# ASX/Media Release



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# First Quarter Activities Report For Period Ended 31 March 2010

Comparative performance at a glance					
Quarterly comparison		Q1 2010	Q4 2009	Change %	
Production	mmboe	12.4	13.9	-11%	
Revenue	A\$ million	511	600	-15%	
Oil Price	A\$/bbl	83.32	85.37	-2%	
Correspondi	ing period	Q1 2010	Q1 2009		
Production	mmboe	12.4	13.2	-6%	
Revenue	A\$ million	511	540	-5%	
Oil Price	A\$/bbl	83.32	71.16	+17%	

## March quarter production impacted by flooding in Central Australia

- Over the March quarter, the major floods in Central Australia and Queensland impacted Santos' Cooper Basin activities. Compounding the floods were local rains of up to 600 mm over the Cooper operational areas. As a result, March quarter production of 12.4 mmboe was 6% lower than the March 2009 quarter.
- Strong gas production from John Brookes and Indonesia offset lower production from the Cooper Basin and Victoria, resulting in quarterly natural gas, ethane and LNG production of 56 PJ being in line with the corresponding period.
- Crude oil production was lower than the corresponding period, primarily due to flooding limiting access to wells combined with an unplanned shutdown at Mutineer-Exeter.
- The flooding in Central Australia will result in an estimated 2 mmboe (net to Santos) of production being deferred. Consequently, 2010 production guidance has been reduced by 2 mmboe to a range of 49 to 52 mmboe.
- 2010 Cooper Basin gas sales revenue is not expected to be materially impacted by the production deferral as customer deliveries are being met from a combination of current production and gas from storage.

#### Key activities during the period

- PNG LNG proceeding to full project execution, with the completion of sales and purchase agreements with LNG buyers and financing arrangements with lenders.
- First gas from the Henry and Netherby (VIC/P44) gas development, offshore western Victoria.

- Sale of interest in Evans Shoal for up to \$200 million with completion expected to occur in the second half of 2010.
- 42% increase in year-end proved and probable (2P) reserves to a record 1.44 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

Santos Chief Executive Officer David Knox said the heavy rain and flooding in Central Australia would impact the company's operations in the Cooper Basin for several months, but that the continued delivery of gas to customers was a significant achievement in difficult conditions.

"We continue to monitor conditions in the Cooper Basin to ascertain how quickly full production and development activity can resume, but we are confident the actions we have taken in response to the conditions will minimise disruption."

"The GLNG project continues to make significant progress with FEED works nearing completion and detailed discussions ongoing with a number of LNG buyers for offtake from train one and train two. These discussions include the potential for buyers to purchase an equity stake in the project," Mr Knox said.

## 2010 Guidance

The flooding in Central Australia will result in an estimated 2 mmboe (net to Santos) of production being deferred. Consequently, 2010 production guidance has been reduced by 2 mmboe to a range of 49 to 52 mmboe. Capital expenditure guidance has been lowered primarily due to flood impacts delaying Cooper Basin project activities and timing of expenditures across the base business capex program.

	2010		
Item	Previous Guidance	Updated Guidance	
Production (mmboe)	51 – 54	49 – 52	
Production costs (\$m)	540 - 560	No change	
Depreciation, Depletion & Amortisation (DD&A) expense (\$/boe)	11.70	No change	
Royalty related taxation expense (\$m after tax)	90 - 110	No change	
Capital expenditure (including exploration and evaluation) (\$m)	2,800	2,600	

Capital expenditure guidance of \$2,600 million includes \$1 billion for GLNG and \$150 million for conventional exploration, both of which are consistent with prior guidance. Further detail of year to date capital expenditure, including exploration and evaluation expenditure, is reported in the table on page 6 in this release.

Royalty related taxation expense guidance assumes an average realised oil price of A\$90 per barrel.

# STOCK EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

# 1. SALES AND PRODUCTION

Santos' share of production, sales and revenue for the quarter ended 31 March 2010 is shown in the table below:

the table below:		Quarter Ended		Full Year
	Q1 2010	Q1 2009	Q4 2009	2009
	Q. 2010	Q. 2000	<u>∽.</u> –000	2000
Sales Gas, Ethane and LNG (PJ)	10.0	40.7	20.0	70.0
Cooper Basin	16.2	18.7	20.2	79.9
Surat/Bowen/Denison Amadeus	8.6 0.9	7.3	8.4 2.4	31.9 10.6
Otway/Gippsland	3.9	5.6	4.3	20.5
Carnarvon	12.4	8.7	4.3	43.5
Bonaparte	3.6	4.4	3.8	16.3
Indonesia	9.7	7.3	9.2	30.2
Bangladesh	1.0	1.7	1.1	5.7
Total Sales Gas, Ethane and LNG Production	56.3	56.5	61.1	238.6
Total Sales Volume (Own Product)	55.2	53.7	60.8	237.6
Total Sales Volume (Third Party)	8.8	8.2	7.3	30.6
Gas Price (Avg A\$/GJ)	4.35	4.50	3.99	4.09
Total Sales Revenue (A\$m)	278.6	278.5	271.5	1098.2
Condensate (000's bbls)				
Cooper Basin	218.9	297.9	380.2	1095.2
Surat/Denison	0.4	2.8	2.0	7.6
Amadeus	3.1	11.9	10.3	46.6
Otway	9.2	6.0	5.3	23.4
Carnarvon	124.1	84.4	117.9	435.5
Indonesia	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bonaparte	365.3	419.5	379.0	1552.6
Bangladesh	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9
Total Condensate Production	722.2	822.6	895.0	3161.8
Total Sales Volume (Own Product)	754.7	918.3	898.5	3496.5
Total Sales Volume (Third Party) Condensate Price (Avg A\$/bbl)	1.6 84.53	2.4	1.6	9.3
Condensate Price (Avg A\$/bbl) Condensate Price (Avg US\$/bbl)	84.53 76.60	55.44 37.01	76.32 69.20	66.52 53.81
Total Sales Revenue (A\$m)	63.9	51.0	68.7	233.2
	00.0	01.0	00.7	200.2
LPG (000 t)				
Cooper Basin	32.8	35.6	40.5	151.2
Surat/Denison	0.0 21.4	0.2	0.0	0.3
Bonaparte		23.9	22.3	88.6
Total LPG Production Total Sales Volume (Own Product)	54.2 58.3	59.7 74.8	62.8 56.6	240.1 248.9
Total Sales Volume (Own Product)	56.3 1.0	/4.8 1.0	50.0 1.2	240.8
LPG Price (Avg A\$/t)	832.71	690.64	785.47	676.17
Total Sales Revenue (A\$m)	49.4	52.4	45.4	170.8
Crude Oil (000's bbls)				
Cooper Basin	596.4	939.1	885.4	3598.4
Surat/Denison	15.6	16.2	16.2	62.5
Amadeus	23.7	28.0	16.6	106.3
	59.6		58.4	288.7
Thevenard	56.8	66.5	82.9	305.7
Barrow	142.5	134.7	145.9	573.5
Stag Mutineer Eveter	404.3	355.0	406.9	1643.9
Mutineer Exeter Jabiru/Challis	123.0 31.1	323.5 28.3	260.5 21.0	<u>995.0</u> 105.9
Indonesia	153.3	176.7	139.6	560.3
SE Gobe	23.2	42.2	31.7	148.1
Total Crude Oil Production	1629.5	2181.0	2065.1	8388.3
Total Sales Volume	1433.2	2224.2	2510.2	8604.5
Oil Price (Avg A\$/bbl)	83.32	71.16	85.37	78.83
Oil Price (Avg US\$/bbl)	75.50	47.51	77.40	63.77
Total Sales Revenue (A\$m)	119.4	158.3	214.3	678.3
TOTAL				
Production (mmboe)	12.4	13.2	13.9	54.4
Sales Volume (mmboe) Own Product	12.1	13.0	14.3	54.8
Sales Volume (mmboe) Third Party	1.5	1.4	1.2	5.3
Sales Volume Total	13.6	14.4	15.5	60.1
Sales Revenue (A\$m)	511.3	540.2	599.9	2180.5

## Production by Area

Comparisons with prior periods for gas, condensate and LPG production are made between the current quarter and the same quarter from the previous year, as production is heavily influenced by seasonal factors. Conversely, comparisons for crude oil are made with the immediate previous quarter, as oil production rates are not generally subject to seasonal variations. Both comparisons are available in the preceding table.

#### Cooper Basin

Several major wet weather and flood events have significantly impacted Cooper Basin activities and hydrocarbon production in the first quarter. The impact has been geographically widespread with a majority of field infrastructure and leases inundated by water. This has impacted base operations through restricted lease access, damaged road infrastructure and limited oil tanker haulage. Development and work-over activities have also been severely restricted. Considerable focus has been placed on the safety of field personnel and recovery to normal operations, which will continue for several months. The majority of the drilling and connection activity highlighted below occurred in January.

Crude oil production of 0.60 million barrels was 33% lower than Q4 2009 due to flooding. 7 wells were drilled in the first quarter with 5 wells cased and suspended and 1 well brought on-line.

Sales gas and ethane production of 16.2 petajoules (PJ) was 13% lower than Q1 2009 due to flooding. 1 well was drilled, cased and suspended in the first quarter and 3 new wells were brought on-line.



Condensate production of 0.22 mmbbl was 27% lower than Q1 2009 due to wet weather.

## **Otway Basin/Gippsland Basin**

Aggregate sales gas production of 3.9 PJ was 30% lower than Q1 2009 due to low market demand and shutdowns at the lona plant.

## Surat Basin/Bowen Basin/Denison Trough

Sales gas production of 8.6 PJ was 17% higher when compared with Q1 2009 due to higher production from Fairview following the commissioning of the Phase 2 expansion.

#### Amadeus Basin

Sales gas production of 0.9 PJ was down 65% from Q1 2009 due to gas contract expiration.

#### **Carnarvon Basin**

Gas production from the John Brookes field of 12.4 PJ was 43% higher than Q1 2009 due to commercial arrangements to accelerate John Brookes gas through third party facilities combined with the impact of the Varanus Island incident on the corresponding period.

Mutineer-Exeter's production of 0.12 mmbbl was 53% lower when compared to Q4 2009 as the field was offline in February 2010 whilst awaiting an ROV to carry out subsea equipment repairs.

Stag production of 0.40 mmbbl was inline with Q4 2009 and 14% higher than the corresponding period due to less downtime combined with stable weather conditions.

#### **Bonaparte Basin**

Q1 2010 volumes were impacted by a 9-day Darwin LNG shutdown in January 2010 for plant repairs. This resulted in lower volumes when compared to the 2009 comparative period.

Gross Bayu-Undan LNG production of 791,418 tonnes (44 PJ) was 9% lower when compared to Q1 2009. Santos' net entitlement production of 64,896 tonnes (3.6 PJ) was 18% lower than the 2009 comparative period.

Gross Bayu-Undan condensate production of 5.5 mmbbl was 2% lower than Q1 2009. Santos' net entitlement production of 0.4 mmbbl was 13% lower than the 2009 comparative period.

Gross Bayu-Undan LPG production of 285,276 tonnes was marginally lower than Q1 2009. Santos' net entitlement production of 21,424 tonnes was 10% lower than the 2009 comparative period.

A planned 35-day shutdown of the Bayu-Undan/Darwin LNG facilities is scheduled for the June 2010 quarter. The shutdown workscope includes a turbine upgrade to increase LNG production capacity to 3.6 mtpa.

#### Indonesia

Sales gas production of 9.7 PJ was 32% higher than Q1 2009 due to the start up Oyong Phase 2 at the end of the third quarter 2009 combined with higher production from Maleo. Indonesian crude oil production of 0.15 mmbbl was 10% higher when compared to Q4 2009 due to higher production from Oyong.

# 2. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Total exploration, evaluation and development expenditure is summarised in the table below:

	Quarter Ended			
	Q1 2010	Q1 2009	Q4 2009	
Capital Expenditure Summary (\$ million)				
Exploration	13.5	65.3	22.4	
Evaluation including CSG	12.7	28.0	43.8	
Development and Other PP&E	356.7	292.4	394.7	
Total Capital Expenditure	382.9	385.7	460.9	
Exploration and Evaluation Expensed Summary From current year expenditure				
- Exploration	15.0	44.3	15.5	
- Evaluation	7.4	6.2	16.1	
	22.4	50.5	31.6	
Write-off of net amounts capitalised in prior years	(0.2)	-	20.7	
Total Expensed	22.2	50.5	52.3	

# 2.1 EXPLORATION ACTIVITY

Well	Basin/Area	Target	Santos Interest (%)	Well Status
Blackville 1	Gunnedah Basin, PEL 452	CSG	100	P&A
Warrah 1	Gunnedah Basin, PEL 452	CSG	100	Drilling

Blackville 1, located in PEL 452 in the Gunnedah Basin NSW, spudded on 13 January 2010 and reached a total depth of 1,160 metres. The well was cored from 765 metres intersecting 26 metre of gross coal within the Late Permian Black Jack Formation. The core will now be assessed for gas composition and gas content. Following acquisition of wireline logs at total depth, Blackville 1 was plugged and abandoned as programmed.

Warrah 1, located in PEL 452 in the Gunnedah Basin NSW, spudded on 8 March 2010 and is currently coring. The primary target of the well is the Hoskissons Coal seam of the Late Permian Black Jack Group. The proposed total depth of the well is 1,100 metres. After acquiring wireline logs the well will be plugged and abandoned as programmed.

## Seismic Activity

Seismic activity during the first quarter is shown in the table below:

Permit	Area/Basin	Survey	Туре	Km/Km <sup>2</sup>	Status
Novobod, Obchai/Kalachi, North West	Fergana Basin	Novobod, Obchai/Kalachi, North West	2D land	95.19	Ongoing

# 2.2 Evaluation and CSG Activity

Total evaluation expenditure in the first quarter of 2010 was \$13 million, comprising near-field exploration, CSG and exploration appraisal expenditure.

Well	Basin/Area	Target	Santos Interest (%)	Well Status
Tickalara 23	Cooper/Eromanga - QLD	Oil	70.0	C&S, successful oil
Narcoonowie 10	Cooper/Eromanga - SA	Oil	66.6	C&S, successful oil
Tintsfield 2H	Gunnedah Basin	CSG	35.0	C&S, successful gas
Tintsfield 3H	Gunnedah Basin	CSG	35.0	C&S, successful gas
Tintsfield 4H	Gunnedah Basin	CSG	35.0	Drilling
Tintsfield 5	Gunnedah Basin	CSG	35.0	C&S, successful gas
Tintsfield 6	Gunnedah Basin	CSG	35.0	C&S, successful gas
Tintsfield 7	Gunnedah Basin	CSG	35.0	C&S, successful gas
Ramyard 7	Surat Basin	CSG	2.6	Drilling
Reedy Creek 3	Surat Basin	CSG	2.6	C&S, CSG injector
Reedy Creek 6J	Surat Basin	CSG	2.6	C&S, successful gas
Reedy Creek 6T	Surat Basin	CSG	2.6	C&S, successful gas
Bony Creek 19I	Surat Basin	CSG	100	Suspended for deepening
Pickanjinnie 22I*	Surat Basin	CSG	100	C&S, CSG storage
Pine Hills 7*	Surat Basin	CSG core hole	2.6	P&A
Meeleebee 5	Surat Basin	CSG core hole	2.6	Drilling
Tchanning 2	Bowen Basin	CSG core hole	81.9	Drilling
Clematis Creek 4	Bowen Basin	CSG core hole	47.7	Delayed
Basalt Creek North 1A	Bowen Basin	CSG core hole	47.7	C&S, successful gas
Bohena 14	Gunnedah Basin	CSG core hole	35.0	Drilling
Rosevale 1A*	Gunnedah Basin	CSG core hole	35.0	P&A
Spring Rock 1*	Gunnedah Basin	CSG core hole	47.7	C&S, successful gas

The table below details of the wells drilled during the first quarter and their status:

\* Spudded in fourth quarter 2009

# 2.3 Development Activity

Development expenditure during the first quarter of 2010 was \$357 million. The table below details all development wells drilled during the first quarter and their status:

Well	Basin/Area	Target	Santos Interest (%)	Well Status
Tickalara 24	Cooper/Eromanga - QLD	Oil	70.0	C&S, successful oil
Chi 1	Cooper/Eromanga - QLD	Oil	70.0	P&A
Coonatie 16	Cooper/Eromanga - SA	Gas	72.32	Suspended
Coonatie 17	Cooper/Eromanga - SA	Gas	72.32	Suspended
Kipper A1	Gippsland Basin	Gas	35.0	Suspended, surface hole
Kipper A2	Gippsland Basin	Gas	35.0	Drilling
Kipper A3	Gippsland Basin	Gas	35.0	Suspended, surface hole
Kipper A4	Gippsland Basin	Gas	35.0	Drilling
Bayu Undan BU-W13	Timor Sea	Gas	11.5	Drilling
Bayu Undan BU-W06ST1*	Timor sea	Gas	11.5	C&C, successful gas
Moonie 43	Surat Basin	Oil	100	C&S, successful oil
Moonie 44*	Surat Basin	Oil	100	C&S, successful oil
Hermitage 13	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Hermitage 14	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Hermitage 15	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Hermitage 16	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Coxon Creek 12	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Coxon Creek 13	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Coxon Creek 14	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Pleasant Hills 33	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Pleasant Hills 34	Surat Basin	CSG	60.0	C&S, successful gas
Fairview 51A	Bowen Basin	CSG	47.7	C&S, successful gas
Fairview 178*	Bowen Basin	CSG	47.7	C&S, successful gas
Fairview 340	Bowen Basin	CSG	47.7	C&S, successful gas
Fairview 341ST1	Bowen Basin	CSG	47.7	C&S, successful gas
Fairview 497	Bowen Basin	CSG	47.7	C&S, successful gas
Fairview 498ST1	Bowen Basin	CSG	47.7	C&S, successful gas
Fairview 500	Bowen Basin	CSG	47.7	C&S, successful gas

\* Spudded during fourth quarter

The status of the development projects which were in progress during the first quarter are as follows.

## Henry Project (VIC/P44 Stage 2) Development Project (Santos 50%, operator)

Henry was sanctioned in November 2007 and involves the drilling and connection of the Henry and Netherby fields to the existing Casino infrastructure. Construction of the new offshore facilities started in early December 2009 and was completed on 15 February 2010. First gas was achieved on 21 February 2010 when the Netherby well flowed back to the onshore processing facility at Iona. As the project has been commissioned it will no longer be included in the Development Activity section of the quarterly report.

#### Kipper Project (Santos 35%, ExxonMobil operator)

Kipper was sanctioned in December 2007 and involves the development of sub-sea wells tied back to existing processing infrastructure. The Ocean Patriot rig has commenced drilling the Kipper wells and fabrication of subsea equipment is nearly complete. The project schedule is being updated while the offshore installation program is optimised. The operator's estimate of first gas is now in the second half of 2011.

## Reindeer Project (Santos 45%, Apache operator)

Sanctioned in April 2008, the Reindeer Project is progressing and remains on target for first gas in the second half of 2011. Major earthworks at the gas plant sites are complete with the first series of plant modules delivered in late March. Works required to lay the pipeline from the Reindeer field to the gas plant started in late March and are progressing per plan.

## Chim Sáo Project (Santos 31.875%, Premier Oil operator)

On 2 April 2010, wellhead jacket fabrication was completed and loading and sailaway occurred on schedule. Construction of the wellhead platform topsides continues in the PTSC yard and is approximately 75% complete. The conversion of the 'Lewak Emas' FPSO is approximately 35% complete. Development drilling mobilisation is expected to commence in June 2010. First oil remains on target for the second half of 2011.

## GLNG<sup>®</sup> Project (Santos 60%, operator)

GLNG is a transformational project for Santos and involves the production of LNG using coal seam gas sourced from the GLNG gas fields in the Bowen and Surat Basins. GLNG is progressing towards a final investment decision in the middle of this year with first LNG in 2014. The design contemplates an initial two-train development with final capacity of up to 10 mtpa of LNG.

Progress during Q1 2010 included:

- GLNG 2P reserves of 4,003 PJ for year end 2009 were reported on 8 February. The reserves build was ahead of target and exceeded the reserves requirement for the first train.
- The upstream, pipeline and two-train plant FEED works continued to progress on schedule and are near completion.
- Public submissions on the GLNG Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) closed on 1 February 2010. The Queensland Government is finalising its assessment report.
- An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) was signed and authorised by the Port Curtis Coral Coast native title claim group on 19 March. This is the sixth of seven ILUAs required for the project.
- The first ILUA for the GLNG project (and for any Queensland LNG proponent) was registered by the National Native Title Tribunal on 7 April. The agreement is with the Gangulu group.
- Up to \$2.5 million was committed on 18 March to upgrade the Roma Airport, the main transit gateway for the upstream construction workforce associated with the GLNG project.

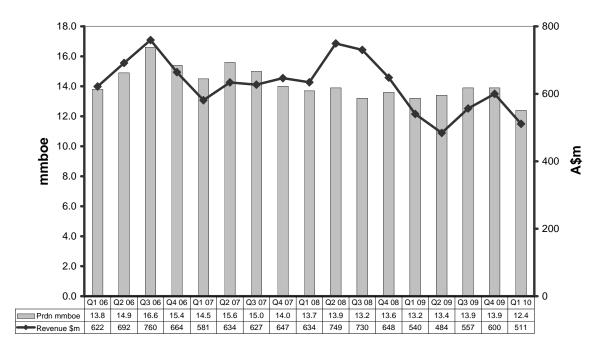
#### PNG LNG Project (Santos 13.5%, ExxonMobil operator)

On 15 March 2010, Santos announced Financial Close for the Papua New Guinea liquefied natural gas Project. To achieve Financial Close the project executed the final Sale and Purchase Agreement with CPC Taiwan for approximately 1.2 mtpa. All remaining conditions precedent to Financial Close were also satisfied during the quarter. Construction work continues and will ramp up throughout 2010.

The PNG LNG Project will develop the gas and condensate resources in the Hides, Angore and Juha fields and the associated gas resources in the currently operating oil fields of Kutubu, Agogo, Gobe and Moran in the Southern Highlands and Western Provinces of PNG. The gas will be transported by pipeline to an LNG facility with a capacity of 6.6 mtpa, 20 kilometres northwest of Port Moresby on the coast of the Gulf of Papua.

#### 3. HEDGING

There was no hedging outstanding at the end of first quarter 2010.



# 5. ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVERSION FACTORS

Abbreviations		Conversion Factors	
PJ	petajoules	Sales Gas & Ethane, 1 PJ	171.937 boe x 10 <sup>3</sup>
TJ	terajoules	Crude Oil, 1 barrel	1 boe
mmbbl	million barrels	Condensate (Naphtha), 1 barrel	0.935 boe
mmboe	million barrels of oil equivalent	LPG, 1 tonne	8.458 boe
mtpa	million tonnes per annum	LNG, 1PJ	18,040 t
t	tonnes		
P&A	plugged and abandoned		
C&S	cased and suspended		
C&C	cased and completed		
P&S	plugged and suspended		
CTU	coiled tubing unit		
WI	water injector		
CSG	coal seam gas		