

Trans-Orient To Probe North Island Shales

Trans-Orient Petroleum plans to examine the potential of older fractured oil-rich shales as a new play on the east region of the north island, between Napier to just north of Gisborne.

The company has been awarded a 6600 km² permit (PEP 38349) at southern Hawkes Bay from just north of Napier to south of Woodville and a 2147 km² permit (PEP 38348), north of Gisborne. The company holds a 100% interest in both permits.

Trans-Orient said its new acquisitions are a culmination of several years of analysis of the east coast and represents a strategic position in an under-explored basin that provides high-potential exploration and an unconventional resource opportunity.

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Trans-Orient said a high-upside play has emerged in the older fractured carbonaceous Waipawa and Whangai shales. “These rocks are distinguished as the source of the significant quantities of hydrocarbons being generated in the basin, but have not yet been target drilled to examine their reservoir potential”, a company statement said.

The company previously explored in the basin from 1998 through 2000, and identified numerous leads and prospects, some defined to near drill status. “While most of the presently identified structures are developed at the Miocene sandstone play level, Trans-Orient’s previous work in the area also identified structures containing these oil-rich shales.”

“With improved drilling capabilities and modern completion technology, the potential for developing this unconventional resource has improved significantly.” Trans-Orient said its initial stage of exploration work will consist of ground geochemistry surveys to high-grade the best prospects for further seismic work and to obtain a more regional picture of oil and gas concentration.

Additional seismic surveys will also be acquired and the best-ranked prospects in each permit area will then be selected for an upcoming drilling campaign. ■