

Santos facing another 10 days to restart production at flagship gas project

Teething troubles on Barossa FPSO offshore Australia have prolonged offshore commissioning



The BW Opal FPSO is located on Santos' Barossa field offshore Australia

Upstream, 7 April 2026. By Amanda Battersby

Australian independent Santos currently plans to restart production around 18 April from its flagship Barossa gas project offshore Australia.

Santos, in the last week of March, [temporarily halted production at its Darwin LNG project](#) in Australia's Northern Territory, as it continued to iron out teething troubles on BW Offshore's BW Opal floating production, storage and offloading vessel deployed.

The BW Opal is deployed at the Barossa field, which provides feed gas to the 3.7 million tonnes per annum Darwin LNG project.

The operator on Wednesday confirmed it is progressing the Barossa gas project to resume production at full rates.

Dry gas seals on the FPSO's compressors have been successfully replaced to allow production at full capacity, and heat exchangers are now being flushed and cleaned to remove blockages in preparation to recommence production with start-up currently expected around 18 April.

Three Barossa liquefied natural gas cargoes were sold in the first quarter of this year while output was constrained due to commissioning activities of the BW Opal FPSO.

The BW Opal is the centrepiece of the Barossa project with produced gas volumes being sent via offshore pipeline infrastructure to the upgraded Darwin LNG facility, also operated by Santos.

The floater has handling capacity of 850 million cubic feet per day of gas and 11,000 barrels per day of condensate.

Barossa's first LNG cargo had been scheduled before the end of 2025 but ultimately it was shipped in January.

FPSO owner BW Offshore, which is leasing the facility to Santos for 15 years, earlier confirmed the [BW Opal successfully achieved first gas last September](#) and had since progressed into the offshore commissioning and start-up phase.

"Technical adjustments and early-stage operational challenges are a normal part of this process, and production levels are expected to vary until the commencement of the contract term following Practical Completion," a BW Offshore spokesperson earlier told Upstream.

Practical Completion is now expected before the end of June, a slight delay from the previously touted first quarter of 2026.

Offshore.

BW Offshore restarts Barossa gas output, advances FPSO and floating wind pipeline

May 18, 2026... By *Jeremy Beckman*



On the BW Opal, the replacement of the compressor dry-gas seals was completed in March.

BW Offshore [reported first-quarter operational updates](#) highlighted by the resumption of gas production at the Barossa Field offshore Australia and continued momentum across its FPSO and floating wind project pipeline.

Barossa production restart

BW Offshore says gas production has resumed on the *BW Opal* at the [Santos-operated Barossa Field](#) in the Timor Sea.

Replacement of the compressor dry-gas seals was completed in March, but the temporary shutdown remained in force into April to complete cleaning of fouling in the heat exchanger trains.

Santos and BW Offshore are reviewing a recent root cause analysis of the fouling.

Jeremy Beckman has been Editor Europe, Offshore since 1992. Prior to joining Offshore he was a freelance journalist for eight years, working for a variety of electronics, computing and scientific journals in the UK. He regularly writes news columns on trends and events both in the NW Europe offshore region and globally. He also writes features on developments and technology in exploration and production.

Barossa FPSO passes key production, processing tests

BW Offshore is now focused on completing the remaining commissioning work for project operator Santos.

Jeremy Beckman Related To: BW Offshore

June 16, 2026



Following the restart of production in early May, *BW Opa* has continued gas production and export.

for the Santos-operated Barossa LNG project.

The test results have confirmed that production, processing and utility systems on the FPSO are operating in an integrated manner, BW Offshore reported, and can therefore deliver stable performance under production conditions.

Following the restart of production early last month, *BW Opa* has resumed gas production and exports.

The focus now switches to completion of remaining commissioning activities, and progress toward Practical Completion—marking the start of the long-term firm contract period for the vessel.

BW Offshore has [completed the interim performance test](#) for the *BW Opa* FPSO at the Barossa gas-condensate field in the Timor Sea, offshore northern Australia.

This is part of the commissioning program