

## Drillsearch keen to build on wet gas success

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**WITH several discoveries and a massive reserves upgrade under its belt, it is little wonder Drillsearch Energy is keen to drill more wells in the area.**

Speaking to *EnergyNewsPremium* managing director Brad Lingo said the company was already in discussions with PEL 106B partner Beach Energy for the drilling of four to five appraisal, development and near-field exploration wells starting from the first half of the next financial year.

However, with the successes at Brownlow, Canunda, Middleton and Udach, Lingo said Drillsearch was hoping for more wells.

"We actually think the next stage of drilling in PEL 106B should potentially be as high as 10 wells with four to five of those being appraisal/development wells and the rest being near-field exploration wells," he said.

He added the company had a similar view of its 100% owned PEL 106A where it was planning to drill four to five exploration wells and had already started the process of securing a rig.

Lingo also said the weather in the Cooper Basin had been good and expressed confidence that the rig mobilisation would not be affected.

"Things are drying out and I think we have got a good window to look at and execute some pretty significant drilling activity over the next six months."

Speaking on the four discoveries, Lingo said PEL 106B operator Beach had already completed the preliminary engineering and design for tying these fields into the Cooper Basin Joint Venture gathering system.

"The engineering has been done, the connection point has been established, the commercialisation pathway is hopefully close to being resolved.

"The project has been costed, the schedules are being worked out, the pipeline has been surveyed, and an interim field development plan has been provided to the South Australian government."

Lingo said the recent flooding in the Cooper Basin would not hinder the development plans as the permit was located on the eastern side of the Cooper Creek with good road access, and just 50 kilometres from Moomba.

"We are right in the heart of the Cooper Basin JV's gas production area. All we need is a short pipeline and some wellhead processing to take out any water."

Looking further into the future, Lingo said the company would seriously consider pipeline infrastructure for its oil production to avoid or alleviate the disruptions caused by flooding in the Cooper Basin.

"If you look at our oil production in the eastern Cooper Basin where we have a much more intensive production infrastructure in place, none of our production was interrupted because of the weather.

"If we expect it to continue then we are going to have to do a better job on the infrastructure front."

He added that with improving pipeline technologies, Drillsearch could potentially lay better pipelines quicker and at lower cost.

Lingo was also bullish about the company's shale gas prospects, noting that its 100% owned ATP 940P in southwest Queensland was adjacent to both of Beach's shale gas blocks.

"It covers 2500 square kilometres ... at the heart of the shale gas fairway ... and Beach's Encounter-1 well, their first shale gas well, was drilled 4000m from our boundary.



Courtesy of Drillsearch

"So yes we do have very active plans for it and that will be something that we are going to be developing over the next six to 12 months."

Lingo also said the company currently had no acquisition plans, preferring instead to focus on its own assets.

"We are very much focused on delivering the business plan organically. That doesn't mean we won't look at acquiring different permits, doing farm-ins or farming out some of our acreage."

However, he ruled out selling a stake in PEL 106A.

"We have got a very good view of that area. We know what the wet gas area can deliver."



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