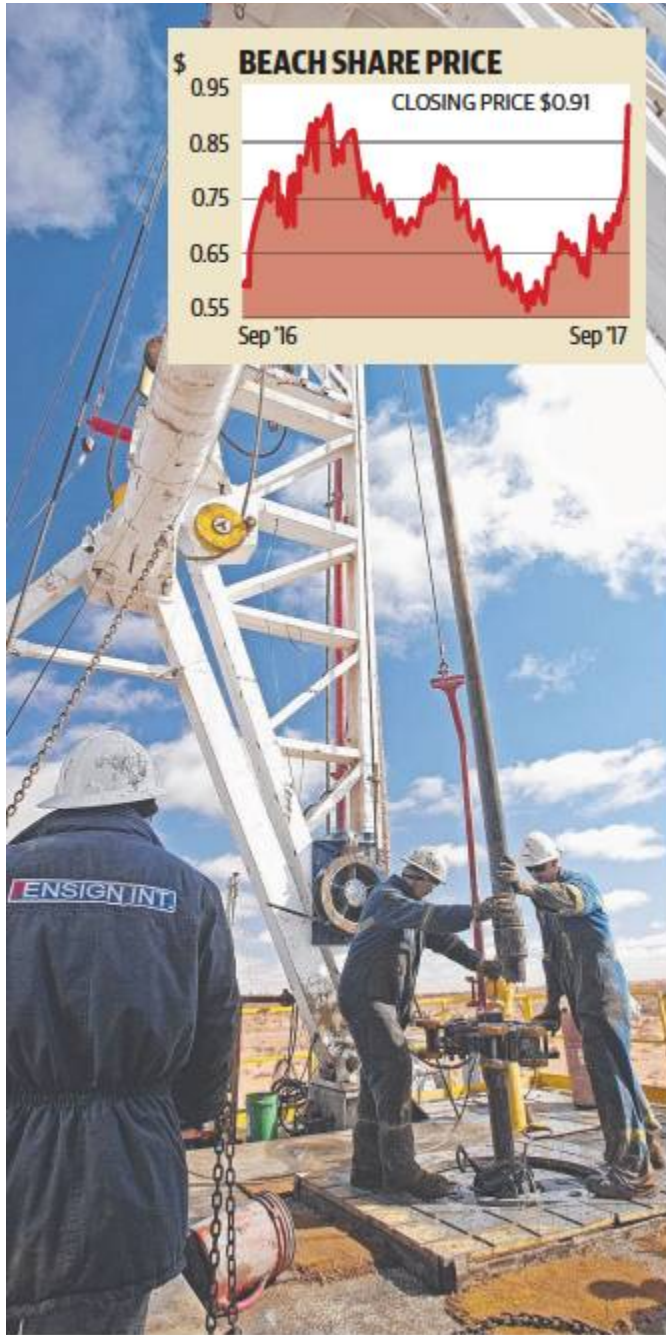


Beach jumps in value

STUART CONDIE



TRANSFORMATIONAL: Beach Energy's Cooper Basin oil and gas fields – shares in the Adelaide company rallied yesterday.

BEACH Energy shares have soared after it raised \$201 million to help fund its \$1.585 billion buyout of Lattice Energy.

Beach stock rallied more than 10 per cent yesterday after the group said 98 per cent of the shares on offer to institutions in its capital raising program were taken up.

The company's biggest shareholder, Seven Group, was among those who bought in to help fund the buyout of Lattice from Origin Energy.

Seven Group, which owns a major stake in Channel Seven parent Seven West Media, is controlled by Kerry Stokes.

The new Beach shares were sold at 75c each – a 9.1 per cent discount to their closing price last Wednesday of 82.5c before the Lattice deal was announced.

Beach shares came out of a two-day trading halt yesterday and spiked after the opening bell. The stock

closed at 91c yesterday, up 8.5c. Adelaidebased Beach hopes to raise another \$100 million when the retail component opens on Thursday.

Chief executive Matt Kay said the deal was "transformational for Beach as it delivers a step-change in production and reserves".