

## Drilling Update #7: Pukatea-1, New Zealand

### Key Points:

- Nova-1 drilling rig released
- Mt Messenger oil zone completed in readiness for future production test
- Production testing of the Mt. Messenger oil zone planned to enable assessment of oil production potential

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (6 March 2018)

Melbana Energy Limited (ASX: **MAY**) (“**Melbana**” or “the **Company**”) provides the following update with respect to the drilling of the Pukatea-1 exploration well in New Zealand onshore permit PEP 51153.

Pukatea-1 has reached a final total depth of 3100mMD. Wireline logs planned for the 216mm open hole deep section were unable to be acquired due to a down hole obstruction despite multiple attempts. The well was plugged back to inside the 244mm casing and a 73mm completion string run to the Mt Messenger oil zone. The Nova-1 drilling rig was released on March 4, 2018.

A production test of the oil zone found in the Mt. Messenger formation is planned to confirm the potential of the zone as a future oil producer. The production test is currently being planned and if successful, will greatly enhance the likelihood of a restart of oil production from the currently suspended Puka oil field.

The cost of the planned Mt.Messenger formation production test is within the original budgeted cost of the well.

Robert Zammit  
**Chief Executive Officer**