



21 March 2005

Ref: #073/05

Australian Stock Exchange Ltd
Companies Announcement Office
Electronic Lodgement System

Dear Sir,

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ASX

**ALMONTA-1 SPUD PEL 95,
(COOPER/EROMANGA BASIN SA)**

Beach Petroleum advises that the Almonta-1 exploration well spudded at 06:00 hours (CST) on Monday, 21 March 2005.

The well is located approximately 60km southeast of Moomba in the Cooper Basin of northern South Australia (see attached location map).

Almonta-1 will target sandstones of the Namur and Hutton Formations in a robust structural closure about 15 metres updip and approximately 1km west of the Tilparee-A1 well. Tilparee-A1 was drilled in 1971 on the flank of the Almonta structure to test the gas potential of the Permian reservoirs that are present on the flanks of the structure.

Oil has been produced from several reservoirs at the Narcoonowie Field (8km east), and oil discoveries last year at Ventura-1 and Mirage-1 (PEL-115) lie 6km and 10km to the south-east. The well has a planned total depth of 2055 metres that is expected to be reached late next week.

Joint Venture participants in the Almonta-1 well are:

Beach Petroleum Ltd (Operator)	50%
Magellan Petroleum (NT) Pty Ltd	50%

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reg Nelson".

Reg Nelson
Managing Director, FAusIMM

ALMONTA-1 Time Depth Chart



