



**Australian Government**

**Department of Industry  
Tourism and Resources**

## AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

MARCH 2004

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### **2004 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release**

New acreage for petroleum exploration off the Northern Territory, Western Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Victoria and Tasmania coastlines was released on 29 March 2004 by the Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Ian Macfarlane.

The announcement coincides with the Annual Conference of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association being held in Canberra.

The 31 areas being made available for bidding by the petroleum exploration industry include:

- 17 areas off Western Australia
- 3 areas off Northern Territory
- 2 areas off Victoria
- 5 areas off Tasmania
- 4 areas off the Ashmore and Cartier Islands.

These areas will be the principal release of offshore acreage this year. They will be subject to the work program bidding system and any subsequent exploration permits will be awarded for an initial term of six years.

Exploration permits arising from this release will be subject to a maximum of two five year renewals.

Bids for the areas will close either on 30 September 2004 or 31 March 2005, as described below.

Information on the release areas and application requirements can be found by visiting website [www.industry.gov.au/petexp](http://www.industry.gov.au/petexp) or requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mailing [petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au)

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## Areas currently available for bidding

	<b>Areas</b>	<b>Bid Closing Date</b>
2004 Release areas (1 <sup>st</sup> bidding round) [11 areas]	V04-1, T04-1 and W04-6 to 14	30 September 2004
2004 Release areas (2 <sup>nd</sup> bidding round) [20 areas]	V04-2, T04-2 to 5, AC04-1 to 4 NT04-1 to 3, W04-1 to 5 and W04-15 to 17	31 March 2005 (corrected)
Re-release areas (from 25 March 04 close)	To be announced in May/June	30 September 2004

Further information on these areas and application requirements can be found by visiting website [www.industry.gov.au/petexp](http://www.industry.gov.au/petexp) or by requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mailing [petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au).

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## Promotion of 2004 Australian offshore acreage

Departmental representatives will be available to discuss Australian offshore acreage matters at the following conferences:

**APPEA    Canberra, Australia    28-31 March 2004**  
(Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association)

**AAPG    Dallas Texas, USA    18-21 April 2004**  
(American Association of Petroleum Geologists)

A delegation from Geoscience Australia and the Department will visit Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul and Taipei throughout May, as well as Houston and Dallas in April to promote the release. We would be happy to try and organise private meetings with companies in conjunction with this itinerary.

To take advantage of this offer, please e-mail your interest for a meeting at:  
[petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au).

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## Geoscience Australia News

### **Petroleum Open Day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004.**

Following the 2004 APPEA Conference, Geoscience Australia will be hosting a Petroleum Open Day commencing at 9am at the Geoscience Australia building in Symonston, ACT. Participants at the Open Day will have an opportunity to see and discuss the new 2003-2007 work program, resulting from the Australian Government's 2003 Budget decision and allocation of \$61 million for Geoscience Australia's new and continuing petroleum initiatives. Representatives from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources; and the Department of Environment and Heritage will also be present to discuss and answer any questions you may have. If you are

interested in registering for this open day or would like further information please contact Jenny Maher, Acting Project Leader, Petroleum Promotion and Prospectivity Assessment Project, Geoscience Australia on +61 2 6249 9896 (phone), 61 2 6249 9980 (fax) or [Jenny.Maher@ga.gov.au](mailto:Jenny.Maher@ga.gov.au) (email). Registration details and proposed program are also available from the Geoscience Australia website: [http://www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/pet\\_openday.jsp](http://www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/pet_openday.jsp)

Preliminary results of the New Phase of Pre-competitive Data Acquisition from the **Bremer and Denmark** Sub-basins will be presented after morning tea on the day along with New Seeps & Signatures Project from the **Ashmore Platform and Yampi Shelf**.

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## Pipeline Licence Guideline

The Resources Division in the Department is currently reviewing the draft *Offshore Petroleum Guideline for the Grant of a Pipeline Licence* (Pipeline Guideline), in consultation with a Working Group comprising State/Northern Territory regulators and the petroleum industry. The objective of this Guideline is to facilitate the grant of offshore pipeline licences in compliance with the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967*.

The revised Pipeline Guideline is expected to better reflect the pipeline safety and management aspects specified in the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Pipelines) Regulations 2001* and the future role of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority in relation to offshore pipelines. For further information on the Pipeline Guideline, please contact Melissa Kelly on Phone: (02) 6213 7118; e-mail [melissa.kelly@industry.gov.au](mailto:melissa.kelly@industry.gov.au)).

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## Australian Petroleum Statistics

The *Australian Petroleum Statistics* monthly publication is now available via e-mail in Microsoft Excel format, with the February 2004 edition out shortly. The publication contains statistics on petroleum production, refining, consumption, and stocks. Subscriptions cost \$270 annually or \$27 per issue. Copies can be obtained by contacting Ms Rae Fisher on +61 2 6213 7967, or alternatively by e-mail at [rae.fisher@industry.gov.au](mailto:rae.fisher@industry.gov.au). Archived issues are now also available electronically.

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There is no charge for this service or the CD-ROM. This distribution list is not used for purposes other than notifying registered parties of relevant petroleum issues, as indicated above.

This occasional newsletter was prepared by the Resources Division, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, Canberra, Australia.

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