# PETREL EXPLORATION DRILLING

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Who is conducting the Petrel exploration drilling and why?**

A. Eni is an international energy company with a history of operating in Australia for over 20 years and, through its subsidiary Eni Energy Bonaparte Pty Ltd, is the titleholder of the Petrel Gas Field (Petrel) in the Bonaparte Basin in North Western Australia.

Eni is proposing to undertake exploration drilling within the Petrel retention leases in the Bonaparte Basin to support potential future Petrel exploration and development activities.

**Q. What is the exploration drilling for?**

A. The objective of the initial exploration well, and options for additional exploration and/or appraisal wells, is to acquire greater understanding of the Petrel area reservoirs and the potential for future field development.

**Q. When and where will the drilling for each proposed well take place?**

A. The initial well is currently forecast for mid-2028 in a single-well campaign. Subsequent drilling campaigns for up to three additional wells, may be undertaken within the remaining five-year validity of the Environment Plan (EP). These wells may be drilled individually or in campaigns of multiple wells.

The final location of the exploration or appraisal wells is not currently known until geophysical and geotechnical surveys have been undertaken; but will be located within the Operational Area.

Final confirmed timing of the activities will be determined by a number of factors including EP approval, weather considerations, rig availability, project requirements, etc.

**Q. What activities are involved in the exploration drilling?**

A. Eni plans to drill between one and four exploration and/or appraisal wells over several campaigns. The activities covered under the EP are grouped into:

- Drilling activities including well evaluation, contingency activities and permanent or temporary abandonment of the well(s);
- Well integrity monitoring of temporarily abandoned (TA) wells if required; and
- Permanent abandonment of any TA wells.

**Q. What are contingency activities and how will they impact the overall drilling activity?**

A. Contingency activities may be required in the event of technical or operational issues during the drilling activity. Contingency activities are not expected to cause additional risks or impacts but may generate additional volumes of drilling fluids, cuttings, cement or seabed disturbance.

**Q. What support activities take place during the drilling activities?**

A. Support activities for the drilling operations includes positioning, crew changes, supply runs and medivacs using the following support vessels:

- MODU (rig)
- support vessels (a specialised ship used to sustain and service offshore drilling operations)

- helicopters; and
- remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

**Q. What is the expected duration of the drilling activity?**

A. A typical exploration or appraisal well is expected to take up to 150 days per well, allowing for contingency, sidetracks, well testing and permanent abandonment.

Subsequent wells could be undertaken at any time within the five-year validity of the approved EP as single or multi-well campaigns.

The initial exploration well is forecast for mid-2028.

**Q. What is temporary abandonment vs permanent abandonment of a well?**

**A.** At the conclusion of drilling and evaluation, each well will be abandoned using one of the following methods:

- Permanent abandonment (plugged and abandoned (P&A)) – wells no longer required for evaluation, appraisal or development; or
- Temporary abandonment – wells requiring assessment for potential future purpose.

Where a well has a potential future purpose, the well may be temporarily abandoned for up to three years, in accordance with good industry practice. Any well that is temporarily abandoned will be maintained through a well integrity monitoring program.

**Q. How big is the operational area and where is it?**

A. The Operational Area is a defined area within which all petroleum activities associated within the EP occur, and which allows impact assessment of those activities. It includes the extent of all planned activities within the EP and is defined to cover the spatial extent of future exploration and appraisal within the Operational Area. The Operational Area is defined as the boundary of the licenses WA-6-R and NT/RL1.

The location of the exploration or appraisal wells is not currently known until geophysical and geotechnical surveys have been undertaken; but will be located within the Operational Area.

The Operational Area is located wholly within Commonwealth waters. There are no islands or other emergent features within or adjacent to the Operational Area and the water depth ranges between 89m and 107m.

The general transit of the MODU and vessels to and from the Operational Area is not considered a petroleum activity and is excluded from the scope of the EP. These activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Navigation Act 2012 (Cth). A map of the area can be found at the project landing page petreleni.com.

**Q. Will you need to access areas outside the Operational Area for the activities?**

A. The petroleum activities covered under the EP will occur wholly within the Operational area.

The general transit of the MODU and vessels to and from the Operational Area is not considered a petroleum activity and is excluded from the scope of the EP. These activities will be undertaken in accordance with the *Navigation Act 2012* (Cth).

**Q. How far is the activity from shore?**

A. The Petrel field is located approximately 240 km west of Darwin and 287km north of Wyndham in water depths between 84m and 107m. The boundaries of the retention leases are ~ 154km to the closest point of the NT coast line near Wadeye and ~144km from the closest point on the WA coastline.

**Q. Have potential impacts on the environment by the proposed exploration drilling activities been assessed?**

A. Eni conducted an Environmental Impact Identification workshop to confirm and assess impacts, risks and management measures for the activity. A table of risks and assessments generated based on existing knowledge and experience, is available as part of the activity flyer and on the landing page at petreleni.com.au.

A detailed list of the identified risks, assessment and mitigations can be found in the Environment Plan (EP), which will published by the regulator for public consultation prior to acceptance.

**Q. How do you assess and monitor the impact to the environment in which the proposed drilling activities will be conducted?**

A. The assessment of the environmental impact covers three areas:

1. the Operational Area – a defined area within which all petroleum activities associated within the EP occur, and which allows impact assessment of those activities. It includes the extent of all planned activities within the EP.
2. the Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA) – the area within which the operations activities could have an environmental impact. The outermost boundary of the EMBA (for this activity) is based on the combined mapping of accidental hydrocarbon release across hundreds of simulations across a range of wind and ocean current conditions. (The loss of hydrocarbons to the environment is highly unlikely, and Eni implements a range of preventative measures to minimise the risk.)
3. the Zone of Potential Impact (ZPI) – the moderate exposure zone representative of an area of biological impact from hydrocarbons

The results of this analysis can be found on the EMBA map shown on the surveys project landing page petreleni.com.au and activity flyer, along with an explanation of the three areas of assessment.

**Q. What environmental impact assessments have been undertaken?**

A. Eni has assessed the environmental impacts and risks for the proposed activities covered under the Petrel Exploration Drilling EP.

A table of risks and assessments generated based on existing knowledge and experience, is provided on the activity landing page and as Table 3 in the Activity Flyer. A detailed list of the identified risks, assessment and mitigation can be found in the published Environment Plan (EP). This will become available upon approval by the regulator.

**Q. Why are unplanned events considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment?**

A. Eni's approach to manage environmental risks is to eliminate or mitigate the risk during the planning phase. Managing risks through design relies on identifying, at an early stage in the project, the sources and pathways by which environmental impacts can occur, and the sensitivities of the environment in which the project is situated.

Where risks and impacts are unable to be eliminated at the project planning phase, Eni's HSE Risk Management and Hazard Identification Procedure provides a robust framework to apply to understand the residual risk and impact from the key project activities covered in this EP.

Assessment of risks to the environment extends beyond planned events and must allow for potential unplanned events, noting their low probability of occurring. Preventing an offshore hydrocarbon spill is a fundamental objective for all companies conducting petroleum activities. Nonetheless, environmental

consequences of a spill can be, and are, reduced through a coordinated and well-planned hydrocarbon spill response.

Two examples of unplanned events assessed within the Petrel Exploration Drilling EP are related to:

- Accidental release of marine diesel oil (MDO) due to an offshore vessel collision.
- Accidental release of condensate during a loss of well control, loss of well integrity or human error.

Assessment of low probability, unplanned events like these, contribute to the environmental impact assessments and to the spill modelling that determines the associated EMBA for the Petrel Exploration Drilling EP.

**Q. What is an EMBA and how has the Petrel Exploration Drilling EMBA been defined?**

A. Hydrocarbon spill events have a very low probability of occurrence due to a range of controls that will be implemented on the proposed drilling activities in accordance with standard industry practice. The Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA) is derived from scientific modelling of different low probability hydrocarbon spill events. This analysis combines hundreds of modelling simulations during a range of wind and current conditions for each season and informs the risk assessment and spill response planning. The final EMBA map is the outermost boundary of all the spill events considered.

The actual footprint of any single spill event would be smaller than the EMBA. The outermost boundary of the EMBA is based on the combined modelling of an accidental release of marine diesel oil (MDO) to the environment in the unlikely event of a vessel collision offshore damaging a vessels internal fuel tank, or the accidental release of condensate during a loss of well control, loss of well integrity or human error.

**Q. What is a Zone of Potential Impact (ZPI)?**

A. The EMBA also includes within it, a moderate exposure zone, also known as the Zone of Potential Impact (ZPI). This represents a smaller area than the EMBA which may be representative of an area of biological impact from hydrocarbon spills. The ZPI is also derived from modelling multiple hydrocarbon spill events and is not representative of the area of potential biological impact connected to any single hydrocarbon spill event.

**Q. What other activities occur in the area during the Exploration Drilling activity?**

Eni considers the interests, functions and activities of other marine users in the vicinity of the Petrel Field and who may be impacted by the proposed development activities. This includes, but is not limited to, commercial and recreational fishing, the Department of Defence, the shipping industry (including tourism cruise ships) and potential or approved activities by other oil and gas titleholders.

The Petrel Exploration Drilling EP will be subject to a public consultation process following submission to NOPSEMA and prior to the regulator's assessment. Public comments submitted to the regulator during this period will be returned to Eni for consideration.

**Q. We have vessels that pass through the Operational Area, ZPI and EMBA – How will we be affected by the drilling activities?**

Navigational notifications of activities, timing and exclusion zones are integral to the safe planning and risk mitigation. Eni engages directly with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to ensure activity commencement, duration and conclusion timing is provided for formal notification to mariners.

Consultation undertaken during the development of the EP will provide relevant persons and stakeholders the opportunity to request industry specific notifications. Stakeholders such as Traditional Owners, government

departments and representative industry bodies may request notifications in certain circumstances. These notifications, similar to AMSA requirements, could include activity commencement, duration, conclusion, unplanned events (if any) and subsequent management activities.

**Q. Will there be any exclusion zones during the activity or after?**

A. A temporary exclusion/cautionary zone will be established around the MODU during drilling activities. A 500m Petroleum Safety Zone (PSZ) around each well will be established where required for equipment integrity management. The PSZs are gazetted by NOPSEMA and remain in place for the life of the well and/or until revoked.

**Q. What would be the worst-case hydrocarbon spill?**

A. Assessment of the worst case hydrocarbon spill included the potential for:

- a collision between an activity vessel and an errant third party vessel; and
- loss of well control resulting in accidental release of hydrocarbons.

**Q. What are the emergency response arrangements to contain a hydrocarbon spill?**

A. Eni will activate their Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP), which is an operational document and contains all the information necessary for Eni to carry out a response to an accidental hydrocarbon spill. The OPEP covers actions to stop, assess, report, monitor and combat an accidental hydrocarbon spill, to ensure the effective and timely management and response to such an unlikely incident.

**Q. What happens in a cyclone?**

A. In the event of a cyclone approaching the drilling unit, the rig and well are secured during a phased evacuation of personnel. The unit remains in place uncrewed and secured.

**Q. Will the activity affect any marine life?**

A. All care is taken in protecting marine life and megafauna. This includes an induction for personnel on the activity support vessels outlining the sighting requirements for marine life, assessment of migration and breeding grounds, fisheries and an in-place Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) in the unlikely event of an accidental hydrocarbon release.

**Q. What if I have concerns about this activity?**

A. Eni is conducting engagement activities with relevant persons, planned from 31 August 2026 to 12 October 2026. If you believe you are a relevant person, please contact us by phone, email, or through our landing page at petreleni.com.au. Information on the definition of a relevant person can also be found on the landing page.

Phone: 1300 155 616
Email: info@petreleni.com.au
Landing Page: petreleni.com.au