

Onshore Taranaki Basin Blocks On Offer

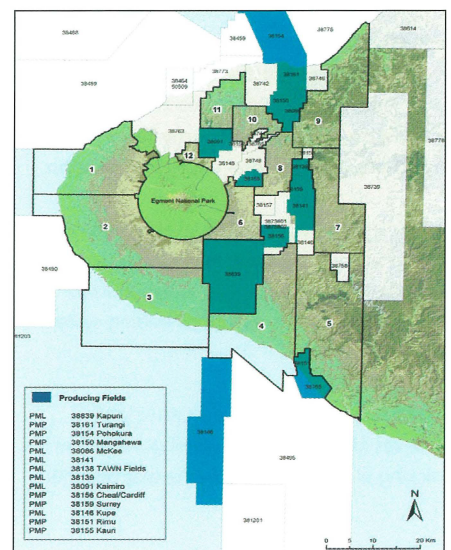
New Zealand's Associate Energy Minister, Harry Duynhoven, has announced the release of three additional blocks for oil and gas exploration in the onshore Taranaki Basin.

The offer means a total of 12 blocks are available in the region, situated on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island. Oil and gas exploration permits in the area opened for bidding in November, 2007.

"I'm pleased to be able to extend the area for

exploration, with the addition of these blocks which were not available at the time of the initial offer", said Duynhoven.

"The Labour-led government is promoting economic growth both in Taranaki and on a national scale by encouraging domestic and international investment in the energy sector. Through Crown Minerals, we have provided technical data which has encouraged investors, some of whom are new to New Zealand, to examine the onshore Taranaki blocks offer in closer detail", he said. ■



Taranaki blocks on offer