

Orion Confirms Bowen Strike

O Orion Petroleum Ltd said it will continue searching for viable reservoirs after reporting that it found oil in the southern region of the Bowen Basin in NSW.

The oil and gas explorer said it had recovered two to four barrels of oil, emulsion and mud when it drilled the Willaroo-1 well at the southern end of the Bowen Basin.

The company said it has capped the well as there was no prospect of using it for future operations. But Sydney-based Orion said the strike showed that there was oil in the basin.

"The existence of oil trapped in the Willaroo structure has proven a petroleum system operates in the southern region of the Bowen

Basin," Managing Director Barry Smith said in a statement.

"Future technical efforts will be directed towards finding improved reservoir development in the Willaroo area and in nearby prospects."

The company is in the process of closing Willaroo-1. ■