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## Community engagement a focus for South East conventional gas drilling program

Friday, 17 March 2017

Beach Energy will drill a conventional gas exploration well in 2017 in the Otway Basin with support of the South Australian Government through the Plan for Accelerating Exploration (PACE) gas grant scheme.

Recognising that the well will be part of a conventional gas exploration program the aim is to bring new gas to the market within three years.

It is hoped the project will eventually supply gas to local businesses, and broader residential and industrial markets.

The well, Haselgrove-3, will be drilled around 8 km from Penola, in Beach's 100% owned permit PPL 62, following the establishment of a land access agreement with the landholder. This process is currently underway.

The well will target gas at approximately 3,500 m deep in the Sawpit Sandstone.

The conventional gas well will not be fracture stimulated.

Beach has been operating in the Otway basin for more than 50 years.

Chief Executive Officer Matt Kay said community and stakeholder consultation will be a focus of the drilling program.

"Before we commence drilling this conventional gas well, we will be holding a number of public information days throughout the South East," Mr Kay said.

"These sessions will be the start of our engagement program which we see running for the duration of activity and beyond.

"We will be consulting wider than the Penola area as we recognise that interest is much broader.

"Over the coming weeks details of these information sessions will be advertised and made available to the media.

"We recognise and appreciate that the interest in the community remains high and that many people will have questions about the project.

"Our objective is to listen and make sure concerns are considered. We will have a full time representative in the south east to properly engage with the community.

"The Haselgrove-3 well is a conventional gas well and it will not be fracture stimulated.

"We hope that this exploration activity will bring new gas to regional markets," Mr Kay said.