

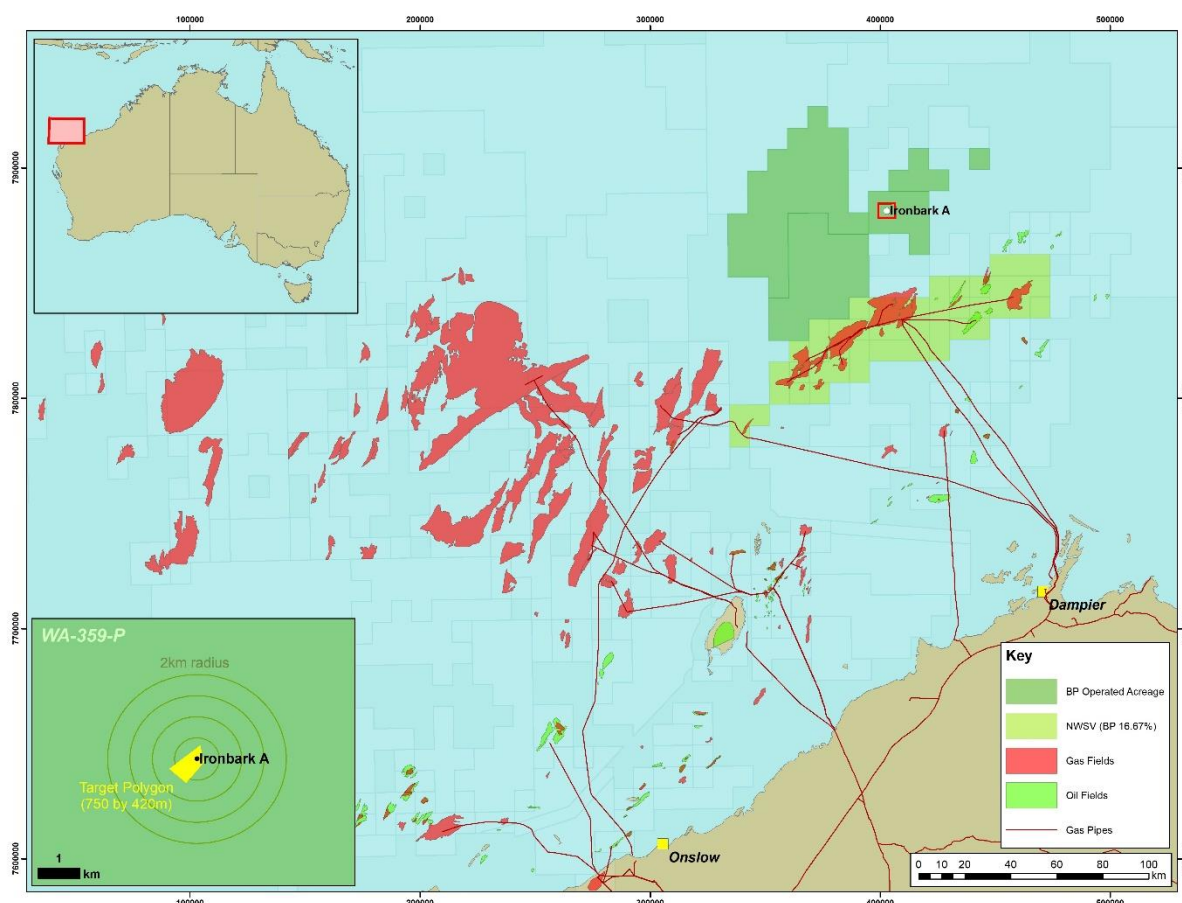
# BP Ironbark exploration drilling consultation

As part of BP’s public consultation process, the below information provides an overview of BP’s proposed activity in the Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia. For updates on any future developments, please register your details\* [using this link](#).

*\*Please note: your name may be included in BP’s Environmental Plan (EP) consultation documentation, which will be submitted to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) and be viewable to the public.*

## 1. Activity

BP is proposing to conduct exploration drilling activities for a single exploration well in the Carnarvon Basin off Western Australia’s north-west coast. The proposed Ironbark-1 exploration well is located in Permit WA-359-P, in Commonwealth waters.





## **2. Joint venture arrangement**

The WA-359-P Joint Venture participating interests are:

- BP (operator) – 42.5%
- Cue – 21.5%
- Beach – 21%
- New Zealand Oil & Gas – 15%

## **3. Duration of the activity**

Drilling activities are planned to commence in Q3 of 2020, although depending on Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) availability, may commence between Q3 of 2020 and Q2 2021.

Drilling activities are expected to take approximately 70-90 days (excluding weather and operational delays). Drilling and support activities will typically be conducted on a 24-hour basis.

## **4. Longitude and latitude of the activity**

Ironbark-1 exploration well coordinates are as follows:

Long: 116° 04' 35.80 / Lat: 19° 09' 34.01"

## **5. Distance from shore**

The Ironbark-1 exploration well will be drilled within Permit WA-359-P, located approximately 200km from shore, in water depths of 300m.

## **6. Supply base information**

Existing shore-based supply facilities in Dampier will be used to support the exploration drilling activities. Aspects of the activities to be conducted at the shore-based facilities is not within the assessment scope of the EP. Similarly, aspects associated with vessels transiting to and from the operational area and the shoreline do not form part of the assessment scope of the EP; these fall under the jurisdiction of AMSA and are managed under the Navigation Act 2012.

## **7. Exclusion zones**

A 500m Petroleum Safety Zone will apply around the MODU for the duration of the drilling activities.

## **8. Vessel types and rig**

Drilling will be undertaken using a MODU. Two to three support vessels, as well as helicopters will be required to support the exploration drilling activities.

## **9. Activities forming part of the exploration drilling program**



- MODU positioning and anchoring.
- Drilling of the well.
- Installation and testing of the blow out preventers.
- Cementing of the well.
- Evaluation of the well using electric logging and Vertical Seismic Profiling.
- Well abandonment.
- Post-drilling ROV survey.
- Support operations, including vessel and helicopter movements.

## **10. Planned impacts considered in the EP**

- Displacement of other marine users from the physical presence of the MODU and support vessels.
- Seabed disturbance from positioning / anchoring the MODU and drilling the well.
- Attraction of transient marine fauna to light emissions from MODU and vessel operations.
- Avoidance of transient marine fauna to underwater sound emissions from logging (VSP), MODU operations, vessel operations, and helicopter operations.
- Potential chronic effects to sensitive receptors from atmospheric emissions from MODU and vessel operations.
- Potential toxic and smothering effects to sensitive receptors from planned discharges, including drilling fluids and cuttings, cement, completion, spacer and other fluids, BOP control fluids used for the drilling of the well; and cooling water and brine, sewage, greywater and putrescible waste, and firefighting foam from MODU and vessel operations.

## **11. Unplanned risks considered in the EP**

- Risk of fishing equipment damage from the physical presence of the wellhead
- Risk of interaction with marine fauna from vessel and MODU operations.
- Risk of change in ecosystem dynamics from introduction of invasive marine species.
- Risk of injury or toxic effects to marine fauna from accidental releases, including waste, small volumes of hazardous liquids (chemicals or hydrocarbons (diesel)), and drilling fluids from a riser disconnection or failure of drilling equipment.
- Risk of smothering or toxic effects to marine fauna from accidental release of diesel in the event of a vessel collision

BP also assessed the impacts and risks of the various spill response strategies that could be implemented in the event of a loss of well control.

## **12. Environmental setting of the activity**

To conduct a comprehensive evaluation of impacts and risks associated with the exploration drilling activities, BP has considered the values and sensitivities of the following regions:



- Bonaparte Gulf,
- Kimberley,
- Pilbara,
- Gascoyne,
- Midwest; and.
- Southwest, and
- Christmas & Cocos Islands.

This includes a range of receptors, including:

- Presence of listed threatened or migratory species or threatened ecological communities identified in EPBC Protected Matter searches.
- Presence of Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) and habitats critical to the survival of the species.
- Presence of important behaviours (e.g. foraging, roosting or breeding) by fauna, including those identified in EPBC Protected Matter searches.

And considerations of:

- The importance of an area to other receptors (e.g. nursery habitat, food source, commercial species).
- Their importance of an area to human activities (e.g. recreation and tourism, aesthetics, economy).