



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS**  
**Incident Information # 78**

*Date: 27 October 2009 1300 WST*

PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP) remains committed to taking the safest and best approach to stop the Montara oil leak in the Timor Sea, reviewing all available options.

PTTEP Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins said the company had continuously consulted with industry throughout this incident and will continue to do so.

“Yesterday we conducted a further review of current options with industry colleagues as part of our ongoing assessment of the approaches used in this complex and difficult task and to review the next steps in drilling the relief well,” Mr Martins said.

“The consensus was PTTEP’s approach was the most appropriate in the circumstances.

“We have previously stated, and the industry has acknowledged, this is a complex operation. We are attempting to steer accurately a relief well through deep, hard rock formations. This has taken longer than expected for technical reasons and not through a lack of resources or commitment.

Late Saturday, the whipstock drilling assembly – frequently used by drillers to force the drill bit in a pre-determined direction – became stuck while being run in the relief well hole, causing an unscheduled delay and necessitating additional steps in the drilling process before another intercept attempt can be safely and accurately made.

As a result, the next attempt by the drilling team on board the *West Triton* drilling rig to intercept the 25 centimetre diameter steel well casing, located 2.6 kilometres below the sea bed is now likely to occur later this week and may require a further attempt to intercept the target.

PTTEP is working with international experts including ALERT Well Control, using proven technology and drilling practices which have worked elsewhere around the world many times.

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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).