



Australian Government
Department of Resources
Energy and Tourism

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

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Offshore Greenhouse Gas Storage Acreage Release

The Minister for Resources and Energy, the Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, announced on 27 March 2009 the release of ten offshore areas for the exploration of greenhouse gas storage sites. This is the first release of greenhouse gas acreage in the world.

The release areas are located in the following basins:

- Three areas in the Gippsland Basin, Victoria
- Two areas in the Torquay Sub-basin, Victoria
- One area in the Otway Basin, South Australia
- Two areas in the Vlaming Sub-basin, Western Australia
- Two areas in the Petrel Sub-basin, Northern Territory

The present acreage release relates only to work program bidding. The document, *Guidance Notes for Applicants*, provides information for potential bidders on:

- What is required in bid applications, including bid closing dates and application lodgement details;
- The criteria by which bids will be assessed;
- Permit conditions that apply once an assessment permit has been granted; and
- Special notices outlining the rights and interests of other users (for example, special environmental considerations or defence requirements) in the areas.

The *Guidance Notes* and details of well data and geophysical data, location maps and block listing for release areas are available on the Departmental website at:

http://www.ret.gov.au/RESOURCES/CARBON_DIOXIDE_CAPTURE_AND_GEOLOGICAL_STORAGE/CARBON_CAPTURE_AND_STORAGE_ACREAGE_RELEASE/Pages/default.aspx.

Bid applications, together with the work program and supporting data, should be submitted to:

General Manager
Low Emissions Coal and CO₂ Storage Branch
Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
GPO Box 1564
Canberra ACT 2601

Due to the high level of certainty required by industry, bids for acreage will not close until two months after the promulgation of the regulations to support the legislation, *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse gas Storage Act 2006*. The regulations are expected to be finalised in the third quarter of 2009.

If you have queries or need further information on the acreage release process, please contact Steve Tantala (Tel: +61 2 6213 7934; email: steve.tantala@ret.gov.au) or Willie Senanayake (Tel: +61 2 6213 6626; email: willie.senanayake@ret.gov.au).