

**FURTHER MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS ADVISE SUPPORT FOR  
GREAT ARTESIAN MERGER WITH DRILLSEARCH**

Major shareholders of Great Artesian Oil and Gas Limited ('Great Artesian' ASX: GOG), representing more than 30% of the company's capital, have advised they intend to vote in favour of the company's merger with Drillsearch Energy Limited ('Drillsearch' ASX: DSL), in the absence of a superior proposal.

**GREAT ARTESIAN OIL & GAS**

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**DRILLSEARCH ENERGY LIMITED**

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Peter Simpson,  
Executive Chairman  
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On 18 April 2008 Great Artesian and Drillsearch announced their intention to merge by way of a Scheme of Arrangement ("Merger").

On 19 June 2008, the Federal Court of Australia ordered that a meeting of Shareholders of Great Artesian ("Scheme Meeting") be convened at 10.30am (Sydney time) on 28 July 2008 at the Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, 30 Pitt Street, Sydney to enable a vote to be taken on the proposed Merger.

On 30 June 2008 Great Artesian advised that Beach Petroleum Limited (ASX:BPT) had indicated that it intends to vote in favour of the Merger, in the absence of a superior proposal. Beach Petroleum is Great Artesian's largest shareholder holding nearly 16% of the issued share capital.

Since then Great Artesian has been advised by a number of other major shareholders representing over 16% of Great Artesian shares that they also intend to vote in favour of the Merger, in the absence of a superior proposal. They include, among others, the following and their associated holdings:

- Mr Ray Shaw
- Mr Norm Zillman
- Mr Rob Pullan
- Mr Greg Plummer
- Mr Nigel Lambert

Mr Peter Hopkins, Non Executive Chairman of Great Artesian said, "We are very pleased to have received these further expressions of voting intentions which currently indicates strong support for the Merger at the Scheme Meeting. Proxies may be lodged until 10.30am on Saturday 26 July 2008. I urge all Great Artesian shareholders to review the Scheme Booklet and cast their vote on the Merger."

The Board of Great Artesian unanimously recommends that all Great Artesian Shareholders vote in favour of the Merger in the absence of a superior proposal and encourages those who cannot attend the meeting to complete and forward without delay the proxy form enclosed with the Scheme Booklet sent to them.

If Great Artesian shareholders have any questions in relation to the Merger, please call Great Artesian between 9:00am to 5:00pm (AEST) Monday to Friday on 02 9929 3383.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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