

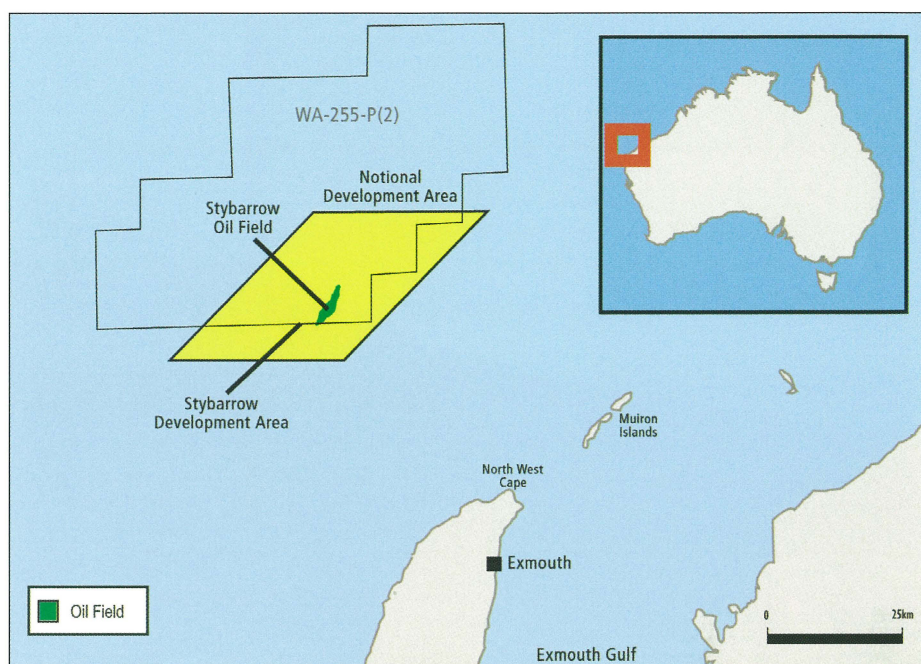
## BHP Billiton's Stybarrow Project Exceeding Forecasts

**B**HP Billiton's Stybarrow project in offshore northwest Australia has achieved sustained production levels at planned capacity. It was brought on stream in November 2007, approximately two months ahead of schedule.

Stybarrow, a joint venture with Woodside Energy Limited (50%), has been producing consistently at design capacity of 80,000 bopd. One well has been operating at near record-setting rates for Western Australia, producing approximately 32,000 bopd. The project involves a nine well subsea development and FPSO facility, the *Stybarrow Venture*.

The development uses advanced real time monitoring technology delivering high standards of control and management of the flow from individual wells. Downhole and subsea tree pressure and temperature gauges allow engineers to manage the drawdown, maximising production and ensuring careful management of the reservoir. The sophisticated monitoring equipment also improves the operating efficiency of the FPSO topside facilities.

BHP Billiton's J. Michael Yeager, Chief Executive Petroleum, is very pleased with the overall performance. "The outstanding results from



*The Stybarrow development, located in WA-255-P(2) off the northwest coast of Western Australia*

Stybarrow's initial operations reflected high standards of professionalism and technology application. The wells have ramped up to full capacity in record time and the processing capability on the vessel has been highly reliable", he said.

Stybarrow is located in production licence block number WA-32-L in the Exmouth Sub-basin, at a water depth of approximately 825 m. Discovered in 2003, the Stybarrow and nearby Eskdale fields have estimated recoverable oil reserves of 60-90 MMbbl. ■