

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

4 October 2022

### **Northern Territory Update**

Top End Energy Limited (**Top End** or the **Company**) (ASX:TEE) is pleased to provide an update on its Northern Territory activities.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Positive initial consultation with the native title holders of EP 258, representing one of the first on country meetings for the grant of a new permit since the lifting of the moratorium
- In-principle terms of the ancillary exploration agreement fully agreed with the Northern Land Council, subject to final instruction from native title holders
- Native title holders to hold final decision meeting in coming weeks
- Preparations underway for execution of the Section 31 Deed ahead of grant
- Progressing key approvals and land access ahead of proposed acquisition of up to 150km of 2D seismic survey in H1 2023
- Ongoing commitment to nearby Beetaloo Basin from new and existing investors, and active upcoming drilling schedule for operators continuing to target commercially viable flow rates

#### **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

##### **EP 258**

The Company's Managing Director, Technical Director and advisors travelled to Elliott earlier this month for the initial On Country Meeting (**OCM**) with the native title holders of EP 258 (the **Permit**). This represents one of the first meetings of its kind since the lifting of the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in 2018.

Ahead of the OCM, the Company had reached an agreed position with representatives of the Northern Land Council (**NLC**) on the in-principle terms of an exploration agreement ancillary to an agreement under section 31(1)(b) of the Native Title Act (the **Exploration Agreement**), subject to final instructions from native title holders. The execution of the Exploration Agreement by the native title holders is the key pre-requisite for achieving formal grant of the Permit.

The objectives of the OCM were the following:

- provide an introduction to the Company and overview of key potential activities to be undertaken by the Company during the exploration term, subject to receiving Permit grant;
- satisfy the requirement to consult the native title holders on the specific work program activities for the Company's initial proposed 2D seismic acquisition in H1 2023; and
- provide an opportunity for the NLC to discuss the terms of the proposed Exploration Agreement with the native title holders and ensure the latter's rights are fully understood.

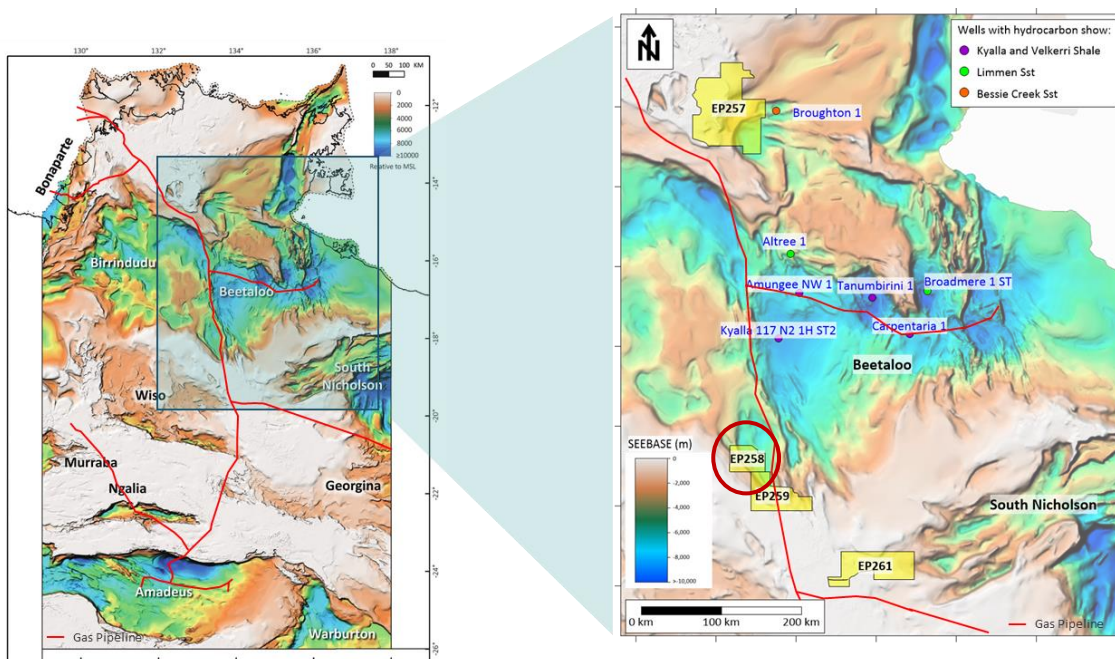
All the above objectives were achieved at the OCM and the Company had positive engagement with the native title holders throughout the meeting. The native title holders have requested time to reflect on the proposed agreement ahead of a final decision meeting in the coming weeks.

It is intended, subject to the final decision meeting, that the Exploration Agreement be executed concurrently with the Section 31 Deed (the **Deed**), to which both the Company and the Northern Territory Government (**NTG**) will also be a party. The Deed is a statutory document, which the NTG relies upon for the consent of the native title party to the grant of the Permit under the Native Title Act. The Company is working with the NLC and NTG to confirm the form of the Deed to minimise any delay to formal grant once the Exploration Agreement with the native title holders has been finalised.

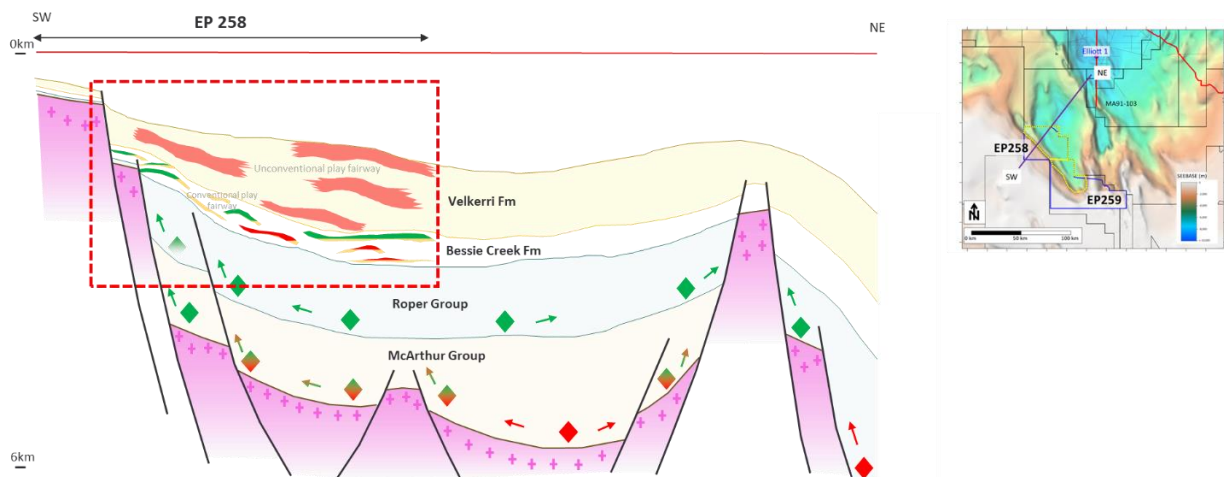
In parallel, the Company has continued to progress key approvals and access agreements required for the Company to undertake the planned acquisition of up to 150km of 2D seismic survey in H1 2023, including:

- submission of an application for an Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority certificate in accordance with the proposed Exploration Agreement and provisioning for necessary archaeological surveys to be undertaken;
- drafting of the Environmental Management Plan and engagement with contractors for undertaking necessary environmental and ecological baseline studies; and
- engagement with the relevant pastoral lease holders regarding land access.

The objective of the proposed seismic survey is to confirm the extension of the proven play system that hosts the significant discoveries which have been made in the Beetaloo Basin, including the conventional Bessie Sandstone and unconventional Velkerri Shale reservoirs, into the Company's application areas on the Southern McArthur Basin margin, and ultimately aid in the identification of drilling targets.



**Figure 1: Top End's key permits in the Greater McArthur Basin**



**Figure 3: Regional schematic highlighting the potential of the untested southern margin of the Greater McArthur Basin and EP 258**

## Market Updates

The Company also notes the recent updates from operators in the very active Beetaloo Basin, a sub-basin of the Greater McArthur Basin:

- On 20 September, Tamboran Resources announced the acquisition of Origin Energy's Beetaloo Assets, funded through a placement and strategic partnerships to raise up to ~\$195 million;

- Tamboran and Bryan Sheffield agreed to jointly acquire Origin Energy's 77.5% interest in three Beetaloo Basin permits (EP 98, 117 and 76) for an upfront cash consideration of \$60m plus a future production royalty;
- Tamboran funded the acquisition through a placement which included participation from both Sheffield, an experienced US onshore player and existing investor in the Beetaloo Basin, and Helmerich and Payne, the largest onshore driller in the US, representing strong commitment to the region;
- On 12 September, Empire Energy announced that its EP 187 Carpentaria-3H and Carpentaria-4V drilling program is on track to commence early October, a horizontal and vertical well respectively targeting the Velkerri Formation shales with hydraulic stimulation and extended production testing scheduled on the former by year end.

**Commenting on the OCM and progress to grant, Managing Director Oliver Oxenbridge said,** "It was excellent to finally get on country and meet the native title holders of EP 258. We were grateful for the opportunity to fully address any questions and concerns during the meeting and to talk to community representatives on a more informal basis following our presentation. The native title holders are an incredibly important stakeholder in this project, and we are very pleased to be closing in on the start of an exciting journey with them. We recognise the significance of the progress we have made in advancing EP 258 to grant status and remain focused on achieving the key next steps that will hopefully see us commence on-ground activities in 2023."

**- END -**

This announcement was authorised for release by the Board of Directors of Top End Energy Limited.

For more information please contact:

**Shane Hartwig**  
**Company Secretary**  
**+61 8 6245 9836**  
[info@topendenergy.com.au](mailto:info@topendenergy.com.au)

### **About Top End Energy Limited**

Top End aims to be a leading Australian diversified energy provider at the forefront of the energy transition. Combining an attractive portfolio of granted and in-application petroleum permits in Queensland and the Northern Territory, with intentions to pursue complementary clean energy solutions and achieve a target of net zero (Scope 1 & 2) emissions.

For further information on Top End Energy Limited please visit [www.topendenergy.com.au](http://www.topendenergy.com.au)