Origin energy

To	Company Announcements Office	Facsimile	1300 300 021
Company	Australian Stock Exchange Limited	Date	27 October 2006
From	Bill Hundy	Pages	5
Subject	**CONTACT ENERGY SECURES ADDITIONAL MAUI GAS**		

Attached herewith is a copy of an announcement released to the New Zealand Stock Exchange by Contact Energy Limited.

Origin Energy has a 51.36% interest in Contact Energy Limited.

Regards

Bill Hundy
Company Secretary

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CONTACT

27 October 2006

Contact secures additional Maui gas

Contact Energy has secured rights to a further 170 petajoules of natural gas from the Maui gas field, under its Agreement relating to Right of First Refusal for Maui Gas with the Maui Joint Venture parties. The gas is to be taken between 2007 and 2014.

Approximately 42 per cent of that gas will come from the Maui field's P85** gas volumes, with the remaining 58 per cent from the P50* gas volumes - which is contingent on this reserve being firmed to P85 status.

Contact Energy Chief Executive, David Baldwin, said the new contracts confirmed Contact's increased confidence in its short to medium-term gas outlook.

He said the terms relating to price and flexibility of the gas supply arrangement over the first three years reflected the current market conditions of oversupply in the short-term.

Mr Baldwin said Contact had, in conjunction with the purchase, arranged to sell around seven petajoules per annum from October 2007 until mid 2010 to a large wholesale gas customer. Contact has also agreed to a short-term sale to another wholesale customer.

Mr Baldwin said Contact was reasonably confident that most, if not all, of its rights to the Maui P50 gas would be realised. The terms and conditions of this tranche of gas are consistent with recent long-term gas deals in the New Zealand market.

"This additional gas is a significant volume which will go a long way towards securing a stable fuel supply for our existing natural gas-fired assets into the middle of next decade," he said.

A short presentation outlining the expected profile of the gas is available in the investor section of Contact Energy's website at www.contactenergy.co.nz.

***P85 means the quantity of gas estimated at a probability of 85 per cent or greater to be recovered from the field*

**P50 means the quantity of gas estimated at a probability of 50 per cent or greater to be recovered from the field*

For more information:
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Updated Gas Position

27 October 2006

Contact has secured a further 170 PJs of ROFR Maui gas to be taken between 2007 and 2014.

Total Volumes

- 170 PJs. Approximately 42 per cent of that gas will come from the Maui field's P85 gas volumes, with the remaining 58 per cent from the P50 gas volumes - which is contingent on this reserve being firmed to P85 status.

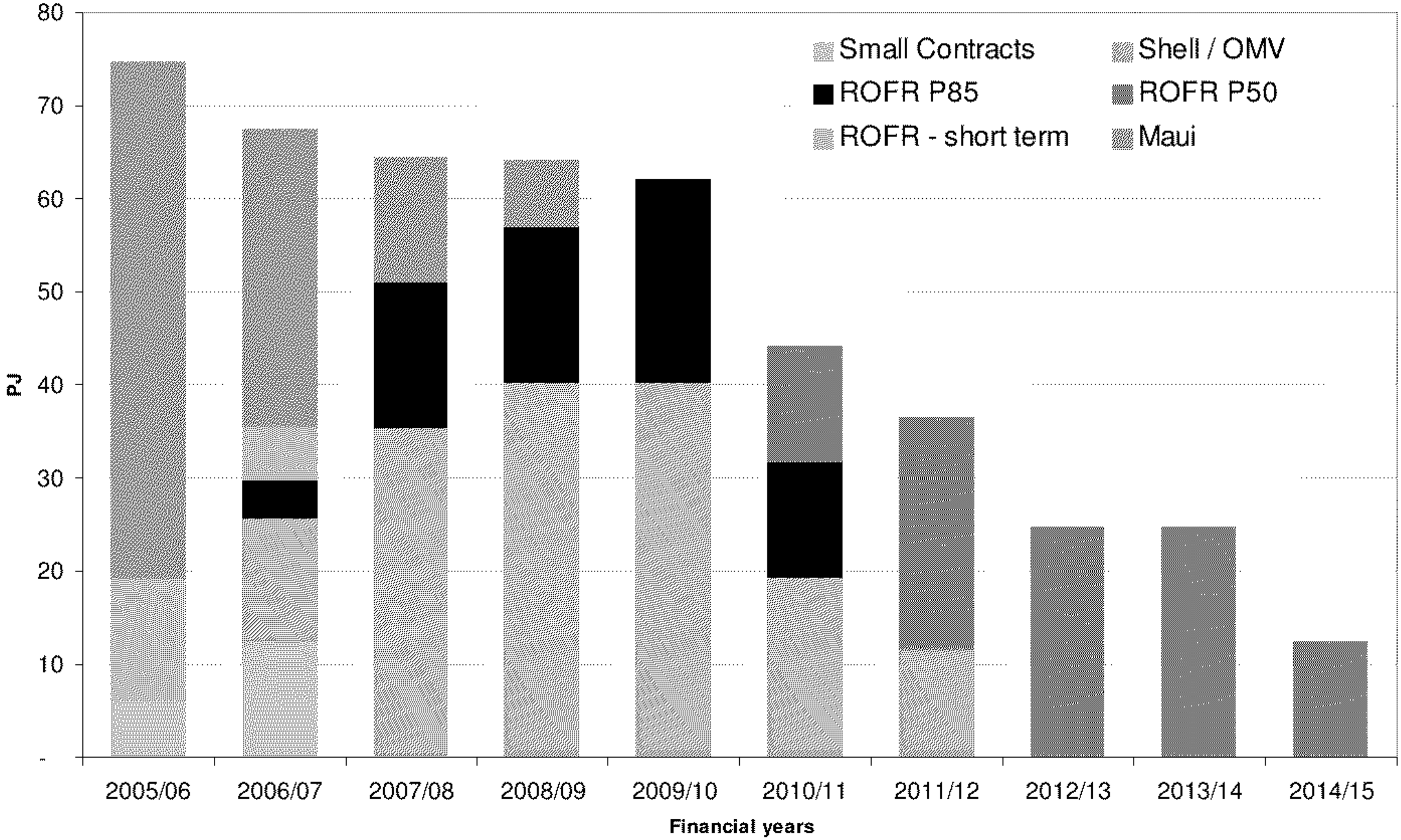
Tranche 1: P85 Gas

- Terms relating to price and flexibility of the gas supply arrangement over the first three years reflected the current market conditions of oversupply in the short-term.
- Contact has, in conjunction with the purchase, arranged to sell around seven petajoules per annum from October 2007 until mid 2010 to a large wholesale gas customer. Another short-term wholesale gas sale has also been agreed.

Tranche 2: P50 Gas

- Reasonable confidence that most, if not all, of its rights to the Maui P50 gas will be realised.
- The terms and conditions of this tranche of gas are consistent with recent long-term gas deals in the New Zealand market.

Acquisition of two additional tranches of ROFR gas extends the gas book out beyond 2010



Note: This profile is based on current assumptions around external gas sales and internal generation requirements and is subject to change.

CONTACT