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Queensland moves to secure gas resources

The Queensland Government's move to foster further exploration of the state's abundant natural gas resources sends a strong message to both local and global explorers wanting to invest in a world-class resource industry.

Today the Government has indicated that 11,000 square kilometres are being released for exploration expressions of interest. Most of the land being made available is in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins, with one small area of highly-prospective land in the Surat Basin.

The **Cooper and Eromanga Basins (PLR2015-2)** land covers a remote, sparsely populated south-west corner area bounded by Windorah, Betoota, Eromanga and the South Australian border.

The **Surat Basin (PLR2015-1)** area is about six square kilometres of highly prospective land, 22km south-east of Condamine.

APPEA Acting Chief Executive Paul Fennelly said: "Today's exploration can lead to tomorrow's production, job creation and regional growth."

"An important signal has been sent to explorers, particularly many local small explorers, with the know-how and expertise to find new energy. Queensland is open for business backed by science and the highest of professional standards."

"This also recognises Queensland's place as a major global energy supplier at home and abroad, highlighting what can be achieved through a strong regulatory framework and government leadership."

"Bringing more gas to market also removes need for unworkable intervention policies, such as domestic gas reservation, that can only create adverse economic outcomes in the longer term."

Petroleum exploration will be a key point of discussion at the 55th annual APPEA Conference and Exhibition, which starts in Melbourne on Sunday.

Those interested in attending can register at www.appeaconference.com.au

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