

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT AND MEDIA RELEASE

17th February 2003

### Cliff Head Multi-well Drilling Programme Mentelle 1 Hydrocarbon Shows Not Commercial

Norwest Energy NL advises that Wireline logging and evaluation of data obtained from the drilling of Mentelle 1, established that the hydrocarbon shows reported on 14th February 2002 are residual and immovable and, as such, they are of no commercial significance. The well is now in the process of being plugged and abandoned.

Once abandonment operations are completed at Mentelle 1, the Ensco-53 jack up drilling rig will move to drill the Vindara 1 exploration well on a prospect which straddles the boundary between WA-286-P and TP/15. Vindara 1 will be drilled within the confines of WA-286-P about approximately three kilometres to the southeast of the Cliff Head Oil Field.

<b>Firm Wells</b>				
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		5.0%	next well
Cliff Head 4	WA-286-P		5.0%	

\* 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:

<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Westranch Holdings Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Norwest Energy NL)</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
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%

The TP/15 Joint Ventrue comprises:

<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Westranch Holdings Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Norwest Energy NL)</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
Hardman Oil & Gas Pty Ltd	30.0%
AWE Oil (Western Australia) Pty Ltd	25.0%
Roc Oil (WA) Pty Ltd (Operator)	20.0%
ARC Energy NL	7.5%
Voyager Energy Limited	5.0%
Bounty Oil and Gas NL	5.0%

For and on behalf of  
Norwest Energy NL

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