

Apache Energy Limited (Apache), on behalf of the Van Gogh joint venture participants, is proposing to develop an oilfield, known as Van Gogh, off the Exmouth coast.

Theo-2/3H Wells

The 'Stena Clyde' semi-submersible drill rig began drilling (spudded) the Theo-2/3H wells on the 21st of May. Drilling will continue for about a month, with production testing to take place for two days at the end of drilling (late-June), resulting in flaring. The flare may be visible from the mainland, especially at night, but is no cause for concern.



The Stena Clyde semi-submersible drill rig

Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival 2007

Apache was a proud sponsor of this year's Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival, and congratulates the festival's organising committee on a tremendous effort. This was Apache's first year of involvement at the festival, and we are keen to return next year. Apache manned a booth at the corporate tent, and we were run off our feet explaining the project to locals and distributing promotional material. Apache also sponsored the successful sponsors' cocktail function on the Friday night, which was a great event.



Apache's information booth in the corporate tent at the festival

Exmouth Volunteer Marine Sea Rescue Group

Apache proudly provided financial support, to the tune of \$20,000, to the Exmouth Volunteer Marine Sea Rescue Group for the purchase of their new rescue vessel, the 'Ningaloo Endeavour'.

Apache attended the official launch of the vessel at the Exmouth marina on the 6th of May, which was christened by the Shire of Exmouth's new President, Ronnie Fleay.



Christening of the 'Ningaloo Endeavour' rescue vessel

Stakeholder Consultation Meetings

The first of Apaches' Stakeholder Consultation Group (SCG) meetings took place on the 15th of May in Exmouth, and was attended by a diverse group of 15 people, comprising local and state government representatives, the Cape Conservation Group, Exmouth Chamber of Commerce and the North West Cape Exmouth Aboriginal Corporation among others. Likewise, the first of the Perth SCG meetings took place on the 17th of May, attended by government representatives. Informative discussions were enjoyed at both meetings. The next SCG meetings are likely to take place in late June.



The first Exmouth SCG meeting at the Novotel Ningaloo Resort

Employment Opportunities

Significant interest from the Exmouth community has been expressed regarding the potential to work offshore with the development.

More Information

For more information about Apache's activities in the region, please contact:

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While Apache does not directly employ personnel for the drill rig or the FPSO (rig and vessel contractors are responsible for recruitment), it has identified the relevant avenues through which locals may seek offshore work, either with the petroleum industry in general, Apache or the Van Gogh Field Development specifically. Please see the Van Gogh website for details.

Van Gogh Field Development Update

On the 3rd of May, a major project milestone was reached when Apache signed the contract with ProSafe to build and operate the proposed FPSO. An existing tanker, the 'MT Kudam', will be converted into the FPSO in Singapore. It will take in the order of 14 months to complete this conversion, which when finished, will be able to store 650,000 barrels (bbl) of oil (103,000 m³). More information about ProSafe is available on the Van Gogh website.



Apache signs the contract with ProSafe to build and operate the FPSO