

cubic feet), with about 50% of this discovered since Jackson. Oil production commenced in ATP 259P in February 1984 from the Jackson and Jackson South Fields. There is, as yet, no gas production from the permit. During 1984, 22 exploration wells are proposed in ATP 259P with a similar level of activity anticipated in 1985. Seismic recording in the permit during the corresponding years will be about 8400 km and 7000 km respectively.



RECENT EXPLORATION IN ATP 259P

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The discovery of the Jackson Oil Field in 1981 in the Naccowlah Block of Authority to Prospect (ATP) 259P was a significant milestone for exploration in the permit. Jackson was the first commercial oil accumulation in the Eromanga Basin section in Queensland. Its size justified the construction of an oil pipeline from Jackson to Moonie, and it provided a major incentive for oil and gas exploration in south-west Queensland.

Prior to the Jackson find, 30 exploration wells had been drilled in the ATP 259P area, with the first well drilled in 1959. This activity resulted in the discovery of 10 gas fields, and one field containing oil and gas. All these discoveries were in the Cooper Basin sequence, apart from a gas field in the Eromanga Basin sequence.

Since the Jackson discovery, an additional 30 exploration wells have been drilled in ATP 259P resulting in the further discovery of 8 oil fields, 2 gas fields, and 4 fields containing oil and gas. These discoveries have been both in the Cooper Basin and Eromanga Basin sequences.

At the end of 1983 about 25 300 km of seismic had been recorded in ATP 259P. Reflecting an upsurge of activity in the permit during recent years, about 60% of this recording occurred during the period 1980-1983 inclusive. To date, all discoveries have been made in the southern half of the permit. The Naccowlah Block has been the most prospective area for Eromanga Basin oil accumulations, while most significant gas discoveries are located in the Aquitaine B and Innamincka blocks.

Currently, proved and probable original oil in place in ATP 259P is estimated at 190 million stock tank barrels (MMSTB), virtually all of which (99%) has been discovered since the Jackson discovery well. In the proved and probable category, original gas in place is estimated at $16 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3$ (570 billion