

HILLGROVE RESOURCES

Wednesday, 12 April 2006

SECOND CSG WELL DRILLED

Hillgrove Resources Limited (ASX:HGO) is pleased to advise that Bibblewindi-7, the second production well in the current nine well programme, has reached total depth of 1,005 metres and has been cased awaiting fracture stimulation. The drill rig has been moved to the third well location to spud Bibblewindi-5.

For more details please refer to the attached announcement from the Joint Venture Manager, Eastern Star Gas Limited.

About the Gunnedah Basin Gas Project - *"Delivering Gas Independence to NSW"*

The Project is located in Petroleum Exploration License 238 between Narrabri and Gunnedah in New South Wales covering 9,100 kms² of the Gunnedah Basin. The PEL contains one of the largest onshore natural gas accumulations in Australia alone totaling 17,000 PJ (17 TCF) of gas-in-place within two thick coal seams. The Bohena Project Area, which covers 260 kms² within PEL 238 and contains up to 3,700 PJ (3.7 trillion cubic feet) of gas-in-place, is the focus for early commercial development to serve local power and industrial consumers and, ultimately, the Newcastle and Sydney markets. The Project is managed by Eastern Star Gas Limited and is owned by the Gunnedah Basin Gas Project (Coal Seam Gas) Joint Venture which comprises:

- Eastern Star Gas Limited (ASX: ESG) – 32.5%
- Gastar Exploration Limited (TSX: YGA) – 35%
- Hillgrove Resources Limited (ASX: HGO) – 32.5%

About Hillgrove

Hillgrove is an Australian resources company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange which focuses on identifying resources opportunities that can either be brought into production readily or those where there is a clearly defined value adding route within a clearly understood risk environment. Commodities that are of particular interest include copper, gold, garnet, silver, lead, zinc, uranium and natural gas.

Hillgrove is exploring a total of 974 km² in the Kanmantoo Trough and the Gawler Craton, two of the most prospective regions of South Australia for copper and gold. Hillgrove is currently undertaking a pre-feasibility study of the Kanmantoo Copper Mine, a potential mid-tier copper producer, where it has established an Indicated and Inferred Resource of 18.37 MT grading 1.1% copper and 0.2 g/t gold. Additionally, the copper/gold mineralisation is associated with what is thought to be a World Class resource of garnet which has application as an abrasive.

In October 2005 Hillgrove announced the conclusion of a strategic alliance with Sempra Metals, a subsidiary of Fortune 500 Company Sempra Energy, involving an \$8 million equity and debt package to assist the development of Kanmantoo.

The Company has a 32.5% interest in the Gunnedah Basin Gas Joint Venture's PEL 238 Coal Seam Gas Project in New South Wales. The Joint Venture currently has five wells in test production with a nine well production pilot currently being drilled. PEL 238 contains one of the largest onshore accumulations of natural gas in Australia totalling 17,000 PJ's (17 TCF) of gas-in-place within two thick coal seams.

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12th April, 2006

**GUNNEDAH BASIN CSG PROJECT
SECOND WELL COMPLETED
BIBBLEWINDI-7**

Eastern Star Gas Limited, the Operator of the PEL 238 Gunnedah Basin Coal Seam Gas Joint Venture, is pleased to announce that Bibblewindi-7, the second production well in the current nine well program has reached total depth of 1,005 metres and has been cased awaiting fracture stimulation. The drill rig has been moved to the third well location to spud Bibblewindi-5. Bibblewindi-7 is located 700 metres north-east of Bibblewindi-1 and Bibblewindi-5 is located 800 metres north west of Bibblewindi-7. A map is attached showing locations of the wells.

The nine well program aims to establish a confined Bibblewindi Production Pilot by drilling eight closely spaced new production wells in proximity to the existing Bibblewindi-1 production well. The confined pilot is designed to accelerate dewatering of the Bohenia coal seam at Bibblewindi and therefore achieve commercial gas production rates in a shorter period than would be possible for isolated (unconfined) wells or for wells drilled on larger spacing. The target date for establishing commercial rates is the fourth quarter of 2006.

As part of the nine well program, a pressure observation/monitor well, Bibblewindi-10, has already been completed 2.2 kilometres north of Bibblewindi-1. The function of this well is to monitor the formation pressure in the Bohenia coal seam to see if the water and gas production from the nine wells within the Bibblewindi Production Pilot located some distance to the south, is reflected in the pressure response within the Bohenia seam in Bibblewindi-10. This will assist with maximising gas reserves certification.

About the Gunnedah Basin Gas Project (Coal Seam Gas Joint Venture)

The Project is located in Petroleum Exploration Licence 238 between Narrabri and Gunnedah in New South Wales covering 9,100 kms² of the Gunnedah Basin. The PEL contains one of the largest onshore natural gas accumulations in Australia alone totaling 17,000 PJ (17 TCF) of gas-in-place within the two coal seams that are over 10 metres thick in each of two coal bearing formations. The Bohenia Project Area covers 260 kms² within PEL 238 and contains up to 3,700 PJ (3.7 trillion cubic feet) gas in place within coal seams of the Late Permian Black Jack Formation and the Early Permian Maules Creek Formation. The Project is managed by Eastern Star Gas Limited and is owned by the Gunnedah Basin Gas Project (Coal Seam Gas) Joint Venture comprising:

Eastern Star Gas Limited (ASX: ESG) 32.5%
Hillgrove Resources Limited (ASX: HGO) 32.5%
Gastar Exploration Limited (AMEX: GST & TSX: YGA) 35%

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Patrick Sam Yue.
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Location of Bibblewindi CSG Wells

