(CVN \$0.26) Speculative Buy



Analyst	Date	Price Target
Jon Bishop	18 th July 2018	\$0.50/sh

Oil Discovery at Dorado-1

Investment case

Dorado appears a material oil discovery with clear standalone potential. Moreover, the Oil Water Contact ("OWC") has not been encountered and the well continues to drill through oil shows. What we like is that oil discoveries in shallow water and benign jurisdictions have relatively low barriers to commercialisation. Recovering oil prices are stimulating permitting and M&A activity in the E&P industry: this result will clearly shine a corporate spotlight on CVN. The WPL transaction with Finder Exploration is a good example and we believe similar moves are afoot particularly focused on the Dampier Sub-Basin and emerging Triassic play that CVN and Quadrant have identified at the Phoenix Hub. We retain our Speculative Buy recommendation believing that CVN has identified a new commercial discovery in the NWS and can also take the Buffalo oil project through to commercialisation. In either instance, CVN will realise a much higher share price. We retain our Speculative Buy recommendation with an inc. \$0.50/sh Price Target.

Key points

- Wireline has confirm an oil discovery within the Primary Caley Sandstone reservoir at the Dorado-1 location:
 - o A primary sequence over a 96.1m interval;
 - Net oil pay of 79.6m;
 - o Highly porous (20% av.) and permeable (100-1,000mD) reservoir;
 - Oil saturation of 82 5%
- Pre-drill P50 gross mean vol. est. of 125mmbboe (CVN 20%), comprising 30mbbls condensate and 545Bcf gas;
- However, wireline appears to indicate that the hydrocarbon mix is dominantly light (49.6° API) oil;
- Volumetric estimates will take circa 4 weeks to compile after the completion of the well (we est. a further 2wks to TD);
- The well also encountered oil in the lower Baxter Sandstone Formation;
- The well will drill ahead from 3,990m currently to 4,575m to evaluate deeper Baxter, Milne and Crespin Sandstone secondary targets which have a P10-P90 Prospective Resource range of 54mmbboe (1C) to 1,020mmbbie (3C) gross (refer 23/04/2018 release);
- Looking at peer comps and incorporating pre-drill volume est. for Dorado, we upgrade Valuation to \$0.44/sh (prev. \$0.25/sh);
- We set a higher Price Target of \$0.50/sh (prev. \$0.25/sh) as we are bullish on the opportunity CVN presents in the short to medium term:
 - Further results from the secondary targets and volumetrics from Dorado-1:
 - o Imminent results from the high impact appraisal well at Phoenix South-3;
 - o A material oil development opportunity at Buffalo emerging;
 - Multiple farm-down/corporate opportunities;

Carnarvon Petroleum	Year End 30 June	
Share Price Price Target Valuation	0.26 0.50 0.44	A\$/sh A\$/sh A\$/sh
Shares on issue* Market Capitalisation* Enterprise Value* Debt Cash est.* Largest Shareholder	1184 310 260 0 50	m, diluted A\$m A\$m A\$m A\$m Mgmt ~6%

Directors	
Chair	P Leonhardt
MD	A Cook
NE Dir	W Foste
NE Dir	P Moore

Shareholders	
Mgmt	~6%

Company details

Directors

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Share Price Chart



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Analysis

Dorado appears a material oil discovery with clear standalone potential.

Moreover, the OWC has not yet been encountered and noting that the well continues to drill through oil shows in underlying potential reservoir, it suggests to us that there is a clear upward bias to pre-drill volumetric estimates.

What we like is that oil discoveries in shallow water and benign jurisdictions, such as the established oil and gas "Super-basins" of the North West Shelf, have relatively low barriers to commercialisation.

We look to recent adjacent fields in Wanaea-Cossack, Mutineer-Exeter and Legendre as yardsticks.

Wanaea-Cossack (https://www.onepetro.org/conference-paper/SPE-22986-MS):

- Discovery in Jan 1990;
- FID taken on 60mmbbls 2P gross;
- Commissioned in 1995 @ 50,000bbls/d;

Mutineer-Exeter (https://www.ogj.com/articles/2005/02/mutineer-exeter-reserves-revised-production-sped.html):

- Mutineer discovered in 1997, Exeter in 2003;
- FID taken on 61mmbbls 2P gross;
- Commissioned in 2005 @ 100,000bbls/d;

Legendre (https://www.santos.com/media-centre/announcements/approval-for-legendre-development/; https://www.ogj.com/articles/2010/10/legendre-oil-field.html)

- Discovered in 1968;
- Appraised and extended in 1997;
- FID taken on 40mmbbls 2P gross;
- Commissioned in 2001 @ 45,000bbls/d;

Notably, all took less than 5yrs from appraisal to first oil.

IMPACT TO VALUATION & PRICE TARGET

Our Valuation inc to \$0.44/sh (prev. \$0.25/sh);

ASSET VALUATION		
	A\$m	A\$/sh
Phoenix-Roc (net ~20mmbboe 2C)	100	0.10
Dorado (25mmbbls net est.)	250	0.25
Buffalo (risked to 10%)	33	0.03
Exploration - other	20	0.02
Corporate	(14)	(0.01)
Unpaid Capital	0	0.00
Debt	-	-
Cash est.	50	0.05
Total	439	0.44

We set a higher Price Target of \$0.50/sh (prev. \$0.25/sh) as we are bullish on the opportunity CVN presents in the short to medium term:

- Further results from the secondary targets and volumetrics from Dorado-1;
- Imminent results from the high impact appraisal well at Phoenix South-3;
- A material oil development opportunity at Buffalo emerging;
- Multiple farm-down/corporate opportunities;

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Our Valuation takes into consideration the nearest peer in FAR as a relevant comparison, noting that the market ascribes ~A\$7.80/bbl for its net (post Govt carry) 2C discovered 70mmbbls contingent resource.

We apply a higher A\$10/bbl to the pre-drill volumetric est. for the Caley Formation at Dorado (25mmbboe net to CVN = \$250m or 25cps) given:

- The jurisdiction of CVN's assets;
- Shallow water development;
- The simplicity of the Joint Venture;
- The commercial motivations of the JVP in Quadrant;
- The relative geological simplicity of the Primary Reservoir; and
- The likely shorter lead time to commercialisation as a consequence.

We apply a more conservative A\$5/boe to CVN's current 2C resources discovered at Roc and Phoenix (net ~20mmboe = A\$100m or 10cps).

These numbers are notably pre any discovery at Phoenix South-3 and the deeper zones at Dorado (260mmbboe P50 best estimate):

Prospective	Gas Resource (Bscf)				Condensate / Oil Resource (mm bbls)				Geological
Within 25km	Mean	P90	P50	P10	Mean	P90	P50	P10	Success
Phoenix South-2 & 3 wells - Caley	489	128	401	963	57	11	39	122	71%
Dorado-1 well - Caley	545	59	338	1260	32	3	17	75	36%
Total	1034	187	739	2223	88	13	56	197	

We contest that in a discovery case at Phoenix South-3, assuming the pre-drill potential for 29mmbboe net or 150mmbboe P50 est) should reprice the existing Contingent Resources as the effective doubling of recoverable volumes would go a long way to justifying standalone development.

The upside for Dorado is eye-watering in a success case: The deeper Baxter (Milne A), Crespin (Milne B), Milne (Milne C) and "Milne Deep" (Milne D) Sandstone secondary targets which have a P10-P90 Prospective Resource range of 54mmbboe (1C) to 1,020mmbbie (3C) gross:

Prospective		Gas Resource (Bscf)				Condensate / Oil Resource (mm bbls)			
Within 25km	Mean	P90	P50	P10	Mean	P90	P50	P10	Success
Dorado-1 well - Milne A	429	46	266	1016	25	2	13	60	23%
Dorado-1 well - Milne B	438	37	295	1025	25	2	14	61	23%
Dorado-1 well - Milne C	565	82	416	1248	33	4	20	75	23%
Dorado-1 well - Milne D	555	52	409	1251	32	2	19	76	23%
Total	1987	216	1386	4540	115	9	67	271	

We est. cash at \$50m (5cps) and broader exploration portfolio very conservatively at \$20m (2cps).

And in all this, the potential development of 30mmbbls of oil at Buffalo should not be overlooked:

Resource (2C mmbbls)	31
Field Life (Yrs)	5
Capex (US\$m)	150
Opex (US\$m/yr)	90
Abandonment (US\$m est.)	40
Operating Margin @ Spot (US\$/bbl)	52
Revenue Gross (US\$m @ spot)	2,263
EBITDA Gross (US\$m @ spot)	1,643
Contractor Take (est. 40%)	657
NPV10 (US\$m pre-tax)	245
NPV10 (A\$m pre-tax)	326
IRR (%)	82

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We include 10% of our back of the envelope economic assessment of a Buffalo Development (for \$33m or 3cps) in our total Valuation.

All this taken into account, we still view our Valuation as largely cosmetic: Should the current drilling campaign continue to be successful, discovered volumes will increase substantially but moreover, the Phoenix Hub will become a viable economic standalone development.

This alone should drive a substantial re-rating of the Company's share price.

Beyond which, commercial progress at Buffalo and/or success at Dorado are Company makers in their own right.

Outside of which, given the open register and material interests in both Phoenix Hub plus Buffalo, there appears little to dissuade corporate approaches in a sector buoyed by rising commodity periods and a 4yr hiatus in terms of field development and exploration.

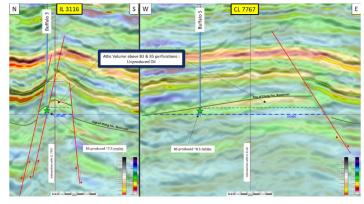
We note that with the rising oil price, the E&P industry – dormant for the past 3 years – is seeking to re-invigorate its new ventures' portfolios (http://www.finderexp.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Media-Release-WA-520-P-Finder-Woodside-Farmin-1-Sept-2017-Final.pdf).

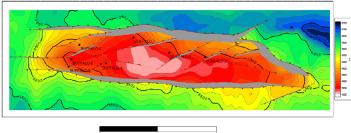
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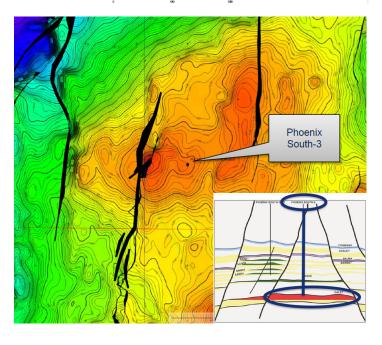


Key Variables

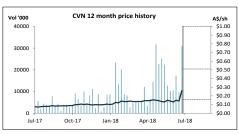
Euroz Forecast	FY'18	FY'19	FY'20	FY'21	FY'22	FY'23
Brent US\$/bbl	\$64	\$78	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$85
WTI US\$/bbl	\$59	\$68	\$75	\$80	\$80	\$80
AUDUSD	\$0.78	\$0.76	\$0.76	\$0.78	\$0.78	\$0.78







Our Share Price Sensitivity



Our Market Sensitivity

Valuation - \$0.44/sh

Price Target - \$0.50/sh

Bull Scenario - \$1.00/sh

Success at Phoenix South-3 and or Dorado confirms a standalone economically viable project. Oil prices continue to rise beyond our long term U\$80/bbl WTI forecast from 2022. High oil price attracts greater opportunistic interest for JV farm-in and debt funding, enabling project development of Buffalo and Labrynth prospects.

Base Scenario - \$0.50/sh

Oil prices trend gradually towards our long term oil price assumption of US\$80/bbl from 2022. CVN have leveraged themselves by exploring undeveloped oil prospects and readying them for M&A opportunities.

Bear Scenario - \$0.15/sh

Oil prices fall to below US\$50/bbl over the medium to long term. Funding for prospect development diminishes. Projects remain idle.

Company Summary

Carnarvon Petroleum Ltd (CVN) is an oil and gas exploration and development company. CVN has secured multiple assets and arceage on the North West Shelf, developing with the aim to attract farm-in or acquisitions.

Drilling campaigns of Phoenix Sth-3 and Dorado-1 represent near-term catalysts for CVN to trade upwards.

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