

## Austral Set To Develop Cheal FEED Plan

**A**ustral Pacific has presented a Front End Engineering and Development plan for the Cheal oil field, located in New Zealand's Taranaki Basin, which will be commissioned in the next few months.

The plan includes the redevelopment of the Cheal-A site to allow all existing and future wells on the site to be produced simultaneously and enable additional capacity on site for producing eight to ten oil wells. The plant will have a capacity to produce 3,000 bopd using jet pumping techniques.

New Zealand based company Independent Technology Ltd is expected to build the plant, which will be able to produce to stock tanks. The product will then transported to the Omata tank farm before being sent to Australia for processing.

Austral has also been able to secure a drilling slot in February 2006 to drill the first well from the Cheal-B site, to be situated approximately 1 km north of the Cheal-A site. Subject to the approval of the Cheal and Cardiff joint

ventures, a 3D seismic survey will be acquired in April 2006, covering the combined full extent of the Cardiff and Cheal structures.

The Cheal production field targets the Mount Messenger and Urenui sands and produces a waxy crude oil and also gas. Oil is currently transported to the Waihapa treatment station for sale. Gas is to be used to generate electricity on-site, with any excess to be sold into the national grid. Pipeline links are under consideration. ■