

Late February Start For \$20 MM Marie Seismic Survey



The state of the art Western Trident vessel will carry out the 503 km² Marie survey in the Gippsland Basin, starting in late February. The survey is expected to take about 2-3 weeks to complete, depending on the weather.

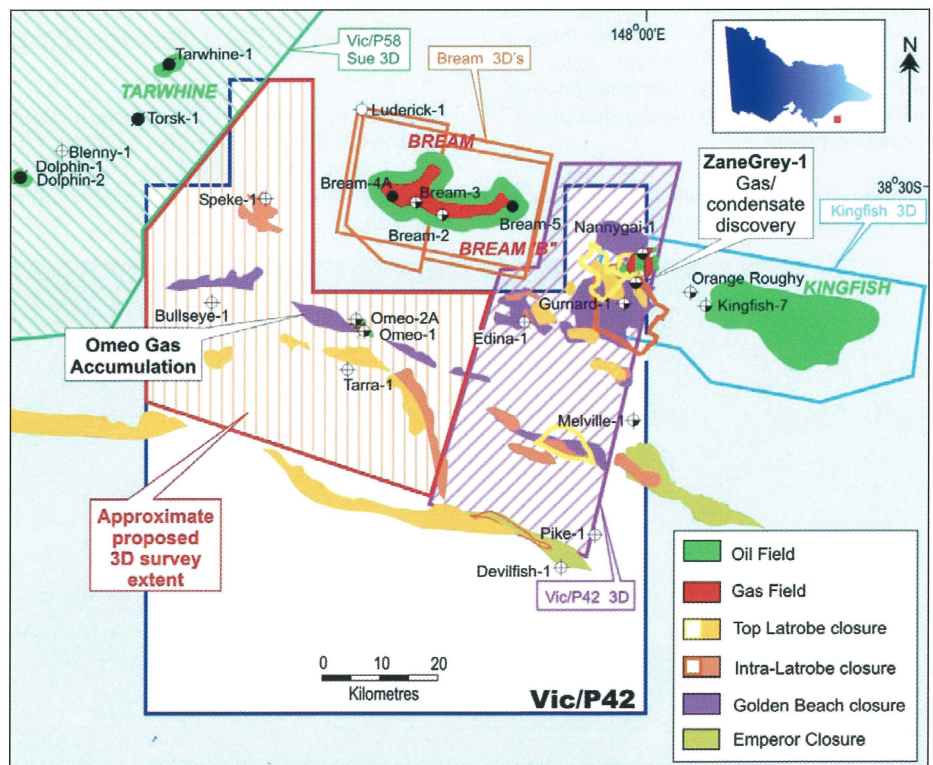
A 3D seismic survey, estimated to cost up to \$20 million, is set to begin in late February over the Marie prospect in the offshore Gippsland Basin by the Western Geco vessel Western Trident.

The survey, which will cover an area of 503 km², is being funded by Apache Northwest as part of its farmin requirement of the Vic/P42 permit, joint venture partner Bass Strait Oil Company (BAS) Managing Director, Andrew Adams, said.

“The Marie survey will be the first 3D seismic data recorded in the western and northwestern areas of the Vic/P42 permit and will complete continuous coverage between existing 3D surveys”, Adams said. “The survey will address a number of features identified on older 2D seismic, including leads analogous to the nearby Dolphin and Perch producing oil fields as well as the 1983 Omeo gas and condensate discovery.”

Adams said BAS will be fully funded through the Marie survey in the first phase of Apache’s farmin. The second phase requires Apache to fully fund the drilling of an exploration well to complete its obligations and earn a 60% interest and operatorship in the permit. BAS and Inpex would each retain a 20% interest.

He said the Western Trident is fitted with state-of-the-art solid streamer recording technology. Recording operations are expected to take



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between 2-3 weeks, depending on the weather. The Vic/P42 permit is adjacent to Kingfish,

Australia’s largest oil field and the Bream oil and gas field. ■