



AJ Lucas Group Limited
ABN: 12 060 309 104
1 Elizabeth Plaza
North Sydney NSW 2060
PO Box 538
North Sydney NSW 2060
T (02) 9490 4000
F (02) 9490 4200
www.lucas.com.au

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UK Ministerial Statement on Onshore Shale Gas a Positive for Cuadrilla

AJ Lucas Group Limited (ASX: AJL) welcomes the Written Ministerial Statement (“the Statement”) from the UK Government, which outlines its support and commitment to the UK onshore shale gas industry.

AJ Lucas has a 47.4% shareholding in Cuadrilla Resources the Lancashire based company which leads the way in unconventional hydrocarbon exploration in the UK and which recently completed the UK’s first ever horizontal shale gas well.

Released on Thursday 17 May 2018, the Statement from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“BEIS”) and the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government (“DHCLG”) reiterates that shale gas development is of national importance to the UK and the Statement should be considered in planning decisions and plan-making in England (i.e. carries weight in law).

The UK Government has announced that it will publish revised planning practice guidance on shale development in the summer. It will also launch two consultations in the period: one that will consider allowing exploration wells to be drilled under permitted development (i.e. without the requirement of a full planning application); and the other to consult on the inclusion of shale production projects into the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime.

The full text of the Statement can be found at:

www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-05-17/HCWS690

Phil Arnall, Chairman of AJ Lucas and Non-executive Director of Cuadrilla, said:

“AJ Lucas welcomes the UK Government’s announcement overnight emphasising the national importance onshore shale gas exploration and development has in delivering a safe and secure energy source for the UK.”

Cuadrilla is at the forefront of the UK’s shale gas exploration and development and this statement provides welcome support for our continued safe development of the UK’s largest onshore shale gas site.”

For further information, please contact:

AJ Lucas Group Limited +61 (0)2 9490 4000
Phil Arnall Chairman
Marcin Swierkowski Company Secretary

Citadel-MAGNUS +61 (0)448 881 174
James Strong jstrong@citadelmagnus.com

