

Land Court of Queensland Case Resolved

Sapphire Environmental Authority granted by the Land Court of Queensland

Blue Energy Limited (ASX: "BLU") is pleased to advise that the Land Court of Queensland, in a decision handed down by Member JR MacNamara yesterday, decided to grant an amended Environmental Authority (EA) to Eureka Petroleum Pty Ltd (holder of ATP 814 and 100% wholly owned subsidiary of Blue Energy Limited) for petroleum activities to be undertaken on the Sapphire PL 1034 Application area (see Figure 1 below).

Summary:

- The Land Court Appeal was brought by Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc against the Queensland Government for granting an Environmental Authority to Blue Energy.
- The Land Court heard the Appeal and reached a decision on the matter.
- The challenge and the case had been ongoing since July 2023 and defended by Blue since that time.
- The matter has now been concluded.
- The Land Court has now issued a valid Environmental Authority for Blue to continue development of gas resources and reserves in the Bowen Basin.
- This new Environmental Authority (EA) issued by the Land Court adds new conditions to the original EA which build on the original EA conditions regarding water, flora and fauna matters.
- Blue can now focus on this and its other tenements in the Bowen Basin which contain significant gas resources, the development of which is vital to bolstering East Coast gas supply, local manufacturing, the stability of the electricity grid and many jobs and households that these sectors support.

The decision by the Land Court to grant the amended EA now allows the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development to proceed with the grant of the Petroleum Lease (PL) over the Sapphire Block.

The judgment of the Land Court of Queensland sets a precedent as the first published judgment in an appeal against a Department of Environment Tourism Science and Innovation (DETSI) decision to grant an Environmental Authority for a project under the Petroleum and Gas (Safety and Production) Act 2004.

Background

Following the initial grant of an EA by DETSI, the Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc (EACQI) lodged an appeal in the Land Court of Qld regarding the decision by the Queensland Government (DETSI) to award the EA to Blue Energy. The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) acted on behalf of the EACQI in the Appeal proceedings.

In its judgment, the Land Court of Queensland set aside the earlier decision to award the EA and substituted a new decision to grant an EA on amended terms.

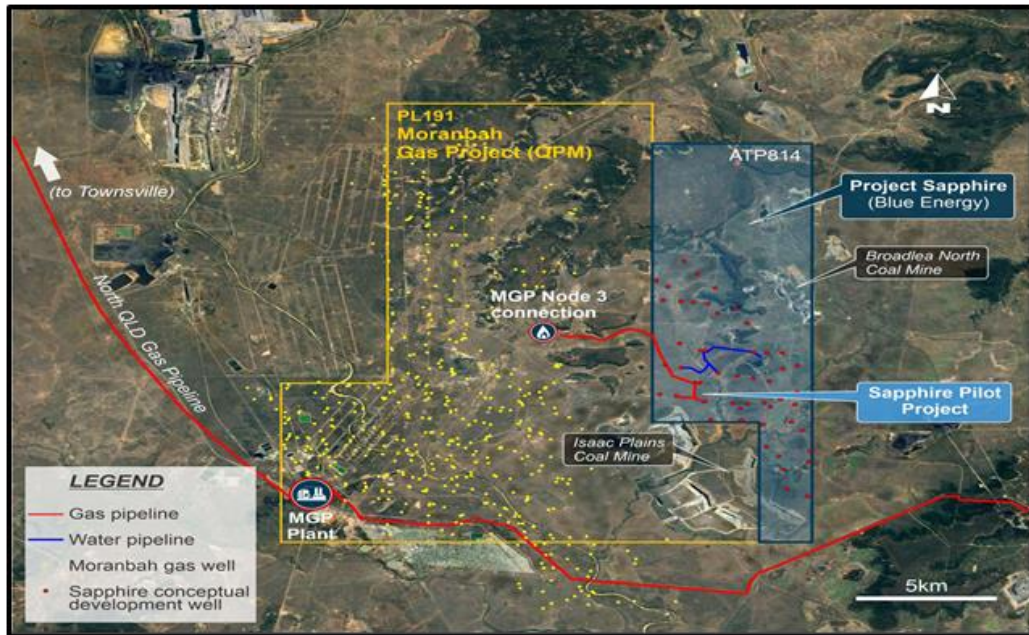


Figure 1: Sapphire Block (and PL A 1034) of ATP 814

By Authority of the Board per:

John Phillips
Managing Director
 Blue Energy Limited