



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS**  
**Incident Information # 77**

*Date: 25 October 2009 11:20 WST*

PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP) reports preparations to make a new pass to intercept the leaking well in the Montara field are continuing today.

The next attempt to intercept the 25 centimetre diameter steel well casing, located 2.6 kilometres below the sea bed, is now likely to occur on Tuesday (27 October).

Late yesterday, the “whipstock” drilling assembly failed whilst being run in the relief well hole, causing an unscheduled delay.

The team aboard the *West Triton* drilling rig is today retrieving the “whipstock” assembly and will then continue preparations to make a new pass to intercept the well casing.

The timing of the new pass to intercept the well casing will depend on drilling progress today and tomorrow.

When the well casing is 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.

**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

A “whipstock” drilling assembly is a long, steel cased wedge-like device used during the drilling process to deflect the drill bit in a predetermined direction.

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This media statement and all previous statements issued by the company can be viewed at [www.au.pttep.com](http://www.au.pttep.com).