



Media statement

Black Watch drilling completed

Reference #11

Date Monday 27 April 2020

Beach Energy has completed drilling the 7.2 kilometre Black Watch onshore-to-offshore well near Nirranda South, with no reportable injuries or environment incidents.

The well will now undergo testing which involves periods of flaring, a standard process to remove final drilling fluids, and to measure production and pressure information for well assessment.

Frank Groen, Otway Production Manager, said the flaring will be conducted during the first two weeks of May using highly controlled procedures to meet strict safety and environment conditions.

“Once started, there will be a number of separate flaring events, running for several hours at a time over a one-week period,” Mr Groen said.

“The glow of the flames during flaring may be visible from a long distance, especially at night-time and if there is substantial cloud cover.”

Mr Groen said that even during the COVID-19 crisis, Beach will continue to support the local economy through its operations wherever possible.

“We rely heavily on support from local suppliers including earth works, plumbing and electrical, maintenance and a wide range of support services.

“Whilst our drilling activities are highly specialised and require national and international expertise, we always look to local suppliers who provide significant support for our projects.”

Gas from the Black Watch well will be processed at the Otway gas Plant to supply Victorian homes and businesses.

“At the peak of operations, we support about 90 jobs, plus of course the ongoing workforce at the Otway Gas Plant.”

“Our onshore to offshore program moves to the Enterprise exploration well, which is expected to commence drilling in the second half of 2020,” Mr Groen said.

For more information about Beach’s operations, visit www.beachenergy.com.au/vic-otway.

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