



The Hon Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 14 October, 2014

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCES CANCELLED

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts today said he has informed Leichhardt Resources Pty Ltd that its three NSW Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) have been cancelled.

Mr Roberts said the licences were cancelled under the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 on the basis that Leichhardt Resources Pty Ltd had contravened or failed to fulfil specified conditions of the licences.

“On 30 April 2009, Leichhardt Resources was granted three petroleum exploration licences (PELs),” Mr Roberts said.

“These licences are PELs 469 near Nowra, 468 near Rylstone and 470 near Moree.

“On 8 February 2013 these titles were renewed for five years with set conditions to be met including a need to engage with the community in relation to the planning and conduct of its prospecting operations.

“On 7 August 2014 the company was issued a Show Cause Notice in relation to the proposed cancellation of the licences. The allegation of not complying with the requirement for community engagement was raised in relation to all three licences.”

The allegation of not complying with its work program obligations was also raised in relation to PEL 470.

It is critical that titleholders abide by their work programs to ensure they adequately explore for the State’s resources and to provide certainty for the community.

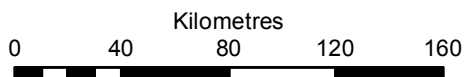
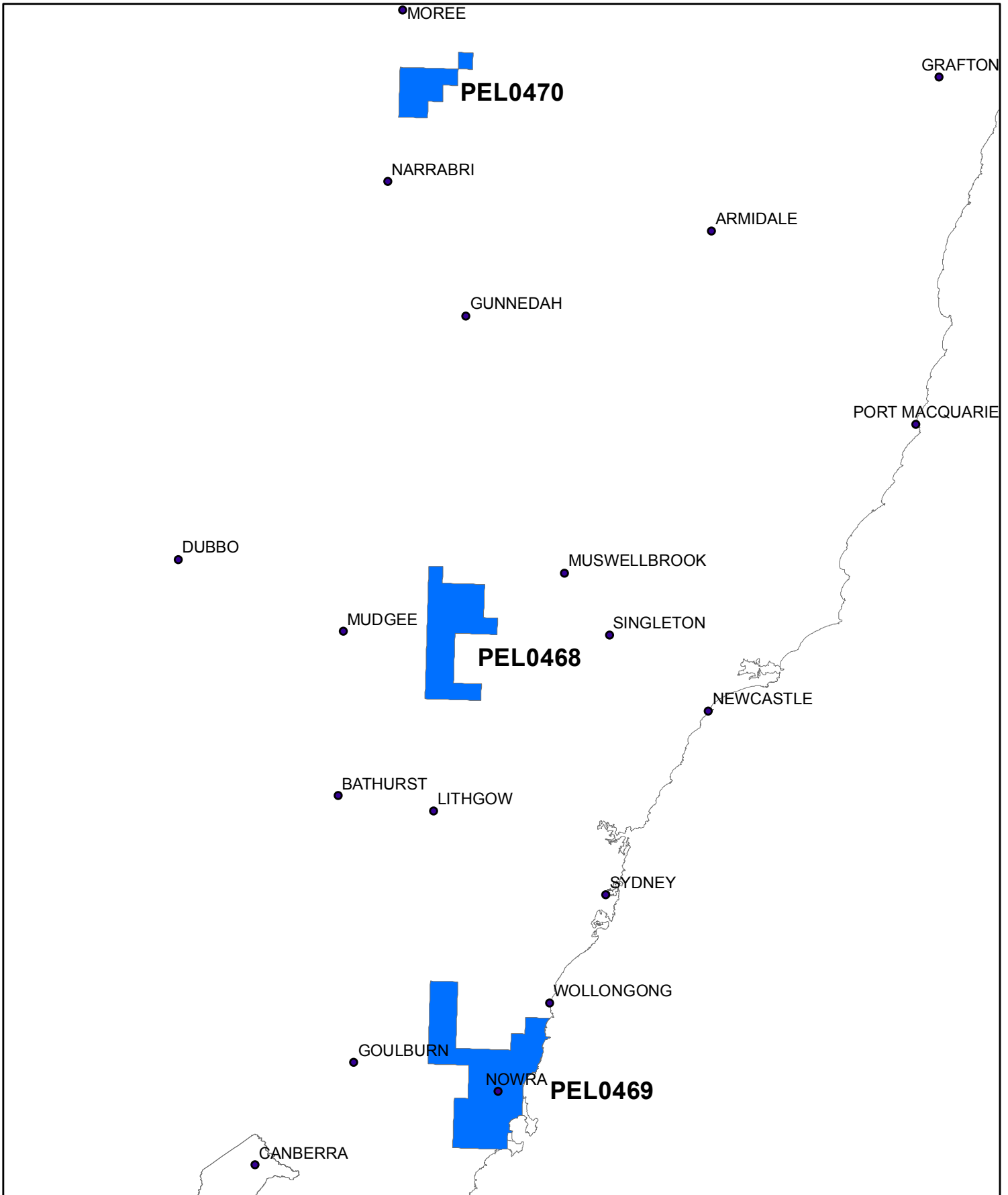
Mr Roberts said the NSW Government announced on 26 March 2014 that it would target operators who have not met the conditions of their PELs.

“The Government takes compliance with licence conditions seriously,” he said.


“The NSW Government, in line with the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer’s recommendations, is supportive of a safe, sustainable gas industry that adheres to best practice standards within a regime of strong regulation, compliance and enforcement.”

*A Map of the three PEL areas is attached.

Leichhardt Resources Titles



Legend

 Leichhardt Resources Titles



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