

Level 5, 70 Pirie Street Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1819 Adelaide SA 5001 Tel: +61 8 8100 4900 Fax: +61 8 8227 0544

<u>customerservice@cooperenergy.com.au</u> www.cooperenergy.com.au

# ASX Announcement / Media Release

25 February 2013

# Cooper Energy advances transition process with appointment of Mr John Conde AO as new Chairman

The Chairman of Cooper Energy Ltd (ASX:COE, "Cooper Energy" or "Company") Mr Laurie Shervington previously advised at the Company's Annual General Meeting in December 2011 of his plan to step aside as Chairman and this be part of an orderly transition process. Cooper Energy engaged an independent search company to work with the Board to identify someone ideally suited to lead the Board through the next phase of growth.

Cooper Energy is very pleased to announce that Mr John Conde AO will succeed Mr Laurie Shervington as Chairman of the Company. Mr Conde's appointment is effective from 25 February 2013.

Mr Shervington has served as Chairman of Cooper Energy since November 2004 and has overseen an increase in the market capitalisation of the Company of more than four times in this eight year period. Since late 2011, the Company has been implementing a strategy focussed on increasing shareholder returns, building the Australian business and in January 2013 relocated the Head Office to Adelaide.

"It is very pleasing to announce the appointment of a new non-executive Chairman with the calibre and experience of Mr Conde as Cooper Energy continues to implement its new strategy" said Mr Shervington. "In particular, Mr Conde's experience as a Chairman and director of Australian energy and resource companies will be a valuable asset for Cooper Energy" Mr Shervington said.

Mr Conde's experience (refer summary CV following) includes former roles as Chairman of Whitehaven Coal, Ausgrid, Excel Coal, PowerTel and Pacific Power as well as having been a non-executive director of BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc. His current responsibilities include Chairman of BUPA Australia Ltd, Deputy Chairman of Whitehaven Coal, Director of Dexus Property Group and President of the Remuneration Tribunal.

Mr Conde said he was very pleased to accept appointment to the Cooper Energy Board. "Cooper Energy has quality assets, a strong cash generation profile and is progressing through a clear, soundly based strategy. I look forward to working with my fellow directors and management to deliver the best results for shareholders" he said.

Cooper Energy Managing Director Mr David Maxwell acknowledged the "considerable contribution" made by Mr Shervington to the Company as Chairman. "Mr Shervington's guidance and leadership has been critical to Cooper Energy successfully negotiating some very challenging circumstances and its development to a financially strong, focussed oil and gas exploration and production company. On behalf of the Board and shareholders, I express our appreciation and thanks for the very significant contribution he has made over eight years." said Mr Maxwell.

Mr Shervington will continue to serve as a non-executive director of Cooper Energy until later in 2013 when he plans to retire from the Company.

#### **David Maxwell**

**Managing Director** 

#### For further information contact:

David Maxwell Managing Director Cooper Energy Ltd. Phone +61 (0)8 8100 4900

### **About Cooper Energy Limited ("Cooper")**

Since listing on the ASX in 2002, Cooper has built a portfolio of near term low risk development and appraisal projects as well as high impact exploration prospects. Cooper currently benefits from approximately 500,000 barrels of oil production per year from the Cooper Basin, South Australia, with approximately 150 barrels of oil per day gross production from its Sukananti field in Indonesia. Cooper also has prospective exploration licences in Australia (Cooper, Otway and Gippsland Basins), Tunisia and Indonesia. Cooper enjoys a solid balance sheet, good production earnings, and has a clear strategy to enhance shareholder return built primarily around its core assets in the Cooper and Otway basins and Tunisia.

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### John C Conde AO

John Conde is an experienced and respected professional chairman and non-executive director with more than 25 years board experience in the private, public, energy, cultural and charitable sectors.

He has extensive experience as a director or chairman in Australian resource and energy companies, ranging from large organisations such as BHP Billiton to smaller entities such as Excel Coal and, in its formative years, Whitehaven Coal. He has demonstrated his interest in, and commitment to, the development of smaller growth companies.

As chairman of Whitehaven Coal, he presided over a period of significant growth in scale and value. As chairman of Pacific Power he led the integrated New South Wales electricity utility through a period of major change. John has valuable corporate activity experience from his roles as non-executive director or chairman of companies such as PowerTel, Excel Coal, Whitehaven Coal and MBF health insurance.



John is the President of the Remuneration Tribunal, responsible for the remuneration of key senior Commonwealth offices, Members of Parliament and the federal Judiciary.

John Conde was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2004 for service to business and commerce, particularly in the field of electricity generation and commerce. His qualifications include a Master of Business Administration (Distinction) from Harvard University, a Bachelor of Engineering, Electrical (Honours) and the University Medal, and a Bachelor of Science (Distinction), from the University of Sydney.

#### **Current Directorships**

Chairman
Cooper Energy Limited
BUPA Australia Limited
Deputy Chairman
Whitehaven Coal Limited
President
Remuneration Tribunal
Chairman
Sydney Symphony
Director
Dexus Property Group
Chairman
Destination NSW

## **Selected Previous Directorships and Memberships**

Chairman Whitehaven Coal Ltd

Chairman Ausgrid (formerly EnergyAustralia)

Director BHP Billiton Limited & BHP Billiton plc

Chairman PowerTel Limited

Director Excel Coal Limited

Director Lumley General Insurance Limited & other Lumley group companies

Chairman Pacific Power – The Electricity Commission of New South Wales

Deputy Chairman St James' Ethics Centre

Chairman & Managing Director Broadcast Investments Holdings Pty Limited