

BENGAL ENERGY

CASE STUDY: TRADITIONAL OWNER GROUPS THE WONGKUMARA AND BOONTHAMURRA PEOPLE

The Cooper Basin is one of Australia's most productive oil and gas basins, with thousands of square kilometres of Aboriginal-owned land within the Basin currently being explored by a number of companies. Under Australian law, Indigenous people are recognised to have rights of the land under their traditional customs. Given the requirement to access Indigenous land for exploration and production through due diligence, Bengal Energy prioritised the negotiation of land access to reach a binding agreement.

As Indigenous rights have grown as important policy and social considerations, Bengal recognises its responsibility to minimise and mitigate the negative impacts of its projects on Indigenous people and to ensure these communities derive long-term benefits from the projects taking place on their land. Bengal acquired land access as part of the process under the Native Title Act (QLD), and upholds the provision of the act giving traditional landowners meaningful control over the land while providing Bengal with an ordered, transparent and equitable access procedure. Together, Bengal and the Native Title holders have come to an understanding of how the land and resources will be utilised.

To mark the commitment of Bengal to engage, recognise and respect the Native Title holders, it commissioned an artwork by a local Indigenous artist to represent the relationship between Bengal and the

Wongkumara people. The artwork depicts the Wongkumara people's totem of a sand goanna, which points in the direction of travel. When Bengal is on their country, the artwork is displayed on its equipment, road signs and digital platforms.

As an important mechanism for improving the economic and social wellbeing of local communities, Bengal has negotiated a benefit-sharing scheme as part of its agreement, pursuing valuable social and economic opportunities for the communities to participate in. This includes exploration, production and energy developments, as well as employment and sub-contracting opportunities, community development initiatives and involvement in cultural and environmental projects. Bengal endeavours to inform and empower these communities to assist in the decision making of the land.

The search for new oil and gas resources on land that is traditionally owned by indigenous communities is ongoing, and the implementation of exploration projects cannot proceed without cultural and land use agreements. The success of Bengal's agreement can be directly linked to the trust and relationships facilitated by Bengal with its Indigenous stakeholders, from engaging in discussions with traditional owners on an ongoing basis. Bengal continues to monitor the key issues in policy and legal contexts to ensure the sound practice of the company and its interactions with indigenous populations.



WHO WE ARE

Bengal Energy is a rapidly growing oil and gas exploration company with a portfolio of high potential impact projects in Australia's Cooper Basin. It is listed on the TSX (BNG) and is headquartered in Calgary, CAN with an operational office in Brisbane, AUS.

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