

## Twelve New Petroleum Areas In Qld

The Queensland government is opening up an area of over 22,725 km<sup>2</sup> for competitive tendering for petroleum exploration. Mines Minister, Henry Palaszczuk, said 12 areas in the State would be available for petroleum exploration under Authorities to Prospect (ATP).

Two calls for tenders were made in April. "One covered nine areas located near Moonie, Goondiwindi, St George, Miles, Injune, Roma and Taroom in the Bowen and Surat Basins", Palaszczuk said. "These areas comprise less than 10% non-exclusive possession land, meaning a

partial grant of tenure can proceed without a native title process being undertaken."

"The other call for tenders covers one area in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins and two areas in the Eromanga Basin. The two areas in the Eromanga Basin are located northwest of Windorah and the one area in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins is west northwest of Noccundra. These areas contain more than 99% non-exclusive possession land and will require a native title process under the Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth) to be undertaken prior to the grant of the tenure."

Palaszczuk said the release provided opportunities for the industry to invest in petroleum and coal seam gas exploration. "This tendering process for exploration acreage may lead to increased discoveries of petroleum and coal seam gas and will enhance economic growth in Queensland", he said. The closing time and date for tenders is 4.30 pm on 4th August 2006. Tenders can be lodged at the Service Centre, Podium 2, Landcentre, corner of Mains and Vulture Streets, Woolloongabba, Queensland. ■