

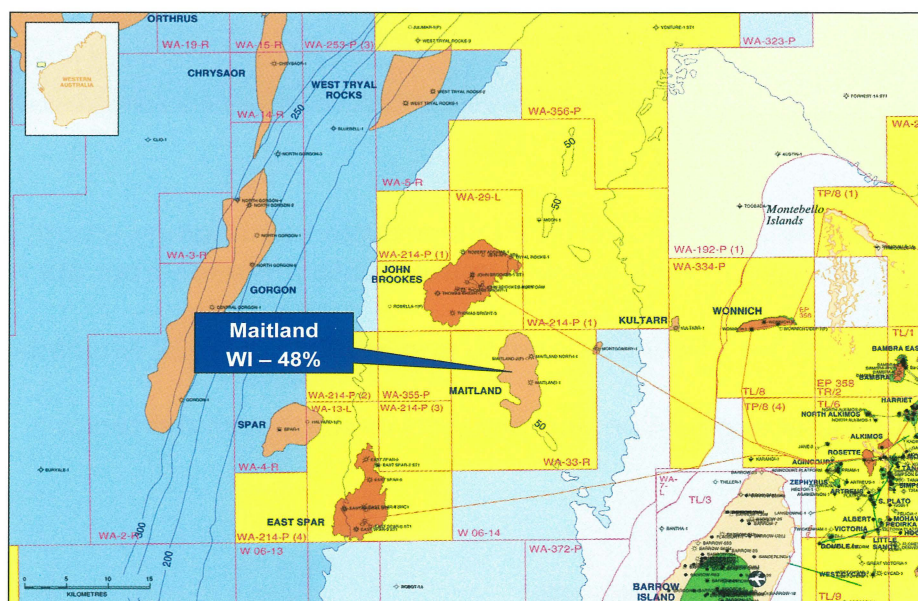
Apache Gives Maitland Field Another Chance

The Maitland-2 well in the Carnarvon Basin was drilled in early September, marking the first significant step in the development of the Maitland gas field since an appraisal well was drilled ten years ago.

The Maitland field has remained undeveloped for the past decade due to the results of two earlier wells drilled in 1996 and 1992, which revealed relatively low gas flows as well as low permeability and deliverability in comparison to other nearby offshore gas fields.

But new analyses performed by operator Apache Energy estimated that the field has a gross gas column thickness of at least 23 m. Apache Energy has identified the Maitland field as being a favourable investment due to the close by Asian market and the strengthening domestic gas price.

Hydrocarbon shows were observed through the reservoir interval and wireline logging operations are underway. Preliminary analysis indicates that the reservoir is gas charged. After the completion of wireline operations Maitland-2 is planned to be sidetracked in order to collect conventional core over the reservoir interval. A horizontal sidetrack,



Map of the Maitland gas field off the WA coast.

Maitland-3H, will then be drilled and flow tested to establish potential development production rates.

in which Maitland-2 is located. Santos holds 18.71%, Tap Oil holds 22.47%, and Pan Pacific holds the remaining 10%. ■

Apache holds 48.82% of permit WA-33-R,