

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT AND MEDIA RELEASE

3rd January 2003

Cliff Head Multi-well Drilling Programme Rig on location

Norwest Energy NL advises that the Ensco 53 jackup drilling rig arrived at the Cliff Head 3 appraisal well location at 2130 hours (Western Standard Time) on the 2nd January 2003. As at the time of this morning's report the rig is waiting on weather to jack up prior to drilling. It is expected jack up should occur early am 4th January 2003.

The Ensco 53 is programmed to drill a minimum of 3 wells and possibly 7 depending on results of the firm programme. Drilling will be undertaken in both WA-286-P (Norwest Energy 5%) and adjacent TP/15 (Norwest Energy 10%).

Cliff Head 3 will be drilled on the same structure as Cliff Head 1 & 2 which intersected oil offshore Perth Basin late 2001/ early 2002. Cliff Head 1 intersected a 5 metre net oil column, while the successful number 2 appraisal well intersected a gross oil column of 28.5 metres with a net to gross ratio between 60% and 65%.

Following drilling if warranted, testing, of the Cliff Head 3 appraisal well, the Ensco 53 Jack up Drilling rig is scheduled to drill Twin Lions 1 in the adjacent TP/15 permit. The Twin Lions structure is situated about 5 kilometres to the north-northeast of the Cliff Head Oil Field and is geologically similar, forming part of the same trend.

If Twin Lions 1 is successful, it is likely that a second well will be directionally drilled from the number 1 location to test the extent of any hydrocarbons westward into WA-286-P.

Firm Wells			
Well	Permit	Potential (mm bbl in place)	Equity
Cliff Head 3	WA-286-P	80-100	5.0%
Twin Lions 1	TP/15	360	10.0%*
Mentelle 1	WA-286-P	50	5.0%
Contingent Wells			
Well	Permit	Potential (mm bbl in place)	Equity
Cliff Head 4	WA-286-P		5.0%
Twin Lions 2	WA-286-P		5.0%
Moondah 1	TP/15	150	10.0%**
Vindara 1	WA-286-P	75	5.0%

* Paying 20% plus testing capped

** Paying 20% 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 Ventrue 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%

The TP/15 Joint Ventrue comprises:

Equity	
Westranch Holdings Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Norwest Energy NL)	10.0%
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

Ivan Burgess
Chief Executive Officer and Director

For further information, please contact: Mr Ivan Burgess CEO/Director
Ph: 08-9228 8251
E-mail: ivanb@norwestenergy.com.au