



## Aboriginal Heritage Act authorisation granted

### Highlights

- Leigh Creek Energy Limited and its wholly owned subsidiary has been granted an authorisation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act which will permit the development of the in-situ gasification project within the former Leigh Creek Coalfield.
- The approval is granted as a result of an application by Leigh Creek Energy under section 23 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988.

### Section 23 Authorisation

We are pleased to announce that an application by Leigh Creek Energy under section 23 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 has been approved by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation. This follows on from the granting of a Petroleum Production Licence in late 2020. In granting this authorisation the Treasurer Rob Lucas stated:

*“Leigh Creek Energy Limited ...have been granted an authorisation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act which will permit the development of a proposed in-situ gasification project within the former Leigh Creek Coalfield north of Copley in the Flinders Ranges.”*

#### **LCK Managing Director, Phil Staveley, commented:**

*“We are pleased with the delegate of the South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation positive decision on our project that recognises the significant economic benefits for shareholders, the state economy and Australia’s wider food security. Our commitment, as a company, is to make a positive difference in the areas and the communities in which we operate. To leave behind a better place than we first encountered. What we achieve in the Leigh Creek area will be the proof.”*

The authorisation was sought to enable the gasification of underground coal deposits using insitu gasification techniques, drilling of wells for exploration, production, monitoring and hydrogeological purposes, construction of borrow pits, roads, camps, buildings, rail and other infrastructure, geophysical surveys, installation of in-ground, underground and above-ground services, construction of processing and manufacturing facilities, the use of plant and equipment, and other activities as allowed under section 10 of

the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000 (SA) and the construction and operation of any plant to process the product of the gasification approved under any other statute (Authorised Activities) specifically, in relation to the land within the following petroleum licences, all of which are held and operated by LCO.

The South Australian government after extensive consultation with the local people generally and with the traditional owners have granted this authorisation. The obligations to deliver a safe, environmentally sound and socially responsible project still remain in accordance with State Government requirements. A number of conditions have been placed on the authorisation. LCK intends to exceed the conditions of the authorisation, conditions which we see as a minimum standard.

Conditions on the authorisation include:

- Compliance with AAR's Aboriginal Heritage Discovery protocols;
- Report to the Minister any Aboriginal Heritage encountered;
- Not to undertake any activities in a designated heritage exclusion zone;
- Develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to manage, mitigate and minimise any potential impacts on Aboriginal heritage;
- All relevant staff undertake an AAR approved induction;
- Comply with all Statements of Environmental Objectives;
- Invite representatives of traditional owners to observe ground breaking of virgin ground;
- Develop and implement an agreement, with ATLA, to provide training, employment and business opportunities to establish aboriginal owned businesses in support of our operations;
- Provide detailed annual progress reports to ATLA and AYLHA;
- Employ a full time community liaison officer to undertake engagement with the traditional owners.

LCK will continue, during the development of our integrated urea project, to engage and work with ATLA, the ATLA administrators and the ATLA Board to ensure that the LCUP delivers positive change and opportunities to Adnyamathanha people, along with other members of the local community. In granting the authorisation on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December the South Australian Treasurer Rob Lucas stated in his press release:

“...The project will be implemented in an area that has been extensively disturbed over many years by open-cut coal mining activities. ‘

“... In 2016, former Premier Jay Weatherill promoted the South Australian activities of Leigh Creek Energy during a trade mission to China. Former Labor Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Kym Maher advised Parliament that Leigh Creek Energy's exploration activities were not within any heritage sites that were registered. Similarly, the project Leigh Creek Energy now proposes to implement would not disturb any registered sites.”

“... the conditions of my authorisation require Leigh Creek Energy to minimise disturbance to Aboriginal Heritage by complying with the Heritage Discovery Procedure of the Department of Premier and Cabinet – Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to be developed after seeking input from ATLA and Traditional Owners.”

**LCK Executive Chairman, Justyn Peters, commented:**

*“LCK continues to deliver on important milestones for our project. This authorisation is one of those important milestones as it gives LCK, its shareholders and investors’ confidence in our ability to secure approvals and demonstrates the government’s commitment to our project.*

*There were several important points made in the Treasurer's statement on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2021. That consideration was given to a large range of views but that the economic benefits of*

*the project along with protection conditions in the authorisation would ensure proper protection of cultural heritage whilst at the same time deliver the economic benefits of our project to the State. The Treasurer importantly also pointed out that our project not only has the support of the current Liberal Government but also the previous Labor Government.*

AAR Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Department  
ATLA Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association  
AYLHA Adnyamathanha Yura Language and Heritage Association

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

### Further information:

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### About the Leigh Creek Urea Project

The Leigh Creek Urea Project (LCUP) is Leigh Creek Energy's (ASX:LCK) flagship project, developing low-cost nitrogen-based fertiliser for local and export agriculture markets. Located in South Australia, 550 kilometres north of Adelaide, the LCUP will initially produce 1Mtpa (with potential to increase to 2Mtpa) of urea.

LCK has a comprehensive environment, social and governance strategy. It has produced syngas within all approved environmental parameters set by the regulator and will be **carbon neutral from 2022**.

The LCUP will be one of the biggest infrastructure projects of its type in Australia, providing long term economic development and employment opportunities for the communities of the Upper Spencer Gulf region, northern Flinders Ranges and South Australia. The LCUP will be the only fully integrated urea production facility in Australia, with all inputs for low carbon urea production on-site.

The LCUP will be developed in 2 commercial stages:

Stage 1 consists of:

1. Construction of gasification wells to provide energy (syngas) for the project; and
2. 5 MW gas fired power generation.

Stage 2 consists of:

1. Expansion of gasification fields;
2. 100MW gas fired power generation;
3. Ammonia facility;
4. Urea facility; and
5. Logistics, loading and transport.