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ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

19 March 2015

## Austin Announces Board of Director Changes

Austin Exploration ("Austin" or "the Company") (ASX:AKK) today announced it will add two new non-executive directors, based in Sydney Australia, Mr. Philip McCarthy and Mr. Stuart J. Middleton, effective 15 April 2015.

Richard Cottee has notified the board that he wishes to retire from the board following his 60th birthday. He has tendered his resignation effective 21 April 2015 which the board has accepted.

"I look back with certain satisfaction of the progress made by Austin and in particular the transformation of the Eagle Ford acreage into a low cost quartile shale oil producer. The calibre of the new directors augurs well for the future of the company", said Richard Cottee.

Austin Exploration Managing Director, Dr. Mark Hart, said: "The board is grateful for the outstanding service of Richard as Chairman from which the Company has benefitted. We are pleased that Austin is able to attract two high calibre energy directors in Phillip and Stuart which clearly illustrates the strength of the Company's management team and its world class US oil and gas assets."

Dr. Mark Hart will resume the duties of Chairman and Managing Director. Guy Goudy will continue as an Executive Director and COO/CCO of the Company. Mr. Hart and Mr. Goudy reside in the US and Dominic Pellicano, non-executive director, Mr. Phil McCarthy, non-executive director, and Stuart Middleton, non-executive director, all reside in Australia.

Mr. Phil McCarthy has had an outstanding career in the energy business and has excellent commercial credentials. Mr. McCarthy is a professional CEO in the mining industry and completes advisory work in a variety of industrial companies. His demonstrated experience will provide valuable input to corporate strategy and advice on a range of board considerations including allocation of company resources to drive growth, shareholder returns and value. Phil has seven years of experience as a director of ASX listed public companies and being a Fellow of AICD has provided much exposure to ASX Corporate Governance standards and USA GAAP Accounting Standards. He has been a member of three public company Audit Committees. Further, Mr. McCarthy has advised on two enterprises leading up to their successful IPO on the ASX including WDS Limited an oil and gas services contractor and a mining exploration company. Mr. McCarthy is currently the Chairman of Mine Site Technologies Pty Ltd a privately owned global communications and digital wireless technology company specialising in the global mining sectors (2001-current) and he is also a Non-Executive Director of Custom Fluidpower Pty Ltd, an Australia-wide private company providing end to end fluid power designs, equipment, services and repairs to mining and transport (2004-current). Some of his former roles include non-executive director Mechel Mining, a large Russian Iron Ore and Coal producer; a subsidiary of Mechel OAO, a NYSE listed US\$12.5b revenue company; non-

executive Chairman Endocoal Limited, an ASX listed coal exploration company operating in the Bowen Basin Queensland; and the CEO & Managing Director Powercoal Pty Limited, a large underground coal mining enterprise in NSW, operating 7 mines at 10 mtpa, now Centennial Coal.

“We are extremely pleased to have someone on the board of directors that has in-depth energy experience in the industry, has served on ASX listed boards, and who has a résumé of commercial successes throughout the world,” said Dr. Hart.

Mr. Stuart Middleton will join the Austin Exploration board of directors as a non-executive director based in Sydney. Stuart has recently returned to Australia from a 10 year assignment in China where he lived and was the Group Executive for TDS, Banpu Plc, Asian Energy Company with assignments in China, Mongolia, Indonesia, Australia and Thailand living in the Henan and Shanxi provinces of the Peoples’ Republic of China. Mr. Middleton has also worked in the USA, Indonesia and Columbia. During his time in China he was highly involved with oil and gas, in both conventional and unconventional drilling for CBM and oil/gas; he advised both government and a major Asian Energy group relating to Asian American Gas Company, extensive JV vertical and multi-lateral directional wells as well as technology transfer from oil/gas to underground degas directional drilling and degas to mitigate dangerous outburst challenges. Australian by background, Stuart has a Bachelor’s degree in engineering and a Master’s Commerce degree with double majors in Finance and Technology Management from The University of Sydney. He is a chartered professional engineer. Stuart was the general manager of the Baal Bone operation in Lithgow, Australia and served on the Oakbridge board in Sydney and the Queensland North Goonyella Pty. Ltd board in Mackay.

Mr. Middleton also has a strong background in strategic planning and financial strategy. In addition he has been engaged as a “Specialist Expert” for major companies and has prepared, or had input into, many Due Diligence and Valuation reports. A particular strength being acutely tuned to operations, technical and developing the underlying fundamental value of resources with 37 years of hands-on planning, operating / improvement and management experience.

Mr. Middleton has diversified experience in contractor mining in minerals and has been involved in successful negotiations for major international mining contracts in Indonesia and Colombia.

“Stuart’s international energy background, strong Asian presence, and worldwide experience of some 37 years in energy, finance, technology, and commerce will bring additional technical and business expertise to Austin Exploration shareholders”, stated Dr. Mark Hart.

“This strong five person international board of directors will continue to drive the Company forward during these low oil price times with the strategy of developing its core flagship Colorado Niobrara formation in the future while continuing to provide cash flow from its low capital cost properties in Kentucky, Mississippi, Colorado Pierre and Texas. The management has been hard at work adjusting its cost base and developing an economically prudent growth plan and we look forward to updating shareholders shortly”, said Dr. Mark Hart.

**-ENDS-**

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**ABOUT AUSTIN EXPLORATION:**

Austin Exploration is an Oil and Gas Company with a portfolio of oil and gas assets in the United States. In 2010, Austin strategically shifted its core focus towards non-conventional shale exploration and production. The Company has now established a major presence in two of America's most prolific oil and gas basins. Austin controls more than 11,000 acres in Colorado in the Niobrara Shale and has an interest in over 5,000 acres in Texas in the Eagle Ford Shale and the Austin Chalk. Austin has producing oil and gas wells in Colorado, Texas, Mississippi and Kentucky. Austin has built a world class Board and Management team with proven company builders to derive maximum value from its oil and gas properties. Austin is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX code: AKK) and on the OTC-QX International in the United States (AUN-XY).

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