

Empire Oil & Gas

EGO AU / EGO.AX

➤ **Market Cap**
US\$39.53m
A\$51.02m

➤ **Avg Daily Turnover**
US\$0.06m
A\$0.08m

➤ **Free Float**
100.0%
10,205 m shares

Current **A\$0.005**
Target **A\$0.007**
Up/Downside **42.3%**

STOCK RATING**ADD**

HOLD

REDUCE

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Share price info

Share price perf. (%)	1M	3M	12M
Relative	0.3	-21.1	-28.9
Absolute	0.0	-26.5	-26.5

Major shareholders	% held
ERM Power	19.9

Rebuilding the Empire

Empire Oil & Gas (EGO) has a significant Perth Basin acreage position, experienced management team, recapitalised balance sheet, contracted gas revenues and a number of upcoming catalysts that we expect will drive the share price higher. The company now appears to be on a strong footing and positioned for growth. We initiate coverage with an Add recommendation and 0.7cps target price.

Back on track

A new management team, coupled with a strong balance sheet post the recent ~A\$15m raising, has put EGO back on solid footing. The Red Gully production facility has performed well under this new team, and with the impending receipt of cash flow under Tranche 2 of the Alcoa pre-payment, the company appears to be on solid footing. EGO is currently undertaking a small shareholder sale facility and we expect the next step to be a share consolidation.

Plenty of upcoming catalysts

EGO plans to drill the Red Gully North-1 well in the December quarter of CY15, and while defined as an exploration well, given it is targeting structures previously drilled and intersected, we view it more as an appraisal well. Success here is worth 0.15 cents/share on our estimates. We also expect EGO will benefit from continued drilling success by those around it in the Northern part of the Perth Basin. The recent seismic survey should result in the definition of drill ready targets and we expect EGO to look to bring in a partner to fund this drilling.

Initiate with an Add recommendation, 0.7cps target price

We initiate coverage of EGO with an Add recommendation and 0.7cps target price. Our risked valuation offers ~40% upside from the current share price, while our unrisked valuation of 1.1cps offers considerably more upside for investors. We value EGO using a risked sum of the parts (SOTP) methodology comprising a DCF of production assets and a mixture of resource multiples and expected farm-in values for the exploration assets. Key risks to our price target include exploration/farm-out success as well as currency and commodity prices.

Financial Summary

	Jun-14A	Jun-15F	Jun-16F	Jun-17F	Jun-18F
Revenue (A\$m)	12.38	18.62	24.48	26.63	28.11
Operating EBITDA (A\$m)	2.50	7.32	12.11	13.92	15.11
Net Profit (A\$m)	-1.60	1.36	6.39	8.23	7.49
Normalised EPS (A\$)	(0.000)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001
Normalised EPS Growth	0%	NA	370%	29%	(9%)
FD Normalised P/E (x)	NA	37.52	7.99	6.20	6.81
DPS (A\$)	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend Yield	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.78	7.45	4.47	2.91	1.82
P/FCFE (x)	21.47	NA	NA	9.09	4.59
Net Gearing	(5.1%)	5.8%	4.8%	(14.5%)	(29.7%)
P/BV (x)	0.86	0.82	0.77	0.71	0.65
ROE		2.8%	10.0%	11.9%	9.9%
% Change In Normalised EPS Estimates					
Normalised EPS/consensus EPS (x)		0.13	0.63	0.81	

SOURCE: MORGANS, COMPANY REPORTS

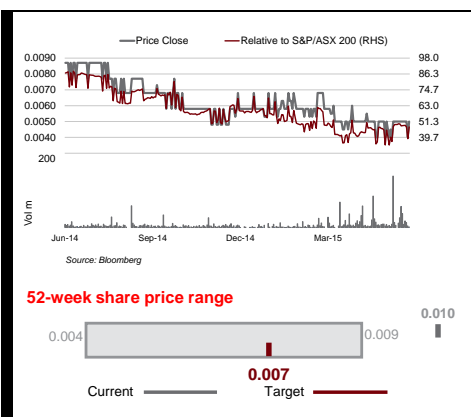


Figure 1: EGO - Financial summary

Empire Oil & Gas - Financial Summary Energy

Share price: \$0.0050
Date published: 22 Jun 15
Year end: 30 Jun 15

Recommendation: **ADD**
Valuation: \$0.0071
Target price: \$0.0071
Upside/downside to target: 42%

Profit & Loss (A\$m)	2014A	2015F	2016F	2017F	2018F
Sales revenue	12.4	18.6	24.5	26.6	28.1
Total revenue	12.6	18.6	24.5	26.6	28.1
EBITDAX	2.5	7.3	12.1	13.9	15.1
EBITDA	2.5	7.3	12.1	13.9	15.1
Exploration expensed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
D&A	-3.9	-5.9	-5.7	-5.7	-5.7
EBIT	-1.4	1.5	6.4	8.2	9.4
Net interest expense	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	1.3
Net profit before tax	-1.6	1.4	6.4	8.2	10.7
Tax expense	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3.2
Reported NPAT	-1.6	1.4	6.4	8.2	7.5
Abnormals - post-tax	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adjusted NPAT	-1.6	1.4	6.4	8.2	7.5

Cash flow statement	2014A	2015F	2016F	2017F	2018F
EBITDA	-6.2	-3.4	12.1	13.9	15.1
Operating cash flow	-5.9	-3.4	13.2	14.1	13.5
Capex	0.0	-3.7	-12.3	-0.4	-0.5
Disposals	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Acquisitions	-4.0	-15.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investing cash flow	-3.3	-18.8	-12.3	-0.4	-0.5
Incr/(decr) in equity	0.2	18.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Incr/(decr) in debt	2.0	11.4	-3.5	-8.0	-1.9
Ordinary dividend paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other financing cash flow	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financing cash flow	2.2	30.0	-3.5	-8.0	-1.9
Incr/(decr) cash	1.6	18.6	-2.6	5.6	11.1
Equity FCF	-5.9	-7.1	0.9	13.6	13.0

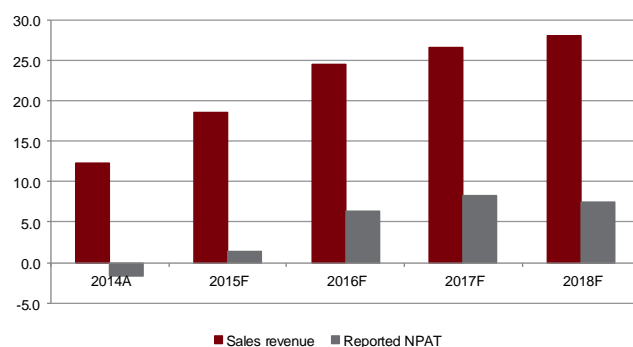
Balance sheet	2014A	2015F	2016F	2017F	2018F
Cash & deposits	1.9	9.8	6.7	12.3	23.5
Intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fixed assets	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Other assets	51.8	68.8	73.4	65.7	59.9
Total assets	56.7	81.5	83.1	80.9	86.2
Interest bearing debt	0.0	13.4	9.9	1.9	0.0
Total liabilities	20.1	19.6	16.7	8.8	7.2
Share capital	77.1	95.8	95.8	95.8	95.8
Other reserves	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Retained earnings	-43.9	-37.6	-33.1	-27.4	-20.5
Total equity	36.6	61.9	66.3	72.1	79.0
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total shareholders' equity	36.6	61.9	66.3	72.1	79.0
Total liabilities & SE	56.7	81.5	83.1	80.9	86.2

Key assumptions	2015F	2016F	2017F	2018F
Pricing:				
- Gas pricing	5.0	6.0	6.5	6.8
- Condensate pricing	63.3	63.5	71.5	76.2
Production:				
- Gas production (PJ)	1.4	2.9	2.9	2.9
- Condensate production (kbbbl)	56.2	113.6	113.3	113.3
- Kboe production	296.0	598.7	597.1	597.1

Valuation breakdown (A\$m)	Unrisked	Risked
Red Gully - Production 2P	41.36	41.36
Red Gully North	19.22	9.61
Gingin East	39.98	9.99
Other Exploration (2C Resource multiple)	2.45	2.45
North Perth Basin (Farm-in Valuation)	16.00	16.00

Subtotal	119.02	79.42
Net Cash	5.50	5.50
Corporate & Other Expenses	-12.29	-12.29
Valuation Total	112.22	72.63

Per share valuation (cps)	1.10	0.71
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SOURCE: MORGANS, COMPANY REPORTS

1. KEY POINTS

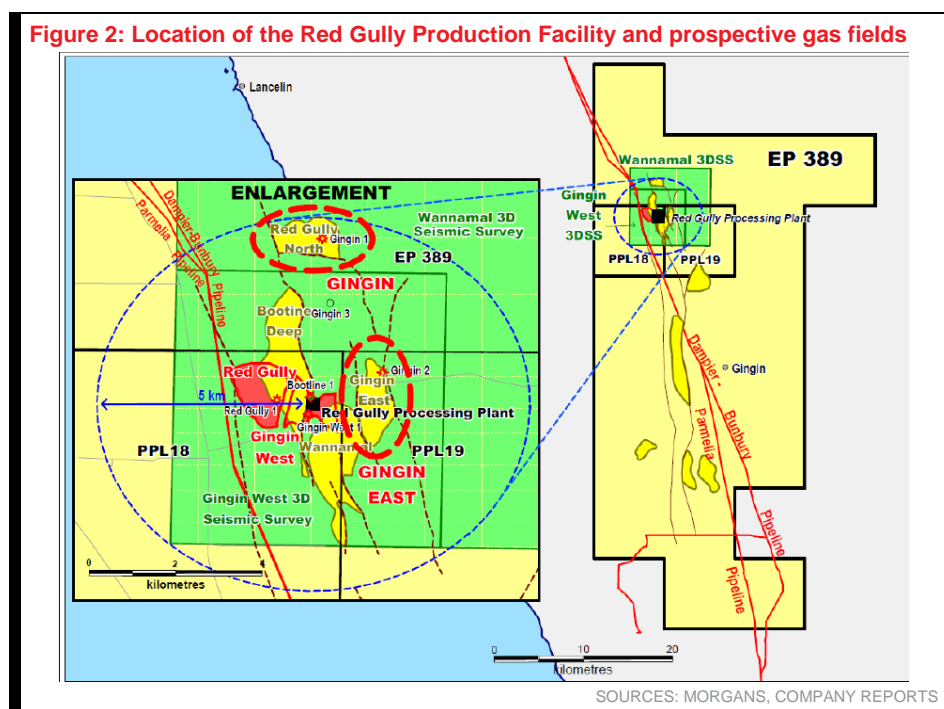
- A new management team and re-capitalised balance sheet (post the recent A\$15.7m capital raising) have positioned EGO well to focus on the highly prospective Perth Basin, Western Australia.
- Significant exploration activity by adjacent permit holders has been positive to date and should assist EGO with farm-out discussions on its own acreage.
- EGO is about to commence delivering gas into Tranche 2 of the gas agreement with Alcoa, which will result in a large step-up in cash flow.
- The company is drilling the Red Gully North-1 well in the December quarter of 2015, which if successful, we value at A\$15.3m (0.15 cents/share).
- EGO has commissioned an independent reserves review of the Red Gully Gas Field given strong production performance.

2. INVESTMENT THESIS

2.1 Building out a gas hub ➤

EGO's management team has spent the last 12 months re-focusing EGO as a Perth Basin oil and gas company following the sale or withdrawal of the company's Carnarvon Basin interests. The company has the largest operated acreage position in the Perth Basin with over 12,000 square kilometers of acreage. EGO has producing gas and condensate assets in the Central part of the Basin in addition to attractive exploration acreage in the Northern part which is adjacent to recent gas discoveries.

The company plans to drill the highly prospective Red Gully North-1 well in the December quarter of 2015. The company also has a number of exploration targets that include the Gingin East, Bootine Deep and Wannamal prospects. EGO has signed a rig agreement to drill the Red Gully North-1 well and has an option to drill an additional four wells in 2016.



EGO had 2P gas reserves of 14.85 PJ and 2C Contingent Resources of 14.51 PJ of gas (as at 1 January 2015), which are outlined in the table below. EGO has

commissioned an independent reserves review of the Red Gully Gas Field, which is due in July. We would anticipate a reserve upgrade following the strong production performance witnessed recently.

Figure 3: Reserves around the Red Gully Facility

Reserves	Sales Gas (PJ)			Condensate (Mstb)		
	1P	2P	3P	1P	2P	3P
Red Gully	8.4	14.7	17.2	340.0	561.5	621.0
Gingin West	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	10.4	15.6
Total	8.4	14.9	17.5	340.5	571.9	636.6

SOURCES: MORGANS, COMPANY REPORTS

Additionally, EGO has significant Contingent and Prospective Resources, which are all located within 5km of the Red Gully Processing Plant, and defined by 3D seismic. We believe that if the company is successful with the Red Gully North-1 well later this year, it will likely undertake further drilling in the region, with the Gingin East prospect the target. Success here would support the expansion of the processing plant from the current gas capacity of 10TJ/d (and 400bbl/d of condensate) to 15TJ/d of gas and associated condensate. There is also potential for the plant to be upgraded to process the LPG which is currently not generating revenue for the company.

Figure 4: Contingent and Prospective Resources around the Red Gully Facility

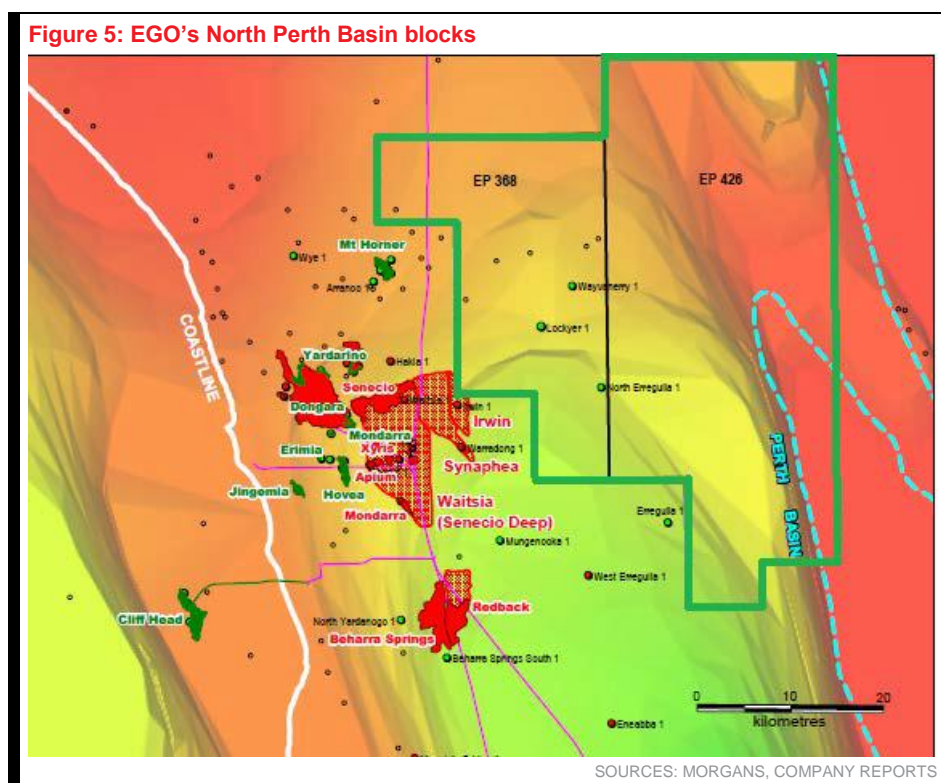
Contingent Resources	Sales Gas (PJ)			Condensate (Mstb)		
	1C	2C	3C	1C	2C	3C
Red Gully	0.3	1.1	7.6	13.1	53.2	273.9
Red Gully North	4.0	7.9	13.7	50.0	90.0	160.0
Gingin East	3.0	5.5	9.1	140.0	240.0	410.0
Total	7.3	14.5	30.4	203.1	383.2	843.9

Prospective Resources	Sales Gas (PJ)			Condensate (Mstb)		
	Low	Best	High	Low	Best	High
Red Gully North	2.4	4.9	9.0	30.0	60.0	110.0
Gingin East	16.8	24.4	45.7	740.0	1270.0	2060.0
Bootine Deep	16.1	26.4	38.2	533.0	1189.0	1908.0
Wannamal	16.9	27.6	44.4	507.0	912.0	1996.0
Total	52.2	83.3	137.3	1,810.0	3,431.0	6,074.0

SOURCES: MORGANS, COMPANY REPORTS

2.2 North Perth Basin – a nice neighbourhood ▶

EGO recently completed the Black Swan Airborne Survey, which was conducted over the majority of the company's tenements in the Perth Basin. The interpreted results are expected to be released in the December quarter of 2015. Following receipt of the results, and given the positive exploration results from AWE Limited (ASX: AWE (not rated)) on neighbouring blocks, we would expect EGO to look to bring in a partner to drill some of the targets identified.



Recently, EGO has benefitted from drilling by AWE where it has announced multiple gas discoveries in the area adjacent to EP368 and EP426 where EGO holds interests of 80% and 77.8% respectively. AWE has reported 2C Contingent Resources of 15Bcf and 134Bcf of gas at the Irwin and Synaphea fields. A further positive development for EGO is that the deeper Kingia reservoir that was found in the Irwin-1 well is of a similar quality and thicker than that found in the Waitisia-1 well. This suggests that the reservoir gets larger heading east toward EP368 and potentially may extend into EGO's acreage. AWE has released a 2C Contingent Resource estimate of 290Bcf of gas in this large lateral reservoir.

3. CATALYSTS

We expect a number of potential positive catalysts for EGO over the next 6-12 months. These include:

- Drilling of the prospective Red Gully North-1 well in December 2015;
- Upgrade of reserves at Red Gully;
- Impending step-up in cash flow as the company begins delivering gas into Tranche 2 of the Alcoa pre-payment agreement;
- Further exploration success in neighbouring blocks as AWE undertakes additional drilling; and
- A successful farm-out to a joint-venture partner to undertake further exploration (including drilling) on some of the company's North Perth Basin acreage.

3.1 Drilling Red Gully North-1 ▶

EGO has signed a rig to drill the Red Gully North-1 well in the December quarter of 2015. The well will be drilled up-dip of the Gingin-1 well, which was drilled in 1965 and flowed gas to surface at a rate of 16mmcf/d (plus condensate).

Figure 6: Location of the Red Gully North-1 well

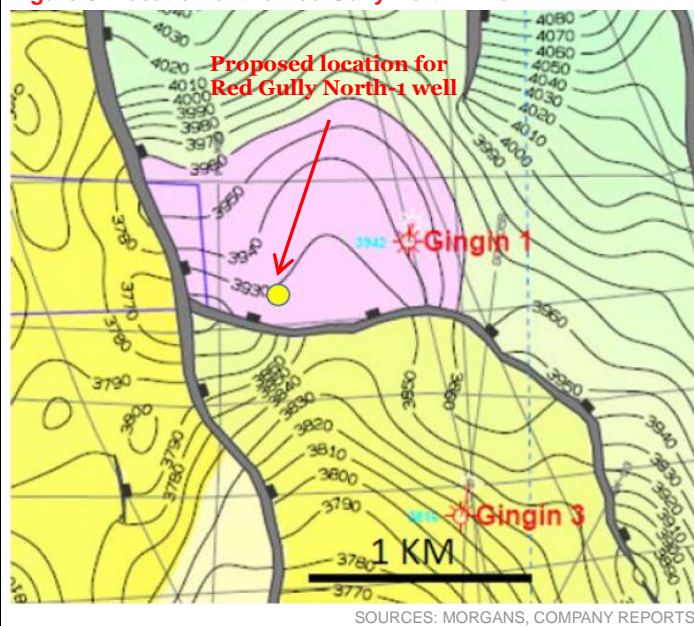
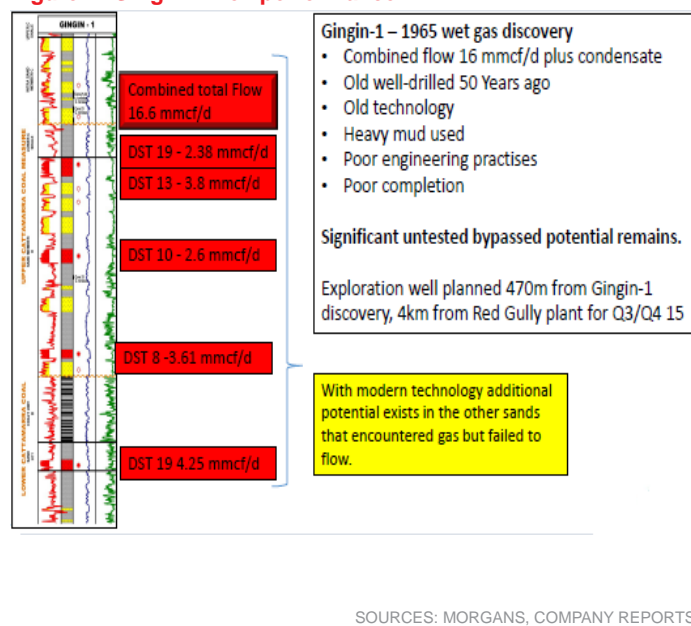


Figure 7: Gingin-1 well performance



We expect the well (on a success case) would cost A\$14.0m to drill, test and connect to the Red Gully production facility. The Red Gully North-1 well is located within 5km facility so tying it back into the facility should be straight forward and EGO has already been looking into suitable pipeline options. If successful, we generate a NPV for this prospect of A\$15.3m (0.15 cents/share).

3.2 Upgrade of reserves at Red Gully ▶

EGO has announced a planned independent review of the company’s reserves at Red Gully following excellent reservoir performance. While we are not going to speculate as to what this upgrade could be, any increase in 2P reserves would be positive for our valuation given we calculate a NPV/GJ of A\$2.80 at Red Gully.

3.3 Impending step-up in cash flow generation ▶

Since production at the Red Gully Processing Facility was commissioned in 2H13 EGO has not received any payments from the gas sold to Alcoa. This is due to Alcoa entering an agreement to provide funding for the development of the Red Gully Processing Facility. This funding was in the form of a pre-payment for the delivery of 7,500 TJ of gas. Once the 7,500 TJ of gas has been delivered, which we expect to occur by August 2015 at the latest, EGO will begin receiving cash from Alcoa from the gas. This cash would be in addition to the current condensate revenues being received by the company. Based on our forecasts, we estimate EGO will generate gas revenues of A\$17.3m in FY16.

3.4 Further exploration success by neighbours ▶

There is further drilling planned by companies on adjacent acreage to EGO’s Perth Basin interests, which if successful, should result in increased interest in EGO’s blocks and position the company better for farm-out discussions.

- AWE is undertaking follow-up work at the Waitsia discovery with the drilling two wells. The first of the two wells, Waitsia-1 has been announced as a discovery by the company.
- Alcoa and joint venture partner Transerv Energy (ASX: TSV (not rated)) are scheduled to drill and stimulate two wells in the Worro field post completion of the two appraisal wells currently being drilled by AWE. Timing is expected to be around August.
- Warrego Energy (Unlisted) and two Dutch farm-in partners are understood to be drilling a lateral well in late 2015 to test the West Erregulla field.

3.5 A successful farm-out ►

Post completion and interpretation of the Black Swan airborne survey, we would expect to see EGO look to bring in a joint venture partner. Our expectation would be that EGO seeks to bring in a party to fund a number of wells, while EGO would likely seek to retain a significant interest in the farmed out acreage.

The prime blocks EP368 (EGO 80%) and EP426 (EGO 77.78%) which are adjacent to AWE's recent discoveries and would likely form the backbone of any deal done, in our view. We have forecast a two well farm-in costing A\$20.0m for a 50% interest which would value EGO's interest in these permits at ~A\$16.0m (on a post farm-out basis). We would expect the delineation and drilling of targets in 2016 when EGO has the option for a further four wells with Enerdrill (the contractor being used to drill the Red Gully North-1 well).

Using a farm-in partner to drill these permits would free up capital which could be deployed to drill further targets within the Red Gully Hub, increasing reserves, and also funding the upgrade of the processing plant to increase production.

4. VALUATION

We value EGO using a risked sum of the parts (SOTP) methodology comprising a DCF of production assets and a mixture of resource multiples and expected farm-in values for the exploration assets.

The company's key asset is Red Gully where it is currently producing gas and condensate. Our DCF of the asset is A\$41.4m which underpins the current market capitalisation of EGO.

While the Red Gully North-1 well is defined as an exploration well, we view it more as an appraisal well given it is targeting structures previously drilled and intersected. We ascribe an unrisked value of A\$19.2m to this prospect, but have applied a 50% discount to this value due to risks associated with drilling, completing and producing the well.

We value the company's North Perth Basin acreage at A\$16m which is based on the expectation of a A\$20m farm-in for a 50% interest in these blocks. While other exploration is calculated using a resource multiple.

Our risked valuation is 0.7cps while our unrisked valuation is 1.1cps.

Figure 8: Valuation

NPV OF ASSETS	Unrisked A\$m	Risking	Risked A\$m	Risked A\$ps
Red Gully - Production 2P	41.36	100%	41.36	0.0041
Red Gully North	19.22	50%	9.61	0.0009
Gingin East	39.98	25%	9.99	0.0010
Other Exploration (2C Resource multiple)			2.45	0.0002
North Perth Basin (Farm-in Valuation)	16.00	100%	16.00	0.0016
Subtotal	119.02		79.42	0.0078
Net Cash	5.50	100%	5.50	0.0005
Corporate & Other Expenses	-12.29	100%	-12.29	-0.0012
Valuation Total	112.22		72.63	0.0071

SOURCES: MORGANS

5. RISKS

In addition to the exploration, regulatory, financing, geological and technical risks associated with investing in oil and gas companies, specific risks include:

- Failure with the Red Gully North-1 well which we forecast to cost ~\$10.0m on a dry hole basis.
- Inability or delay in executing a farm-out on the Northern acreage.

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