, 550km north of Adelaide
- The LCEP will initially produce 1Mtpa of urea from a dedicated facility at a low cash cost using syngas sourced from its wholly owned resources
- Of the 2 million tonnes of urea used in Australia each year, 95% is imported¹ from the Middle East and Asia
- Australian produced urea will avoid the risks and costs associated with transport, exchange rates, commodity prices and import logistics
- LCEP plans to send granular urea by rail to domestic markets. Excess urea outside of the main demand seasons in Australia will be exported overseas





Leigh Creek Energy Project Advantages



Reliable Supply of Syngas

Syngas has been successfully produced at LCEP using in-situ gasification (ISG) during the Project's precommercial demonstration phase

Leigh Creek geology is ideally suited for ISG due to the nature of the coal resource and local geology



30+ Years of Gas Reserves

Exploration and production permits have 1,153PJ¹ 2P gas reserves and 301.2Mt coal resources

Reserves sufficient to operate a 1Mtpa urea plant for 30+ years



Inputs for Urea Production On Site

Urea operations are vertically integrated as gas and electricity will be produced on site. This eliminates commodity and supply risks associated with buying gas and power for urea production



Access to Infrastructure

The Leigh Creek site has access to existing road and rail infrastructure for transport to domestic and export markets

LCEP urea will be competitive in the wholesale Australian market as it's cheaper, faster and less risky for urea traders than importing it from the Middle East and Asia



Low Cost Urea Producer

Average nominal operating cost for the urea plant forecast to be \$109/t, putting the project in the lowest cost quartile of global urea producers

This is possible because syngas can be produced for \$1 per gigajoule



ESG Goals and Activities

WE SUPPORT

The Company established ESG processes early and they have continued to evolve as we grow





Environmental

- Commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Carbon capture and underground storage plan
- Zero emissions (water and chemical)
- Macro and micro "Going Green" initiatives



Social

- Continue outstanding safety record
- Maintain positive, enduring stakeholder relationships
- Community education and sponsorship programmes
- Staff mental health initiatives
- Develop ethical supply chains



Governance

- Abide by United Nations Global Compact standards
- Adhere to strategic framework
- Continue strict regulatory compliance
- Develop sustainability reporting

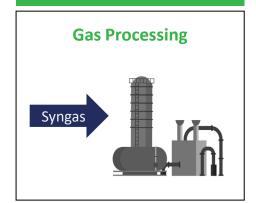


Carbon Neutral by 2030

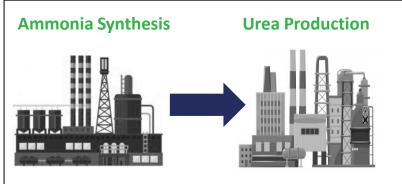
Leigh Creek Energy has committed to be carbon neutral by 2030

Carbon production activities

Scope 1 Emissions



Scope 2 Emissions



In preparation for future carbon reduction activities, we have embedded our plans into the design of the first stage of LCEP commercial operations

Carbon reduction activities

Urea Production

0.73 tonnes of CO₂ are used¹ per tonne of urea produced

Geosequestration

Redundant gasifiers used for the capture and storage of CO₂ at depth

Carbon Farming

Investigating opportunities for farmers to optimise CO₂ stored in soil

Carbon Offsets

Revegetation and use of renewable power to offset CO₂ emissions

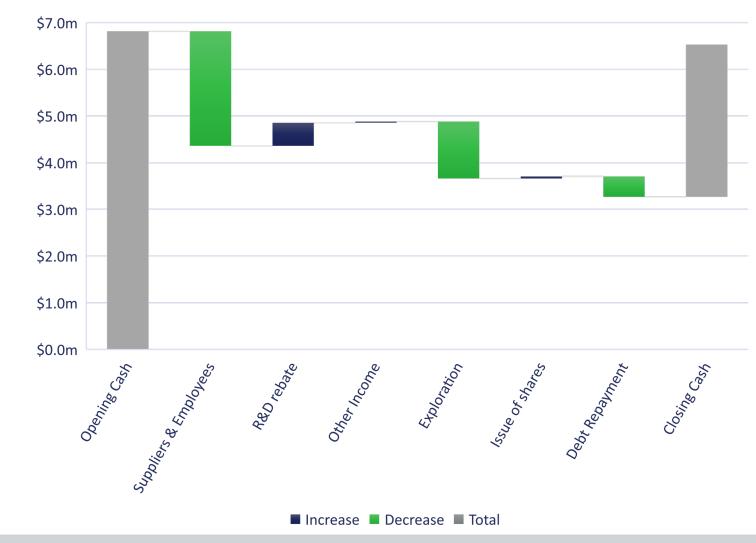


1. Based on thyssenkrupp's 2018 scoping study

December 2020 Half Year Results

- Consolidated operating loss for the half year to 31 December 2020 was \$4.0 million (2019: \$3.2 million)
- Expenditure incurred on the Leigh Creek Energy Project capitalised as Exploration and Evaluation expenditure was \$1.2 million (2019: \$1.2 million)
- In January 2021 the Company conducted an Institutional Share Placement to the USbased institutional investor Energy Exploration Capital Partners LLC, consisting of phased payments of up to \$18 million

December 2020 Half Year Cash Movements





Urea and Fertiliser Markets





LCEP Manufacturing Process

Urea is manufactured for distribution to market using a three-step process

1. Gas Processing

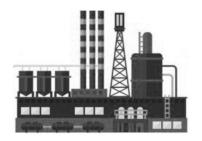
2. Ammonia Synthesis

3. Urea Production

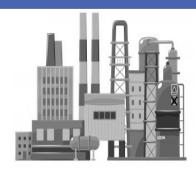




Syngas is fed into a gas processing facility, where it is split it into Hydrogen (H_2) , Nitrogen (N_2) and Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)



The resulting H₂ and N₂ are then fed into an ammonia plant where they are converted into liquid Ammonia (NH₃)



The NH_3 is then fed into a Urea plant where NH_3 and CO_2 are combined to form Urea (CH_4N_2O)



Granular urea is shipped or trucked in bulk and buyers may blend it, as required, for agricultural use

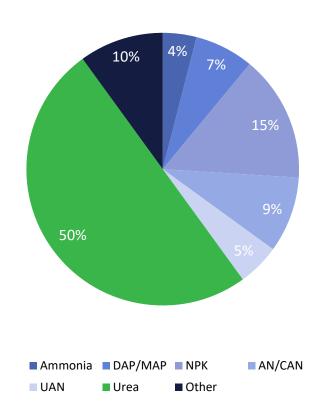


Urea Fertiliser Facts

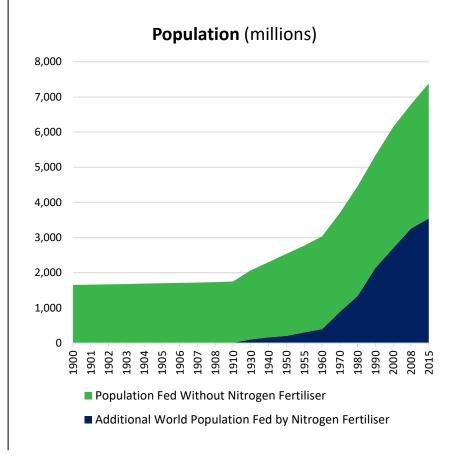
Global urea demand is driven by the need to expand crop production volumes

- Nitrogen based fertilisers improve crop quantity while Phosphorus and Potassium fertilisers improve crop quality
- Over half of all Nitrogen fertiliser is sold as urea
- Nitrogen fertiliser has an ammonia base, ammonia is difficult to store and transport, so it is processed into a granular state, for transportation
- Urea fertiliser sales in Australia are ~2Mtpa¹, representing less than 2% of global sales, 95% of Australia's urea is imported

Urea Represents half of all Nitrogen fertiliser products



Nitrogen fertiliser feeds half the world's population¹

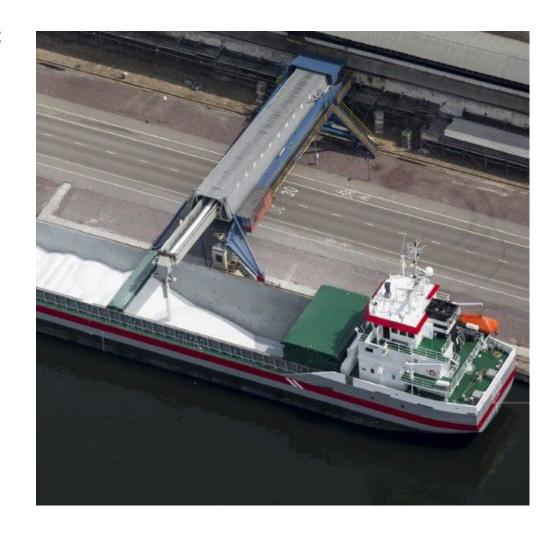




Global Urea Market Summary

Granular urea is traded globally as a homogenous product

- The granular urea market is a fragmented industry, with close to 300 prominent producers globally
- 220Mtpa of urea are produced globally, of this approximately 50Mtpa is internationally traded
- Top global urea traders include: Yara, Ameropa, KOCH, and Transammonia
- Key urea supply influences are seasonal demand, access to suitable port and sea freight, and gas prices (low in the Middle East)
- The capital cost of constructing a urea plant is the main barrier to entry
- Demand for urea is influenced by factors such as rainfall, crop mix, price, subsidy schemes, regulation and innovation





Australian Urea Market

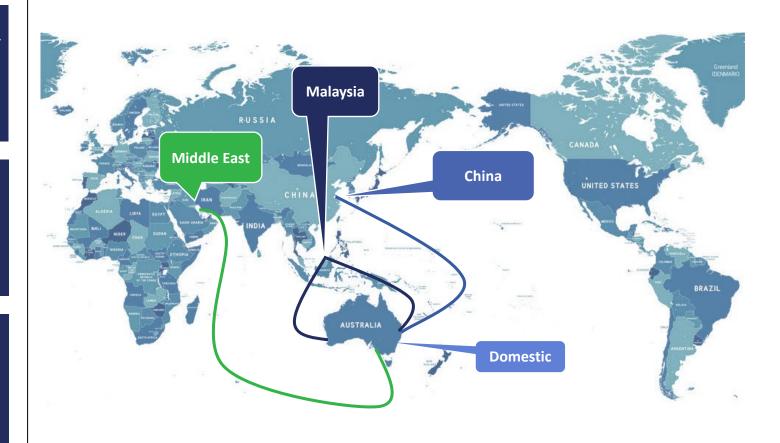
95% of Australia's urea is imported from Asia and the Middle East

On average it takes 24 days to ship urea to Australia from the Middle East and costs approximately A\$30/t

Importers face risk and cost associated with transport, exchange rates, commodity prices and import logistics

The remaining 5% of fertiliser used in Australia is domestically produced using expensive east coast gas

Australian Urea Sources





LCEP Urea Market

Target markets for LCEP urea are domestic users, plus international fertiliser traders and distributors

LCEP urea will be globally competitive because:



It's cheaper, faster and less risky for distributors to buy LCK urea for sale to Australian farmers than to ship it from the Middle East or Asia

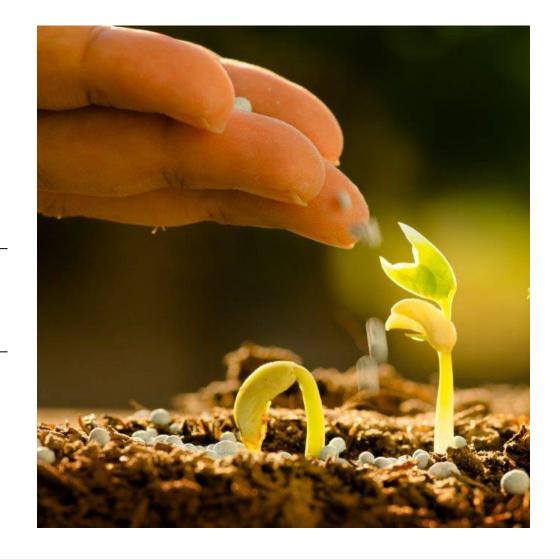


Ports accessible from Leigh Creek are central to the main Australian urea markets



LCEP operating costs will be very competitive as it can produce syngas on site for as little as \$1 per gigajoule

LCEP plans to export a proportion of its urea to take advantage of both the autumn-winter Australian season and the spring-summer Asian market





Pre-Feasibility Study



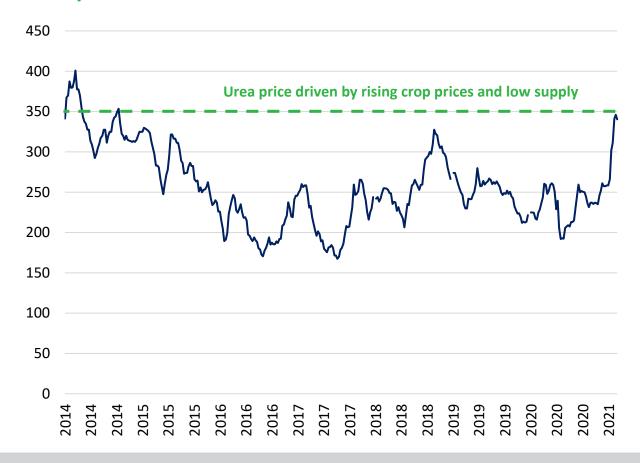


Pre-Feasibility Study Financial Summary

The PFS released in November 2020 highlighted robust economics for urea

- Initial annual urea plant capacity of 1.0 million tonnes per annum
- Initial capital cost \$2.3 billion
- Commercial life of over 30 years
- Nominal operating cost of A\$109 per tonne of urea compared with a spot price of A\$480¹ per tonne (February 2021)
- Hydrogen production potential
- Pre-tax leveraged Net Present Value (NPV) \$3.4 billion
- Internal Rate of Return (IRR) 30%

Urea Granular Bulk FOB Middle East (all netbacks) Spot USD/t1





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Pre-Feasibility Study Financial Summary

Project Metrics		
Syngas produced per year	PJ	35
Urea produced per year	Mt	1.0
Discount Rate	%	9%
Net Revenue/tonne ¹	\$/tonne	410
Pre-Tax Opex/tonne ^{2, 3}	\$/tonne	109
Capex/tonne ³	\$/tonne	82
Pre-Tax Net Cash Flow/tonne ¹	\$/tonne	219

Project Value Metrics		
Discount Rate	%	9%
Leveraged Pre-Tax NPV ₉	\$m	3,431
Leveraged Pre Tax IRR		30%
Leveraged Pre Tax Payback Period	Years	4

Economic Assumptions					
Urea Price ⁴	A\$/tonne	348			
Exchange Rate		0.71			
Annual Inflation Rate		2.5%			

Physicals		
Life of Project	Years	31
2P Gas Reserve	PJ	1,153
2C Gas Resource	PJ	1,469
Life of Project Urea Production	Mt	30.5





^{1.} CRU 2024 forecast pricing. ^{2.} Operating costs represent cost of production to the factory gate. ^{3.} Average life of project, nominal figures.

^{4.} Urea spot price at the time the PFS was prepared

Urea Project Development



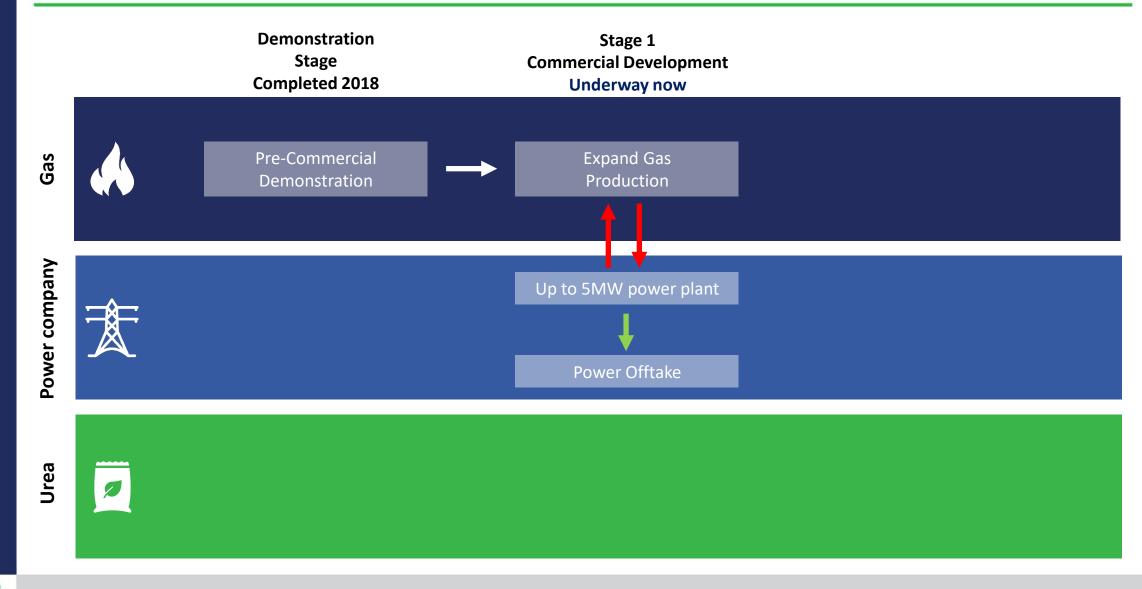


Commercial Development Pathway

Demonstration Stage **Completed 2018 Pre-Commercial** Demonstration Power company

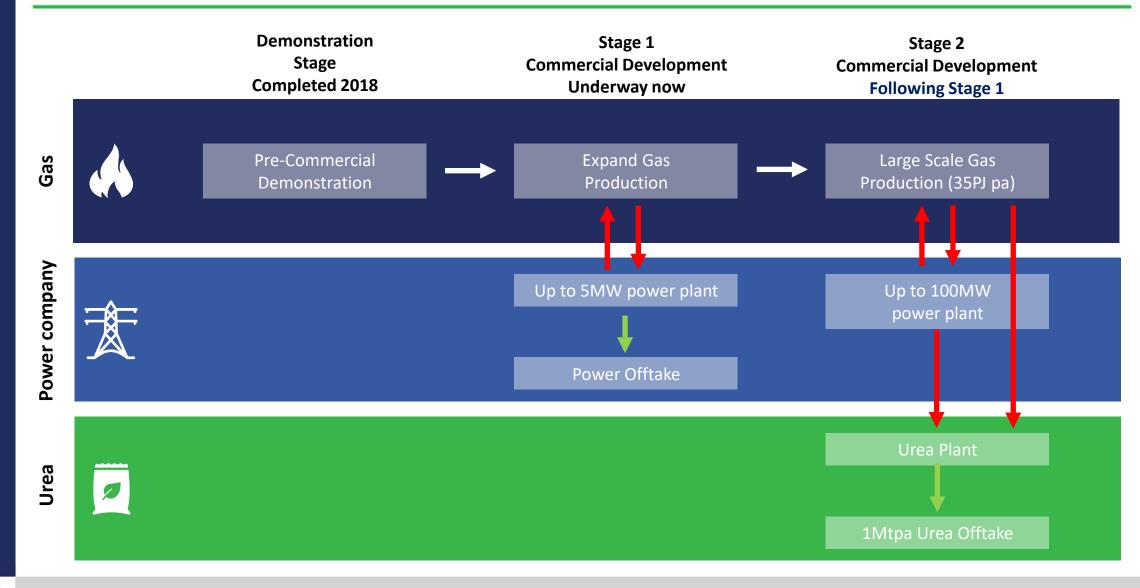


Commercial Development Pathway





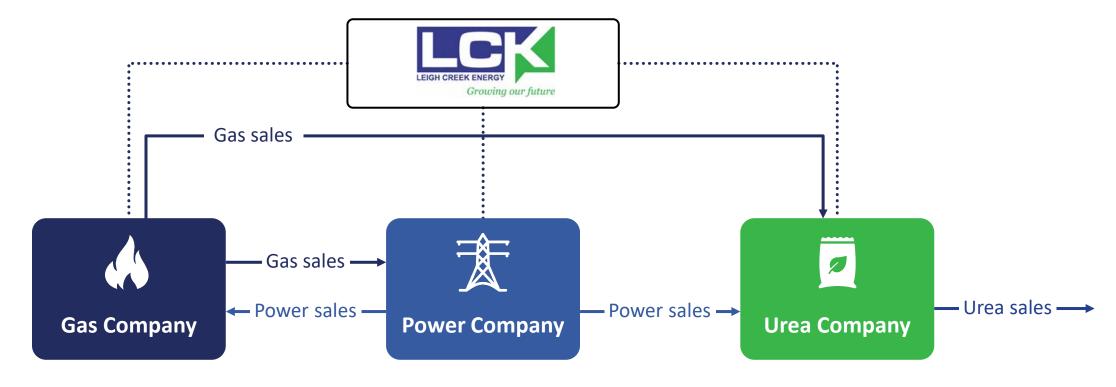
Commercial Development Pathway





Proposed Commercial Structure

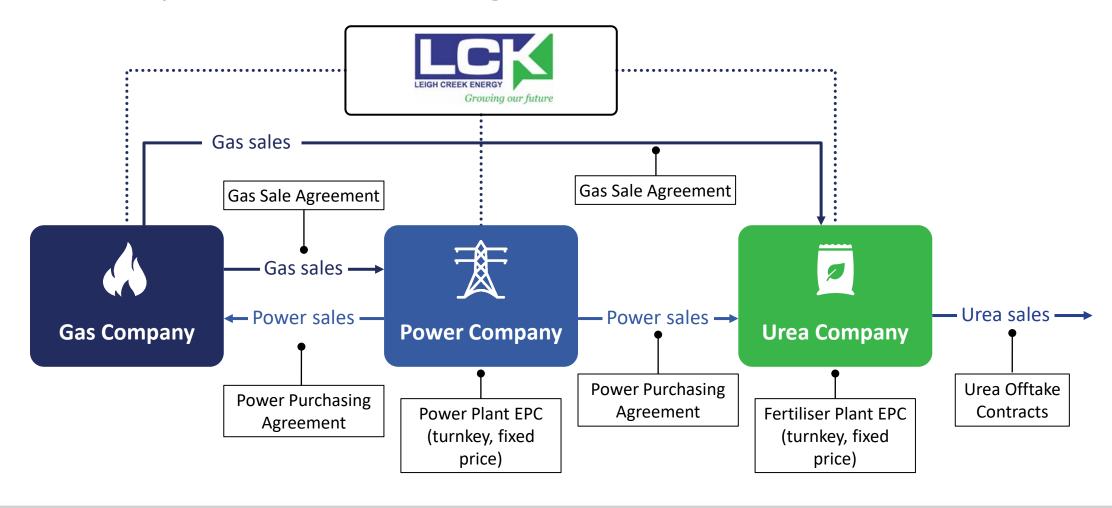
Potential to split Gas and, gas generated Power used in Urea production





Proposed Commercial Structure

All relationships controlled under contractual agreements





Commercial Development Milestones

Stage 1 Commercial Development

Expand gas production + commence earning revenue	PFS	PPL	ЕРСМ	FID	EIR & SEO	Field Development Plan
	Completed	Issued	Awarded	Approved	In Progress	In Progress

- Gasification wells
- Up to 5MW small scale power plant

Stage 2 Commercial Development

Final large scale gas + urea production	PFS	EIS	EPC	Feasibility Study	FEED	FID	
	Completed	In Progress	In Progress	Planned	Planned	Planned	

- Large scale gasification well drilling campaign
- Large scale power plant
- Construct urea plant



Project Risks

LCK is working to systematically reduce project risk at each stage of development

Risk



Regulatory approvals



Petroleum licencing approval for upstream development attained



Technical knowhow Technical capability proven with successful operation of the pre-commercial demonstration plant and faultless post operation environmental monitoring. The LCK expert technical team is growing as development activities progress



Financing

Combination of debt, equity and strategic partner injection is expected. Discussions with proposed strategic partners have commenced



Construction

Small scale, up to 5MW, power plant to be acquired and installed to enable commissioning of future gasifiers. The Stage 2, large power plant and urea plant construction to be managed under turn key, fixed price contracts to reduce risk

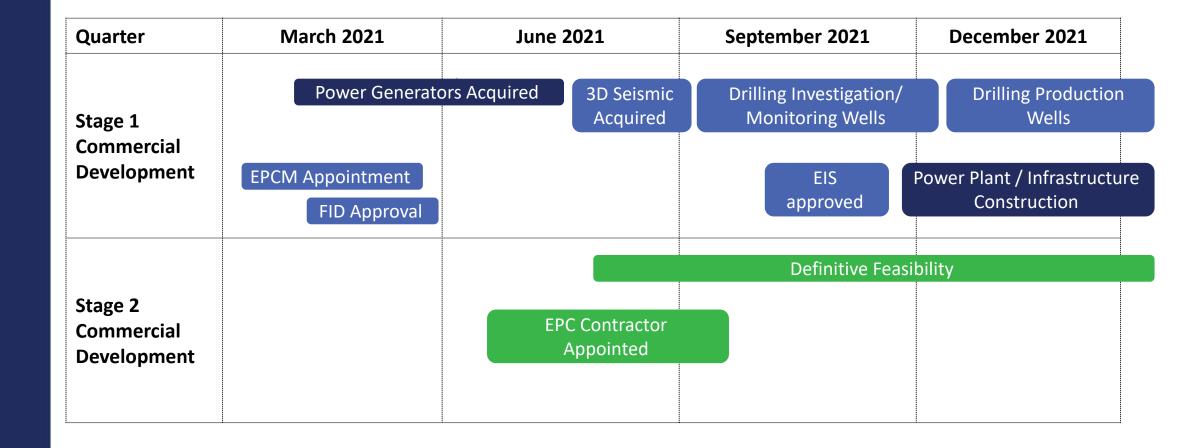


Commercialisation

In discussions regarding initial offtake agreements



Near Term Activities





Proposed Project Funding Sources

Funding Option

Developments to Date

\$

Strategic partner equity

- Discussions with potential strategic partners has commenced
- Planning to offer project equity in exchange for funds for construction



Equity raising

- Up to A\$18 million to be received from US based investors
- Future equity raisings to be undertaken as the project develops



Debt

 Per the prefeasibility study released in November 2020 it is anticipated that the project will be at least 50% debt funded



Urea plant fixed price EPC

 Shortlist of potential EPC partners determined.
 Contract details yet to be negotiated



Conclusion



Urea is a key input to ensure certainty of global agricultural supply



Australia currently imports 95% of the urea it consumes, which could be replaced with domestically produced urea



The LCEP has access to gas feedstock and transport infrastructure for urea, once produced



The LCEP PFS indicated a nominal operating cost of A\$109 per tonne explant compared with the spot price of A\$480¹ per tonne (February 2021) and an IRR of 30%



LCEP's low cost feedstock gas enables it to be extremely competitive in both domestic and export markets





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The Board of Leigh Creek Energy authorised this announcement to be given to the ASX.



