



THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO MONTARA AND MACONDO

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Bruce Lake is Managing Director of Vermilion Oil and Gas Australia, which owns and operates the Wandoo production facility and field off Dampier, WA. Lake has been an APPEA board member since 2008 and has chaired the APPEA Health Safety and Operations committee since then, having been an active member of the committee for much of the previous 10 years. He is also the Chair of the APPEA/Industry Taskforce response to the Montara and Macondo incidents. Lake has more than 30 years of engineering experience, in the Australian and New Zealand oil and gas industries, in operational and management roles. He has worked onshore and offshore for both majors and independents.

ABSTRACT

Two major offshore accident events in the last two years have rightly focussed the world's attention on the safety and environmental performance, and the oil spill response capacity of the offshore oil and gas industry. One of those incidents occurred right here in Australia.

Ours is a capital intensive, high risk, high technology industry and we operate in tough environments. If things go wrong the consequences can be catastrophic. Therefore it is imperative that we operate as a high reliability industry – we just cannot afford to get it wrong.

This presentation will look at what the Australian oil and gas industry has done since Montara and Macondo to ensure that process safety, integrity and risk control are central to our business culture and way of operating.

There are hard lessons, and understanding and applying these lessons is the industry's top priority. We have, and will continue to, engage with our international colleagues to maximize our capacity to learn and improve.

It will also highlight the fact that industry can never take the view that we have reached 'best practice' - we must continuously review and update our practices, and this approach reflects the dynamic, constantly changing environment in which we operate.