

10 November 2022

## 2022 Annual General Meeting addresses

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Cooper Energy (ASX:COE) will hold its 2022 Annual General Meeting today at 10:30am ACDT / 11.00am AEDT.

The meeting will be held in person at Uniting Communities located on Level 1, 43 Franklin Street, Adelaide SA 5000 and via an online platform <https://webcast.openbriefing.com/9082/>.

To follow is the Chairman's address and Managing Director's address to be delivered at the AGM.

Additional information is available at the following link [2022 Annual General Meeting](#)

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**Cooper Energy Limited (ASX: COE)** is an exploration and production company which generates revenue from gas supply to south-east Australia and low-cost Cooper Basin oil production. The company is an emerging player in the south-east Australian energy sector holding a portfolio of gas supply contracts and one of the most extensive portfolios of gas-focused acreage and assets, including well located reserves and resources in the Otway and Gippsland basins. These include the Sole gas field in the Gippsland Basin which recently became the first new offshore gas development in south-east Australia to commence production in several years, the Casino Henry operations in the offshore Otway Basin and undeveloped resources such as Manta and Annie.

# **Chairman's Address to the Cooper Energy Limited Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

**John C Conde, AO**

## ***Introduction***

Good morning everyone. What a difference a year makes. This time last year we met virtually, constrained by the restrictions of the COVID-19 virus. It is our pleasure to be hosting you all in person today. I welcome you all, and of course I extend that welcome to those joining via the webcast.

Financial year 2022 has been one of material change for Cooper Energy.

Last year in my opening address I lamented the performance of the Orboast Gas Processing Plant. Not only can I point today to the significantly improved recent performance of the plant, but I can also say that we *own* the plant – and by May we expect to be operating the plant. Additionally, during the second quarter of FY22, we safely and successfully commissioned the Athena Gas Plant. This has been a significant first for your company.

Importantly, we have reset our balance sheet for the next phase of our operations and growth with refreshed and enlarged support from our bank syndicate.

## ***I would like to highlight some of the key aspects of the last financial year***

- First, COVID ... we continued to manage the various challenges of the pandemic and we remain vigilant to ensure both the safety of our people and our sustained business operations.
- Our industry-leading safety record has been maintained, with zero lost time incidents in FY22, and a total recordable injury frequency rate of 0.0, which compares to an industry average of 6.91 published by the national offshore regulator. These are excellent results.

This has been critical for our business, enabling us to supply greater amounts of natural gas safely into the South-east Australia energy market.

I compliment warmly all Cooper Energy staff and contractors for maintaining your discipline with regard to your own safety as well as the safety of your co-workers.

- With respect to the energy market, modelling conducted by the ACCC shows that the supply gap for gas into South-east Australia, relative to demand, is forecast to grow significantly between now and 2030. Our analysis agrees with this outlook.

The impact on gas prices is attracting a lot of media attention with the Federal Government's unresolved canvassing of threatened price controls. The Managing Director will have more to say on this in his address.

- Against these market opportunities and uncertainties, the acquisition of the Orbost Gas Processing Plant was very significant for us. We now own the plant and, when the Major Hazard Facility Licence is transferred from APA, we will also operate the plant. This is expected by May 2023, from which time we will be in firm control of our gas processing destiny. Owning and operating the infrastructure across both our Gippsland and Otway hubs provides valuable leverage for Cooper Energy, especially in this strengthening market. With significant near term development and exploration opportunities around both hubs we are now able to influence directly the pace and quantum of further growth in production, cash flow and value.
- Meanwhile, we have continued to see steady improvements in performance at the Orbost Plant, including a 33% increase in the average daily processing rate from Q1 FY22 to Q1 FY23.
- To finance the acquisition of the Orbost Plant, in June and July of this year the Company undertook a \$244 million equity raising, comprising a \$160 million 2-for-5 accelerated non-renounceable entitlement offer to all shareholders, along with an \$84 million placement to institutional investors. At the same time, the Company announced a new debt facility totalling \$400 million, with an additional \$20 million working capital facility. In addition, a further \$120 million accordion facility has been agreed with our bank syndicate. This means the Company is well funded for the next phase of growth and activity, which we look to deliver in the middle and second half of the decade.
- That said, the frustrations arising from the volatility of the processing rate at Orbost have not gone away and have impacted our share price performance. We share these frustrations and we appreciate the loyalty shown by our shareholders. Shortly the Managing Director will speak about the changes we envisage to the Orbost operations once we become the operator.
- We appreciate the government and community focus on managing emissions from the energy sector. Cooper Energy has continued to demonstrate its commitment to this – we have now been net zero for three years, fully offsetting our scope-1, scope-2 and controllable scope-3 emissions. Our net zero position has been certified by Climate Active, and we are committed to remaining carbon neutral as our business grows.

Accessing funding is increasingly difficult for companies that do not meet emissions management standards, or do not have a clear decarbonisation plan in place. We are not in that category, as evidenced by the recent expansion of our banking group from five banks to eight.

- The transition to a decarbonised world must be orderly and with continued investment in cleaner energy, including gas as a fuel which enables the transition.

However, for the market to transition it must do so at a pace which is realistic. We cannot just make it happen by chanting the renewable chorus. It requires planning, action and investment that is set against achievable targets – targets that include energy security and continuity of supply.

We must consider the reality of society achieving net zero, and the practical challenges of achieving this in the timeline stipulated by the goals of the Paris Agreement. This requires a global solution, with everyone playing their part.

The reality is, Australia's total emissions, not just from power generation, are slightly over one percent of global emissions.

- To play 'our part' (as Australia), the federal government has introduced a 2030 target to reduce emissions by 43% from 2005 levels, putting a mandate on emissions reduction. The scale of this undertaking and the practical challenges are immense.

Reflect for a moment on what this means in practice. Each generating unit in the base-load power stations in, for example, Eraring and Bayswater in NSW is 660MW nameplate capacity, and often operate well above that. The largest wind farm generator in Australia at the moment is 7MW. You need 100 of these wind turbines for each coal-fired generator or you need 400 of these wind farm generators to replace the four generating units at Eraring or Bayswater. In addition, one needs so-called "firming capacity" to supply that energy when the wind is not blowing, and the sun is not shining.

To achieve the 2030 government target requires construction of over 1,100 new wind turbines (12 per month, every month, between now and 2030), masses of new solar farms and large-scale "firming capacity". Is this achievable? We think not.

We need to support and enable the energy transition process AND, as I have stressed already, this needs to be based on what is achievable.

Besides coal-fired electricity generation (which is slated for retirement) or nuclear (for which there seems to be little appetite), gas is the only practical source of this "firming capacity", in our opinion. If you do not allow gas, the "firming capacity"

requirements needed will be multiple Snowy 2.0 pumped storage systems or a proliferation of large-scale batteries – neither of which is possible in the timeframe.

The community regards electricity as an essential service – blackouts are not tolerated. To displace fossil fuels in the near term, gas will be required for firming generation.

In addition gas is required for the industrial sector; for chemical feedstock to produce some of our everyday products; and for commercial and residential use.

The scale of the renewable energy construction programme requires extensive investment in global mineral exploration and development to source the component materials, and hydrocarbon use in the manufacture and distribution of the final products. The International Energy Agency forecasts global demand for lithium alone will increase by 4,200 percent by 2040, with roughly similar increases forecast for graphite, nickel, copper and rare earth elements.

- The imperative is that there be balance in the debate about carbon reduction and energy security. Our communities, our commerce, our industry NEED gas and electricity to communicate and function. Our society will crumble if we sacrifice energy security on the altar of carbon reduction – there MUST be balance in the debate and in the outcomes, especially when we are talking about electricity supply because, I repeat, the community regards gas and electricity as an essential service.

So, in summary, I believe that gas will have an increasingly important role keeping the lights on and as a key fuel more generally in the energy transition.

### ***The Managing Director is retiring sometime in 2023 ...***

- For more than a decade, David Maxwell, our Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, has been responsible for developing, recommending and delivering the strategy for Cooper Energy. His leadership has been unwavering. Cooper Energy today is a very different business from what it was eleven years ago. As announced last month, David has advised the Board that he wishes to retire during the course of 2023, following the appointment of a successor. On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere appreciation to David for his commitment, dedication and indefatigable pursuit of the Company's strategy, always in the best interests of shareholders.

David will leave Cooper Energy with a portfolio of attractive producing gas assets, exciting near term low risk opportunities and funded growth, a strong balance sheet and a clear competitive advantage in its approach to transition and net zero.

In the meantime, it is business as usual at Cooper Energy. David will continue to lead the Company. The Board appreciates the lengthy notice that David has given us to help our planning for his successor. We anticipate a seamless transition to his successor sometime next year.

***Before I ask the Managing Director to address us, I note again that the achievements of financial year 2022 were significant. I acknowledge and thank all those who helped make it a success ...***

- First, our long-term lenders have demonstrated continued commitment to Cooper Energy, and we have new partners in our bank group. I thank our lenders, our advisers and the Cooper Energy team for their work, including the development of the new debt facility.
- I thank you, our shareholders, for your continuing support, including your participation in the company's recent capital raise. It was unquestionably a transformational step to acquire Orbost and amidst a period not without difficulties. Your patience during this period has been very much appreciated. We look forward to the future growth opportunities and to a proper reflection in the share price of the Company's value.
- Our gas customers have been very supportive. Our customers continue to work with us to achieve mutually positive outcomes. The announcement today regarding the gas sales agreement to support the OP3D project is testament to the enduring relationship we have with our biggest customer, AGL.
- We appreciate greatly the support we receive from our local communities in the Otway and Gippsland basin regions. We recognise that we operate alongside farming, tourism and other industries. We seek to demonstrate that gas extraction and processing risks can be managed and economic benefits can accrue to local economies. We actively support our communities and appreciate the support we receive in return.
- I record my thanks to my Board colleagues and to our Company Secretary for their wise and considered counsel and support always. We have a great Board and it is an honour and a privilege for me to be your chairman.
- Finally, I record my appreciation to our Managing Director, David Maxwell, and his team for their leadership and commitment to Cooper Energy.

***I now invite the Managing Director to address us.***

# Managing Director's Address to the Cooper Energy Limited Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

David P Maxwell

## SLIDE 1: MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

Thank you Chairman. It is my pleasure to address our shareholders today.

## SLIDE 2: DISCLAIMER

Our disclaimer is set out on this slide. I will leave this for you to review at your leisure, but would draw your attention in particular to the language regarding forward looking statements.

## SLIDE 3: OUR PURPOSE AND VALUES

I will begin my address with a recap of the *fundamental drivers* for Cooper Energy – our Purpose and Values.

Cooper Energy's Purpose is to contribute to Australia's sustainable energy future by commercialising gas, oil and other resources for domestic markets.

We operate and make our decisions with an emphasis on care, shareholder value and sustainability.

We energise the lives of thousands of Australians every day.

Our culture is driven by the Cooper Energy Values, these being:

- Care
- Integrity
- Fairness and respect
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Awareness
- Commitment

The Cooper Energy Values are fundamental to the way we do business. They inform our decision making and guide our behaviours.

I'd like to make some comments on our strategy and its merits in the current energy environment and the energy outlook in South-east Australia.

The Australian Energy Market Operator, or AEMO, in their June 2022 Integrated System Plan titled the first paragraph in the executive summary "*The irreversible energy transition is a challenge and an opportunity*". How true these words are.

The "*challenge*" is to get the balance right between the speed of the transition, cost (or price to the consumer), and maintaining reliability. This applies to the energy system as a whole, as well as the electricity and gas components.

The "*opportunity*" (or opportunities) is to reduce emissions and the many activities to make this possible, including developing new cost competitive gas supply.

We have seen in other countries what can happen when you don't get this balance right; witness Germany, shutting down wind farms and prolonging the life of hard coal fired power plants and re-starting a brown coal fired power station. I am not advocating for that in Australia, but let's plan so as to make sure it does not happen.

We advocate directly to the Australian Federal Government on the need to build investor confidence in the energy sector (and the gas sector in particular) by ceasing to threaten further market intervention. The annual CPI rise of 7.3 per cent is the highest since 1990. Households and manufacturers do not need to be misled about the complexity of the gas market and the setting of its pricing.

We agree 100% with Graeme Bethune from Energy Quest when he says "*there are two ways of taking the pressure off domestic prices – increasing supply and reducing demand*".

Public discussion about a price cap creates uncertainties which can kill much needed investment decisions to support new supply.

The industry needs to be recognised for the responsible way it supports reliable energy supply into the market on a lower emissions basis.

The costs and other consequences of not carefully planning the transition to renewable energy sources highlights the need for balance, clear policy and an achievable pathway.



## **SLIDE 4: EASTERN AUSTRALIA GAS MARKET**

In 2022 the Eastern Australia gas market was estimated to be 568 PJ's.

22% (or 125 PJ's) of this was used for gas fired electricity generation. Almost half (45%, or 256 PJ's) was used in the industrial sector and 33% (187 PJ's) in the residential and commercial sectors.

Some comments on the electricity sector in particular. For the year ended 30 June 2022 coal-fired generation accounted for 65% of the electricity generated in Eastern Australia. Coal fired generation capacity is 23 GW.

According to the AEMO Step Change Scenario, over 125 GW of additional variable renewable energy is needed by 2050, to meet energy demand, as coal-fired generation is withdrawn from the system.

These are massive changes and equate to an 800% increase in renewables capacity by 2050, from today's levels.

Gas is vital to support Australia's transition to renewable energy sources, in particular to maintain stability in the electricity supply system as we manage this transition. Gas is also critical for a wide range of industrial and chemical products such as glass, plastics, fertilisers, paper and a wide range of commercial and domestic applications – and this is not going to change quickly.

## **SLIDE 5: SOUTH AUSTRALIA ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

Turning to South Australia electricity supply as an example. The information on this slide is taken from the [opennem.org.au](http://opennem.org.au) website.

South Australia is the mainland state which has the most advanced renewables transition pathway. In the past year in South Australia 63% of electricity was generated from variable renewables. This compares to 34% for the entire National Electricity Market (or NEM) in the same period.

South Australia is the eastern state with by far the highest reliance on gas for electricity generation. This is as a result of the high percentage of renewables. South Australia is instructive when trying to understand the role of gas in an electricity grid dominated by variable renewables. South Australia is a window to the future for the electricity supply system in other states.

I have selected the seven-day period starting on Tuesday of last week, the first of November. You can regard this as a typical week in the shoulder period. This is not the peak of winter, or the peak of summer, when the electricity supply system is likely to be under the most stress.

On this slide, solar is in yellow, wind in green, imports in black. The highlighted red band is gas. Not included on this slide (as it is so small and it does not show up) is the Hornsdale Power reserve, or the “big battery”. The battery has an important role in frequency stabilisation but is orders of magnitude too small to contribute significantly to firming supply.

At the beginning of the seven-day period there was ample solar and wind in the system, but by Thursday the wind dropped. To maintain electricity supply, natural gas kicked in, together with imports supplied via electricity interconnectors. The imports are mostly brown coal generated electricity from Victoria - supporting the variable renewables through to the end of the week, turning down in the daytime when solar was dominant and up again in the evening.

As coal fired power generation is retired across Eastern Australia, we can expect this reliance on gas to increase.

The clear message from this example is that gas provides reliable, dispatchable and fast start supply in a system dominated by variable renewables.

## **SLIDE 6: SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA GAS DEMAND AND SUPPLY**

Gas supply in South-east Australia is in rapid decline as illustrated on this slide. South-east Australia covers New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The decline is driven by declining production from existing fields, as reservoirs deplete and amidst increasing costs. In addition, there is the increased regulatory burden associated with new developments, which has hampered the opportunity for new supply.

To have a positive impact on the supply shortfall come 2025, new gas projects (including for 2P undeveloped gas reserves) need to be at the Final Investment Decision stage now, or very soon.

The current forecast is that some 67 PJ per annum, growing to more than 230 PJ per annum by 2030, needs to be supplied into South-east Australia from Queensland CSG and/or imported LNG. This volume is larger than 230 PJ if the new projects imbedded in the profile are later than forecast, or do not proceed.

In addition to the challenge of ensuring adequate gas supply over a year, there is the capacity of the system on the peak days. Almost all parts of the gas production, storage and transmission system are now required to operate at capacity to ensure peak daily demand can be met. Future expansion of the gas transmission and processing infrastructure to enable Queensland CSG to flow south, or allow for imported LNG, will be required and adds additional capital cost.

Put simply, South-east Australia urgently needs new gas supply projects to be progressed. The most cost competitive options are from gas in the Otway Basin, the Gippsland Basin and the Cooper Basin, all utilising existing infrastructure, and the Narrabri project in NSW. Queensland CSG and maybe imported LNG will still be needed, to meet the short-fall. It is not “either or” it is “and”.

Gas prices in Australia are now linked indirectly to international gas prices as gas and LNG become more of a commodity. The same applies to other commodities such as coal, copper, zinc, lead, lithium, etc. This means that as international gas prices move up and down, domestic gas prices will also move up and down. I am not saying they need to be the same – but I expect they will follow the same trend.

The Cooper Energy strategy and focus has been very deliberate. Our focus is on gas supply to South-east Australia, at the low end of the cost curve on a delivered to the customer basis. The strategy and the assets we have assembled, together with our net zero commitment, has some clear competitive advantages.

## **SLIDE 7: TWIN HUB ACCESS TO SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA GAS MARKET**

The assets in our portfolio are very deliberately built around two hubs, as you can see on this slide: the Otway - Athena hub; and the Gippsland – Orbost hub. Cooper Energy will soon operate both hubs from reservoir to gas processing to delivery into the South-east Australia pipeline network.

Each hub includes existing production, new development opportunities from discovered resource and low risk exploration opportunities. We are able to optimise across the hubs which realises cost savings and value through optionality, and also benefits our customers.

Turning now to the past year. FY22 has been transformational for your Company. The commitment demonstrated by our people, and those who work closely with us, has been the backbone for achieving everything we set out to deliver in financial year 2022.

At the start of financial year 2022, we set ourselves the following imperatives:

- Athena Gas Plant commissioned within schedule and budget
- Gas contracts portfolio restructured to match the supply options
- Cashflow and earnings growth
- Orbost Gas Processing Plant long term arrangements sorted, and a pathway to improved performance
- Funding in place for growth

We also sought to deliver leading safety and environmental performance.

These imperatives were set recognising the operational and financial requirements to solidify the medium and long-term foundation built around our two gas hubs.

This is the foundation for increased value for our shareholders and the next growth phase.

## **SLIDE 8: RECORD PERFORMANCE AND KEY MILESTONES IN FY22**

I'm pleased to say that we've delivered on every one of the FY22 imperatives. We delivered record results from both an operational and a financial perspective.

Our FY22 safety and environmental management performance was industry leading and top quartile. Zero lost time incidents, and a total recordable injury frequency rate of 0.0.

We had no reportable environmental incidents at our operated sites.

Improving performance at the Orbost Gas Processing Plant drove record production, record revenue, record EBITDAX, and record operating cashflow. Production was up 26% to 3.31 million barrels of oil equivalent. Revenue was up 56% to \$205 million, underlying EBITDAX was up 169% to \$80.7 million, and operating cashflow increased over 600% to around \$58 million.

The commissioning of the Athena Gas Plant was a key milestone in December 2021. This was delivered within schedule, within budget, and safely.

## **SLIDE 9: ORBOST GAS PROCESSING PLANT**

On 20 June we announced we had agreed terms to purchase the Orbost Gas Processing Plant from APA. On the same day we announced the new enlarged and lower cost \$420 million bank debt facility and \$244 million equity raise. We became the owners of the Orbost plant on 28 July.

The FY22 activities, acquisition of Orbost, and new funding have transformed the Cooper Energy business.

APA remain the operator of the Orbost plant until the Major Hazard Facility Licence is transferred to Cooper Energy. We currently expect this to occur in May, some 6 months from now.

We have seen steadily increasing processing rates at Orbost, as mentioned by the Chairman. APA is still managing regular absorbers cleans and every so often changing the media in the polishing unit. The average rate in the September quarter was 51.4 TJ/day. A processing rate in the mid 60s TJs/day is expected when there are no cleans or media changes underway.

Every extra gigajoule we can put through Orbost is an extra gigajoule of spot sales.

In parallel with the preparations to take on the operatorship of the Orbost plant, we have work underway to increase the stability and the rate when Cooper Energy is the operator. This includes: optimising the time to bring on line the filtration package that has been installed but not yet commissioned; further analysis of the root cause of the foaming and fouling in the absorbers that builds on the work done to date; utilising experienced engineering resources (including Paqell, the technology providers) and working with the Orbost operations team to identify improvement opportunities and maintaining clear discipline in our operating practises. Cooper Energy is confident that, with time, stability and further increased processing rates will be achieved.

Now a few comments on the current year – FY23. The targets we have set for FY23 are:

- Maintain industry leading safety and environmental performance across our operated sites
- Transfer the Major Hazard Facility Licence and operatorship of the Orbost plant to Cooper Energy
- Further improve the stability and processing rate at the Orbost plant
- Progress the OP3D<sup>1</sup> project to FID
- Maintain our carbon neutral certification; and
- Mature our portfolio of exploration opportunities.

Delivery of our plans requires strong and constructive relationships with our key stakeholders, including our customers, lenders, service providers, regulators and the communities in which we operate. We very deliberately endeavour to find win:win solutions with each.

Against this background, I am pleased to advise that today we have announced the signing of a new Gas Sales Agreement with AGL. This agreement, at prices consistent with the market, underpins the Cooper Energy share of the OP3D project.

This development, together with the portfolio of development and exploration opportunities, illustrates the strength of the Cooper Energy strategy at a time when the market very clearly requires more and new gas supply.

We are regularly receiving in-bound enquiries from new customers. In particular, large industrials, who want to work with us on medium and long term take-or-pay contracts. These customers are well aware of the current market prices. We welcome and take every opportunity to have dialogue to discuss each other's businesses, and the challenges and opportunities for new gas supply.

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<sup>1</sup> Otway Phase 3 Development and subject to joint venture approvals.

## **SLIDE 10: FY23 GUIDANCE: PRODUCTION, U-EBITDAX & CAPEX**

Turning to guidance for FY23. The growth trajectory is forecast to continue this year. On production, that is exactly how we commenced the year, with Q1 FY23 production eclipsing the previous quarterly record from FY22 by 13%.

We have been prudent in guiding to a 12% to 21% increase in production to 3.7 million barrels up to 4.0 million barrels of oil equivalent; a 49% to 86% increase in underlying EBITDAX to \$120 million on the low end, and to \$150 million at the high end; and a 44% to 69% increase in capital to \$28 million on the low end, and \$33 million on the high end.

The capital guidance excludes the Orbost Gas Processing Plant transition costs, and the BMG abandonment expenditure planned for FY23.

The Orbost plant transition and integration costs will be spread across the year and are up to \$20 million, and it's yet to be determined how much of this is to be capitalised or not. BMG abandonment spend in FY23 will be a similar amount – the great majority of the BMG abandonment activity is planned mainly for the first half of FY24.

## **SLIDE 11: COOPER ENERGY – NET ZERO SINCE FY20**

Sustainability is increasingly important and topical, especially in the energy business.

Two years ago we set ourselves the target to be net zero for our scope-1, scope-2 and controllable scope-3 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We have delivered on this and have clear plans to maintain this industry leading position.

We are well ahead of our peers in Australia in this regard and we have committed to maintain net zero with our future activities.

The Cooper Energy net zero or carbon neutral status is audited and certified by Climate Active, the Federal Government body responsible for driving voluntary climate action. In addition to the Company being certified carbon neutral, our product has also been certified carbon neutral. This allows us to sell carbon neutral gas, an opportunity that is currently being explored with our customers.

The feedback we have received regarding our net zero status has been overwhelmingly positive. We believe it makes Cooper Energy a partner of choice. It helps with staff retention and attracting new personnel.

Importantly, our carbon neutral accreditation also gives us benefits in accessing capital to commercialise our discovered gas and to fund further growth. It helped to enable our new larger debt facility with an expanded group of banks and a reduced cost of funds. It

also receives a good response from our institutional shareholders and the communities we work with. Our net zero position illustrates our commitment to working sustainably.

I encourage all shareholders to read our 2022 [Sustainability Report](#) which provides a good summary of our sustainability activities. Our partnership with Canopy in the Coorong Biodiversity Project has been the foundation for our net zero position.

We expect to make an announcement in the near future, which will further illustrate and underpin our leading position.

Cooper Energy adopts the UN definition of sustainable development, which is “... *development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*”

This fits well with my earlier comments on the need for balance in the energy transition currently underway, and the role of gas.

As I mentioned at the start of my address, our approach to sustainability is to create a long-term investment proposition for our shareholders *and* be a long-term valuable contributor to our broader stakeholders and communities.

In our 2022 Sustainability Report we outlined our energy transition strategy. This recognises the critical role and value of natural gas as well as the development of opportunities where Cooper Energy has a competitive advantage and can generate value for our shareholders.

The approach is built around three pillars:

## **SLIDE 12: COOPER ENERGY IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION**

Pillar 1: Net zero as an enabler – which we have achieved;

Pillar 2: Energy efficiency improvement - which is site based around our existing operating activities; and

Pillar 3: New energy technologies – which includes working with our customers and others on initiatives to reduce scope-3 emissions and non-hydrocarbon energy opportunities where we have an advantage.

## **SLIDE 13: SOLID FOUNDATION AND GROWTH STAIRCASE**

The momentum built in FY22, on the back of improving processing rates at the Orbest plant, demonstrates the step change nature of the Company's growth staircase.

Each 'step' provides the cashflow and, together with bank debt, the foundation for the next phase of growth. We will be steadily ascending this growth staircase as we progress to sanction the OP3D project and beyond, with the clear potential to realise a tripling of current cashflow. In addition to what is displayed on this chart, the Company is actively progressing other exploration, appraisal and development activities within our existing portfolio. Importantly, all of the future gas production projects displayed in this growth staircase are offshore projects and administered by the Commonwealth Government. The gas production is not subject to state based gas production legislation.

The Company is now demonstrating very strong cash generation and is in a sound position to pursue the next phase of growth, as well as undertaking the BMG decommissioning work in a little over a year's time.

It is clear that the current supply challenges facing the South-east Australia gas market will continue. Gas is a vital bridging fuel as the world decarbonises.

Cooper Energy will concentrate on the elements we can control, we are low on the cost curve, we supply an essential product, located close to a market where supply is tight and getting tighter, and we are generating growing positive net cash flows.

#### **SLIDE 14: ATHENA GAS PLANT STAFF**

Against this background the current Cooper Energy (COE) share price does not reflect the Company's value. All Managing Director's will say this.

I do want to make a couple of comments more specifically on this. The group today is in a fantastic position, generating strong domestic gas price realisations to a portfolio of high quality gas customers and with visible near term and funded growth in both our hubs.

Nevertheless, we've seen a public debate around capping gas prices which makes no economic sense, and frustration around Orbost processing rates whilst APA operates the plant.

We firmly believe we will solve the Orbost processing rate issue once we take operatorship shortly. We also believe that pragmatism will come through and the right economic decisions will prevail in the public realm to address the gas supply shortfall.

In the meantime, the Cooper Energy team will continue to focus on developing domestic gas resource that is close to market and low on the cost curve.

Last month it was announced that I have advised the Board of my intention to retire in 2023, as mentioned in the kind words by the Chairman.



My objective has been to ensure a solid foundation with abundant high value growth opportunities for the next CEO, to then add further value and grow. In 2020 and 2021 we had our challenges due to issues with the Orbost plant operated by APA. Orbost is now owned by Cooper Energy. The company has clear plans to increase the stability and processing rate once we are the operator.

Whilst there is no perfect time, retiring in 2023 seems appropriate. I can assure shareholders that until then the focus is clearly on continuing to improve the performance of the existing assets and grow value.

I want to record my appreciation for the loyal support of our shareholders, lenders and customers. I acknowledge and thank our employees and contractors for their commitment and efforts during the year. My thanks to my colleagues on the Executive Leadership Team for what has been a year of change and growth.

Finally, I acknowledge and thank the Board for their valuable guidance and support. In particular, a heart-felt thanks to our Chairman, John Conde for his guidance and counsel during what was a transformative year.

I look forward to providing you with further updates as the 2023 financial year progresses.

I will now hand back to the Chairman, for the formal part of the meeting.

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# Managing Director's address

David Maxwell  
Cooper Energy Limited  
2022 Annual General Meeting

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*Managing Director, David Maxwell*



# Disclaimer

This document contains summary information about Cooper Energy and its activities as at the date of this document and should not be considered to be comprehensive or to comprise all the information which a shareholder or potential investor in Cooper Energy may require in order to determine whether to deal in Cooper Energy shares. The information is a general summary only and does not purport to be complete. It should be read in conjunction with Cooper Energy's periodic reports and other continuous disclosure announcements released to the Australian Securities Exchange, which are available at [www.asx.com.au](http://www.asx.com.au).

This document contains forward looking statements. These statements are subject to risks associated with the oil and gas industry. The Company believes the expectations reflected in these statements are reasonable. A range of variables or changes in underlying assumptions may affect these statements and may cause actual results to differ. These variables or changes include but are not limited to price, demand, currency, geotechnical factors, drilling and production results, development progress, operating results, engineering estimates, reserve estimates, environmental risks, physical risks, regulatory developments, approvals and cost estimates.

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The following are non-IFRS measures: EBITDAX (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, depletion, exploration, evaluation and impairment); EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, depletion and impairment); EBIT (earnings before interest and tax); underlying profit; and free cash flow (operating cash flows less investing cash flows net of acquisitions and disposals and major growth capex less lease liability payments). The Company presents these measures to provide an understanding of the Company's performance. They are not audited but are from financial statements reviewed by the Company's auditor. Underlying profit excludes the impacts of asset acquisitions and disposals, impairments, hedging, and items that fluctuate between periods.

This document contains information on petroleum reserves and resources which is based on and fairly represents information and supporting documentation prepared by, or under the supervision of, Mr Andrew Thomas who is a full time employee of Cooper Energy Limited holding the position of General Manager, Exploration & Subsurface, holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons), is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Society of Petroleum Engineers, is qualified in accordance with ASX Listing Rule 5.41 and has consented to the inclusion of this information in the form and context in which it appears.

P50 as it relates to costs is best estimate; P90 as it relates to costs is high estimate.

The estimates of petroleum reserves and contingent resources contained in this presentation are as at 30 June 2022. The Company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the estimates of reserves and contingent resources and the material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not materially changed.

The Company prepares its petroleum reserves and contingent resources estimates in accordance with the 2018 Petroleum Resources Management System (PRMS) sponsored by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE).

Unless otherwise stated, all references to petroleum reserves and contingent resources quantities in this presentation are the Company's net share. Reference points for the Company's petroleum reserves and production are defined points within Cooper Energy's operations where normal exploration and production business ceases, and quantities of produced product are measured under defined conditions prior to custody transfer. Fuel, flare and vent consumed to the reference points are excluded.

Petroleum reserves are aggregated by arithmetic summation by category and as a result, proved reserves may be a conservative estimate due to the portfolio effects of arithmetic summation. Petroleum reserves are typically prepared by deterministic methods with support from probabilistic methods. Petroleum reserves replacement ratio is the ratio of the change in petroleum reserves (excluding production) divided by production. Organic reserves replacement ratio excludes net acquisitions and divestments. Conversion factors used to evaluate oil equivalent quantities are sales gas and ethane: 1PJ of sales gas and ethane equals 171,937 boe; 1 tonne of LPG equals 8.458 boe; 1 barrel of condensate equals 0.935 boe; 1 barrel of crude oil equals 1 boe.

# Our Purpose and Values

Cooper Energy's **PURPOSE** is to contribute to Australia's sustainable energy future by commercialising gas, oil and other resources for domestic markets.

We operate with an emphasis on care, shareholder value and sustainability.



CARE



INTEGRITY



FAIRNESS & RESPECT



TRANSPARENCY



COLLABORATION



AWARENESS

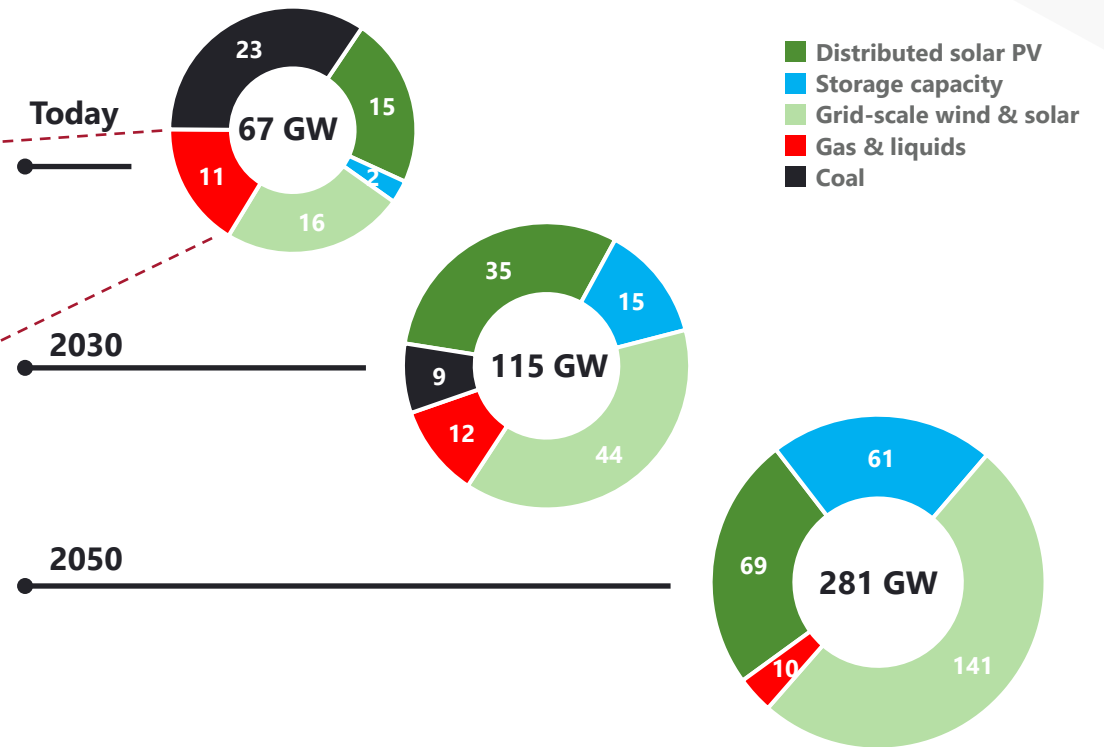
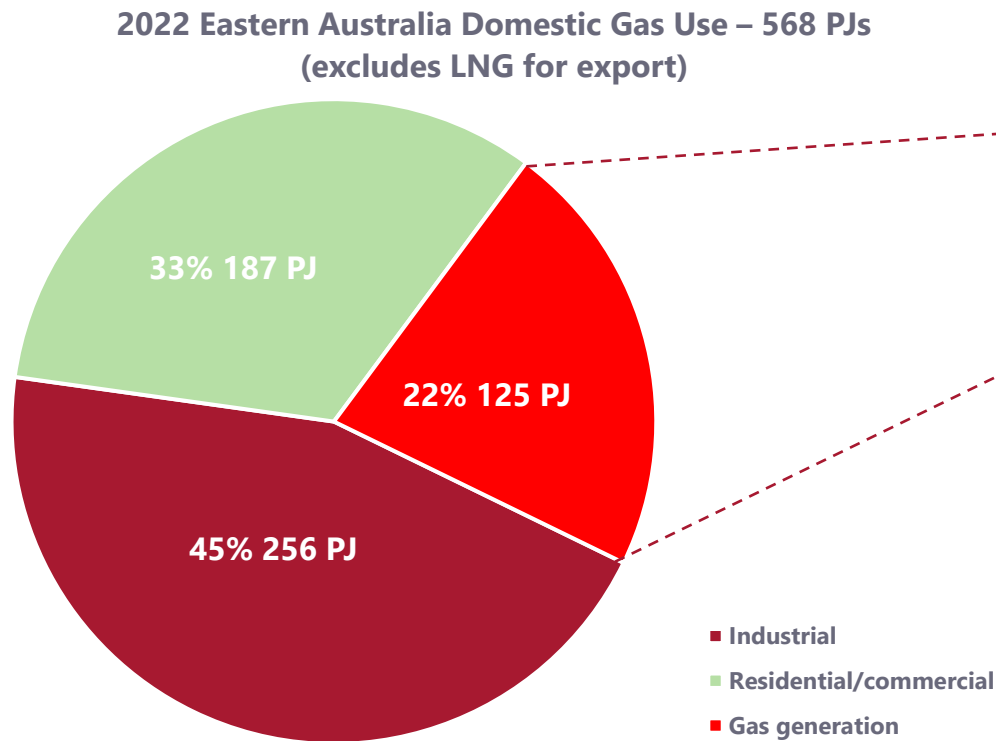


COMMITMENT

# Eastern Australia gas market

Gas fired generation is ~22% of overall gas demand and is integral to the NEM

Gas fired generation represents 22% of Eastern Australia domestic gas use<sup>1</sup>    Over 100 PJ per annum of gas demand for electricity generation to 2050<sup>2</sup>

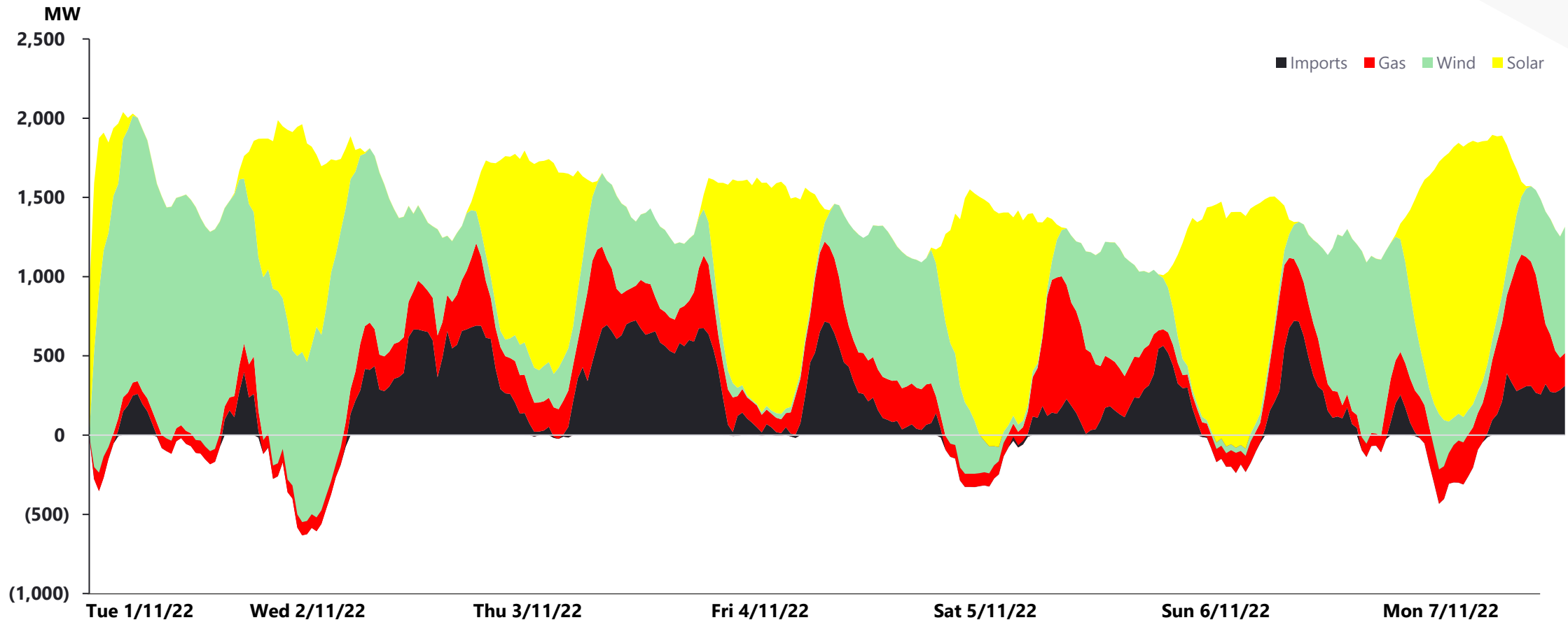


**AEMO forecast consistent gas demand as NEM grows, gas provides firming power**

# South Australia electricity supply

A renewable energy mix illustrating a window to the future – gas is key

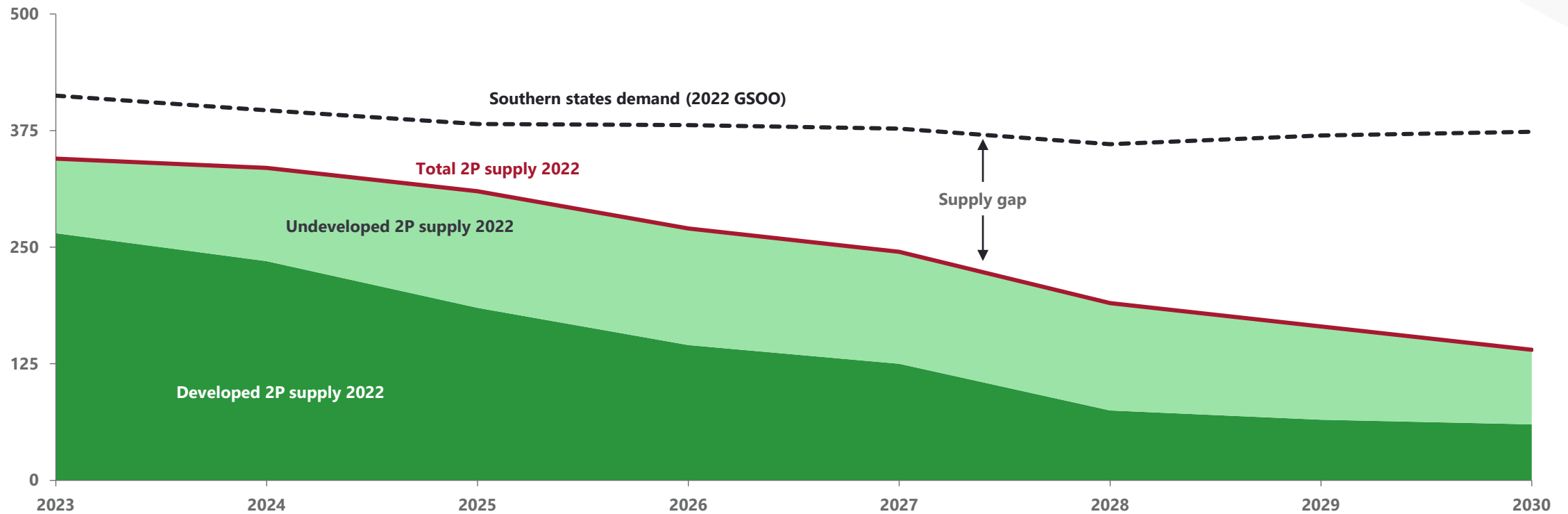
South Australian electricity supply by type: 1/11/2022 – 7/11/2022<sup>1</sup>



# South-east Australia\* gas demand and supply

## Declining supply and growing shortfall

South-east Australia\* forecast supply/demand, ACCC (PJ pa)<sup>1, 2</sup>

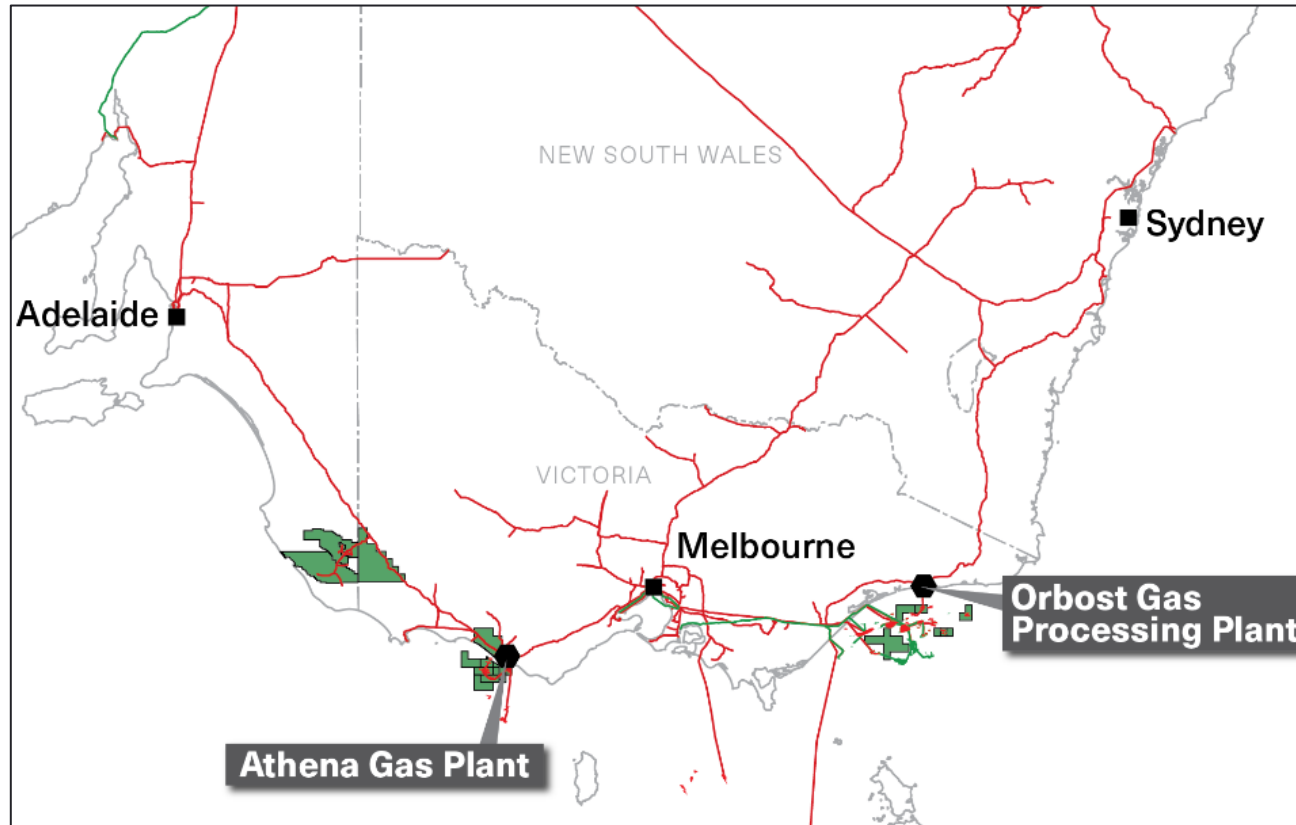


**New gas supplies needed from South-east Australia and other sources**

\* New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania

# Twin hub access to South-east Australia gas market

Strengthened operating expertise across integrated upstream and midstream gas projects



Gippsland Basin	
<b>Ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% owned and operated by Cooper Energy (post transfer of Major Hazard Facilities Licence)</li> </ul>
<b>Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production, development and exploration</li> </ul>
<b>Customers</b>	

Otway Basin	
<b>Ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooper Energy – 50% and operator</li> </ul>
<b>Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production, development and exploration</li> </ul>
<b>Customers</b>	

Existing production + development + low risk exploration opportunities



# Record performance and key milestones in FY22

Underpinned by commencement of gas production from AGP and acquisition of OGPP

## Outstanding safety and environment performance

Lost time incidents

**0**

cases

TRIFR<sup>1</sup>

**0.0**

(industry 6.91)

Carbon emissions

**Net 0**

tonnes (FY22)

## Record full-year performance

Production

**3.31**

MMboe

+26%

Revenue

**\$205**

million

+56%

Underlying EBITDAX

**\$80.7**

million

+169%



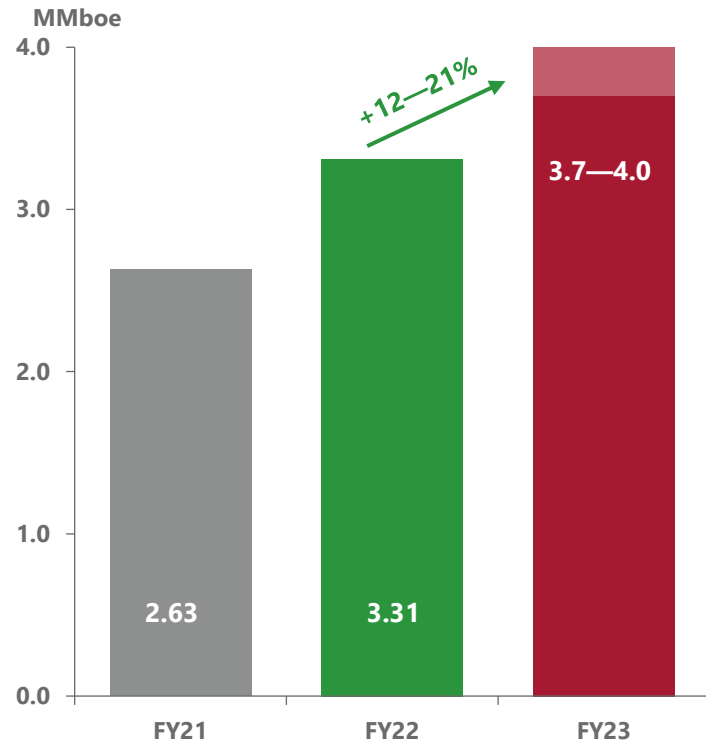
*Orbst Gas Processing Plant, Victoria*



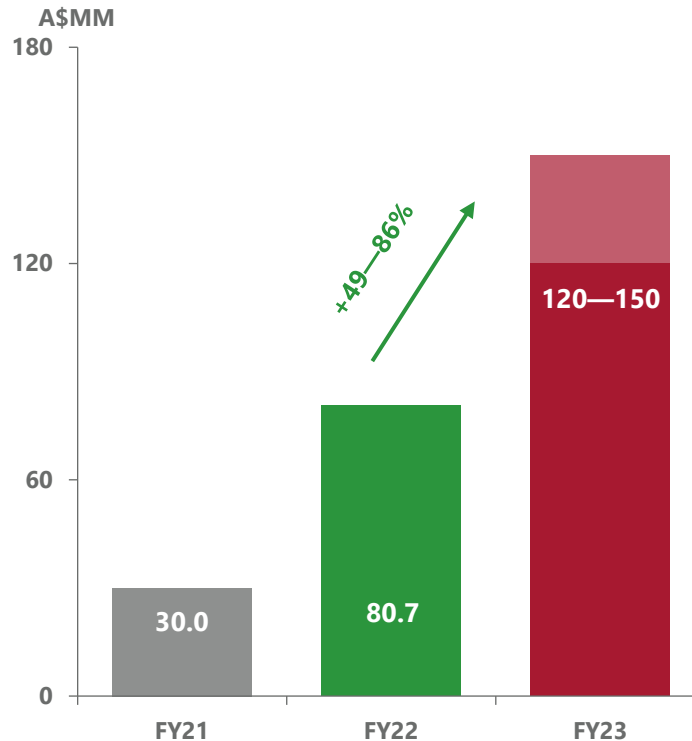
# FY23 guidance: production, u-EBITDAX & capex

Growth trajectory to continue driven by higher gas production and resultant cash generation

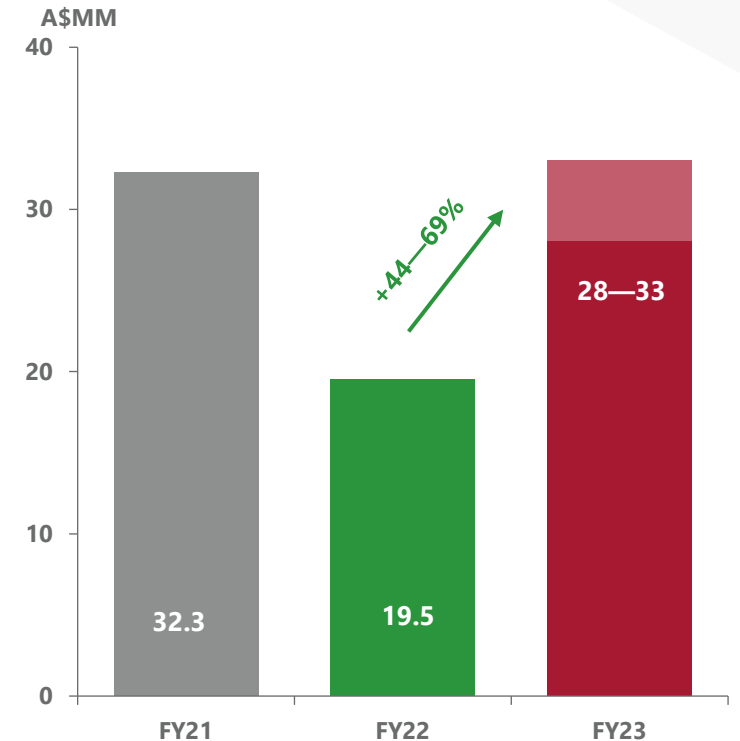
**FY23 production: 3.7—4.0 MMboe**



**FY23 u-EBITDAX: \$120—150MM**



**FY23 maintenance/growth capex: \$28—33MM<sup>1</sup>**



**Guidance: ~50% ++ increase in FY23 u-EBITDAX, transformed base and sustained growth**

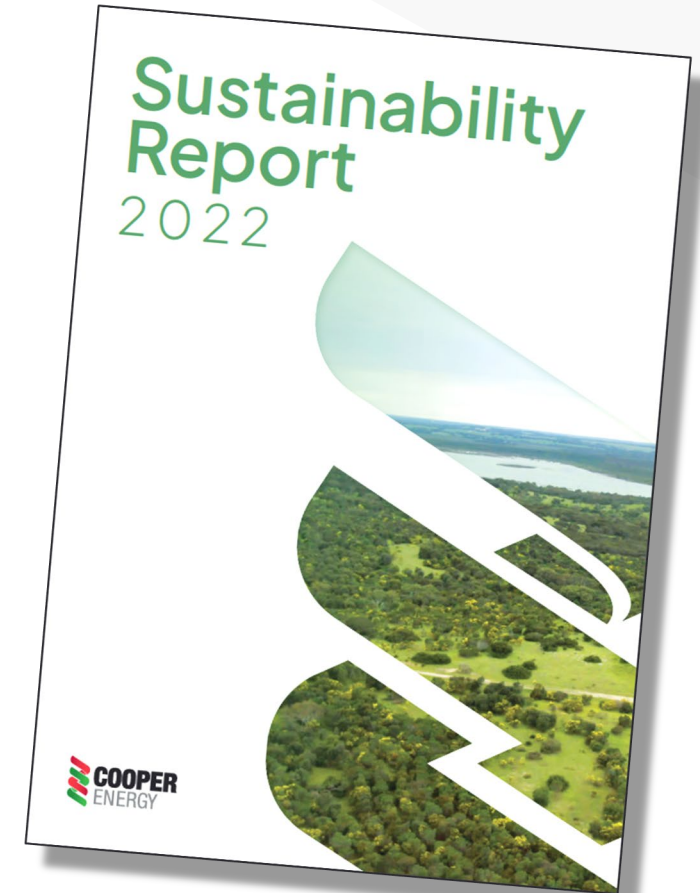


# Cooper Energy – net zero since FY20

Independently audited and certified by Climate Active



*Biodiversity project, Coorong, South Australia*



**Cooper Energy's net zero position—a key competitive advantage**

# Cooper Energy in the energy transition

Growth while supporting decarbonisation and maintaining net zero certification



## Pillar 1 Net Zero Enabler

- Leverage carbon neutral benefits
  - access to finance
  - investability
  - talent attraction
  - partner of choice



## Pillar 2 Efficiency

- Site/operations focus
- Reduce gross emissions intensity
- Clearly defined financial payback



## Pillar 3 New Energy

- Gas remains core
- Measured approach to diversification
- Investment and partnerships leveraging assets and capabilities

- ✓ Remaining scope-1, scope-2 and controllable scope-3 emissions fully offset since FY20
- ✓ Independently audited and certified to meet Climate Active's carbon neutral standards
- ✓ Progressing a range of partnerships, opportunities and emissions reduction initiatives to maintain net zero long-term
- ✓ Project origination to build a portfolio of offset units





Athena Gas Plant staff, Victoria

# Footnotes

## By page

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**Slide 4**

1. AEMO 2022 Gas Statement of Opportunities
2. AEMO 2022 Integrated System Plan

**Slide 5**

1. Data sourced from [www.opennem.com.au](http://www.opennem.com.au)

**Slide 6**

1. Cooper Energy analysis of January 2022 ACCC Gas Inquiry Report
2. 2022 ACCC Gas Inquiry Report supply includes Cooper Basin, Otway Basin and Gippsland Basin. 2022 AEMO GSOO demand includes VIC, NSW, SA, ACT and TAS

**Slide 8**

1. Total recordable injury frequency rate (TRIFR) is recordable incidents (Medical Treatment Injuries + Restricted Work/Transfer Case + Lost Time Injuries + Fatalities) per million hours worked. Calculated on a rolling 12-month basis

**Slide 10**

1. Capital expenditure guidance excludes abandonment expenditure, as well as transition and integration costs associated with the acquisition of the OGPP, a portion of which is expected to be capitalised

**Slide 13**

1. Production profiles are indicative and Cooper Energy share
2. Contingent Resource for the Manta gas and liquids resource was announced to ASX on 12 August 2019
3. Refer to Otway Basin Exploration Prospective Resource Update announced to the ASX on 9 February 2022. Production forecast assumes exploration success at Elanora, Juliet and Nestor prospects
4. Annie 2C resource included as part of the Otway Basin 2C number in the FY22 Reserves and Contingent Resources ASX release on the 22nd August 2022
5. Sole plus Casino, Henry and Netherby (CHN) as announced to the ASX on 22 August 2022