



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information #43**

Date: 23 September 2009 1045 WST

CLARIFICATION RE INCORRECT MEDIA REPORT

A media report today claimed PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP) has “extended the deadline for completing the complex repairs” to the *West Atlas* rig ... “it would take at least another three weeks”.

This is wrong.

The relief well drilling is continuing on its originally announced schedule to complete the operation, inject heavy mud into the existing well bore and stop the flow of gas, oil and water from the well head platform.

As reported by PTTEP yesterday (Incident Information #42):

Drilling on a relief well to stop the flow of oil, gas and water from the Montara well head platform in the Timor Sea **remains on track** ...

The total operation – to drill to a depth of 2.6km to intersect the existing well and allow for the injection of heavy mud to stop the flow – **commenced on 14 September 2009. It is expected to take about three-and-a-half weeks from that date to complete the initial relief well operation.** This will be followed some 24 hours later by a specialist crew boarding the *West Atlas* rig and well head platform to further secure the situation by plugging the well bore. This operation is expected to take about another week.

At an open media conference on Saturday, 12 September 2009, PTTEP Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins stated:

“It is expected to take about 3-and-a-half weeks for the relief well to intersect with the original well... to stop the leak.

“A day or so after that... a team will go back onboard the *West Atlas* rig and the well head platform to further secure the well by plugging the well bore. This should take about another week.”

In a written media statement issued on 12 September (Incident Information #33) it was stated:

“It is expected to take about three-and-a-half weeks for the relief well to intersect with the original well... to stop the leak.

“It normally takes up to 72 hours to start drilling after arrival on site... ,”... José Martins said.

“He said after... stopping the flow, crews would later reboard the Montara platform... further secure the well through the placement of plugs within the well... This second phase of the operation to plug the well was expected to take another week.”

Mr Martins said nothing has changed in PTTEP’s assessment of the operation since those statements were issued.



Relief Well Status – Final phase of drilling due to start next week

Updating the status and progress of the relief well drilling operation, PTTEP said today that the insertion of a 13³/₈ inch casing into the well was completed and cemented into place yesterday (22 September).

Drilling of a 12¹/₄ inch hole to a depth of 2,300m is scheduled to commence tomorrow (24 September).

Following this, the final phase of the drilling operation will see a 9⁵/₈ inch liner inserted into the well before drilling an 8¹/₂ inch hole from 2,300m to the final depth of 2.6km. This is currently scheduled to start next week.

Media Contact Roley Myers – 0423 552 965

NOTE: This media statement and all previous statements issued by the company can be viewed at www.au.pttep.com.