Media release

Otway Gas Plant shutdown boosts local businesses

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Local cafes, hotels and businesses are booming throughout the Port Campbell region thanks to a planned major maintenance program at Beach Energy's Otway Gas Plant.

The 2026 Integrity Shutdown is one of the most significant maintenance programs undertaken at OGP, with more than 38,000 labour hours planned across operations, maintenance and contractor teams. The program follows more than a year of preparation and runs for about one month.

The extensive program includes integrity inspections, maintenance activities, offshore works, major equipment replacements, and electrical and control system upgrades, installation of new equipment focused on improving the plant's integrity, reliability and long-term performance.

At its peak, about 240 people will be on site completing detailed integrity, maintenance and inspection work.

Twenty-five locals from Port Campbell and surrounding areas are working specifically on the shutdown, alongside OGP's usual local crew of about 25 people.

For local cafes, restaurants, supermarkets, accommodation providers and suppliers, that influx of people is translating into more than $500,000 of additional business throughout the local economy.

Beach Energy's Works & Campaign Manager, John Peel said: "It's a big program of work and there are a lot of people involved in making it happen. It's great to see that activity also flowing into the local community, supporting local people, businesses and suppliers while we focus on getting the shutdown done safely and successfully."

Owner of Timboon Provedore & Café, Liz Withycombe said the shutdown had provided a significant boost.

"We have been feeding the staff at the shutdown for Beach Energy. And it has been a huge increase into our business."

The café, along with The Fat Cow, is helping cater for the shutdown, with about 20 morning tea and 30 lunch orders each day.

Port Campbell is also seeing the impact of additional people coming through the town.

Port Campbell Hotel publican, Will Haig said shutdown and pre-work lead up to it had brought a welcome increase in customers, while also providing employment for local people.

“It’s great to see so many locals getting work out of the shutdown. We’ve seen a substantial increase in customers at the hotel and from our experience, everyone who’s come in has been really respectful and great to have around. They’re welcome back anytime.”

Jimmy Lacey from 12 Rocks Café said: “There has been a lot of activity with the shutdown going on. There are heaps of people coming in and that's really good for our business.”

While the shutdown represents a significant maintenance program for OGP, the increased workforce provides a broader flow-on for the surrounding region, from local employment and contractors through to hospitality, retail and suppliers.

As work is completed, the shutdown workforce will gradually reduce from its peak of about 240 people. While the additional activity in the region will begin to ease, the shutdown will leave OGP with important integrity and reliability improvements to support the plant’s long-term performance. The shutdown is scheduled to conclude early November.

About Beach Energy

Beach Energy is an ASX listed, oil and gas exploration and production company headquartered in Adelaide, South Australia. Founded in 1961, Beach today has oil and gas production in five basins across Australia and New Zealand and is a key supplier of gas into the Australian East Coast gas market.

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