

ASX RELEASE

FEBRUARY START FOR 3D SEISMIC SURVEY

Recording of the 503 sq km 'Marie' 3D seismic survey in offshore Gippsland Basin permit Vic/P42 is due to commence late February. The Vic/P42 permit is adjacent to Kingfish, Australia's largest oil field, and the Bream oil and gas field.

Bass Strait Oil Company Ltd ("BAS") will be fully funded through the Marie survey in the first phase of a farmin by Apache Northwest Pty Ltd ("Apache"). Apache has budgeted up to \$20 million for the survey.

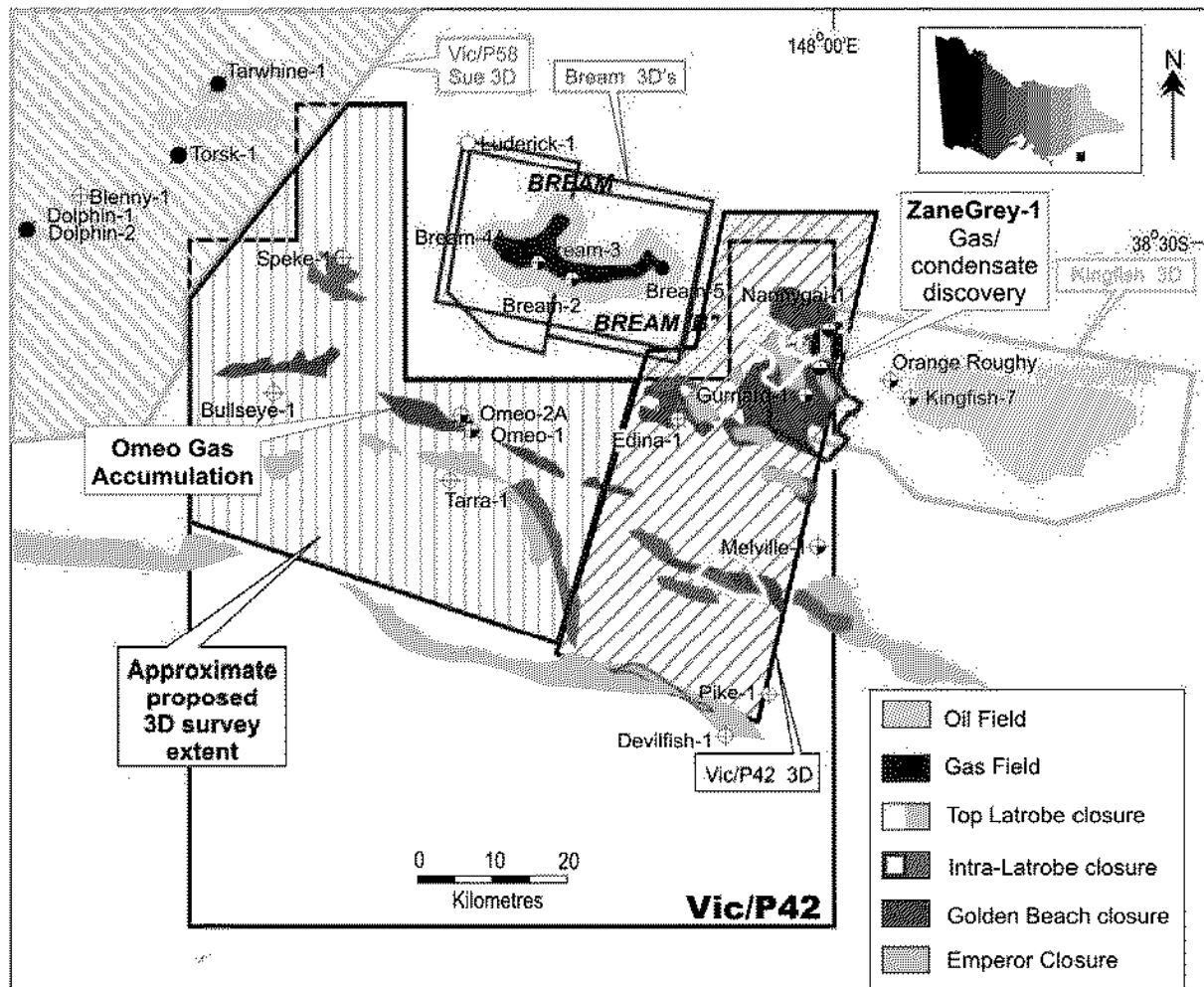
The second phase of the farmin requires Apache to fully fund the drilling of an exploration well in order to complete its obligations and thereby earn a 60% interest and operatorship in the permit. BAS and Inpex would each retain a 20% interest.

Data acquisition for the Marie survey will be carried out by Western Geco using the vessel Western Trident, which is fitted with state-of-the-art solid streamer recording technology. Recording operations are expected to take between 2 and 3 weeks depending on weather conditions.



Western Trident

The Marie survey will be the first 3D seismic data recorded in the western and northwestern areas of the Vic/P42 permit and will complete continuous coverage between existing 3D surveys. The survey will address a number of features identified on older 2D seismic, including leads analogous to the nearby Dolphin and Perch producing oil fields, as well as the 1983 Omeo gas and condensate discovery.



Location map of Vic/P42 permit and Marie 3D seismic survey

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