

## Two Canterbury Basin Petroleum Exploration Permits Awarded

Two new offshore Canterbury Basin petroleum exploration permits have been awarded in the Government's latest permit tender round.

Two Australian explorers Tap (New Zealand) Pty Ltd and AWE New Zealand Pty Ltd have been awarded a 6647 km<sup>2</sup> permit (PEP 38259) in the southern section of the basin off the Otago coast from north of Oamaru to Dunedin.

The 10,950 km<sup>2</sup> predominantly offshore northern permit (PEP 38258), from south of Timaru to south of Christchurch, was awarded to a consortium of Indo-Pacific Energy (NZ) Ltd and Durum Energy (New Zealand) Ltd.

Announcing the new permits the Associate Minister of Energy, the Hon Harry Duynhoven, said, "The Canterbury Basin offers a real potential for a second petroleum producing province with an existing gas/liquids market and the potential for gas-fired electricity generation in the South Island." Tap and AWE have proven track records of finding and bringing to development major offshore hydrocarbon fields. Perth-based Tap (New Zealand) Pty Ltd holds interests in six onshore Taranaki permits. Sydney-based AWE New Zealand Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Australian Worldwide Exploration Ltd holds interests in three Taranaki petroleum permits including the recent offshore Tui oil discovery.

Tap and AWE's work programme provides for the reprocessing of 1500 km of existing seismic data, reservoir characterisation and geochemical studies with special emphasis on the Galleon South and Barque prospects. A well is planned in the third year of the permit.

Indo-Pacific Energy has interests in 10 New Zealand exploration permits, one of these being the adjoining onshore Canterbury permit PEP 38256. Indo-Pacific Energy and Tap are partners in the recent Kahili onshore Taranaki gas-condensate discovery. Durum Energy, a subsidiary of Vancouver-based TAG Oil Ltd, is associated with Indo-Pacific Energy in two local exploration permits, one in onshore Canterbury and the other in offshore Taranaki.

Indo-Pacific Energy's work programme involves the compilation and evaluation of maturation and source rock data, the determination of a hydrocarbon charge model, basin modelling of oil expulsion efficiencies and migration modelling, reprocessing of 250 km of seismic data,

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remapping of stratigraphic and structural traps along the Clipper drilled sub-basin, with possible acquisition of 3D seismic data and a well drilled inside four years. ■