



Date: 30 July 2014

Cooper Basin Project Update

New Standard Energy Limited (**New Standard**) advises that it has received approval for amendments to its five year work program in PEL570 in the Cooper Basin. As part of the revised program, New Standard now has seismic and drilling to commence in Year Two before the new deadline of March 2016, with only minor expenditure on geological studies in Year One required before then.

New Standard requested a suspension of the work program for PEL570 acreage and a deferral of the planned seismic due to the uncertainty surrounding the ownership of the Company's PEL570 joint venture partner, Ambassador Oil and Gas Limited (**ASX: AQO, Ambassador**), which is the subject of two competing takeover offers.

New Standard has now received notification from the South Australian State regulator, the Department of State Development (**DSD**, formerly DMITRE) that the Company was successful in its application, resulting in:

1. suspension of all work commitments in its five year work program at PEL570 in the Cooper Basin for six months; and
2. deferral of the requirement to undertake a seismic program from Year One to Year Two of the work program, which moves the target completion date for New Standard's PEL570 seismic survey back 18 months from September 2014 to March 2016.

New Standard holds a 52.5 per cent operator position of PEL570, subject to completion of required exploration activities under a farm-in agreement with Ambassador.

New Standard Energy Managing Director Phil Thick said the six month whole of program suspension and the seismic deferral minimised New Standard's exploration expenditure in PEL570 for the next 12 months, a postponement New Standard would use to plan and enhance its exploration program to commence drilling in Year Two of the program.

"We have already commenced geological evaluation on PEL570 and are very encouraged about prospects for Basin Centred Gas, with positive results so far," Mr Thick said.

"Origin Energy's recent farm-in to Senex Energy's adjacent Cooper Basin acreage has greatly added to the interest and value in our part of the Cooper Basin, which is supported by the current battle to take control of New Standard's PEL570 minority partner, Ambassador Oil & Gas."

"There is considerable exploration activity planned in adjacent areas of the Patchawarra Trough in the Cooper Basin over the next 12 months, which we believe will add further value to the acreage position New Standard achieved with its purchase of PEL570 earlier this year," he added.

- ENDS -



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About New Standard: New Standard Energy is an onshore hydrocarbon producer, developer and explorer with a commitment to develop and realise the oil and gas potential of the most prospective shale and tight gas basins across the US and Australia.

The Company's exploration and production program is active, well-funded and extensive. It is underpinned and complemented by targeted corporate activity to take advantage of opportunities and to build an extensive pipeline of prospective projects. New Standard's Board has substantial technical and commercial experience in the oil and gas sector.

The Company operates in four primary basins: Eagle Ford, Texas, USA; Cooper, South Australia; and the Canning and Carnarvon, Western Australia.

The Eagle Ford acreage is a development and production project. It contains five existing production wells, in the oil window of the Eagle Ford shale, which are currently producing and generating revenue that will provide immediate monthly cash flow to the Company. New Standard is currently drilling and evaluating additional wells.

The Cooper Basin Project is later stage exploration and development, to take advantage of existing infrastructure and the domestic and export opportunities available in the Australian East Coast gas market.

The Canning and Carnarvon Projects are frontier basins, providing New Standard's investors with exposure to high risk, high reward exploration.

New Standard benefits from a strategic alliance with its major shareholder, the US-based Magnum Hunter Resources Corporation, to efficiently develop the Atascosa Project in the Eagle Ford; to develop the Cooper Basin; and to explore in the Canning and Carnarvon Basins. The Company's portfolio includes:

Texas

- Working interests ranging from 35.4% to 100% Working Interest across 5,128 net acres in the Eagle Ford shale, onshore Texas, USA
- 32.5% working interest in the Colorado County Project, onshore Texas, USA

South Australia

- 52.5% operated interest in the PEL 570 acreage area in the Cooper Basin, South Australia

Western Australia

- 25% operated interest in the Southern Canning Project (EPs 443, 450, 451, 456), Canning Basin, Western Australia
- 100% operated interest in the Southern Canning Project (application areas STP-EPA-006, STP-EPA-007 and STP-EPA-010), Canning Basin, Western Australia
- 100% operated interest in the Laurel Project (EP 417 and Exploration Permit Application STP-EPA-0109), Canning Basin, Western Australia
- 100% operated interest in the Merlinleigh Project (EPs 481 and 482), onshore Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia
- 100% operated interest in application area STP-EPA-0092

In addition to the above portfolio, New Standard has a 28.2% equity interest in ASX listed Elixir Petroleum (**ASX: EXR**) and has formed a strategic alliance with Magnum Hunter Resources Corporation (**NYSE: MHR**) to deliver expertise and corporate growth. New Standard is also continuing to actively assess other opportunities to complement and expand its exploration portfolio.