

6 March 2006

**Australian Stock Exchange
Electronic Lodgement**

Drilling Report for MIDDLETON-1, PEL106 Cooper Basin

Great Artesian Oil and Gas Limited ("Great Artesian"), has been advised by Beach Petroleum Limited ("Beach"), Operator of the Middleton-1 well, that, as at 0600 hours CST 6 March 2006, the status of the well was as follows:

Current Depth : 2841m - Total Depth in Merrimelia Formation
Current Operation : Preparing to run DST-2
Forward Operations : Run DST-2

Middleton-1 is at total depth of 2841metres in the Merrimelia Formation. Wireline logs were run over the weekend and preliminary analysis indicates a number of possible gas bearing zones within the Patchawarra Formation. An inflate-straddle drillstem test (DST #2) will be run over one of those zones, the interval 2653 to 2663 metres.

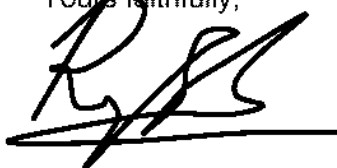
Middleton-1 is testing an anticlinal structure located within the Beach Farmin Block portion of PEL 106. Middleton-1 is located about 5km northwest of the Raven Gasfield, 6km southeast of the recent Udacha-1 gas discovery and 9 km southwest of the Smegsy Gasfield. Middleton-1 is proposed to drill to a total depth of 2895 metres within the Tirrawarra Sandstone.

The Patchawarra Formation is the primary target for the Middleton Prospect, which has been assessed as having the potential to accommodate up to 3 million barrels of recoverable oil or some 15 BCF of gas (both at the P10 level of confidence).

Middleton-1 is being operated by Beach which is fully funding the cost of drilling. Interests in any subsequent petroleum production licence, in the event of a commercial discovery at Middleton-1, will be Great Artesian 50% and Beach Petroleum 50%.

A locality map and time depth chart for the drilling of Middleton-1 follow.

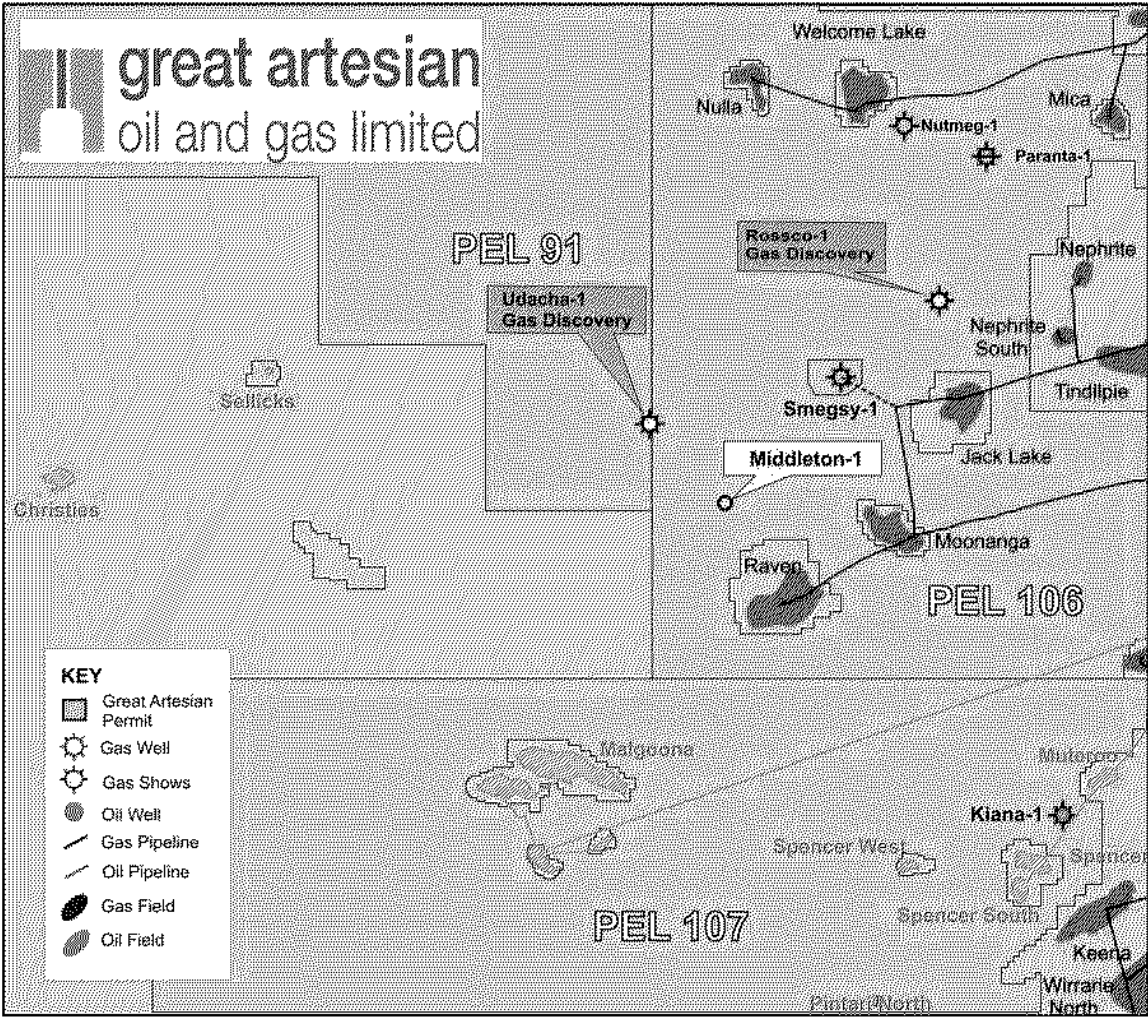
Yours faithfully,



Dr Raymond D. Shaw
Managing Director



great artesian oil and gas limited





MIDDLETON-1

Time Depth Chart

PEL 106

Cooper Basin, South Australia

WELL DETAILS

RIG: Century Rig 3
 GL: 30 m
 RT: 35 m
 TD: 2895 m

Location (Zone 54 GDA94)

Latitude: 27° 59' 39.67" S
 Longitude: 139° 42' 15.27" E
 Easting: 372 585 m
 Northing: 6 902 747 m

CURRENT DEPTH: 2841 m (Total Depth)

OPERATION : Preparing to run DST-2

