



EMPIRE ENERGY GROUP LIMITED
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ASX Announcement

5 FEBRUARY 2019

EMPIRE ENERGY STRENGTHENS THE BOARD

Empire Energy (“Empire” or “the Company”) is now moving into a period of significant and sustained growth with a focus on our world-class Northern Territory McArthur and Beetaloo Basin assets, and as such the Board has recognised that the time is right to equip the Board for this opportunity.

These Board appointments will enhance the Board’s capability to guide the Company as we develop into a material Northern Territory-focused upstream oil and gas company.

APPOINTMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Mr David Sutton was appointed as Interim Chairman of Empire on 30 August 2018 following the untimely ill health and ultimate passing of the former Chairman of the Company. Mr Sutton has proposed to return to the role of Non-Executive Director. The Board is grateful to Mr Sutton for his leadership of the Company over recent months.

The Board has therefore appointed Mr Paul Espie AO as Non-Executive Chairman of Empire effective immediately.

Mr Espie joined the Board of Empire in November 2018 as a Non-Executive Director and has played a key role in shaping the Company’s strategy over that short time.

Mr Espie has extensive experience as Chairman of ASX-listed companies guiding them through significant periods of growth. He was the Chairman of Oxiana Limited from 2000 to 2003 during the development of the Sepon Copper Gold deposit in Laos and prior to that was the Chairman of Cobar Mines Pty Ltd following a management buy-out in 1993. He was previously the Chairman of Australian Infrastructure Fund, which played a key role in the development of Western Australia’s Dampier to Bunbury gas pipeline amongst other assets.

As the Principal of Pacific Road Capital, Mr Espie has played a key role in making strategic investments in the ASX listed company now known as Aurelia Metals Limited, on whose Board he sits as a Non-Executive Director.

Mr Sutton will continue to serve on the Board of Empire as a Non-Executive Director and for those Shareholders who expressly appointed Mr Sutton as a proxy at the upcoming Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) to be held on 6 February 2019, Mr Sutton will continue to act as proxy and cast such votes at the EGM.

As Chairman, Mr Espie, will chair the EGM.

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board has been consistent in its message to Shareholders that unconventional oil and gas geological and technical expertise is essential to complement the current Board capabilities.

Subject to Messrs Espie, Gerahty, Sutton and Underwood remaining as directors of the Company following the EGM, internationally renowned Petroleum Geoscientist, Professor John Warburton, will be appointed as a Non-Executive Director of Empire immediately following the meeting.

Prof Warburton has 35 years of global professional oil and gas experience in operated and non-operated conventional and unconventional petroleum discovery, development and new business delivery.

Prof Warburton has been a Director of Empire’s wholly owned Northern Territory subsidiary, Imperial Oil & Gas Pty Limited (“Imperial”), since 2011 and was its Chief Executive Officer from 2011 to 2014. He continues to serve as a Non-Executive Director of Imperial.

As CEO of Imperial, he was responsible for the identification of Empire’s Northern Territory assets in 2011. He was one of the first people in the industry to understand the potential of the Northern Territory’s onshore shale basins as a direct result of which Imperial acquired over 14.5 million acres of highly prospective tenements which encompass both part of the Beetaloo sub-Basin and the vast majority of the McArthur Basin Central Trough.

Prof Warburton has relevant ASX Board experience as a current Non-Executive Director of ASX listed Senex Energy Limited.

In accordance with the ASX Listing Rules, Prof Warburton will stand for re-election at the next Empire AGM which is expected to take place in May 2019.

ENDS

APPENDIX

Professor John Warburton – full biography

Prof Warburton has 35 years of professional oil and gas experience in operated and non-operated conventional and unconventional petroleum discovery, development and in new business delivery.

During his career Prof Warburton has worked in Western Europe, West Africa, Central Asia, Middle East, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and throughout the Asia Pacific Region including Australia and New Zealand. He has resided as an expatriate in a number of these regions where his values demand continuous focus on people, safety, cultural heritage and environment.

Prof Warburton's career includes 14 years of senior technical and leadership roles at BP PLC. He was Executive General Manager for Exploration & New Business at Eni S.p.A. in Pakistan, and until March 2018 Prof Warburton was Chief of Geoscience & Exploration Excellence at Oil Search Limited.

Prof Warburton has been a Director of Empire's wholly owned Northern Territory subsidiary, Imperial, since 2011 and was its Chief Executive Officer from 2011 to 2014. He continues to serve as a Non-Executive Director of Imperial.

Prof Warburton is a Non-Executive Director of ASX listed Senex Energy Limited where he also serves on the People & Remuneration Committee. Senex operates conventional oil and gas production and exploration activities onshore South Australia in the Cooper Basin and Coal Seam Gas developments in the Queensland Surat Basin.

Prof Warburton is a Visiting Professor in the School of Earth & Environment at Leeds University UK where he has also served for eight years on the External Advisory Board of 'Petroleum Leeds', the centre for excellence in Petroleum Engineering & Geoscience.