

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT AND MEDIA RELEASE

19th February 2003

Cliff Head Multi-well Drilling Programme Vindara 1 Commences Drilling

At 6.30am (Western Standard Time) today, the Ensco Jackup drilling commenced drilling the Vindara 1 exploration well in WA-286-P which is located in the offshore northern portion of the Perth Basin. The location of Vindara 1 is about 6.5 kilometres southeast of the Cliff Head Oil Field. Vindara 1 will be drilled as a vertical well to a depth of 1,843 metres. Regardless of drilling results this well will be plugged and abandoned with out testing for reasons relating to operational cost efficiencies.

Subsequent to Vindara 1, the WA-286-P Joint Venture will drill a fourth well in the Cliff Head Oil Field.

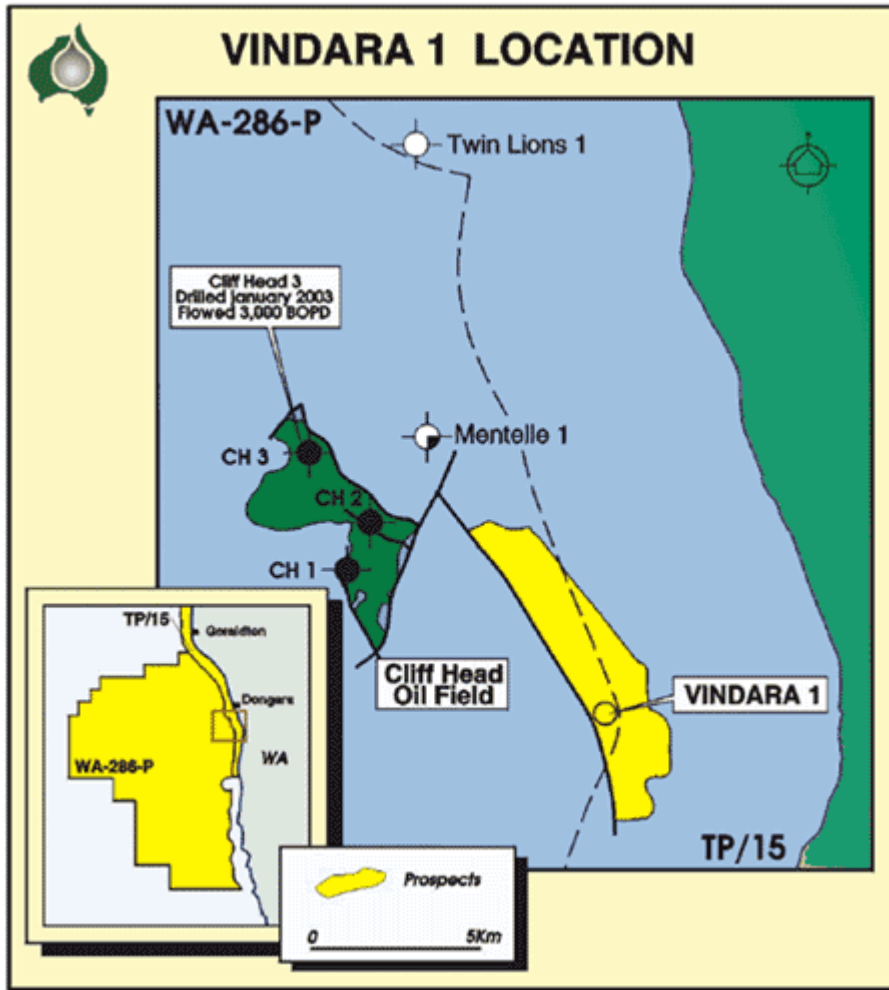
Firm Wells				
Well	Permit	Potential (mm bbl in place)	Equity	
Cliff Head 3	WA-286-P	80-100	5.0%	tested 3,000 BOPD
Twin Lions 1	TP/15	360	10.0%*	plugged & abandoned
Mentelle 1	WA-286-P	50	5.0%	non commercial oil shows
Vindara 1	WA-286-P	70-100	5.0%	now drilling
Cliff Head 4	WA-286-P		5.0%	next well

* Paying 20% plus testing capped

Please Note: Norwest plans daily report during the drilling of these wells and hence will keep the market fully appraised.

The WA-286-P Joint Venture comprises:

Equity	
Westranch Holdings Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Norwest Energy NL)	5.0%
Roc Oil (WA) Pty Ltd (Operator)	30.0%
AWE Oil (Western Australia) Pty Ltd	27.5%
Wandoo Petroleum Pty Ltd	25.0%
ARC Energy NL	7.5%
Voyager Energy Limited	5.0%



For and on behalf of
Norwest Energy NL

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