

30 April 2009

The Manager Company Announcements Australian Stock Exchange Limited

Dear Sir,

# Quarterly Report Period Ending 31 March 2009

# Australian oil explorer and producer, Stuart Petroleum Limited (ASX Code: STU) today reports on activities for the Quarter ended 31 March 2009.

Directors are pleased to announce that the opening months of 2009 witnessed an improved financial position for the Company.

This was achieved through delivery of forecast oil production and revenue for the period, positive returns from the ongoing realisation of the Company's oil hedges, and the early clearance of all debt provisions relating to the drilling in September last year of Stuart's first offshore well in the Gippsland Basin.

Progress was also made in the Company's growth projects at Port Bonython in South Australia's Upper Spencer Gulf, and in respect of the Oliver oilfield in the Timor Sea, west of Darwin.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Stuart realised a further A\$3.8 million from its commodity price hedges during the quarter, including A\$1.3 million on the sale of its remaining March to June 2009 zero cost collars. The Company has now realised a total of A\$13.3 million on the sale of its zero cost collars in the December 2008/March 2009 quarters.
- Sales revenues for the quarter totalled \$6.3 million on production and sales of 80,100 barrels of oil, compared with A\$6.6 million on production and sales of 76,800 barrels of oil in the December 2008 Quarter.

### 1 WORK COMPLETED

# 1.1 TIMOR SEA PERMIT AC/P33 – Oliver Oilfield (Stuart earning 50% equity and Operator)

Stuart is earning a 50% interest in and is Operator of the offshore Ashmore Cartier permit, AC/P33, in the Timor Sea which contains the Oliver-1 oil and gas/condensate discovery, approximately 700 kilometres west of Darwin. Stuart is entitled to earn its interest by sole funding an appraisal well (Oliver-2) and the engineering study work required to achieve a Final Investment Decision (FID) on development of the discovery. Stuart will also fund the first A\$25 million of development costs after approval of the FID.

Stuart assesses the recoverable oil and condensate in the Oliver structure to be in the range 10-33 million barrels of liquids.

During the quarter, Stuart continued to plan for the appraisal and development of the Oliver oil/condensate field. The Company completed preliminary design work for the planned appraisal well, Oliver 2.

The Company received completed reprocessing of the 3D seismic survey over Oliver and commenced reinterpretation and remapping of the field during the quarter. Stuart also finalised contracts with consultants to perform geological and reservoir simulation modelling of the Oliver field during the second quarter of 2009 and commenced a preliminary facilities study.

# 1.2 COOPER/EROMANGA BASIN

Stuart is Operator and has a major interest in 10 oil fields and is non-Operator and a minor interest holder in 2 oil fields in the Cooper-Eromanga region in the far northeast of South Australia, Stuart is also Operator and a major interest holder in 5 exploration permits; Petroleum Exploration Licences 90, 93, 100, 102 and 113. The Company's entire oil production is currently achieved from within these permit areas.

# 1.2.1 Exploration

During the quarter the Company progressed interpretation of the Sprigg Extension 3D seismic survey in PEL 90 to define possible drilling targets on the flanks of the Candra Dome. These targets will be candidates for the Company's 2009/10 drilling programme.

Stuart's seismic reprocessing and inversion project in PEL 102 which has the objective of deriving seismic signatures and directly identifying gas sands in PEL 102, is nearing completion. This reprocessing will be integrated into the PEL 102 interpretation and the seismic inversion report. No exploration wells were drilled or new seismic data was acquired during the quarter.

# 1.2.2 Development & Production

Stuart is the Operator of 21 producing wells within its permits in the South Australian section of the Cooper-Eromanga Basin, with the Company's relevant interest in these wells ranging from 50% through to 100% and holds a minor interest and is non Operator in 5 producing wells in the area.

The Company's share of oil production during the quarter was 80,054 barrels, 5% higher than the previous quarter.

Production operations at Worrior, Padulla and Acrasia were stable, with various routine surface and downhole pump optimisations carried out to maximise oil rates. Harpoono was offline for a period during February for pump repairs

	Stuart's Equity Interest %	Interest December 2008		Change over preceding quarter (%)	
Stuart Petroleum Operated Oilfields					
Acrasia	75	6,953	6,986	+0%	
Arwon	100	214	0	-100%	
Worrior	70	47,517	50,445	+6%	
Harpoono Complex	66.67	6,589	3,527	-47%	
Padulla	100	8,457	13,193	+56%	
Cleansweep	50	309	203	-34%	
Sub-Total		70,039	74,354	+6%	
Non-Operated Oilfields					
Derrilyn Unit	35	6,516	5,700	-13%	
Total Production (barrels of oil)		76,555	80,054	+5%	

# 1.3 PORT BONYTHON FUELS JOINT VENTURE (Stuart 85%)

Stuart holds 85% of the equity in Port Bonython Fuels Pty Ltd (PBF). PBF was incorporated for the purpose of establishing fuel import, storage and distribution facilities and a micro diesel refinery at South Australia's most northerly deep water port; Port Bonython on South Australia's Upper Spencer Gulf. The port is the only suitable deepwater hydrocarbon fuels berth in the region as it can handle ships carrying up to 100,000 tonnes or more of fuel.

PBF plans to better service the fuel and energy needs of the State's more remote mining, agricultural and aquaculture industries and supportive communities through establishing this facility. The Company plans to complete its assessment of the project and deliver a final development decision in the December 2009 quarter.

During the quarter under review, PBF completed all necessary surveys and all reviews of infrastructure and services in the area required prior to acquisition of the project land.

The Company commenced preparation of the project Development Application which it plans to complete and lodge in the June 2009 quarter.

# 1.4 GIPPSLAND BASIN PERMIT VIC P53 (Stuart earning 50% interest and Operator)

Stuart is the Operator of the offshore Gippsland Basin permit, Vic P53 and is entitled to earn a 50% interest in the permit by funding 100% of the cost of drilling two wells. Stuart drilled the first well, Bazzard-1 in September last year; the well was plugged and abandoned.

During the March period, Stuart included the drilling and palynological results from Bazzard 1 into the structural mapping within Vic P53, resulting in the definition of three drilling targets. The three targets have total mean unrisked potential reserves estimated at 48 million barrels of oil.

During the quarter, Stuart secured an extension of time to 30 June, 2009 in which Stuart may elect to drill a second well in Vic P53.

#### WORK PLANNED

#### 1.5 Timor Sea, Northern Territory AC/P33

Stuart will prepare geological and reservoir simulation modelling during the second quarter of 2009 to provide revised estimates, and ultimately certification, of the Oliver oil and gas resource potential based on the new mapping coming out of the reprocessed 3D seismic. Stuart will also use the modelling to locate and design the Oliver 2 appraisal/development well to be drilled late in 2009.

The Company will continue surface and subsea production facility engineering scoping studies through the quarter.

#### 1.6 Gippsland Basin Vic/P53

The Company will decide during the June quarter whether or not to exercise an option to drill a second well and thereby earn a 50% interest in the VIC P53 permit.

#### 1.7 Port Bonython Fuels Project

PBF negotiations for the acquisition of land from the State Government of South Australia will be completed in the June 2009 quarter. Similarly, the project Development Application will to be completed and lodged. The Company will continue negotiations to finalise access and tenure terms to the service corridor and jetty for discharge and transfer of product from shipping utilising the existing Port Bonython jetty.

PBF will continue detailed engineering and negotiations for supply of diesel as programmed to allow Stage 1 of the project to reach financial investment decision during the December 2009 quarter.

# 2 HEDGING

# Crude Oil

Stuart's production is unhedged to enable the Company to take advantage of an expected improvement in the oil price through 2009 and beyond.

### Currency

With the sale of the commodity hedges in the prior quarter, the Company was potentially over hedged as to foreign currency. During the latest March quarter, the Company removed at no cost, a series of forward sale contracts totalling US\$10.6 million. The outstanding foreign exchange contracts at 31 March 2009, are detailed below:

Forward Sales	USD Million	AUD Million	Rate
2008/09	0.4	0.6	
2009/10	1.6	2.3	A\$1.00=US\$0.6703
2010/11	2.8	4.1	
Zero Cost Collars			
2008/09	2.6	3.5	Cap of US\$0.72 and floor
2009/10	8.5	11.8	of US\$0.66. Adjusted if
2010/11	4.5	6.3	rate exceeds US\$0.764

# 3 SHARES/OPTIONS ISSUED

At the date of this report the Company has a total of 63,082,422 ordinary fully paid shares on issue. In addition, there are 4,350,000 options issued but not quoted. During the quarter 200,000, options lapsed.

The Company has no other securities on issue

Yours faithfully,

Tino Guglielmo Managing Director

Attachments: Tables 1-3 Cooper/Eromanga Basin Map Gippsland Basin Map Vulcan Sub Basin

#### Stuart Petroleum Limited Quarterly Statistics (Quarter on Quarter)

	June 2008	September 2008	December 2008	March 2009	Change over Preceding Quarter (%)
Sales Revenue					
Production Volumes (bbls)	106,566	106,858	76,555	80,054	5
Average price (A\$/bbl)	125.7	104.7	85.9	78.70	(8)
Oil Revenue     (A\$ million)	13.4	11.2	6.6	6.3	(5)

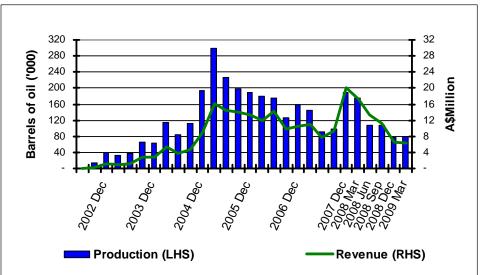
Field Operating Expenditure					
<ul> <li>Production, Export &amp; Royalty Cost</li> </ul>	5.3	4.1	2.5	2.7	8
• Costs per bbl (A\$/bbl)	49.73	38.32	32.24	33.73	5

Capital Expenditure (A\$ million)					
<ul> <li>Exploration Expenditure Capitalised</li> </ul>	1.3	13.7	<16.9>**	0.5	N/A
<ul> <li>Exploration Expenditure Expensed</li> </ul>	2.9	4.0	29.5	2.1	(93)
Development     Expenditure Capitalised	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.0	11
Total Capital Expenditure	5.7	18.7	13.5	3.6	(73)

Net Bank Debt (A\$ million)	7.0	12.3	12.0	12.8	7
Trade Creditors (A\$ million)	9.1	12.9	6.0	3.3	(45)
Total indebtedness (A\$ million)	16.1	25.2	18.0	16.1	(11)

\*\*Capitalised expenditure transferred to Exploration expense

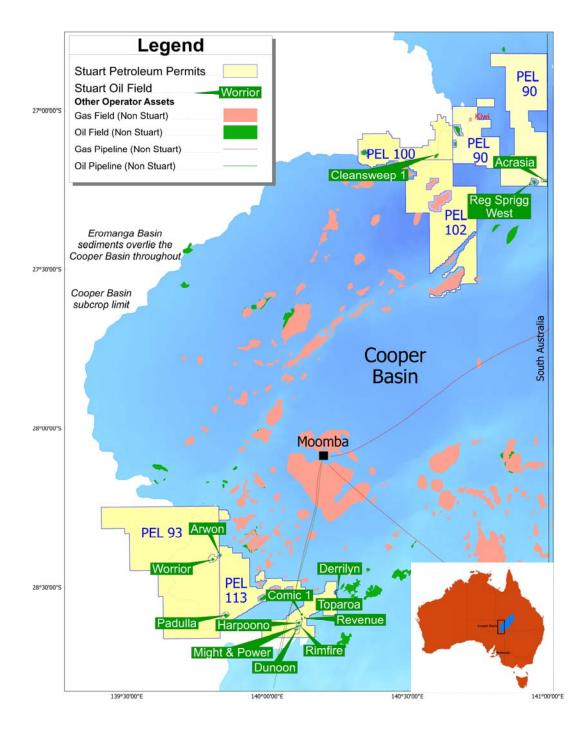
Table 2



Stuart Petroleum Limited Quarterly Oil Production & Sales Revenue

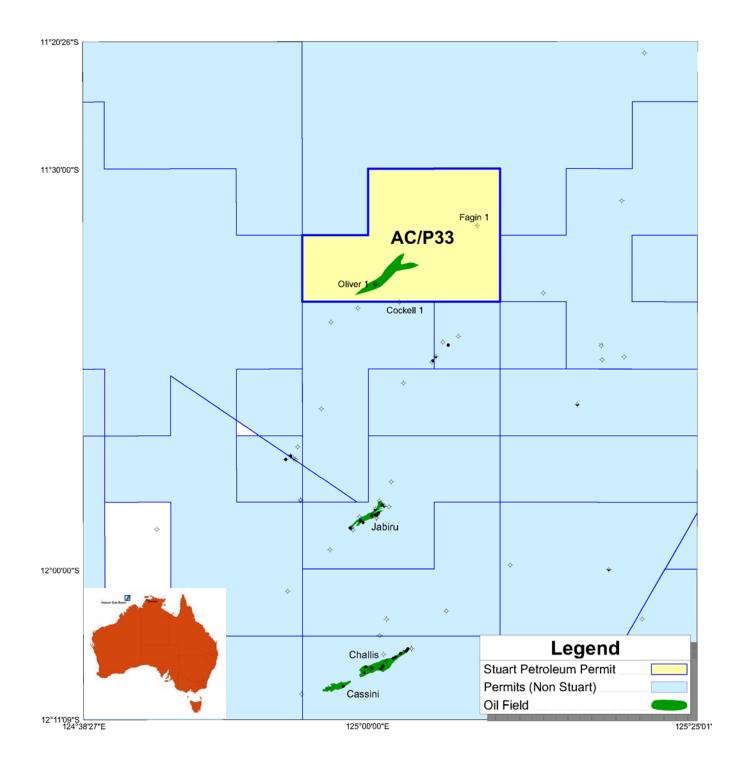


# Permit Location Map Cooper/Eromanga Basin



# AC/P33 Permit Location Map Offshore Vulcan Sub-Basin





# Vic P53 Permit Location Map Offshore Gippsland Basin



