



Media release

Beach begins \$1 billion campaign to keep gas flowing into Victoria

Reference #21

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Beach Energy says works are underway to prepare the Black Watch drilling site near Nirranda South, kickstarting a major investment campaign to develop natural gas resources for Victoria's energy needs.

Civil works have now commenced so that the site can be ready for the arrival and mobilisation of the drill rig, which is expected to move into place and commence drilling one of two onshore-to-offshore wells later this year.

Drilling at Black Watch is expected to take approximately three months, with the Enterprise well to the west of Port Campbell to follow once all site preparations are complete.

In addition, planning for Beach's offshore drilling campaign with up to nine wells is underway, with seabed assessments to determine the suitability of offshore gas well locations to commence in October.

All up, Beach's investment (with its joint venture partner OGOG which has a 40% stake) in the region will reach over \$1 billion over the next three years.

Beach's Community Manager for Victoria Linda French said that safety is the most important consideration throughout all phases of Beach's campaign.

"The safety of our people and the protection of the environment are always our number one priority, which is why we use proven technologies for our onshore to offshore drilling – the same used in the previous wells drilled at Nirranda South," Linda said.

"Leading up to the drilling phase will be the period of highest activity, and we will keep the community informed as the phases on site progress, as well as our plans to minimise impacts – such as not operating heavy vehicles during school bus times.

"Ultimately, the aim of this campaign is to keep more natural gas flowing into the Otway Gas Plant, which supplies approximately a quarter of Victoria's daily gas needs."

Beach will hold two further community information sessions in October to ensure the local community is kept informed about Beach's plans and have the opportunity to work with Beach in relation to any potential issues.

Community Information Sessions

- Wed 2 October, 2PM to 6PM - Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club, 1 Cairns Street, Port Campbell
- Thurs 3 October, 9AM to 1PM - Peterborough Community Hall, Macs Street, Peterborough

Key facts

- Beach will drill two onshore-to-offshore wells, and up to nine offshore wells over the coming two years.
- All wells are targeting natural gas fields and will use conventional drilling techniques (they will not be fracture stimulated “fracked”).
- The Black Watch well is on the existing site of the Halladale and Speculant wells, drilled by Origin Energy in 2014/2015. Black Watch and Enterprise will use the same extended reach drilling method to target the gas deposit which is located up to 5.5 kilometres offshore.
- Drilling from onshore to offshore gas reserves is not part of the Victorian onshore moratorium.
- Beach is an Australian ASX listed company and employees approximately 40 staff at the Otway Gas Plant.
- Beach has over 50 years’ experience in drilling complex, high integrity wells including directional drilling.
- Beach is also a major sponsor of the Port Campbell Surf Lifesaving Club and undertakes a number of other important community partnerships in the region including the Heytesbury and District LandCare Network - with some exciting new partnerships to be announced soon.

For further information contact the following

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