



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information # 74**

Date: 22 October 2009 1515 WST

PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP) reports that during drilling activities today to stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea, it recovered a piece of cement believed to be from the cement surrounding the casing of the target well (see attached photo).

This indicates the drilling team on board the *West Triton* is within centimetres of the leaking well.

PTTEP will run survey tools overnight to allow the very best chance of intercepting the well tomorrow (Friday 23 October).

Depending on the results from the electro magnetic survey tools, and if daylight hours allow, PTTEP will attempt to intercept tomorrow to stop the leak.

Once the leaking well is successfully intercepted, heavy mud will be pumped from the *West Triton* down into the relief well, displacing the oil, gas and water and stopping the flow.

After a 24-hour safety stand off period, a team from ALERT Well Control will then reboard the Montara well head platform and the *West Atlas* rig to further secure the well by inserting two plugs into the previously leaking well bore. This phase of the operation is expected to take about another week.

PTTEP reinforced its commitment to pay the full costs of the clean-up operation being undertaken by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The company has met all costs presented by AMSA to date and will continue to pay for all AMSA costs associated with the clean-up.

Photo caption: An 8cm section of cement believed to be from the cement surrounding the casing of the target well, indicating drillers are within centimetres of their target.

Media Contact Mike Groves – 0411 828 073

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

