Petroleum and gas exploration opportunities
Surat, Cooper and Eromanga basins, Queensland, Australia

Twenty areas open for competitive tender

Queensland is one of the world’s leading destinations for mining and resources investment and new petroleum and gas exploration opportunities are available in the state’s Surat, Cooper and Eromanga basins.

The Surat, Cooper and Eromanga basins are key petroleum and gas producing regions and have significant deposits, serviced by established processing facilities and major transmission pipelines. More than 11,000 km² of land is available for competitive tender across two locations incorporating 20 areas.

Successful tenderers will be granted an Authority to Prospect (ATP) for petroleum and gas exploration with an initial term of six years.

Due to the nature of the land, the size of the release areas, existing infrastructure in place and accessibility to existing ports and transport options in the surrounding areas, the Queensland Government anticipates strong national and international interest in these tenders.

Exploration potential
Queensland’s petroleum and gas deposits, particularly in the Surat, Cooper and Eromanga basins, are potentially worth billions of dollars.

The Cooper and Eromanga basins are one of Queensland’s largest conventional petroleum and gas provinces and is in an excellent position with respect to infrastructure and ready access to existing markets which will assist the path to commercialisation for successful discoveries. Investors will benefit from access to precompetitive data, available acreage and an established service industry as well as strong demand fundamentals. Pipelines connecting the Cooper and Eromanga basins to Australia’s eastern gas market, north western heavy industries and to Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) export facilities at Gladstone ensure the region has source-to-market capabilities.

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The Surat Basin has proved to be one of Australia’s richest regions in terms of tapped and untapped resources. The area is supported by a well-established network of regional centres and smaller townships which offer essential services including health, education and community services. There is also a broad network of telecommunications, transport and energy infrastructure.

Since 2000, the Surat Basin has been the focus of coal seam gas (CSG) or coal bed methane (CBM) exploration and significant CSG reserves have been discovered. As at December 2014, the Surat Basin’s proved and probable (2P) CSG reserves were 33,294PJ. To put this in perspective, 225PJ of CSG were produced from the Surat Basin in 2014.

Tender areas

**PLR2015-1 – SURAT BASIN** (see map inset 2)
- **Size:** 6 km²
- **Location:** Approximately 22 km south-east of Condamine in the Surat Basin, Queensland, Australia
- **Gas initially-in-place estimates:** 1,150 ± 450 MM³ (43 ± 17 PJ)
- **Target:** Highly prospective for CSG.
- **Age of sedimentary basin:** Late Triassic to Middle Cretaceous
- **Tender type:** Competitive cash tender

**PLR2015-2 – COOPER AND EROMANGA BASINS** (see map inset 1)
- **Size:** Approximately 11,000 km²
- **Location:** Approximately 1,000 km west of Brisbane in the Cooper Basin, south-west Queensland, Australia
- **Target:** Deep oil and gas in the Cooper Basin, oil in the Eromanga Basin and conventional oil and gas in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins. Some areas may be prospective for CSG in the Winton Formation and shale oil in the Toolebuc Formation of the Eromanga Basin.
- **Age of sedimentary basin:** Late Carboniferous to Middle Triassic
- **Tender type:** Competitive non-cash (work program) tender
Comprehensive infrastructure and established service industry

Queensland has amassed a high level of business and skills capability from the development of CSG to LNG projects totalling $70 billion.

Queensland investors enjoy robust road, rail, port and airport infrastructure networks, including four international airports, ensuring a world-class supply chain, access to resources and source-to-market capabilities. There are also more than 1,000 regional businesses in Queensland with experience and capability to support the petroleum and gas industry and CSG projects with services covering drilling, well servicing, and civil construction to works camps and catering.

The tender process

These Call for Tenders for Authorities to Prospect (ATP) opened on 15 May 2015 and will close at 2.30pm on Thursday 8 October 2015.

The Call for Tenders document includes geological data as well as known native title, land uses and environmental requirements. All tenders must meet the criteria outlined in the Call for Tender documents. Please visit www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/resources-tenders

Requests can be made for an area of land to be considered in upcoming rounds of competitive tendering by submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI). Nominated areas received by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) by 30 June will be considered for release in the following years’ land release schedule of competitive tendering.

The government offers a range of services to support investors and companies seeking to develop resources and business opportunities in Queensland and is also committed to the growth of the sector by:

» modernising the regulatory framework to make it easier to do business
» streamlining approval processes
» improving access to precompetitive geological data.

More information

More information about exploration opportunities, submitting an EOI and assistance available to develop resources in Queensland is available online at www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/resources-tenders by emailing resources-tenders@dnrm.qld.gov.au or phoning the Project Team on +61 7 3199 8239.

Queensland’s advantages

Queensland offers world-standard mineral and energy resources and large areas of under-explored land.

Thanks to its abundant high-quality resources, well-developed infrastructure and supply chain, proximity to major markets in Asia and stable political and social environment, Queensland is a leading destination for petroleum and gas exploration investment. The state also has a proven history of using sustainable and innovative exploration and production practices and the resources sector is supported by high-quality mining equipment, technology and services (METS).

The Queensland Government is pro-business and welcomes investment in the resources sector. In 2014, more than AUD$737 million was invested in the state’s petroleum and gas industry.

The government encourages investment in new exploration projects through annual releases of acreage for exploration.