

## The history of BP in New Zealand

Here's a brief snapshot of our history in New Zealand...

1946	The British Petroleum Company of New Zealand is established – 51 percent owned by the New Zealand Government and 49 percent by Anglo-Iranian Oil. The National Party opposition is against the Government being involved
1949	BP begins selling petrol to most parts of New Zealand
1955	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government sells its shares in British Petroleum to the company</li> <li>• BP joins forces with Shell and Todd Brothers Ltd to begin the search for indigenous sources of crude oil. The partnership discovers natural gas and condensate (a light crude oil) at Kapuni in south Taranaki, and later the Maui Field, 35 kilometres off the Taranaki coast</li> </ul>
1957	The British Petroleum Company of New Zealand changes its name to BP New Zealand Ltd
1964	The Marsden Point oil refinery opens
The 1970s	BP invests in a range of ventures unrelated to the supply and marketing of fuel and lubricants, in order to supplement its income-earning capacity at the time when crude oil supplies were in some doubt. The company becomes involved in salmon farming on the shores of Stewart Island and an extensive forest farm project on the North Island's east coast
1972	BP New Zealand takes a 60 percent interest in Europa, acquiring the company's marketing and refining interests. The combined group is New Zealand's largest marketer of petroleum products. The two companies continue to serve the market independently
1973	OPEC raises the price of crude oil from US\$2.90 to US\$11.65 a barrel
1974	Petrol prices in New Zealand double within a year to 30 cents a litre
1979	Iranian revolution – the price of crude oil rises more than US\$35 a barrel. New Zealand introduces carless days, restricted service station hours and an 80kph speed limit
1981	CNG and LPG become available in New Zealand
1983	Leaded regular petrol is introduced to New Zealand
1986	Unleaded petrol becomes available to New Zealand drivers

1988	New Zealand's oil industry is deregulated
1989	BP and Europa service stations acquire the new BP livery that is familiar to motorists today.
1996	Leaded petrol is phased out in New Zealand
1999	BP becomes the first oil company in New Zealand to open a solar powered service station, at BP Papakura in Auckland
2000	BP introduces a new environmentally friendly petrol called BP Ultimate and a low sulphur diesel.