



# Guidance notes for applicants

Australia 2009

Release of Offshore Petroleum Exploration Areas



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Resources,**  
**Energy and Tourism**



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## PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDANCE NOTES

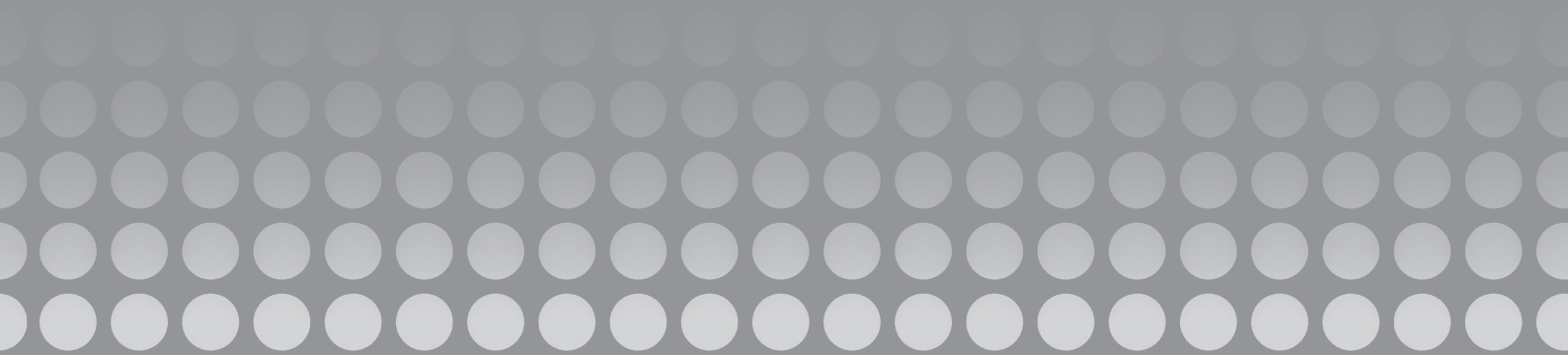
**This book sets out information for applicants regarding what is required in application bids, the bid closing dates for each area, application lodgement details, the selection criteria used in assessing those applications, permit conditions and administration that apply once a permit has been granted, special notices outlining the rights and interests of other parties in the 2009 release areas and 'quicklook maps' of the release areas.**

The Special Notices section will also serve as an ongoing reference for successful applicants for the release areas as they progress towards meeting work obligations.

This publication has been prepared by the Exploration Section, Offshore Resources Branch in the Australian Government Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET), in consultation with other Australian Government agencies and the resources Departments in the six States and the Northern Territory.

Material contained in this book is part of the 2009 Offshore Petroleum Acreage Release Package, which is available on CD-ROM or at: [www.ret.gov.au/petexp](http://www.ret.gov.au/petexp)

The producers of this release package welcome any comments or suggestions on its content. Please e-mail comments to: [petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au)





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## INTRODUCTION

Offshore petroleum exploration in Australia operates under a work program bidding system. Before applying for an exploration permit, potential applicants should familiarise themselves with:

- applications for exploration areas;
- bid assessment criteria; and
- permit conditions and administration.

These guidelines set out the processes and requirements of exploration permit applications and grants. They are set out in sections 1 to 3 of this book.

A full list of legislation, regulations and administrative guidelines setting out operational practices can be found at:

[www.ret.gov.au/resources/upstream\\_petroleum/](http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/upstream_petroleum/)

Section 4 outlines the closing bid dates for each area, and details for the lodgement of applications.

Section 5 sets out special notices of titleholder obligations as they apply to the rights and interests of others in the areas released for offshore exploration. This section is particularly important because it sets out the general expectations for liaison activity once a permit is granted, as well as highlighting any additional requirements/conditions for specific areas.

References to the 'Joint Authority' in this book refer to the various joint authorities established between the Australian and each State/Northern Territory (NT) government, consisting of both the responsible Australian Government Minister and the relevant State/NT Minister (the 'Designated Authority') or their delegates. Further information on the governmental structure for administering offshore petroleum exploration permits can be found in the section on Petroleum Law in Australia in *An Overview for Applicants* ("Red Book").

Any queries or comments on offshore petroleum exploration in Australia can be e-mailed to:

[petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au)

Interested parties are also encouraged to register contact details (name, title, company, mailing address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address) at this e-mail address to receive a CD-ROM of future annual acreage releases for offshore petroleum exploration, as well as notification when new editions of the *Australian Petroleum News* are placed on the Departmental website. The *Australian Petroleum News* is used to update information in this book.

For a summary of both the mandatory and flexible aspects of the system see the Summary of the Exploration Permit Bid and Work Requirements at the end of Section 4.



# 1. APPLICATIONS FOR AN EXPLORATION PERMIT

## Application Details

Applications for areas in the 2009 release are invited under the work program bidding system in accordance with the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the 'OPGGSA'). Two copies of the application must be submitted.

## Application Content

Applications **must** contain all of the following:

### Technical Assessment

The applicant's technical assessment of the petroleum potential of the area should include the concepts underlying its proposed exploration work program, with sufficient detail to support that program. A sound technical assessment would include an assessment of relevant data and support the amount of seismic surveying and the number and conceptual targets of wells to be drilled.

### Minimum Guaranteed Work Program (Years 1, 2 and 3)

The applicant's minimum guaranteed proposal (including indicative minimum expenditure in Australian Dollars) should include exploration wells to be drilled, seismic and other surveying activities (specifying the surveying technique), data evaluation and other work within the permit area, for each year of the first three years of the permit term.

Pre-purchase of existing non-exclusive data cannot form part of the work program (but any interpretation of that data included in the technical assessment will be taken into account in assessing the relative merits of the work program proposed). Such data proposed to be purchased after the award of a permit may form part of the work program provided that this does not disadvantage a competitor who purchased the data prior to bidding.

The minimum guaranteed work program should only comprise exploration work - appraisal work should not normally be included. Guidance on whether a well would be accepted as an exploration well is provided in Section 3 below.

Applicants should note it is mandatory that the minimum work program proposed in each year of the term of the exploration permit is stated precisely to avoid any ambiguity. Proposals for work programs that cannot be guaranteed to be undertaken within the first three years of the permit term must not be included.

### Secondary Work Program (Years 4, 5 and 6)

A secondary work program must be specified. The secondary work program should include substantial operational activities that will significantly advance exploration of the area - appraisal work should not normally be included.

The applicant's proposal (including indicative minimum expenditure) should include exploration wells to be drilled, seismic and other surveying activities (specifying the surveying technique), data evaluation and other work within the permit area, for each of the three remaining years of the permit term (the secondary work program).

More information regarding work programs, minimum acceptable work program bids and criteria used to assess bids is located in Section 2.

### Particulars of the applicant to be provided

- The technical qualifications of the applicant and of its key employees.
- The technical advice available to the applicant.
- The financial resources available to the applicant, including evidence of the applicant's ability to fund the work program proposed, a statement of other exploration commitments over the next 6 years and a copy of the latest annual and quarterly reports for each applicant company.
- Where relevant, evidence of the viability of the consortium lodging the application, including evidence that a satisfactory settlement has been, or can be, reached on the Joint Operating Agreement (a copy of a signed Heads of Agreement will generally suffice).
- The percentage participating interest of each party to the application.
- Details of any permit cancellations or defaults on work program conditions under the OPGGSA of any of the applicant companies over the previous five years, and why the applicant believes the prior failure is irrelevant to the current application, eg participation in the 'good standing' scheme.
- Details of any relationship that a director of an applicant company had with any company that has defaulted over the previous five years.

### Other Information

Such other information as the applicant wishes to be taken into account in consideration of the application.

Applicants are asked to clearly state in their work program bid whether acquisition of seismic survey data relates to purchase/licensing of existing seismic data, or whether a new seismic survey will be undertaken as part of the work program.



## Fee

Each application must be accompanied by a fee payable to the "Commonwealth of Australia" through an Australian bank or bank cheque (electronic funds transfer or credit card facilities are not available). The amount of the fee is prescribed in Regulations under the OPGGSA, and at the time of printing was \$A4,590 including GST. Changes to fees are notified in *Australian Petroleum News*. Request this electronic publication free of charge by contacting: [petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au)

## Renewal of Permits

In most circumstances, permits can be renewed for a further two, five year terms after the initial six year term.

Permit holders wishing to renew their permit must submit their application between six and three months before the permit expires. Renewal permit terms are five years.

Upon renewal of a permit the number of blocks that can be renewed is generally half the number of blocks in the permit. Special provisions apply to permits with six or fewer blocks. Permits of only one block cannot be renewed.

The Act contains specific provisions covering different relinquishment scenarios.





## 2. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

This section sets out the criteria followed in assessing applications lodged under the OPGGSA for the award of exploration permits.

In their applications for the award of exploration permits, companies will be expected to take into account all relevant information and any special conditions (such as environment protection, defence and fisheries matters) applying in permit areas. Relevant information, access restrictions and details of special conditions known to government at the time of release are included in section 5 of this publication. It is recommended that companies register to receive the *Australian Petroleum News* (by e-mailing contact details to petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au) as this publication is used to update this information.

An applicant must first satisfy the Joint Authority of its capacity to undertake its proposed work program, in particular:

- the adequacy of financial resources and technical expertise available to the applicant;
- the likelihood that the applicant will continue to have access to sufficient resources to meet the requirements of the proposed work program as well as other commitments previously entered into in other permit areas;
- the future viability of any consortium lodging an application, including evidence that a satisfactory Joint Operating Agreement has been or can be reached; and
- the applicant's past performance in other petroleum exploration areas in Australia or, if relevant, elsewhere.

### Assessment Criteria

The basic objective in awarding any exploration permit is to select the work program bid most likely to achieve the fullest assessment of the petroleum potential within the permit area in the minimum guaranteed period, recognising the essential role of wells in the discovery of petroleum. Work programs proposed in bids must significantly advance the exploration status of the area. Work considered equivalent or inferior to work already carried out will not be regarded as advancing exploration effort. Work program bids will be assessed taking account of the criteria listed below:

- the number and timing of exploration wells to be drilled, provided there is an adequate supporting program of geological and geophysical work;
- the amount, type and timing of seismic surveying to be carried out;
- other new surveying, data acquisition and reprocessing to be carried out;
- the amount, type and timing of any purchasing or licensing of existing data:
  - pre-purchase of existing non-exclusive data cannot form part of the work program but any interpretation of that data will be taken into account in assessing the relative merits of the work program proposed; and
  - existing non-exclusive data proposed to be purchased after the award of a permit may form part of the work program provided that this does not disadvantage a competitor who purchased the data prior to bidding;

- significant appraisal work over any previous petroleum discoveries within the area; and
- the extent to which the applicant's technical assessment supports the amount of seismic surveying and the number and conceptual targets of wells proposed in the application.

In the event that a winning applicant cannot be chosen on the basis of the minimum guaranteed work program, the amount and timing of work proposed under the secondary work program will be assessed against the above criteria.

### Process for Assessing Applications

Applications are expected to be submitted in accordance with Section 1 above, which reflects the Administrative Guideline *Applications for Exploration Areas*. An application will be assessed against the selection criteria by the Joint Authority. Technical experts will prepare a report for the relevant Joint Authority containing recommendations as to the winning bid.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of the information contained in the written applications together with any additional information requested by the Designated Authority, which should also be submitted in writing. Applicants may be invited to attend an interview with the assessment panel and information provided during that interview will also be taken into account.

It should be noted that the composition and timing of the work program proposed in the original application, as part of the competitive bidding process, cannot be supplemented, expanded or amended through clarification or through the interview process.

In the event that a winning applicant cannot be chosen on the basis of the information contained in the written application and provided during interview, the two or more parties that the Joint Authority considers as equally deserving of the grant of the permit may be invited to submit supplementary written bids as a basis for the selection of a successful applicant.

### Consideration of Past Performance

As indicated above, the Joint Authority may take into consideration, amongst other things, the applicant's past performance in other petroleum exploration areas in Australia or, if relevant, elsewhere. This may occur even where the applicant's proposed work program is the highest submitted.

This would particularly apply in the situation where one or more of the applicants were participants in previous permits that had been cancelled because of default in meeting work program commitments and where there was no agreement to maintain good standing. (Further information on good standing arrangements can be found in section 3 below.)

Although any cancellation would be taken into account and the circumstances of the default would be relevant, consideration would generally be given to cancellations occurring in the previous five years.



In the event of consideration being given to prior cancellation and where this would be a significant factor in the decision to offer a permit, the applicant would be given the opportunity to establish that the earlier failure was irrelevant to the current situation and that default would not occur in the current application.

A record will be maintained of companies that have defaulted on work program commitments and have not taken advantage of the good standing arrangements. Information about whether a particular company has defaulted on work program commitments and has not taken advantage of the good standing arrangements will be provided to a Designated Authority.

### Refusal to Grant a Permit

Applicants should note that the OPGGSA provides that the Joint Authority may refuse to grant a permit to an applicant. While the Act does not specify the grounds for refusing to grant a permit, they may include:

- the work program proposed is inferior to that of a competing bid;
- the work program bid is inadequate to significantly advance the exploration status of the area;
- the work program bid is not supported by a sound technical assessment;
- the Joint Authority is not satisfied that the applicant possesses the financial or technical capacity to complete the work program bid; or
- the Joint Authority is not satisfied that, on the basis of past performance, the applicant will comply with permit conditions.

### Minimum Acceptable Work Program Bids

An exploration permit will not be offered to an applicant unless the applicant can satisfy the Joint Authority of its capacity to undertake its proposed minimum guaranteed work program and that program is considered likely to significantly progress the assessment of the petroleum potential of the permit area.

A secondary work program must be specified. The secondary work program should include substantial operational activities that will significantly advance exploration of the area.

The minimum acceptable bid for an area will vary depending on the size of the area and its perceived prospectivity. Generally, it would be expected that the minimum guaranteed work program would include at least a significant amount of new seismic surveying and/or wells and that at least one well would normally be expected to be proposed within the six years of the permit term. However:

- Where extensive, non exclusive seismic data or significant reprocessed seismic data (normally from field tapes) are available over an area, it would generally be expected that the minimum guaranteed work program would include at least the licensing of a significant amount of those data followed by a well or wells.
- Where the area is fully covered by 3D seismic data, substantial reprocessing of the data may form a substantial part of proposed primary work commitments. The reprocessing would normally be expected to be from field tapes.

- The challenges of exploring in frontier areas are recognised and will be reflected in the assessment of bids. Such assessment would include consideration of the types of survey to be carried out over the permit area and in particular:
  - appropriate seismic line spacing to progress exploration; and
  - the timing of any wells that are proposed.

The minimum acceptable bid must be credible, coherent and supportable. It should be able to be pursued on a dry hole basis. The early elements of the program should be sufficient to enable the later elements to proceed.

If there is no current lead or prospect identified, there must be sufficient phased seismic to enable a lead or prospect to be identified somewhere in the permit area, and be brought to a drillable status.

The above guidance on minimum acceptable bids will also be applied by the Joint Authority when considering applications for five year renewal terms for permits.

### Re-Release of Acreage

The re-release of an area will be at the discretion of the Joint Authority. However, it is generally intended that any area that does not attract a successful bid will be re-released about two months after the original closure date for applications for that area. The re-released areas will be open for bidding for about four months. Whenever possible, the closure date for applications for re-released areas will coincide with the next closure date under the annual acreage release process. Areas will only be re-released once.

The re-released areas will be open to all interested bidders under the work program bidding system. The promotion of the re-released areas will be notified in the relevant government gazette and an article in the *Australian Petroleum News*.

### 3. PERMIT CONDITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

The conditions applying to a permit granted under the OPGGSA, and the continuing administration of those conditions, will be as follows:

- (a) The permittee will be required to undertake within the permit boundary each component of the minimum guaranteed work program in the designated year or earlier and failure to do so may result in cancellation of the permit.

The minimum guaranteed work program cannot be reduced once the permit has been awarded. Exploration activity in excess of the minimum guaranteed work program is permitted.

Surrender of the permit in good standing may only be agreed prior to the beginning of the fourth permit year if the total three year minimum guaranteed work program is completed.

- (b) No earlier than six months and no later than three months before the end of the third year of the permit term, the permittee may submit a revised secondary work program covering the remaining years of the permit term for consideration by the Joint Authority and agreement on a mutually acceptable work program.

If agreement cannot be reached on a mutually acceptable work program, the permit may be surrendered in good standing or continue in force subject to the original secondary work program.

- (c) On commencement of the fourth permit year the secondary work program (as revised, if agreed by the Joint Authority) becomes guaranteed on a year by year basis and each component must be undertaken within the permit boundary in the designated year or earlier. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the permit.

The permittee may renegotiate the secondary work program on an annual basis by providing substantial and compelling evidence that the work program should be varied on technical grounds prior to entry into any of the remaining years of the secondary term.

Surrender of the permit in good standing during the secondary work program may only be agreed in a permit year if the work guaranteed for that year has been completed.

If a permit holder fails to complete a final year work program, the permit holder will not have complied with the conditions of the permit.

- (d) Permittees may at any time make application for a variation or suspension of permit conditions (e.g. work program commitments) on the grounds of *force majeure*. If granted, a suspension has the effect of putting back the end date of the current permit year- it does not affect the ability of the permittee to undertake work activities during the suspension period. *Force majeure* refers to an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled via experience or care. Commercial circumstances that are common risks in the industry would not normally be considered as a basis for an application on *force majeure* grounds. Factors such as changes in oil prices, difficulty in attracting farm-ins, avoidable delays in contracting a rig or vessel, disappointing drilling results, poor quality seismic

data or the failure to prove up a prospect would not normally be considered as *force majeure*. Such factors may influence the perceived commercial viability of an activity, but should not prevent the explorer from adhering to its bid commitment.

When applying for a suspension of permit conditions, permittees may also apply for an extension of the permit term. An extension has the effect of putting back the end date of each permit year remaining in the current permit term.

- (e) Where a permittee has been unable to prove up a prospect to meet a drilling commitment, the permittee may apply for a variation and suspension of permit conditions to commit to sufficient new seismic surveying (additional to the current work program) to prove up a prospect to meet that drilling commitment. Only where a permittee has demonstrated a significant attempt to meet its work program commitments would a suspension be considered and then only for a maximum of 12 months.
- (f) The American Petroleum Institute's well classification is used as a general guide to determine whether a well has sufficient exploration component to meet a work program commitment.

The first appraisal well in a permit on the extension of a discovery made in an adjacent permit will be accepted as an exploration well. Similarly, a well drilled on the unproven extension of an accumulation from an adjacent permit will be accepted as an exploration well.

- (g) Permittees may seek at any time to have an alternative work activity credited as meeting a work program commitment. Whether an alternative work activity meets a work program commitment will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with the criteria for approval being to ensure that the alternative work activity is a similar, or superior, technique and meets or exceeds the objective of the original work commitment.

Non-exclusive seismic data purchased by a permittee may be counted against a pre-existing work program commitment to the extent that the survey met in part, or in full, the original work program commitment and was recorded after the date on which the permit was granted/renewed.

Permittees will be required to comply with the provisions of the OPGGSA, the Regulations and Directions issued under the OPGGSA, and with any special conditions associated with the permit area.

#### Permit Surrender

Once a permit holder applies to the relevant Designated Authority for consent to surrender the permit, the Designated Authority will consider the application before giving or refusing consent to surrender the permit. The Designated Authority's consent to surrender will be conditional on the surrender taking effect in the permit year in which the consent is given. Otherwise additional rental payments and work program commitments will be incurred.



In considering whether the permit holder has complied with the conditions to which the permit is subject and the provisions under the OPGGSA and of the Regulations, account will be taken of all relevant requirements, particularly:

- the status of the permit (including fees and monies due) and whether all due work program commitments have been completed;
- the reporting requirements contained in the Directions given to the permit holder and whether all reports and data have been lodged (for example, reports on specified activities, quarterly reports, annual reports); and
- the action taken by the permit holder to ensure that the permit area is clear of all debris resulting from operations and that all wells have been plugged or closed.

To facilitate consideration of applications for consent to surrender, it is expected that permit holders will ensure that the permit is in good standing (i.e. has fully complied with the conditions of the permit) and that any outstanding reports and data are lodged with the application.

## Permit Cancellation

Permit holders are expected to maintain permits in good standing and ensure that all obligations under the OPGGSA, Directions and permit conditions, including any special conditions associated with the permit area, are met within the due time frame. Failure to undertake each component of the minimum guaranteed work program or secondary work program in the designated year or earlier may result in cancellation of the permit.

Where the Joint Authority believes cancellation of the permit is the appropriate course of action, the permit holder will be served notice of intention to cancel the permit in accordance with the OPGGSA.

Generally, permit holders will be given five weeks within which to submit matters they wish to be considered and taken into account by the Joint Authority in reaching its final decision on permit cancellation.

Arrangements are available for companies that have a permit cancelled to maintain good standing (refer to 'Arrangements to Maintain Good Standing' below).

## Arrangements to Maintain Good Standing

A company that is in default of its work program conditions in a petroleum exploration permit but wants to maintain its good standing can have access to the following arrangements provided it satisfies government that it has made a significant attempt to assess the petroleum potential of the permit area. A significant attempt to assess the petroleum potential of the permit area would require at least the completion of seismic surveying commitments. The Joint Authority may also refer to whether the defaulting company has completed work in excess of the second highest bid for the permit area.

Where a work program condition has not been complied with, the permit is in default and would normally be cancelled. However, the permittee(s) can maintain 'good standing' by undertaking to spend an amount equal to the agreed monetary value of the outstanding work commitments on qualifying work in

permits over re-released acreage (see below). In the case of joint ventures, the net value of the commitments will be divided on the basis of each party's equity in the title. A company seeking to maintain its good standing must also provide to government all documentary and derivative information relating to the cancelled permit, and ensure all former titleholders agree to the data becoming immediately "open file".

The defaulting company must agree in writing to maintain its good standing and must make a public statement about its undertaking at the time of cancellation or determination of their permit, or at such time as may be agreed with the Joint Authority. A company will be deemed to be in good standing once such an agreement is reached, until such time as it fails to progress with its undertakings. However, if after entering into such an agreement, the company does not progress with its undertakings within the agreed timeframe, then it will be considered to be not in good standing and any future bids will be assessed against its default and lack of good standing.

A defaulting company seeking to maintain 'good standing' will be able to bid for re-released areas in any Offshore Area and, if successful, will be offered a permit. Details of the re-release of acreage are provided in section 2 (Criteria for Assessment of Applications). A defaulting permittee would have to obtain permits with sufficient qualifying work to commit all the offsetting expenditures in re-released areas. Unless otherwise agreed with the Joint Authority, this would normally be expected to be in the two re-releases immediately following the cancellation of the permit.

To maintain 'good standing', a defaulting company will be required to spend its share of the full amount of the agreed value of any outstanding commitments on the acquisition and interpretation of new geophysical and geochemical data and/or drilling activities in the minimum guaranteed period (i.e. the first three years) of the new permit(s) obtained from the re-released areas. Actual expenditures on qualifying work are offset against the good standing obligation. Expenditure on the reprocessing of seismic data may be included if the original data was recorded after the date the permit was acquired.

Expenditure on permit administration, studies not otherwise referred to in this guideline and activities in permits obtained from the normal acreage releases cannot count towards a good standing commitment.

Any outstanding commitment remaining at the end of the first three years of the permit term (and this would be expected to be only a very small proportion of the total commitment) would have to be spent on studies of the offshore Australian region for the benefit of the wider petroleum exploration industry. The timeframe and nature of the studies would be determined in consultation with governments and industry.

A defaulting company that maintains 'good standing' through these arrangements will not have its past performance in the cancelled or determined permit taken into account in the consideration of future applications for vacant acreage.

The Joint Authority and the defaulting companies will agree on the monetary value of the outstanding work commitments. Independent expert advice will be sought where there is dispute about the agreed value. The defaulting permittees will be liable for the cost of obtaining such advice. Companies may be required to provide audited accounts demonstrating that the required expenditure commitments have been met.



## 4. CLOSING DATES, LODGEMENT OF APPLICATIONS AND AVAILABILITY OF DATA

### Closing Dates

Applications must be lodged by 4.00pm on the relevant dates below. Late applications will not be considered.

#### First Round

**Thursday, 3 December 2009**

Areas NT09-1, W09-1 to 5, W09-9 to 11, 12 to 16, V09-1 to 3, S09-7.

#### Second Round

**Thursday, 29 April 2010**

Areas W09-6 to 8, W09-17 to 19, S09-1 to 6, V09-4

### Lodgement of Applications

Applications, together with supporting data, should be submitted in duplicate to the relevant State/Territory Department address listed below:

#### Northern Territory and Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands

Director of Energy  
Department of Regional Development Primary Industry,  
Fisheries and Resources  
5th Floor, Centrepoint Building  
48-50 Smith Street Mall  
DARWIN NT 0800  
ATTENTION: Petroleum Registrar

#### South Australia

Director, Petroleum and Geothermal  
Department of Primary Industries and Resources  
GPO Box 1671  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
ATTENTION: Petroleum Registrar

#### Victoria

The Tender Box Manager  
Department of Primary Industries  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
ATTENTION: Manager Petroleum Tenements, Minerals and  
Petroleum Regulation

#### Western Australia

Executive Director, Petroleum and Environment Division  
Department of Mines and Petroleum  
Level 11, Mineral House  
100 Plain Street  
EAST PERTH WA 6004  
ATTENTION: Petroleum Applications Receiving Officer

The following special instructions should be observed:

- two copies of the application and supporting data, together with an application fee payable to the "Commonwealth of Australia" through an Australian Bank or by bank cheque, should be enclosed in an envelope or package (electronic funds transfer or credit card facilities are not available). At the time of printing the fee was \$A4,590 including GST. Changes to fees are notified in the *Australian Petroleum News*;
- the application should then be sealed and clearly marked as "Application for Area ..... Commercial-in-Confidence"; and
- this envelope or package should then be enclosed in a plain covering envelope or package and delivered by hand or posted to the jurisdiction address above relevant to the area being bid for. It is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm receipt.

### Availability of Data

Refer to *An Overview for Applicants* ("Red Book"), section on Petroleum and Geoscience Datasets, as well as the Products and Services section of this acreage release package for further information on data availability.

Copies of basic exploration data pertaining to the blocks comprising this release may also be purchased from the relevant State/Territory Department at the above addresses.

It is recommended that companies interested in bidding for areas register their contact details so that they receive the offshore petroleum release publication which includes a CD-ROM and the *Australian Petroleum News* (electronic publication). Please send any requests to [petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au)

This ensures the company will be notified of important updates to information for potential explorers as well as information on current issues in the governance of the Australian offshore petroleum sector.

### Limit on Number of Permit Renewals

Permits granted from acreage offered for bidding after 1 January 2003 may, in most circumstances, be renewed for a further two five year terms. However, special provisions apply to areas comprising six or fewer graticular blocks.



Summary of Exploration Permit Bid and Work Requirements (To be read in conjunction with the Guidelines)

MANDATORY		FLEXIBLE
<p>All applications must contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Assessment of the area</li> <li>• Minimum Guaranteed Work Program (Years 1, 2 and 3)</li> <li>• Secondary Work Program</li> <li>• Technical qualifications of the applicants and its key employees</li> <li>• Technical advice available to the applicant</li> <li>• Financial resources available to the applicant.</li> <li>• Where relevant, applicants must provide: the viability of the consortium; percentage interest of each party; past performance; director's links with a company that has defaulted over the previous 5 years.</li> <li>• Generally, the minimum guaranteed work program should include at least a significant amount of new seismic surveying and/or wells.</li> <li>• At least one well is normally expected in the six years of the permit term.</li> </ul>	<p>BID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minimum acceptable bid will vary with the size of an area and its perceived prospectivity.</li> <li>• Where extensive non-exclusive seismic data or significant reprocessed seismic data are available over an area, it would generally be expected that the minimum guaranteed work program would include at least the licensing of a significant amount of those data, followed by a well or wells.</li> <li>• Where an area is covered by 3D seismic data, substantial reprocessing may form a substantial part of the proposed primary work commitments.</li> <li>• The challenges of exploring in frontier areas are recognised and will be reflected in the assessment of bids. Such assessment would include consideration of the type of survey to be carried out over the permit area and the timing of any wells which are proposed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permittee is required to undertake each element of the minimum guaranteed work program in the designated year or earlier.</li> <li>• The minimum work program cannot be reduced once the permit is awarded.</li> <li>• Only work within the permit area can count towards a work commitment.</li> </ul>	<p>PRIMARY TERM YEARS 1-3</p>	<p>A permittee can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surrender a permit in good standing prior to the beginning of the fourth permit year if minimum guaranteed work program has been completed (and other permit conditions met).</li> <li>• submit proposals for a revised work program six to three months before the end of the third year. If agreement with JA cannot be reached, the permit may be surrendered in good standing.</li> <li>• apply to vary or suspend permit conditions on force majeure grounds(as defined in guidelines).#</li> <li>• apply for variation and suspension to commit new seismic surveying if unable to prove up a prospect to meet a drilling commitment.#</li> <li>• apply to have an alternative work activity of at least equal work value and technique credited to a work program commitment.#</li> <li>• in certain circumstances, apply to enter into a good standing arrangement after a work program default / cancellation.#</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On commencement of the fourth permit year, the secondary work program becomes guaranteed on a year by year basis and each component must be undertaken within the permit boundary in the designated year or earlier.</li> </ul>	<p>SECONDARY TERM YEARS 4-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permittee can renegotiate the secondary work program on an annual basis (before entering the year in question) by providing substantial and compelling evidence that the work program should be varied on technical grounds.</li> </ul>

# Also available in the Secondary Term.



## 5. SPECIAL NOTICES CONCERNING TITLEHOLDER OBLIGATIONS AND THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF OTHERS

### Overview

Petroleum legislation requires that offshore operations be carried out in a manner that does not unduly interfere with other rights and interests. There is also a need to comply with other requirements and standards set by Australian law. All titleholders need to have due regard for matters such as:

- environment and heritage protection;
- navigation and maritime safety;
- fishing activities;
- defence activities;
- submarine telecommunication cables;
- insurance; and
- Native Title rights and interests.

In addition to the general advice and requirements that apply to all release areas, there are also notices giving recommendations and requirements for specific areas. The attention of potential applicants is drawn to all the issues set out below, as they have been raised in consultations with others who have rights and interests in these marine areas. The requirements for specific areas may result in conditions being included in an exploration title document.

### NOTICES FOR ALL AREAS

#### Environment Protection

Australian governments require petroleum companies to conduct their activities in a manner that meets a high standard of environmental protection. Of particular importance to the offshore petroleum exploration industry are the requirements of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and OPGGSA. Under these two Acts, there are four main environmental approvals that may be required for petroleum exploration industry activities. These are:

- an Environment Plan under the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Management of Environment) Regulations 1999* (Environment Regulations);
  - this is required for every operational (fieldwork) activity;
- approval under Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act to undertake an activity that may potentially impact on a matter of National Environmental Significance (NES);
  - the most important matters of NES to offshore areas are Commonwealth marine areas, World Heritage areas, National Heritage areas, wetlands of international importance, threatened species and migratory species;
- approval under Chapter 5, Division 3, of the EPBC Act to undertake activities that may interfere with cetaceans (e.g. whales);
  - this is only required at locations and times that cetaceans are likely to be present; and
- approval under Chapter 5, Division 4, of the EPBC Act to carry out activities in a Commonwealth Marine Reserve.

Penalties may apply to any activities in breach of the EPBC Act.

Further information on these approvals is provided below and in the accompanying publication *An Overview for Applicants* ("Red Book").

Information on the EPBC Act is available on the internet at: [www.environment.gov.au/epbc](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc)

The site also has information on previous decisions under the EPBC Act that may be of assistance in deciding whether to refer an intended action. A printed summary of the EPBC Act is also available in *An Overview of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, published in October 1999 by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Amendments were made to the EPBC Act on 7 December 2006. Details on these amendments can be found at: [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/2006-amendments.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/2006-amendments.html)

#### National Environmental Significance (NES) and the EPBC Act

Companies proposing to undertake petroleum exploration or development activities are obliged, under the EPBC Act, to consider whether those activities are likely to have a significant impact on a matter of NES. The EPBC Act places the onus on the proponent to ensure an activity either does not significantly impact a matter of NES, or is approved by the Australian Government Environment Minister before proceeding.

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) has developed an interactive database to provide further information on matters of NES (for example Ramsar wetlands, endangered species, World and National Heritage areas). The database is available at: [www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert/epbc/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert/epbc/index.html)

Potential bidders are encouraged to consult this database with respect to a permit area of interest before finalising their work program bids.

If an applicant is unsure whether approval is required, the proposed activity can be referred to the Environment Minister for clarification on whether it would be a 'controlled action' for the purposes of the EPBC Act. In the first instance, preliminary advice on the referral process can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Environment Assessment Branch, DEWHA (Telephone: +61 2 6274 2240). Published guidelines are available at: [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html) or from the Community Information Unit on: 1800 803 772 (free call within Australia only) or e-mail: [ciu@environment.gov.au](mailto:ciu@environment.gov.au)



## National Heritage List

The National Heritage List has been established to include places of outstanding heritage significance to Australia. The National Heritage List comprises places with natural, historic and/or Indigenous values. A place entered in the National Heritage List is known as a National Heritage Place. Each place in the List has been assessed by an independent body, the Australian Heritage Council, to determine whether the place has national heritage values. The Environment Minister makes the final decision on whether a place will be listed. Listed heritage places are protected and managed under a range of Commonwealth powers.

Places in the list are protected under the EPBC Act as matters of NES. Prior approval must be obtained before any action takes place which has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the national heritage values of a listed place. The EPBC Act covers not only actions that are taken within a national heritage place, but also those that are taken outside a place but may still have a significant impact on a listed value. Proposals for actions which could affect such values are rigorously assessed.

The National Heritage List is compiled and maintained by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and is available at:

[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahdb/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahdb/index.html)

## Commonwealth Heritage List

The Commonwealth Heritage List, established under the EPBC Act, comprises natural, historic and Indigenous heritage places on Commonwealth land, in Commonwealth waters and within areas under Australian Government control. Places on the List have been assessed by the Australian Heritage Council as having Commonwealth heritage values.

Places in the Commonwealth Heritage List are also protected under the EPBC Act and actions that might adversely affect the environment of such places must be referred for assessment by the Environment Minister.

As of December 2008 there are 81 places on the National Heritage List, 17 places on the World Heritage List and 339 places included in the Commonwealth Heritage List. These lists include some offshore areas. The lists are stored on a database maintained by DEWHA and new places are added on an ongoing basis. It is recommended that potential bidders consult the database at:

[www.environment.gov.au/heritage](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage)

Under the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*, the Register of the National Estate (RNE) is Australia's national inventory of places of significant natural and/or cultural (historic and/or indigenous) heritage. The Environment Minister is required to consider information in the RNE when making decisions under the EPBC Act. Petroleum exploration and development activities that could significantly impact on the heritage values of RNE listed places should be referred under the EPBC Act, as these RNE values are part of the heritage values of the Commonwealth marine environment.

## Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976

The *Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 (HS Act)* protects historic shipwrecks and associated relics found in Australian waters from the low water mark to the edge of the continental shelf. Under the *HS Act*, all shipwrecks which are over 75 years old are protected, together with their associated relics, regardless of whether their actual locations are known. The Environment Minister can also make a declaration to protect any historically significant shipwrecks or relics that are less than 75 years old.

The *HS Act* aims to ensure that historic shipwrecks are protected for their heritage values and maintained for recreational and educational purposes. It also regulates activities that may result in the damage, interference, removal or destruction of an historic shipwreck or associated relic.

Under the *HS Act*:

- anyone who finds the remains of a shipwreck or relics associated with a shipwreck is required to give notification of the location as soon as practicable to the Environment Minister, and
- historic relics must not be removed, or the physical fabric of a wreck disturbed, unless a permit has been obtained.

The *HS Act* also provides for protected zones to be declared in order to enhance the protection of historic shipwrecks and relics which are of special significance or sensitivity or at particular risk of interference. Permits are required to enter protected zones, which can cover an area up to 200 hectares.

It should be noted that, although the *HS Act* does not currently provide for the protection of the natural environment associated with shipwrecks, these natural components form an integral part of historic shipwreck sites and are often critical to the long term preservation of shipwrecks and relics. Damage to these natural components can result in increased deterioration of shipwrecks and consequently affect the shipwrecks role as a marine habitat.

Further information about the *HS Act* can be obtained from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website:

[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/shipwrecks/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/shipwrecks/index.html)

## Cetaceans and the EPBC Act

The 2009 Release of Offshore Petroleum Exploration Areas includes areas that are in recognised whale migration corridors and important aggregation areas.

A policy statement on the interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales has been developed by DEWHA in consultation with the petroleum exploration industry, whale research scientists and conservation groups. The *EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 - Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales, September 2008* can be obtained online at:

[www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/seismic.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/seismic.html)

This Policy Statement provides guidance on the practical application of the EPBC Act to seismic surveying and assists proponents in addressing their legal obligations. The document outlines standard management measures (Part A) that should be used at all times when operating in Australian waters, and outlines additional management measures (Part B), which should





be used in areas where there is a moderate to high likelihood of encountering whales.

Seismic surveys should not be proposed in areas where and when whales are likely to be breeding, calving, resting or feeding. If proposed, these surveys and associated mitigation measures will need careful consideration and may require further assessment under the EPBC Act.

Under the EPBC Act there is a requirement to obtain a permit for any activity impacting upon cetaceans, incidentally or otherwise, in Commonwealth waters. Cetaceans include whales, dolphins and porpoises. Further information on permits is provided in the EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 and may also be found at:

[www.environment.gov.au/epbc/permits/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/permits/index.html)

## Marine Bioregional Planning

The Australian Government has embarked on a program of marine bioregional planning under the EPBC Act. Under the program, Marine Bioregional Plans will be developed for the five marine regions in Commonwealth waters by 2012. The program is in an early stage and the plans, once in place, will provide information to marine industries that will assist them in understanding their obligations under the EPBC Act, including matters of NES. The Plans will be established under section 176 of the EPBC Act, acting as a key document to inform the Environment Minister, industry and other stakeholders about the key conservation values and priorities in each marine region.

The marine bioregional planning process will include the identification and establishment of representative Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Commonwealth waters.

It is intended that exploration and production activities would be allowed within some MPAs, subject to appropriate approvals under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* and appropriate scrutiny under the provisions of the EPBC Act.

A number of areas in the 2009 release are in the vicinity of sensitive marine regions and may be subject to a higher level of environmental scrutiny, as described below in the Notices for Specific Areas.

Further information on Marine Bioregional Planning can be found at:

[www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/index.html)

## Native Title Rights and Interests

Applicants should be aware that Aboriginal representative organisations may have interests in some release areas, particularly those that are closer to shore. It is recommended that successful applicants liaise closely with State heritage agencies, Native Title Representative Bodies and registered claimants on proposed exploration activities.

Contact details for Native Title Representative Bodies can be found on the Native Titles Representative Bodies website at:

[www.ntrb.net/PublicPages/Login.aspx](http://www.ntrb.net/PublicPages/Login.aspx)

*Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values* provides a practical guide for land developers, land users

and managers, cultural heritage professionals and many others who may have an impact on Indigenous heritage. *Ask First* can be downloaded from the Australian Heritage Council website at: [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc).

## Navigation

To ensure that navigational safety requirements are met, successful applicants will be required to maintain close contact with the Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) at the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) well in advance of the commencement of, and during, seismic surveys and drilling operations in order that navigational warnings can be issued. This is especially important for operations in any permits granted over areas located on or near major shipping routes. For further information, see below in the Notices for Specific Areas.

### Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Telephone (Maritime): 1800 641 792

(Free call within Australia only)

Telephone (Aviation): 1800 815 257

(Free call within Australia only)

Facsimile: 1800 622 153

(Free call within Australia only)

E-mail: [RCCAus@amsa.gov.au](mailto:RCCAus@amsa.gov.au) (24hrs/365days)

Website: [www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au)

## Fishing Activities

All companies awarded petroleum exploration permits should initiate contact with Commonwealth and/or State fisheries management agencies and local fishing bodies concerning their exploration operations. This contact should be initiated at the earliest possible stage when planning operations. Radio contact is to be maintained with fishing operators in the area during exploration operations. In the first instance, it is suggested that contact be made with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and relevant State agencies for the latest information on appropriate contacts within relevant Management Advisory Committees or fishing industry organisations.

AFMA can be contacted at:

### Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Environment Policy Section

PO Box 7051

Canberra BC ACT 2601

Telephone: +61 2 6225 5555

Facsimile: +61 2 6225 5446

Regular updated contact details for the AFMA officer handling petroleum exploration enquiries can also be found at:

[www.afma.gov.au/environment/other\\_factors/default.htm](http://www.afma.gov.au/environment/other_factors/default.htm)

AFMA wishes to stress the importance of removing debris, and requests that the successful applicant make every attempt to leave petroleum exploration areas free of obstruction. Where the removal of obstructions is not possible, peak fishing industry associations should be notified as soon as possible to ensure the safety of fishers. This is particularly important in the trawl fisheries: Commonwealth Trawl Fishery, Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery, Northern Prawn Fishery, North West Slope Trawl Fishery and Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery.



It should also be noted that the spatial distribution and intensity of fishing activity throughout fishery regions can be highly variable over time. Although some of the proposed release areas for 2009 experienced little or no fishing activity in recent years, the level of activity may increase in the future. For this reason, it is requested that successful applicants liaise with AFMA regarding all petroleum exploration activities in Commonwealth waters, to ensure up-to-date information is provided concerning both activities and industry contact details.

## Defence Requirements

For all release areas, successful applicants will be required to notify the Australian Hydrographic Office of any exploration activity including suspended well heads or proposed infrastructure developments. This will enable relevant navigational charts to be updated and the issue of appropriate navigational warnings. Contact details are provided below.

Some of the areas in the 2009 release coincide with military restricted airspace. When activated by a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), the restricted airspace can operate down to low altitudes including, at times, to sea level. Non-Defence flying operations are required to be conducted in accordance with NOTAM restrictions.

Successful applicants will need to liaise with Air Force Headquarters (AFHQ) during the planning phase and to notify any exploration activity. Title holders will need to provide positions and dimensions (lateral and vertical) of all associated fixed and mobile infrastructure including drilling rigs. Additionally, Headquarters Air Command (HQAC) requires advice, within 48 hours, of any change in position of exploration activities to avoid conflict with Defence exercise activity. Contact details are set out below.

Offshore areas may coincide with Military Exercise Areas (MEAs) or Defence Practice Areas (DPAs). Successful applicants are advised that the Minister for Defence has the authority, under the *Defence Force Regulations 1952*, to declare and Gazette any area of sea or air space as a DPA, for carrying out Defence operations or practice as specified in a NOTAM or a Notice to Mariners (NOTMAR). When a DPA is activated, unauthorised access to the area will be prohibited.

As there is potential for unexploded ordnance on the sea floor in either MEAs or DPAs, applicants should be aware of the risks involved in conducting exploration activities. In addition, as training exercises can take place at any time and often involve the use of live fire, permit holders must consult with the Department of Defence to minimise the applicant's own risk. Details of 2009 release areas that coincide with MEAs or DPAs are provided below in the Notices for Specific Areas.

Locations of restricted and prohibited areas, including maps, are listed in Annual Australian NOTAM and Australian Annual NOTMAR publications, which are available from the Royal Australian Air Force Aeronautical Information Service website (Designated Airspace Handbook) and the RAN Hydrographic Office website (available under 'Annual Notices') respectively (see addresses below).

The following Defence contacts will be able to advise of planned Defence activities in specific areas:

### General Defence

Executive Officer – Property Management  
Directorate of Property Services (DPS)  
BP3-G-A01  
Department of Defence  
Canberra ACT 2609

Telephone: +61 2 6266 8604  
Facsimile: +61 2 6266 8429

### Australian Hydrographic Office

Mr Mark Bolger  
Manager Nautical Assessment and Maintenance  
Hydrographic Office  
Locked Bag 8801  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Telephone: +61 2 4223 6590  
Facsimile: +61 2 4223 6599  
E-mail: [hydro.ntm@defence.gov.au](mailto:hydro.ntm@defence.gov.au)  
Website: [www.hydro.gov.au](http://www.hydro.gov.au)

### Air Force Headquarters (AFHQ)

Anthony Street  
Squadron Leader

Telephone: +61 2 6265 6337  
E-mail: [raaf.ais@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.ais@defence.gov.au)  
E-mail: [Anthony.Street1@defence.gov.au](mailto:Anthony.Street1@defence.gov.au)

### Headquarters Air Command (HQAC)

Watch keeper

Telephone: +61 2 6128 4810

### Royal Australian Navy

Staff Officer Navy Basing Policy  
Navy Headquarters  
R1-4-B136  
Russell Offices  
Department of Defence  
Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone: +61 2 6265 5177  
Facsimile: +61 2 6265 2036



## Border Protection Command

The Border Protection Command (BPC) is responsible for offshore maritime security and should be provided with details of any proposed activities to be conducted within release areas no less than 14 days prior to undertaking the task. BPC should also be kept apprised of any ongoing activities within these areas.

The point of contact for BPC is [bp Liaison@customs.gov.au](mailto:bp Liaison@customs.gov.au).

## Telecommunication (Submarine) Cables

Permit holders can contact an information number 1800 652 388 (free call within Australia) to obtain cable position information. Successful applicants need to be aware that the Government has recently enacted legislation to protect submarine telecommunications cables. The *Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Protection of Submarine Cables and Other Measures) Act 2005* provides for a protection zone to extend one nautical mile on each side of certain submarine telecommunications cables. Under the Act, petroleum exploration activities may be restricted or prohibited in a protection zone. Successful applicants should contact the Australian Communications and Media Authority on +61 3 9963 6717 for further information.

## Insurance

Under the OPGGSA, successful applicants are required to maintain adequate insurance against expenses or liabilities in relation to activities pursuant to the exploration permit, including the expenses of complying with directions with respect to remedying the effects of the escape of petroleum.

## Further Notices

Any further Special Notices and related issues will be advised in *Australian Petroleum News*, which can be accessed at:

[www.ret.gov.au/petexp](http://www.ret.gov.au/petexp)

Applicants are strongly encouraged to register their e-mail, address and contact details with the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET), Exploration Section, details can be e-mailed to:

[petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@ret.gov.au)

The mailing list is not used for any purpose other than disseminating petroleum information from RET, such as the annual offshore petroleum acreage release package, the awarding of permits, changes to guidelines or legislation, and advice on when new editions of *Australian Petroleum News* are posted on the Internet. There is no charge for this service.

## NOTICES FOR SPECIFIC AREAS

### Special Notices – Areas off Northern Territory

#### NT09-1

This offshore petroleum acreage release area covers part of the carbonate terrace and bank systems of the Van Diemen Rise. These systems are unique seafloor features in northern Australian waters, performing an important ecological role and supporting high biodiversity, including important feeding aggregations of the vulnerable Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), fish and offshore shark species. The Van Diemen Rise has been identified as a key ecological feature in the north Bioregional Profile.

The **Green turtle** (*C. mydas*), **Flatback turtle** (*N. depressus*), **Loggerhead turtle** (*C. caretta*), **Hawksbill turtle** (*E. imbricata*), **Leathery turtle** (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the **Olive ridley turtle** (*L. olivacea*) regularly appear in northern Australian waters and may be present in this area. These species are all listed as threatened and migratory under the EPBC Act.

This area is outside the known migratory route of **Humpback whales** (*M. novaeangliae*), however, the *Recovery Plans for Australia's Threatened Whales 2005-2010* indicate that the species may be present in the area between late July and early September. Two listed migratory dolphin species, the **Australian Snub-fin dolphin** (*Orcaella heinsohni*) and the **Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin** (*Sousa chinensis*), are also found in this area.

This area is within the **Northern Prawn, Western Tuna and Billfish and Skipjack Tuna Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data for 2006 to 2007 indicate that Northern Prawn Fishery has been active in release area NT09-1. The seasons are generally mid March to the end of May and mid August to December. Accordingly, successful applicants will need to liaise with representatives of the above fishing interests at an early stage in planning operational activities.

### Special Notices – Areas off Western Australia

**Humpback whales** (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are known to migrate through all of the 2009 Western Australia release areas, with peak numbers between mid-July and late-September. The species is listed as both vulnerable and migratory under the EPBC Act. The area between Broome and the northern end of Camden Sound (**W09-1 to W09-5**) is considered an important calving aggregation area for this species. The Exmouth Gulf (**W09-9 to W09-19**) is considered an important resting aggregation area for cow-calf pairs and attendant males during the southern migration.

All exploration activities in these permit areas, should be planned in accordance with the *EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 – Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales (September 2008)*, as prepared by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, in consultation with industry and other stakeholders. The Policy Statement outlines standard management measures (Part A) that should be used at all times when operating seismic surveys in Australian waters. Successful applicants should consider implementing additional management measures (Part B) when operating in

areas and at times where there is a moderate to high likelihood of encountering whales.

A number of genetically distinct populations of listed threatened and migratory **marine turtle** species are known to occur in the vicinity of the 2009 Western Australia release areas. These include the endangered and migratory **Loggerhead turtle** (*Caretta caretta*), and the vulnerable and migratory **Flatback turtle** (*Natator depressus*), **Green turtle** (*Chelonia mydas*) and **Hawksbill turtle** (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

The population of **Green turtles** (*C. mydas*) in Western Australia is one of the largest populations remaining in the world. The west coast of Barrow Island is a major Green turtle (*C. mydas*) breeding area. The nesting season for the Green turtles (*C. mydas*) begins in November, with peak nesting activity occurring in January.

The Western Australian **Hawksbill turtle** (*E. imbricata*) population is the largest population of this species remaining in the Indian Ocean and one of the largest in the world. The most significant Hawksbill turtle (*E. imbricata*) breeding areas are within the Dampier Archipelago, the east coast of Barrow Island and the Montebello Islands. Hawksbill turtle (*E. imbricata*) nesting activity in the North-west Marine Region is reported to peak between October and January.

**Loggerhead turtles** (*C. caretta*) are reported to nest on Rosemary Island and Barrow Island. Significant **Flatback turtle** (*N. depressus*) rookeries occur on the Montebello Islands, and islands of the Dampier Archipelago. The nesting season for Flatback turtles (*N. depressus*) is reported to peak during the summer months between November and January.

Large numbers of **Dugongs** (*Dugong dugon*) are known to occur around the Pilbara coast and feed on seagrass. The Montebello Islands support dense seagrass beds and Dugongs (*D. dugon*) are known to be present in the area. This species is listed as migratory under the EPBC Act.

Successful applicants should be aware that any proposed petroleum operations in areas and times of peak activity for the listed species outlined above, are likely to be subject to a high level of environmental scrutiny, and may require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

#### W09-1 to W09-5

These areas contain **demersal slope fish assemblages** that have a high level of endemism and species diversity and have been identified as a Key Ecological Feature in the North-west Bioregional Profile.

Scott Reef is an important breeding site for two species of marine turtle listed under the EPBC Act. These include a small genetically distinct population of the vulnerable and migratory **Green turtle** (*Chelonia mydas*) and a population of the vulnerable and migratory **Hawksbill turtle** (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Adult and juvenile Green turtles (*C. mydas*) and Hawksbill turtles (*E. imbricata*) are also likely to feed in this region.

These areas are within the **North West Slope Trawl, Western Tuna and Billfish and Skipjack Tuna Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data for 2006 to 2007 indicate that North West Slope Trawl Fishery has been active in these proposed release areas. The North West Slope Trawl Fishery is generally most active outside the Northern Prawn Fishery seasons (March to May and August to December). Accordingly successful applicants will need to liaise with representatives of fishing interests at an early stage in planning operational activities.

The main **shipping route** between Port Hedland and Roti passes through or closely past **W09-1, W09-2 and W09-3**. Traffic on this route is expected to increase and successful applicants are to consult AMSA when planning petroleum exploration and / or development in these areas.

**W09-3, W09-4 and W09-5** lie within a **military exercise area**, the RAAF Curtain Air to Air Weapons Range R811. When activated by a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), the restricted airspace can operate down to sea level. Successful applicants will need to liaise with the Department of Defence during the planning phase of operations and to provide information on the proposed location of any drilling rigs for inclusion in the register of structures database that is maintained by the Royal Australian Air Force Aeronautical Information Service (RAAF AIS).

Successful applicants will need to liaise closely with the RAAF and RAN on timing and location of any proposed exploration activities or permanent structures early in the planning phase.

Successful applicants should also note that, as the areas are used for live firings, unexploded ordnance may exist on the sea floor. This carries with it an associated risk of detonation, which will be borne by the applicants. As such, the Australian Government provides no guarantee or indemnity to title holders or others with regard to the safety or whereabouts of **unexploded ordnance** in such areas.

### W09-6, to W09-09

Parts of **W09-6** and **W09-7** are located in the Exmouth Plateau, which has been identified as a Key Ecological Feature in the North-west Marine Bioregional Profile. It is a unique seafloor feature covering an area of approximately 50,000km<sup>2</sup> comprising of a rough and undulating surface at water depths of approximately 500m to more than 5000m. The plateau is thought to be dotted with numerous pinnacles. It is an important geomorphic feature that modifies the flow of deep waters, and has been identified as a site where internal waves are generated by internal tides.

The **Hawksbill turtle** (*E.imbricata*), **Flatback turtle** (*N.depressus*), **Loggerhead turtle** (*C.caretta*) and the **Green turtle** (*C.mydas*) may transit these areas en route to the principal near coastal rookeries of Barrow Island and the Montebello Islands.

The **shipping route** between North West Cape and Lombok Strait passes through the centre of **W09-6**. Traffic on this route is currently not heavy. Successful applicants should conduct a traffic and risk analysis in consultation with AMSA and ensure that appropriate warnings are issued to shipping.

Areas **W09-6 to W09-09** are within the **North West Slope Trawl, Western Tuna and Billfish and Skipjack Tuna Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data for 2006 to 2007 indicate that the **North West Slope Trawl Fishery** has been active in these

release areas. The North West Slope Trawl Fishery is generally most active outside the Northern Prawn Fishery seasons (March to May and August to December). Successful applicants will need to liaise with representatives of the above fishing interests at an early stage in planning operational activities.

### W09-9 to W09-14

Release areas **W09-9 to W09-14** are in close proximity to Montebello and Lowendal Islands, which are listed as important areas for biodiversity in the North-west Marine Region Bioregional Profile. The Montebello Islands support a number of breeding populations of sea bird species listed under the EPBC Act. These include the migratory **Osprey** (*Pandion cristatus*), **White-bellied sea-eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), **Eastern reef egret** (*Egretta sacra*), **Caspian tern** (*Sterna caspia*) and **Lesser crested tern** (*Sterna bengalensis*), and the biggest breeding population of **Roseate terns** (*Sterna dougalli*) in Western Australia.

Observations suggest an area to the west of the Montebello Islands may be a minor zone of upwelling in the Region, supporting large feeding aggregations of Tern species. There is also some evidence that the area is an important feeding ground for the listed **Hutton's shearwater** (*Puffinus huttoni*) and the vulnerable **Soft-plumaged petrel** (*Pterodroma mollis*).

The **Hawksbill turtle** (*E. imbricata*), **Flatback turtle** (*N. depressus*), **Loggerhead turtle** (*C. caretta*) and **Green turtle** (*C. mydas*) are known to occur in the area, with Barrow Island and the Montebello Islands being principal near-coastal rookeries for these species.

Areas **W09-9 to W09-14** are within the **North West Slope Trawl, Western Tuna and Billfish and Skipjack Tuna Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data for 2006 to 2007 indicate that the **North West Slope Trawl Fishery** has been active in these release areas. The North West Slope Trawl Fishery is generally most active outside the Northern Prawn Fishery seasons (March to May and August to December). Successful applicants will need to liaise with representatives of the above fishing interests at an early stage in planning operational activities.

### W09-14 to W09-19

The southern boundary of **W09-17** is close to Rosemary Island in the Dampier Archipelago. The Dampier Archipelago provides important nesting areas for populations of sea bird species listed under the EPBC Act. These include the migratory **Wedge-tailed shearwater** (*Puffinus pacificus*), **Bridled tern** (*Sterna anaethetus*), **Caspian tern** (*S. caspia*), **Eastern reef egret** (*E. sacra*), **Osprey** (*P. cristatus*) and **White-bellied sea-eagle** (*H. leucogaster*). The area also supports important nesting habitat for the **Fairy tern** (*Sterna nereis*), **Roseate tern** (*S. dougalli*) and **Beach stone-curlew** (*Esacus neglectus*), which are listed marine species under the EPBC Act. The waters of the archipelago are also important feeding areas for these species.

**W09-18 and W09-19** are in close proximity to the Glomar Shoals, which have been identified as a Key Ecological Feature in the North-west Marine Bioregional Profile. The Glomar Shoals are a unique seafloor feature of highly fractured molluscan debris, coralline rubble and coarse carbonate sand that occurs approximately 30 – 40km offshore of Dampier in Commonwealth waters, between depths of 26 – 70m. Evidence



indicates that this area has localised increased biological productivity that attracts fish such as **Rankin cod** (*Epinephelus multinotatus*), **Brownstripe snapper** (*Lutjanus vitta*), **Red emperor** (*Lutjanus sebae*), **Crimson snapper** (*Lutjanus erythropterus*) and **Frypan bream** (*Argyrops spinifer*).

The Dampier **shipping fairway** passes directly through **W09-18** and a small section of **W09-19**. The Dampier Shipping Fairway concentrates all shipping on the Dampier – Lombok Strait route in to a shipping route 3 nautical miles in width. The Operations Division of the AMSA are to be given four months prior notice of exploratory drilling or development that falls close to or within the Shipping Fairway to ensure adequate navigational safety precautions can be put in place.

Areas **W09-14 to W09-16** are within the **North West Slope Trawl, Western Tuna and Billfish and Skipjack Tuna Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data for 2006 to 2007 indicate that the **North West Slope Trawl Fishery** has been active in these release areas. The North West Slope Trawl Fishery is generally most active outside the Northern Prawn Fishery seasons (March to May and August to December). Successful applicants will need to liaise with representatives of the above fishing interests at an early stage in planning operational activities.

## Special Notices – Areas off South Australia

### S09-1 to S09-6

The inner shelf, to the north of these areas, is an important area for the vulnerable **Australian sea lion** (*Neophoca cinerea*), which rests and breeds on the rocky shores of the Bight and on numerous small islands in the eastern parts of the bioregion. The Head of the Bight represents a hotspot of productivity in the bioregion.

Juvenile **Southern bluefin tuna** (*Thunnus maccoyii*) inhabit the area between December and April to feed on small pelagic fish, squid, krill and salps. The Great Australian Bight is the only area in the world where young Southern bluefin tuna (*T. maccoyii*) (1-5 year old fish) are known to surface consistently. Small pelagic fish including sardine, scaly mackerel, jack mackerel, yellow tail, blue mackerel, anchovy, blue sprat and sandy sprat are considered an important trophic link between plankton communities and larger fish-eating predators, such as sharks, bluefin tuna and seabirds.

**Southern right whales** (*Eubalaena australis*) are listed as endangered and migratory under the EPBC Act and are known to frequent these areas. Known calving areas in the vicinity include Head of the Bight and Flowers Bay, but mothers with young calves are also occasionally present at other scattered locations along the southern coast. While the presence of mothers with young calves should be noted, calving areas for Southern right whales (*E. australis*) tend to be very close to the shore.

The *Southern Right Whale Recovery Plan 2005-2010* identifies a number of core calving areas along the southern Australian coastline. The habitat connectivity between the identified areas is also considered important as Southern right whales (*E. australis*) are frequently seen outside these core areas, and it is well documented that Southern right whales (*E. australis*) move between these areas between May and November.

Successful applicants should be aware that any proposed petroleum operations during peak activity for the **Southern right whale** (*E. australis*), are likely to be subject to a high level of environmental scrutiny, and may require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

The Great Australian Bight Marine Park (**S09-01 to S09-6**) is a Commonwealth MPA and is recognised as having high conservation values. This MPA protects a representative strip of the unique seafloor environment on the continental shelf and slope of the Great Australian Bight. The continental shelf seabed in the Marine Park supports some of the highest levels of seafloor diversity and unique species found anywhere in Australia. Many species found here are new and as yet unnamed.

Any proposed petroleum exploration activity needs to be considered in relation to the identified conservation values and potential threats of significant environmental impacts to those values. Successful applicants should be aware that any proposed petroleum exploration operations are likely to be subject to a high level of environmental scrutiny and may require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

Successful applicants should also be aware that undertaking any mining operations within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth waters) will require approval from the Governor-General in accordance with the *Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) Management Plan 2005-2012*. The approvals process and associated timeframe will depend on the outcomes of other environmental approvals, including any referral and assessment under Part 7 and Part 8 of the EPBC Act. Successful applicants in these areas should contact DEWHA early in their planning stage to obtain guidance on the requirements and timing of the approvals process. Further information on the Marine Park may be found at:

[www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/index.html)

These areas are within the **Great Australian Bight Trawl, Commonwealth Trawl, Gillnet, Hook and Trap, Southern Bluefin Tuna, Skipjack and Southern Squid Jig Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data from 2006-2007 indicate that the Great Australian Bight Trawl, Commonwealth Trawl, Gillnet, Hook and Trap, Southern Bluefin Tuna and Skipjack Fisheries were active in these proposed release areas. These are particularly important areas for the Great Australian Bight Trawl and Southern Bluefin Tuna fisheries. AFMA recommends successful applicants liaise with the above fisheries at an early stage in planning operational activities.

### S09-7

Release area **S09-7** is close to the coast and is proximate to two **Southern right whale** (*E. australis*) calving areas: one at Encounter Bay and the other at Sleaford Bay. While Sleaford Bay is identified as being used intermittently by small numbers of mothers with very young calves, Encounter Bay, which is closer to the proposed area, is identified as a core Southern right whale (*E. australis*) calving area.

The endangered **Blue whale** (*B. musculus*), the vulnerable **Fin whale** (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and **Sei whale** (*Balaenoptera borealis*) transit this area to access the Bonney Upwelling for feeding between December and May.



Successful applicants should be aware that any proposed petroleum exploration activities in this region are likely to be subject to a high level of environmental scrutiny, and may require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

Release area **S09-7** is approximately 70km from the **Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar site**. Hydrocarbon spills in this area may pose a risk to the values of the wetland. The Ramsar site is recognised as having high conservation values. Of relevance is that the wetland consists of ocean beach, together with the mouth of the River Murray and associated lakes and estuaries and therefore has direct connectivity with the Southern Ocean. This combination provides a wide range of habitats from freshwater to hypersaline which are mostly in a natural state. There is a diversity of species at the site with wading bird species and waterfowl predominating.

The main shipping route between Bass Strait and Backstairs passage (for SA ports) crosses through lease **S09-7**. When planning exploratory drilling or development in this area, the successful applicant is to undertake a traffic and risk analysis in consultation with AMSA and ensure that appropriate warnings to shipping are issued.

This area is within the **Commonwealth Trawl, Gillnet, Hook and Trap, Eastern Tuna and Billfish, Southern Bluefin Tuna, Small Pelagic, Southern Squid Jig and Skipjack Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data from 2006-2007 indicate that the Commonwealth Trawl, Great Australian Bight, Gillnet, Hook and Trap and Southern Squid Jig Fisheries were active in this proposed release area. This is an important area for the Commonwealth Trawl and Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fisheries. AFMA recommends successful applicants liaise with representatives of all the above fisheries at an early stage in planning operational activities.

## Special Notices – Areas off Victoria

### V09-1 to V09-4

These areas are close to the coast and are in close proximity to the Bonney Upwelling, an important feeding aggregation area for the endangered and migratory **Blue whale** (*B. musculus*) between November and May each year. **Southern Right whales** (*E. australis*) are known to migrate along the coastline between May and November each year, and are there are known calving areas offshore of Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Portland. The vulnerable and migratory **Humpback whale** (*M. novaeangliae*), **Fin whale** (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and **Sei whale** (*Balaenoptera borealis*) may also be present within the area.

Successful applicants should be aware that any proposed petroleum operations in this region are likely to be subject to a high level of environmental scrutiny, and may require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

**Lady Julia Percy Island** is listed in the Register of the National Estate and is situated approximately 8km from the proposed release areas. This place has significant Indigenous heritage value.

These areas are within the **South East Trawl, Gillnet Hook and Trap, Eastern Tuna and Billfish, Small Pelagic, Bass Strait Scallop and Southern Squid Jig Fisheries'** ranges. Historical AFMA logbook data for 2006 to 2007 indicate that the Commonwealth Trawl, Gillnet Hook and Trap, and Southern Squid Jig Fisheries were active in these proposed release areas. AFMA recommends successful applicants liaise with representatives of the above fisheries as early as possible when planning operational activities.

### V09-1

This release area is adjacent to the Zeehan Commonwealth Marine Reserve. This reserve is significant in that it protects four submarine canyons that link the deeper part of the reserve to the continental shelf. It also provides habitat for giant crab, deep water corals and a variety of sponges. This area is also a well known feeding ground for whales, particularly **Blue whales** (*B. musculus*) and **Southern right whales** (*E. australis*).

Given the close proximity of the release area to the Marine Reserve, successful applicants should ensure that any proposed activities do not significantly impact on the conservation values of the Reserve.

The **main shipping route** between Bass Strait and Backstairs Passage (for SA ports) and traffic to the port of Portland pass through these leases. When planning exploratory drilling or development in this area, the successful applicant is to undertake a traffic and risk analysis in consultation with AMSA and ensure that appropriate warnings are issued.



## ATTACHMENT A

APPLICATION FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PERMIT OVER AREA NO.....

I/We, .....of .....

.....of .....

.....of .....

hereby make application for the grant of a petroleum exploration permit in respect of the blocks described hereunder.

### DESCRIPTION OF BLOCKS

The reference hereunder is to the name of the map sheet of the 1:1 000 000 series and to the number of graticular sections shown thereon. Area .....

Map Sheet..... blocks numbered .....

Assessed to contain..... blocks.

Details in support of the application and the application fee of \$..... are attached.

Dated this ..... day of ..... 20.....

.....

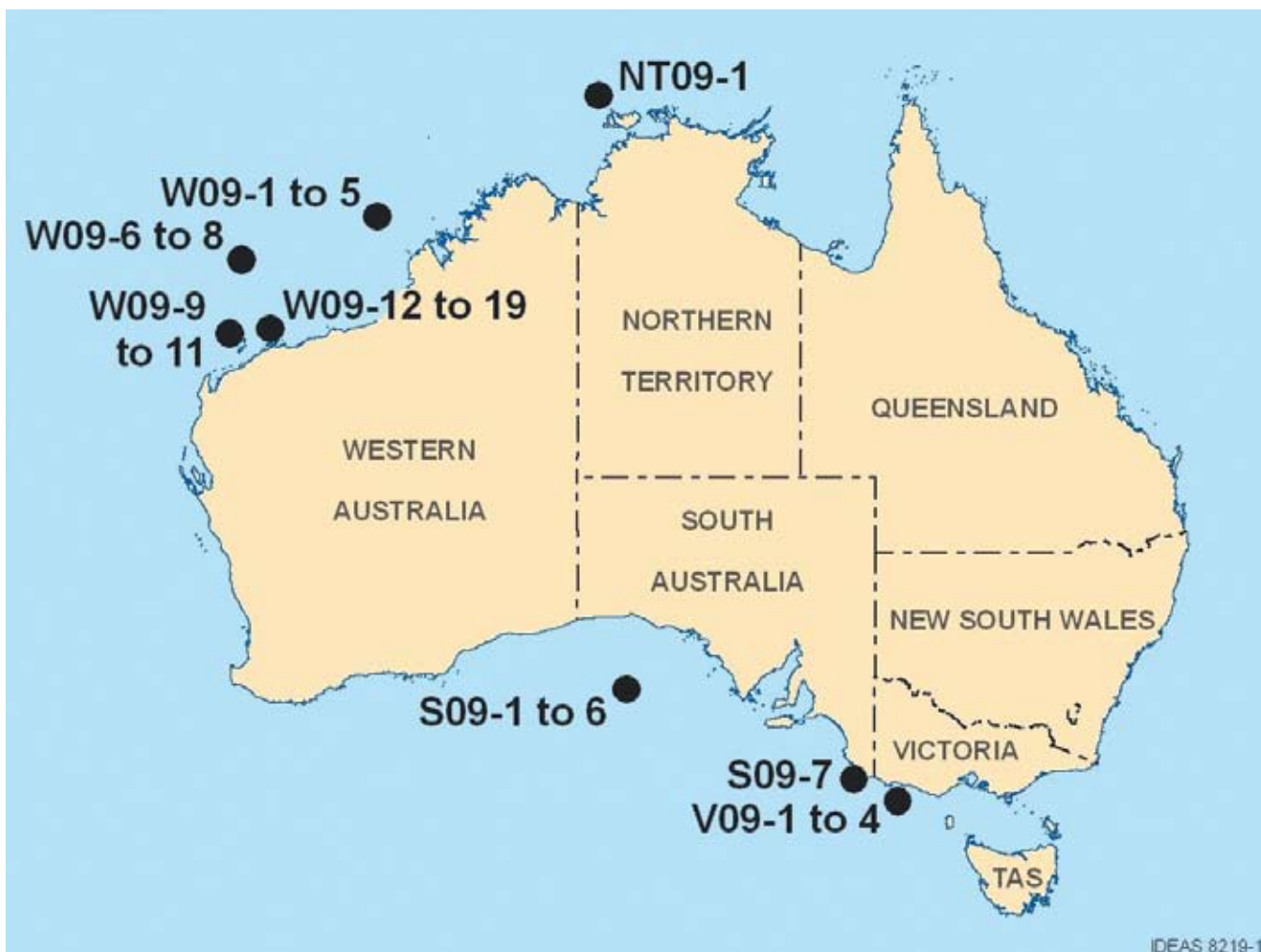
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Signature of Applicant(s)
























## 2009 RELEASE AREAS



IDEAS 8219-1

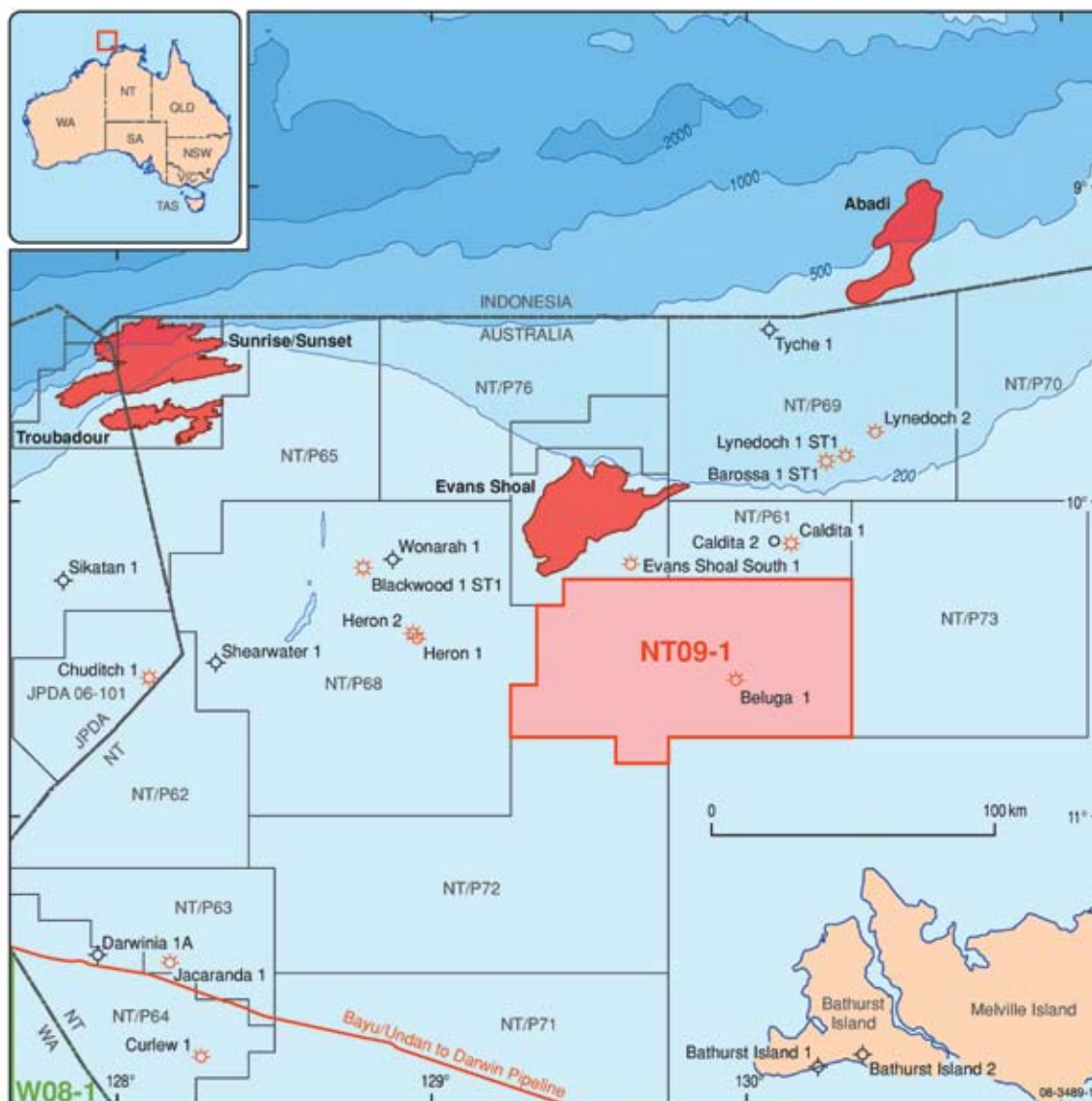
### 2009 RELEASE MAPS KEY

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | 2009 Designated Frontier Area                |  | Offshore Drilling Program Stratigraphic well            |
|  | 2009 Offshore Petroleum Acreage Release Area |  | Petroleum exploration well - Not classified             |
|  | 2008 Offshore Petroleum Acreage Release Area |  | Petroleum exploration well - Dry hole                   |
|  | Existing petroleum title                     |  | Petroleum exploration well - Gas show                   |
|  | Gas field                                    |  | Petroleum exploration well - Gas discovery              |
|  | Oil field                                    |  | Petroleum exploration well - Oil show                   |
|  | Gas pipeline                                 |  | Petroleum exploration well - Oil discovery              |
|  | Oil pipeline                                 |  | Petroleum exploration well - Oil and gas show           |
|  | Scheduled area boundary (OPGGSA 2006)        |  | Petroleum exploration well - Gas discovery and oil show |
|  | -200- Bathymetry contour (depth in metres)   |  | Petroleum exploration well - Oil discovery and gas show |
|   |  |  | Petroleum exploration well - Gas and oil discovery      |



## Release Area NT09-1, Malita Graben, Bonaparte Basin, Northern Territory

Bids Close – 3 December 2009



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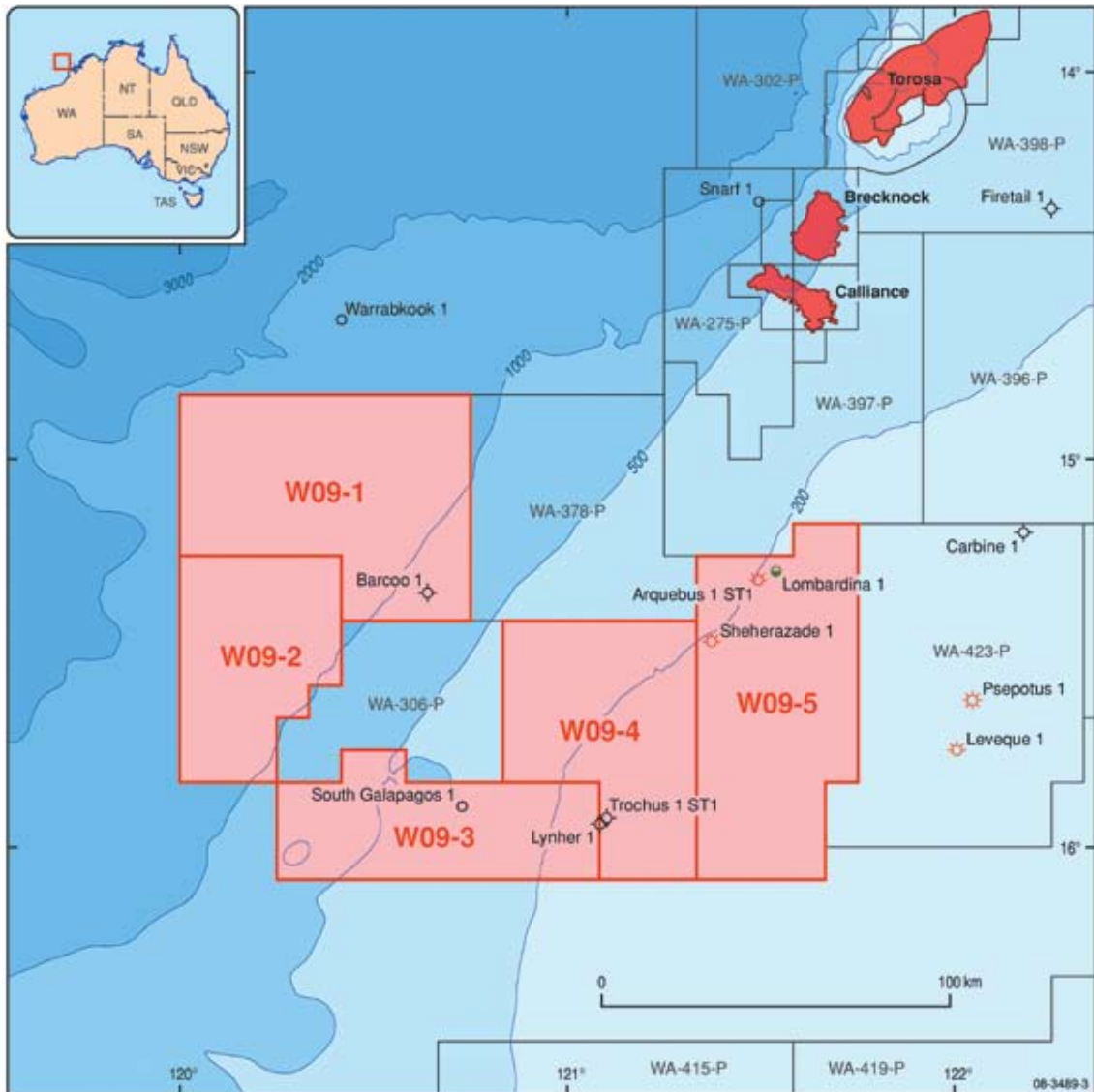
Field outline for Abadi sourced from IHS Energy, 2006

- Surrounded by giant gas accumulations.
- Close to Darwin operations base and the Wickham Point LNG plant.
- Water depths less than 200 m.
- Proven gas-prone Early–Middle Jurassic (Plover Formation) source rock, potential oil and gas-prone Late Jurassic and oil-prone Early Cretaceous source rocks.
- Fair–good quality Middle Jurassic (Plover Formation) reservoir; good quality Jurassic–Early Cretaceous (Elang and Sandpiper formations) and Late Cretaceous (Puffin Formation) reservoirs.
- Good quality regional Early Cretaceous seal (Echuca Shoals Formation), intra-formational seals within Jurassic Plover and Late Cretaceous Wangarlu formations.
- Special Notices apply, refer to Guidance Notes.



## Release Areas W09-1, W09-2, W09-3, W09-4 and W09-5, Southern Browse Basin, Western Australia

Bids Close – 3 December 2009



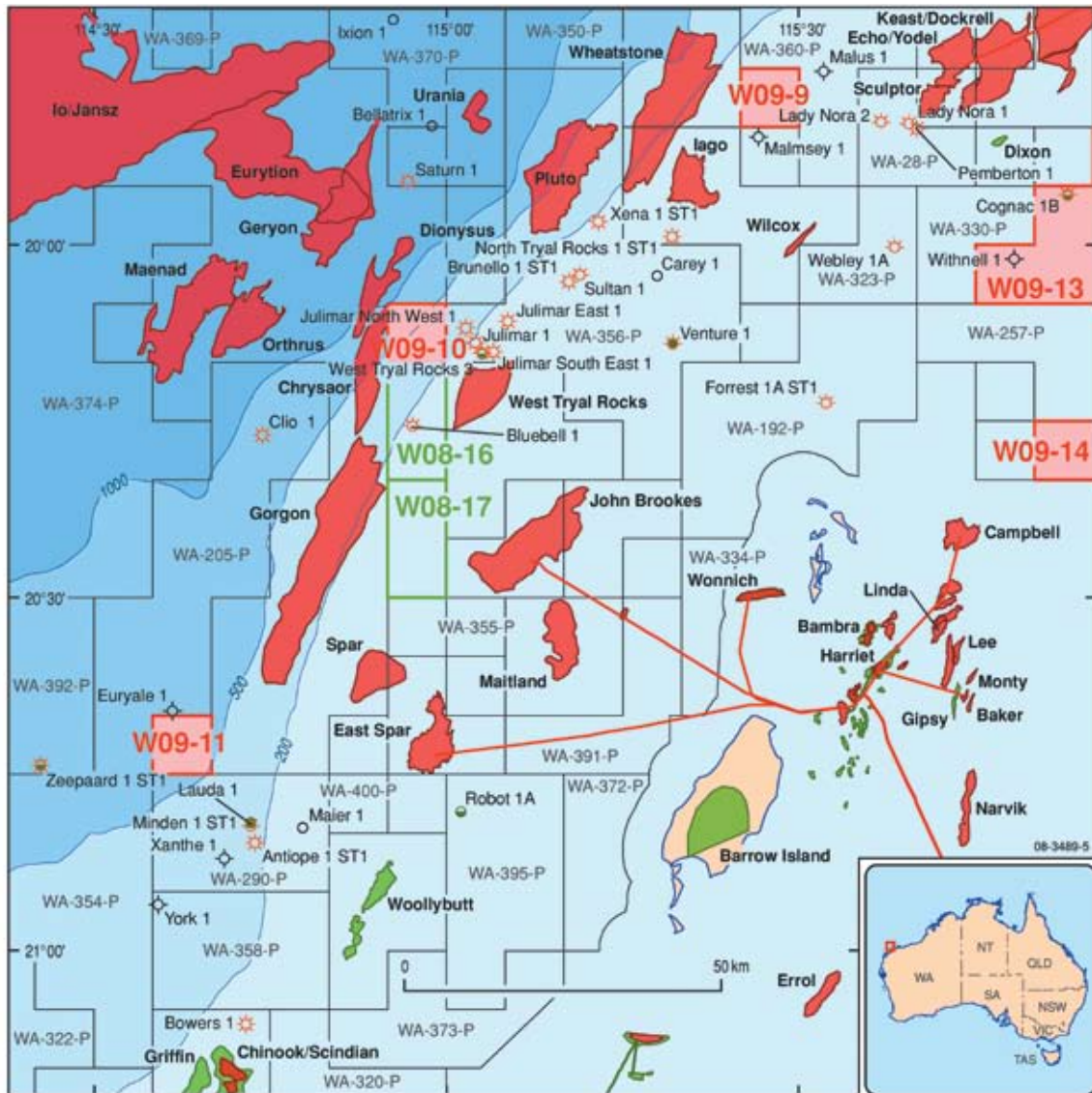
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- Under-explored Release areas; 5 wells test single play type.
- Untested Permo-Triassic tilted fault blocks and Cretaceous onlap plays.
- Thick Early-Middle Jurassic and Early Cretaceous section with source potential.
- Widespread minor oil and gas shows, small gas accumulation on Leveque Shelf at Psepotus 1, and inferred gas column at Archebus 1ST1.
- Good seismic coverage, including multiple regional seismic grids and 3D seismic survey.
- Water depths 800-2000 m in Release areas W09-1 and W09-2, 50-800 m in Release areas W09-3, W09-4 and W09-5.
- Special Notices apply, refer to Guidance Notes.



## Release Areas W09-9, W09-10 and W09-11, Rankin Platform, Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia

Bids Close – 3 December 2009



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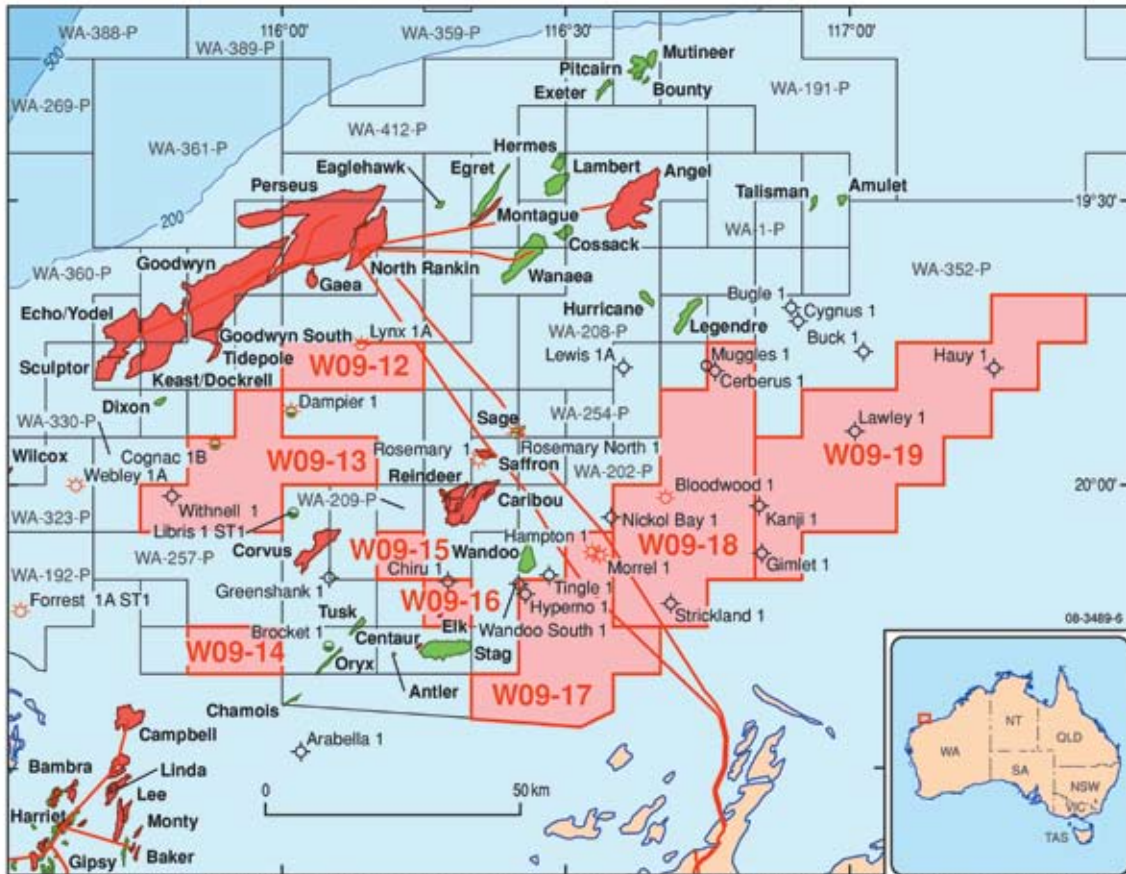
- Surrounded by major gas and oil accumulations.
- Active and successful exploration with established infrastructure.
- Proven Triassic and Cretaceous plays in adjacent acreage.
- Un-drilled 80 km<sup>2</sup> Release areas on the continental shelf and along the shelf break.
- Special Notices apply, refer to Guidance Notes.



### Release Areas W09-12, W09-13, W09-14, W09-15, W09-16, W09-17, W09-18 and W09-19, Dampier Sub-basin, Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia

Bids Close – 3 December 2009 for W09-12, W09-13, W09-14, W09-15 and W09-16

Bids Close – 29 April 2010 for W09-17, W09-18 and W09-19



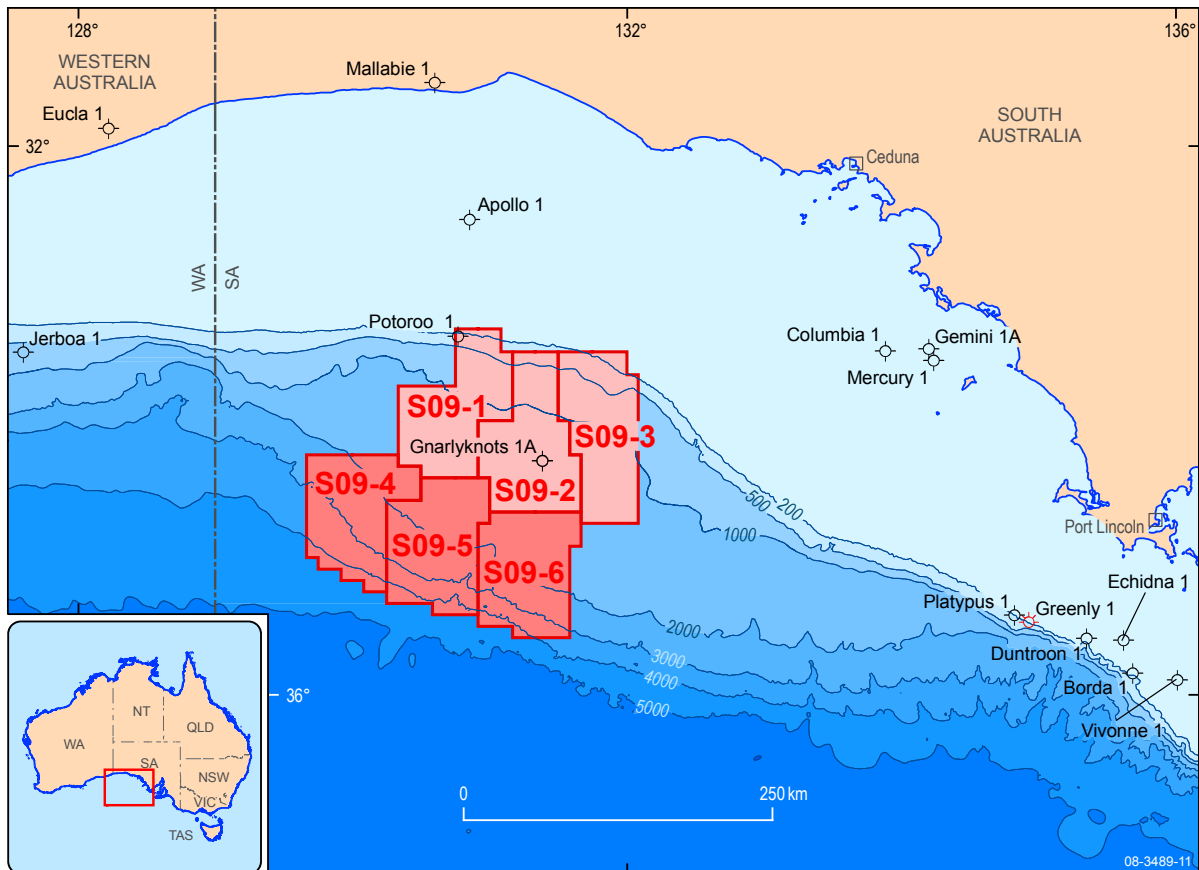
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- Wide selection of Release areas in oil and gas producing province.
- Shallow water area with established infrastructure.
- Overlying or adjacent to Jurassic depocentre with proven oil-prone Late Jurassic source rocks.
- Proven plays at multiple stratigraphic levels in the Triassic, Jurassic and Early Cretaceous.
- Special Notices apply, refer to Guidance Notes.



## Release Areas S09-1, S09-2, S09-3, S09-4, S09-5 and S09-6, Ceduna Sub-basin, Bight Basin, South Australia

Bids Close – 29 April 2010



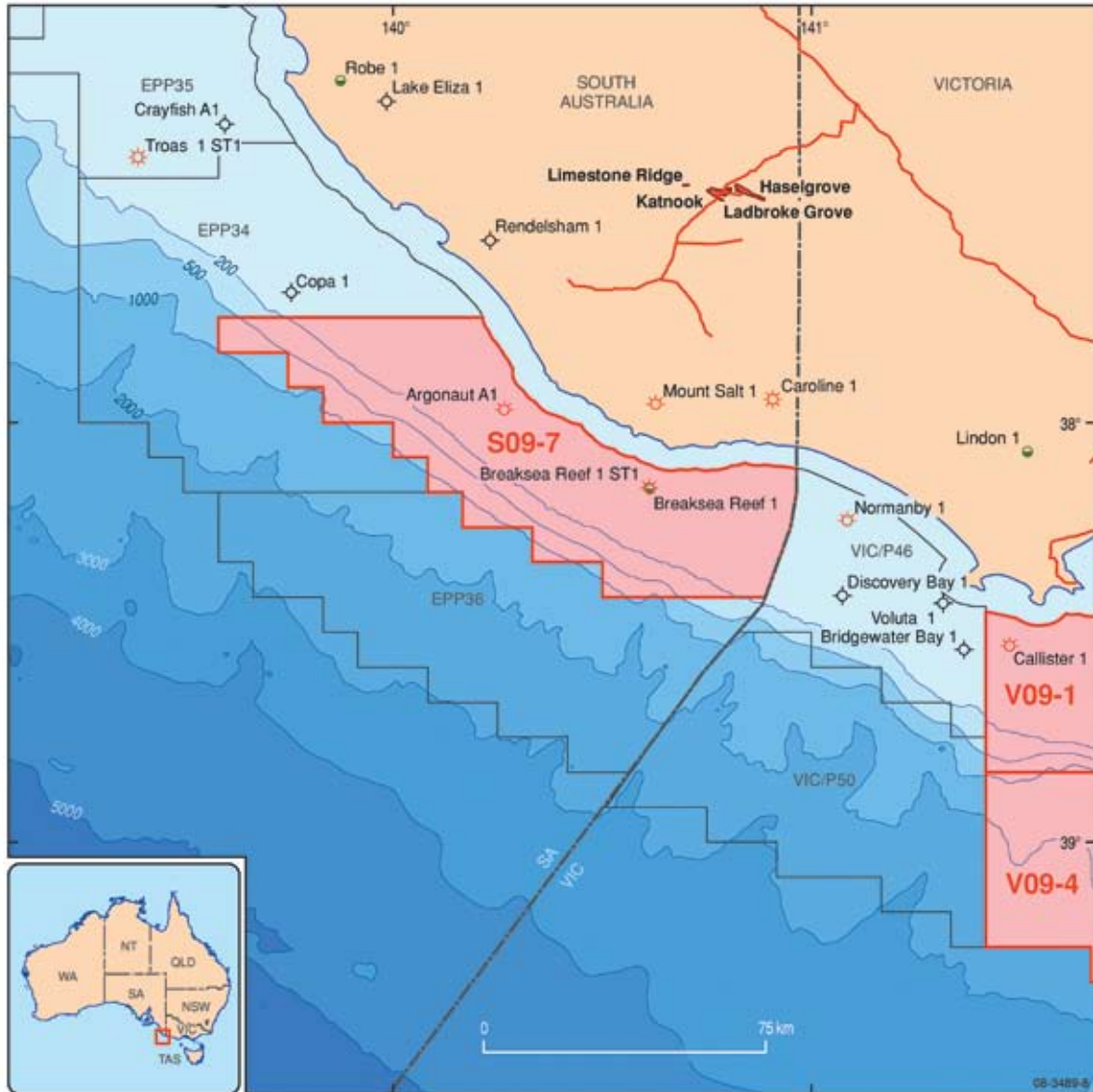
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- Designated Frontier Area tax concession applies to Release Areas S09-4, S09-5 and S09-6.
- Large frontier Jurassic–Cretaceous basin.
- Multiple potential source rock intervals including Cenomanian–Turonian oil-prone marine organic-rich rocks.
- Geochemical link between bitumen strandings and Cenomanian–Turonian potential source rocks.
- Large range of structural and stratigraphic plays in Late Cretaceous marine and deltaic successions.
- Reservoir and seal facies demonstrated.
- Water depths range from 130 to 4600 m.
- Special Notices apply, refer to Guidance Notes.



## Release Area S09-7, Western Otway Basin, South Australia

Bids Close – 3 December 2009



Where well symbol information is sourced from publicly available "open file" data, it has been provided by Geoscience Australia from Well Completion Reports. These symbols were generated from open file data as at 31 March 2009. Where well symbol information is not publicly available from titleholders' data, the information has been extracted from other public sources. Field outlines are provided by GPlnto, an Encom Petroleum Information Pty Ltd product. Field outlines in GPlnto are sourced, where possible, from the operators of the fields only. Outlines are updated at irregular intervals but with at least one major update per year.

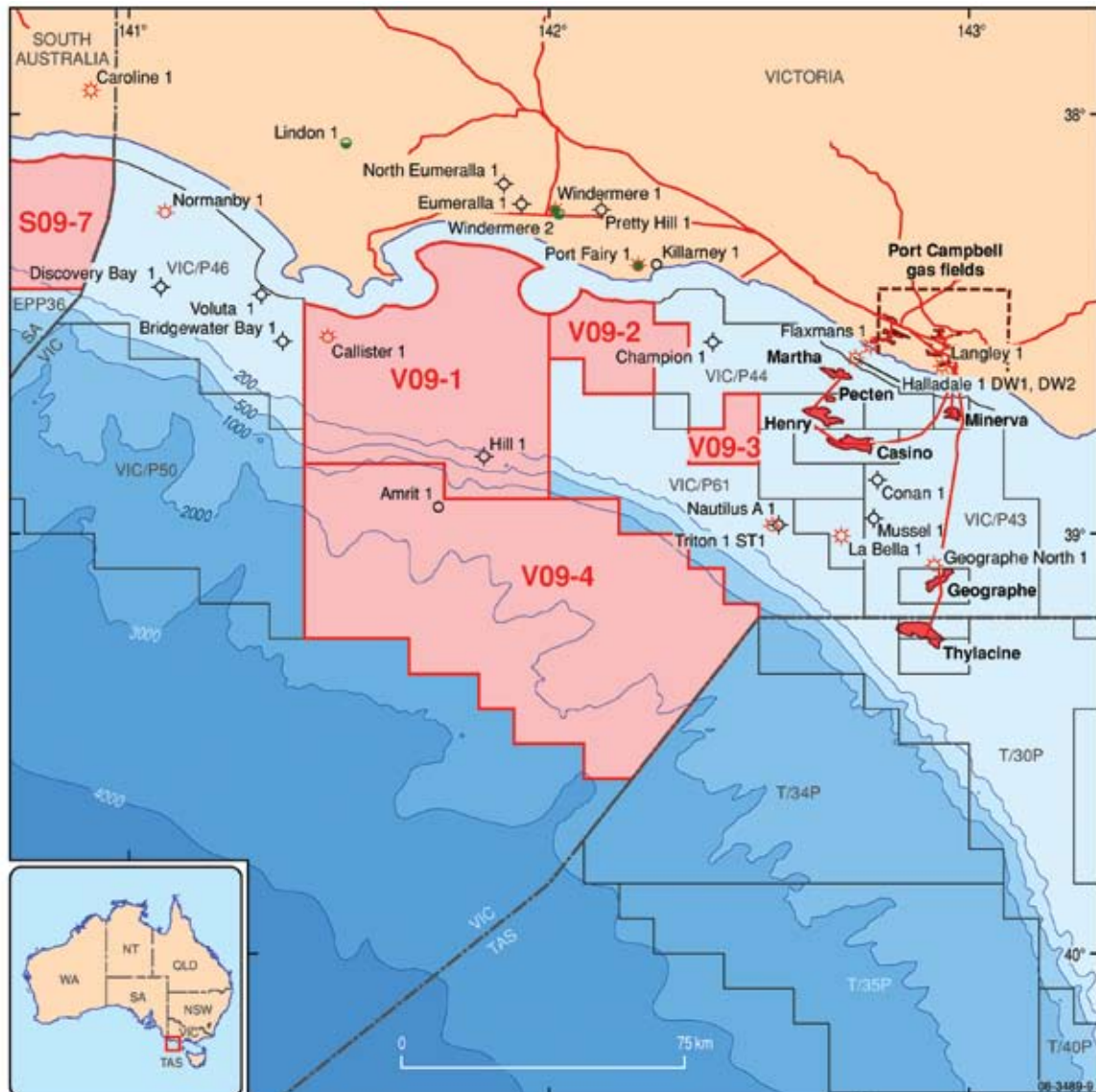
- Located adjacent to a producing onshore gas province.
- Majority of block in shallow water (<200 m).
- Bitumen strandings indicate access to oil prone petroleum system.
- Largely under-explored area.
- Access to existing onshore infrastructure and expanding energy market.
- Special Notices apply, refer to Guidance Notes.



## Release Areas V09-1, V09-2, V09-3 and V09-4, Central Otway Basin, Victoria

Bids Close – 3 December 2009 for V09-1, V09-2 and V09-3

Bids Close – 29 April 2010 for V09-4



Where well symbol information is sourced from publicly available "open file" data, it has been provided by Geoscience Australia from Well Completion Reports. These symbols were generated from open file data as at 31 March 2009. Where well symbol information is not publicly available from titleholders' data, the information has been extracted from other public sources. Field outlines are provided by GPInfo, an Encom Petroleum Information Pty Ltd product. Field outlines in GPInfo are sourced, where possible, from the operators of the fields only. Outlines are updated at irregular intervals but with at least one major update per year.

- Proven commercial gas province with ready access to an expanding infrastructure and growing energy market.
- Three blocks on the continental shelf in water depths generally less than 200 m on trend with recent discoveries.
- One deep water block offering untapped exploration potential, including liquids.
- Three petroleum systems identified in province.
- Modern seismic data available.
- Special Notices apply, refer to Guidance Notes.