



Australian Government
Department of Resources
Energy and Tourism

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

DECEMBER 2007

New Australian Government Department

Following the recent federal election in Australia, the new Australian Government has finalised its administrative arrangements. The Resources Division will continue to administer offshore petroleum exploration and development under the new Australian Government Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

Offshore Exploration Acreage Proposed for Release in 2008

Thank you to all those companies who nominated acreage to be released in 2008.

The map attached to this edition of APN indicates the areas currently proposed for release in 2008. This preliminary advice is provided to allow industry greater lead time to assess areas and to facilitate acquisition of speculative seismic data.

Please note that the proposed areas have not been finalised and are still subject to change. The inclusion of additional areas is not expected. It is anticipated that the Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism will announce the 2008 Acreage Release package at the APPEA annual conference in Perth, Western Australia (6 to 9 April 2008).

Nominations for the 2008 release closed on 30 September 2007. All nominations for areas to be released are given serious consideration and are subjected to a rigorous assessment and short listing process. However, the release of a nominated area cannot be guaranteed.

Re-release of 2007 Areas

Three areas did not receive bids in the first bidding round of the 2007 Acreage Release that closed on 18 October 2007 and have been re-released at the discretion of the relevant Joint Authorities. See next item below for application closing dates for these areas. The areas are:

NT07 – 2
W07 – 4 and
V07 – 1

The re-released areas are open to all interested bidders under the work program bidding system. The areas are also open for bidding by any company who wishes to fulfil its obligations under a good standing arrangement after cancellation of an exploration permit.

Summary of Areas Currently Available for Bidding

Release/round	Areas	Bid Closing Date
2007 Acreage Release, second closing round [20 areas]	V07-2 to 3; NT07-3 to 5; W07-8 to 15 and 18 to 21 W07-1 to 3	Thursday, 17 April 2008 Thursday, 17 April 2008 * Friday, 18 April 2008 * Friday, 18 April 2008
Re-release of 2007 areas (from first closing round) [3 areas]	V07-1 NT07-2 W07-4	Thursday, 17 April 2008 Thursday, 17 April 2008 * Friday, 18 April 2008

** Please note that these closing dates have changed from the dates previously published. The amended dates will be published in the Western Australia Government gazette in the New Year.*

Further information on these areas and application requirements can be found by visiting this website: www.industry.gov.au/petexp or by requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mail: petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au

Promotion of Australian Offshore Acreage

Representatives from Geoscience Australia will be available at NAPE to discuss technical aspects of the Australian offshore acreage releases, including the forthcoming 2008 release. For APPEA, representatives for both DRET and GA will be available to discuss exploration policy and technical matters.

NAPE Houston, Texas, USA 31 January – 2 February 2008
Includes NAPE International Forum on 31/01/07
(North American Prospect Expo)

APPEA Perth, WA, Australia 06 - 09 April 2008
(Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association)

Please visit the Australian booth if you are at either of these events. We would also be happy to organise private meetings with companies in conjunction with these events. Please contact us at E-mail: petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au

Do you want to advertise in the 2008 Acreage Release Package?

The acreage release package on CD-ROM is now distributed to over 1,300 people in the industry, both domestically and internationally (including USA, Canada, Japan, Korea, China, India, Europe and the UK).

Support industries, such as seismic companies, are able to advertise their products and services that are *applicable to the areas in the release package*.

Companies interested in advertising in the 2008 release package should register their interest (no obligation) by e-mailing: petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au Advertising is placed on the CD-ROM, and can be hot-linked to your company internet address. The release package may also be accessed on the DITR website which will include the hotlinks.

The cost will be A\$2,200 (incl 10% GST), for the equivalent of up to 4 x A4 pages or A\$1,100 (incl 10% GST) for 2 x A4 pages. Expressions of interest should be received by 12 January 2008, with PDFs of the material to be forwarded to the above e-mail address by 19 January 2008.

Geoscience Australia News

Geoscience Australia has recently released 3D Models of the 2007 Offshore Acreage Release, available at <http://www.ga.gov.au/oceans/ga3d.jsp> . These six 3D models display the acreage areas, surrounding features and infrastructure in their true three dimensional locations.

NOPSA - Review of Operations

A review of the operations of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority is scheduled for mid February 2008. The review will examine progress in bringing about improvements in the occupational health and safety of the offshore oil and gas industry since NOPSA commenced operations on 1 January 2005.

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism announced the review at the 2007 APPEA National Oil and Gas Safety Conference. Issues raised in industry submissions will be put to the industry expert review team comprising Mr Magne Ognedal, Mr Derek Griffiths and Mr Bruce Lake, with consultation commencing on 19 February 2008. The terms of reference are available at www.industry.gov.au search for NOPSA. If you are interested in participating in the review please contact Ms Linda Tindall-Mather on phone (02) 6213 7259 or email linda.tindall@industry.gov.au .

A separate review of NOPSA funding arrangements will also be conducted in the first half of 2008.

Australian Petroleum Statistics

The September 2007 issue of *Australian Petroleum Statistics* is now available, containing statistics on petroleum production, refining, consumption, stocks, imports and exports. OECD petrol and diesel prices for the 2nd quarter, 2007 are also available. Subscriptions cost \$270/year or \$27 per issue. Copies can be obtained by contacting Ms Esther Harvey by Phone +61 2 6276 1104, E-mail: psims@industry.gov.au

Archived issues are now also available electronically.

Are you on our distribution list?

If you or your colleagues would like to receive future annual Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Releases on CD-ROM and be notified when new editions of this Newsletter are issued, simply forward your address, phone/fax and e-mail details to the e-mail address below.

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.

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