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ASX RELEASE

Maclean-1 to be Drilled in October

Bass Strait Oil Company Ltd (ASX Code: BAS) is finalising preparations for the October 2005 drilling of the Maclean-1 exploration well in the offshore Gippsland Basin permit Vic/P47 (Figure 1). BAS is operator and holds a 40% interest in the Vic/P47 joint venture.

BAS has assessed the potential size of the Maclean prospect and estimates that, in the event of an oil discovery at Maclean-1, the P50 or 'most likely' prospective resource of recoverable oil in the Maclean Prospect would be 77 million barrels, with an upside case (P10) of 135 million barrels.

Maclean-1 will be the second well in a two-well, back-to-back drilling programme scheduled for late September / October with the Ocean Patriot rig. BAS has no participating interest in the first well, Gilbert-1, but will operate both wells and retains its 40% interest in Maclean-1. The Maclean-1 project will be shielded from the current high rig rates due to BAS's 2004 multi-well contract with the Ocean Patriot.

New BAS Chief Executive Officer Andrew Adams commented that:

"BAS is now entering a new phase of activity where we are seeking to capitalise on our investment in 3D seismic data earlier this year and on our extensive Gippsland Basin 3D database generally.

The first project on our list is the Maclean-1 well targeting a significant oil play which has been defined on our January 2005 3D survey.

The Maclean prospect is large enough for a discovery to have a very significant economic impact on BAS.

In parallel with drilling Maclean-1, BAS has recently begun interpreting the Oscar 3D survey. This data was recorded in our Vic/P41 permit during February and was the first 3D data ever recorded in this area. The Oscar survey was designed to address the potential for eastward extensions of the geological trends that set up the Kipper and Basker-Manta oil and gas fields.

We are still in the early stages of the Oscar 3D interpretation, but based on several attractive leads on older seismic data, we are optimistic that we will define one or more 2006 drilling targets. BAS is operator and holds a 45% interest in Vic/P41.

More generally, we aim to leverage the value inherent in our database and in our growing knowledge of the Gippsland and adjacent regions. BAS is also assessing opportunities to expand our acreage portfolio, so that we maintain a strong pipeline of future drilling targets."

The Maclean prospect is defined on the Vic/P47 3D seismic data recorded for BAS in January this year and is a downthrown fault closure located on the southern flank of the Flathead Anticline, downdip of the Moby Gas Field (Figure 2).

The main reservoir target is the Latrobe Group Kingfish Formation sandstone, which is interpreted to thicken significantly southwards and eastwards over the Maclean Prospect (Figure 3). This reservoir is expected to have good porosity and permeability and is the main producing reservoir of the Gippsland Basin oil and gas fields.

The occurrence of significant oil shows and extracts from the existing wells Moby-1, Flathead-1 and Whale-1, indicates that the Flathead Anticline received migrating oil at one time in its geological past. The absence of amplitude anomalies over deeper parts of the Maclean structure would suggest that, if there is any petroleum present, it would be oil rather than gas.

BAS considers that trap sealing is the main risk at Maclean, with a lesser risk associated with potential biodegradation of any oil in the structure.

The Maclean-1 well will be drilled vertically and the operation is programmed for approximately 10 days, with a total depth of approximately 771 metres.

Participants in the Vic/P47 joint venture are:

Bass Strait Oil Company Ltd, Operator (ASX Code: BAS)	40%
Moby Oil & Gas Limited (ASX Code: MOG)	35%
Eagle Bay Resources NL (ASX Code: EBR)	25%

This report is based on information compiled by BAS's Technical Advisor, Mr Ian Reid. Mr Reid is engaged by BAS, is a qualified person as defined under the ASX Listing Rule 5.11 and has consented in writing to the inclusion of the above estimates in this report, in the form and context in which they appear.



Andrew Adams
Chief Executive Officer
14 September 2005

Risk Factors

Various statements in this release constitute statements relating to intentions, future acts and events. Such statements are generally classified as forward looking statements and involve known and unknown risks, expectations, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause those future acts, events and circumstances to differ from the way or manner in which they are expressly or impliedly portrayed herein.

Furthermore, exploration for oil and gas is speculative, expensive and subject to a wide range of risks. There can be no assurance that any well drilled by BAS will result in the discovery of oil or gas, nor that any discovery will prove to be commercially viable. Summaries of some of the risks inherent in an investment in Bass Strait Oil Company Ltd are set out on page 92 of our Prospectus dated 24 August 2004 and lodged with the Australian Securities and Exchange Commission. Individual investors should consider these matters in light of their personal circumstances (including financial and taxation affairs) and seek professional advice from their accountant, lawyer or other professional adviser as to the suitability for them of an investment in the Company.

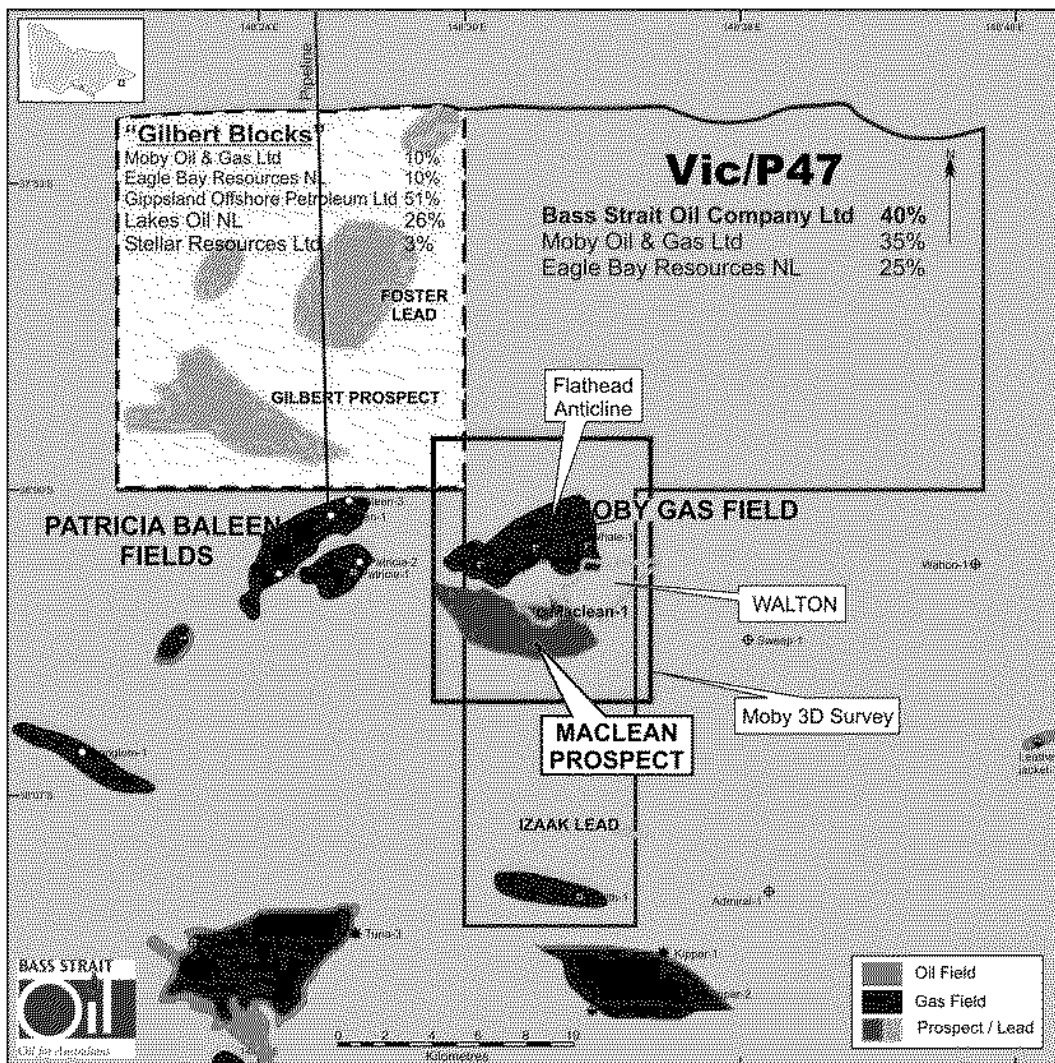


Figure 1. VicP47 permit map showing the location of the Maclean Prospect

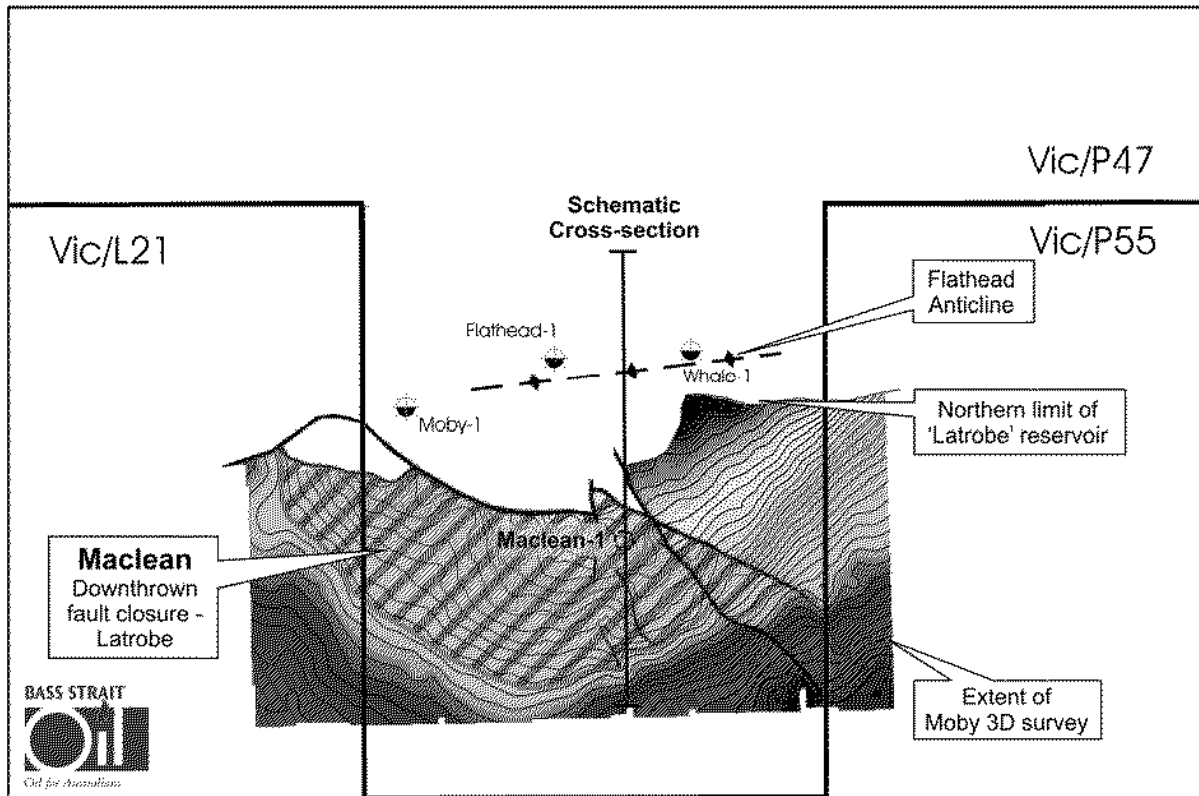


Figure 2. Top Kingfish Formation structure map showing the Maclean-1 location

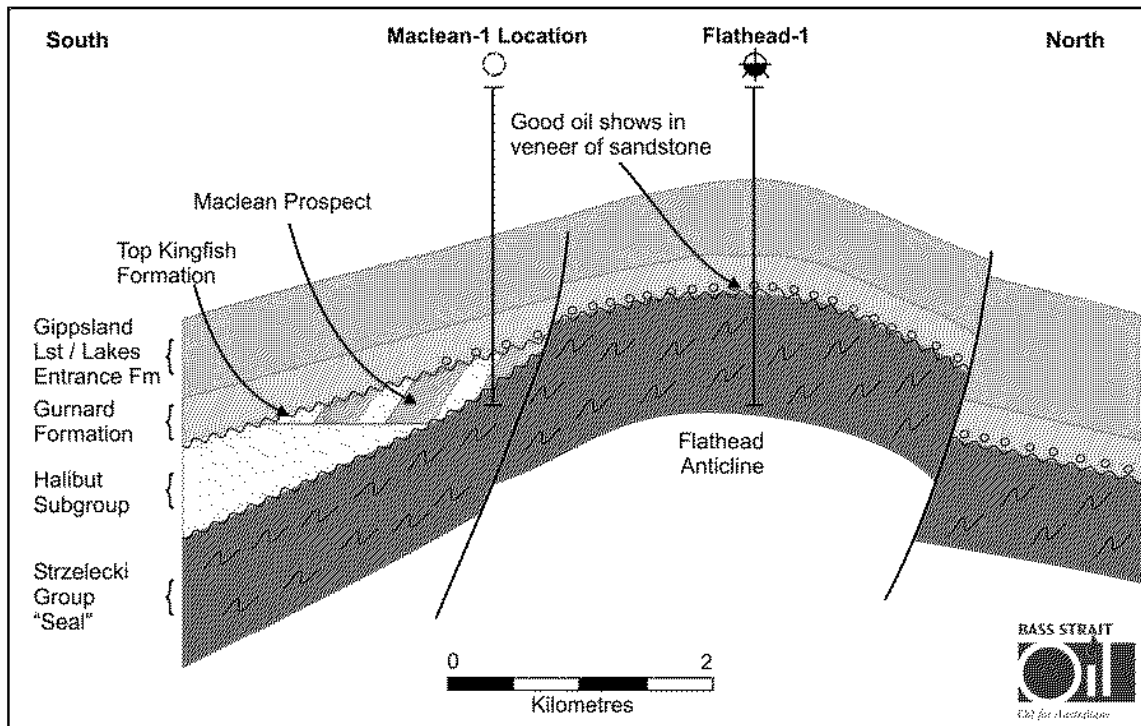


Figure 3. Maclean Prospect schematic cross-section