

2007

[Mitsui E&P New Zealand takes stake in three more Taranaki permits](#)

12 January 2007 - The large Japanese-based resource company Mitsui has expanded its interests in petroleum exploration in New Zealand through taking a 25% interest in three offshore Taranaki permits held by Houston-based explorer Pogo Producing Company.

[AWE may drill Tieke-1 sidetrack; first Tui production oil well spudded](#)

12 January 2007 - Australian Worldwide Exploration Ltd (AWE), operator of Tui area project in PMP 38158, reports that the joint venture is considering drilling a sidetrack to unsuccessful exploration well Tieke-1.

[Solid Energy to make commercial decision on Waikato coal seam gas](#)

12 January 2007 - Solid Energy expects to make decision by the middle of next year on commercial production of coal seam gas from deep Waikato coalfields seams north of Huntly.

[Cheal-B4 finds oil bearing sands in extension of new onshore oil field](#)

2 February 2007 - Austral Pacific Energy Ltd says its fourth production well in the B section of its Cheal oil field has found existence of hydrocarbons outside currently defined limits in a separate fault terrace to the north-west of the field.

[OceanaGold to ship first Reefton gold concentrate in February](#)

2 February 2007 - Dry-commissioning of OceanaGold's Globe Progress process plant at Reefton on the West Coast of the South Island started during the last week of December 2006.

[Maari FPSO vessel Raroa begins conversion in Singaporean shipyard](#)

2 February 2007 - Conversion of a large oil tanker into the FPSO vessel to service the Maari offshore Taranaki oil field for operator OMV New Zealand has begun in a Singapore shipyard.

[First subsea trees installed on three Tui production wells](#)

2 February 2007 - The first subsea wellhead trees to be installed in New Zealand offshore oil fields have been put in place in three of the four Tui oil field production wells in offshore Taranaki.

[Glass Earth begins large airborne geophysics campaign over Otago](#)

5 February 2007 - Glass Earth Limited has begun the largest airborne geophysical campaign yet undertaken in New Zealand over the Otago mesothermal gold region in the South Island

[Frasers underground gold mine at Macraes intercepts ore body](#)

5 February 2007 - The Frasers underground mine development at the Macraes gold mine in east Otago has intercepted the gold ore body, OceanaGold says in its report for the quarter ended December 2006.

[L&M plans to drill up to six Southland wells in 2007](#)

12 February 2007 - Christchurch-based petroleum explorer L&M Petroleum Ltd, listed last month on the New Zealand and Australian stock exchange, is planning to drill as many as six wells this year in the Western Southland Basin at the south of the South Island.

[Large two-ship seismic survey programme begins](#)

12 February 2007 - Two seismic vessels are collecting approximately 10,000 km of seismic data in New Zealand waters over the summer season in a multi-permit programme.

[Notice of area unavailable for priority in time permit applications - Offshore Southern East Coast](#)

19 February 2007 - From Monday 19 February 2007 an area of offshore Southern East Coast identified in the attached map is closed to Priority in Time petroleum permit applications until further notice.

[Ophir Gold adds Red Hills permit to Central Otago reef prospect](#)

20 February 2007 - Dunedin-based Ophir Gold Ltd which last year took over the Ophir gold reefs project in Central Otago has been awarded a prospecting permit over the Red Hills northeast of Milford Sound on the West Coast of the South Island.

[Eastern locates good quality coking coal in Buller prospect](#)

20 February 2007 - Exploration drilling by Queensland-based coal company Eastern Corporation in its coal exploration permit at Whareatea West in the Buller coal field near Westport has located good quality coking coal and an unexplored near-surface seam.

[Pogo to drill Kanuku prospect off Taranaki with Ocean Patriot rig](#)

26 February 2007 - Houston-based Pogo Producing Company expects to spud its first exploratory well in offshore New Zealand waters by August this year, the company says in its December quarter report.

[Maari development 28% complete and on target](#)

26 February 2007 - The Maari oil field project in offshore Taranaki is now 28% complete, one of the partners in the field Horizon Oil says in a recent report.

[Austral Pacific's Ratanui-1 well dry](#)

26 February 2007 - Wellington-based Austral Pacific Energy Ltd has announced the Ratanui-1 exploration well in its onshore Taranaki PEP 38741 has been plugged and abandoned after finding no economic hydrocarbons.

[More gold ore from Favona underground than Martha pit](#)

28 February 2007 - Gold ore production from the underground Favona gold mine being developed by Newmont Mining Corporation at Waihi overtook output of ore from the Martha open pit mine in the December quarter of 2006.

[Newmont enters joint venture to explore Glass Earth's Hauraki permits](#)

28 February 2007 - US-based Newmont Mining Corporation has entered a joint venture agreement to explore all of Wellington-based gold explorer Glass Earth's permits in the Hauraki region around Waihi

[OceanaGold exploring for new Macraes underground deposits](#)

1 March 2007 - Exploration in 2007 at the Macraes goldfield in Otago will focus on discovery of more underground ore bodies, OceanaGold says in its report for the 2006 year.

[First Tui area horizontal oil production well completed for AWE](#)

2 March 2007 - Tui area oil field operator Australian Worldwide Exploration Ltd (AWE) reports that it has successfully completed the first of its four horizontal production wells Tui-2H.

[Swift Energy plans to spend US\\$35-40m in 2007 NZ programme](#)

2 March 2007 - Houston-based Swift Energy Company has budgeted to spend approximately US\$35-40 million on capital expenditure in New Zealand in 2007, the company says in its report for the December quarter of 2006.

[Scientific tests identify presence of oil in Great South Basin](#)

12 March 2007 - The Ministry of Economic Development today announced that recent testing undertaken in advance of tendering of exploration permits in the Great South Basin had identified the presence of natural oil seeps.

[First construction work begins on Kupe gas site](#)

14 March 2007 - Work has begun on preparing the Kupe gas project's onshore production station near Hawera and nearshore pipeline approach, operator Origin Energy Resources (Kupe) Ltd reports.

[Westech to redrill East Coast Kauhauroa gas discovery structure](#)

14 March 2007 - Denver-based Westech Energy is to begin drilling the first well in a multi-well programme near the onshore East Coast Basin 1998 gas discovery Kauhauroa-1 near Wairoa.

[Solid Energy awarded further West Southland coal exploration permit](#)

16 March 2007 - Solid Energy has been awarded a coal exploration permit in a greenfields area of Western Southland near the town of Tuatapere.

Pike River Coal project's tunneling rate rises

27 March 2007 - The Pike River Coal Ltd's project access tunnel towards the Brunner coal seam is now making faster progress, parent company New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd says in its half year report to December 31, 2006.

Glass Earth plans to joint venture with GCO in central volcanic region

27 March 2007 - Wellington-based gold exploration company Glass Earth Ltd, says it plans to enter a joint venture with Houston-based GCO Minerals Company for three exploration permits in the central volcanic region of the North Island.

OceanaGold awarded two Otago and two West Coast permits

27 March 2007 - Gold miner OceanaGold (New Zealand) Ltd has recently been awarded four new exploration permits — two at Macraes in eastern Otago and two near Reefton on the West Coast.

Golden Fern awarded Blackball permit

7 March 2007 - Golden Fern Resources Ltd, the New Zealand gold exploration subsidiary of Canadian-based CanAlaska Ventures Ltd, has been awarded a gold and silver exploration permit north of Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island.

Glass Earth encouraged by Taupo volcanic zone exploration

30 March 2007 - Gold exploration company Glass Earth Ltd reports that results have been very encouraging from its Tahunaatara infill resistivity and soil geochemical surveys in its Taupo volcanic zone permit to be explored.

Austral awarded southernmost offshore Taranaki Basin permit

30 March 2007 - Wellington-based Austral Pacific Energy Ltd has been awarded the southern Taranaki Basin.

Contact Energy to buy Rockgas LPG business

30 March 2007 - Wellington-based Contact Energy has announced it will purchase the Rockgas LPG business from Origin Energy for approximately \$156 million.

TAG finds gas at Mangimingi-1 but abandoning well

30 March 2007 - Independent Canadian oil and gas company TAG Oil Ltd says that the Mangimingi-1 exploration well in PEP 38758 in central inland Taranaki has flared gas but is deemed to be uneconomic.

Solid Energy begins drilling programme in Eastern Southland

4 April 2007 - Solid Energy says it has begun a six-month exploratory drilling programme in Eastern Southland to further define its coal resource in the area.

Solid Energy's output up 7% in half year with strong NZ sales

4 April 2007 - New Zealand's largest coal miner Solid Energy raised coal production by 7.3% to 2.34 million tonnes in the half year to December 2006 from 2.18 million tonnes in the same period of 2005.

Tui-3H oil production well nears completion

10 April 2007 - The second production well in the Tui oil field in offshore Taranaki is close to completion, operator AWE Ltd reports.

L&M contracts rig for three Southland wells.

10 April 2007 - L&M Petroleum Ltd has secured a rig to drill three onshore Western Southland Basin wells over next two months.

NZOG plans four exploration targets on top of oil, gas projects

10 April 2007 - Wellington-based New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd is currently planning four petroleum exploration targets on top of its involvement in the two offshore oil and gas projects Tui and Kupe.

Solid Energy granted coal gas permit in inland Taranaki

11 April 2007 - Coal producer Solid Energy has been granted a petroleum exploration permit for an area it considers prospective for coal seam gas in inland Taranaki-King Country.

Genesis gas-fired e3p power plant begins generating electricity

13 April 2007 - Genesis Energy's new gas-fired e3p generation plant at its Huntly power station south of Auckland has begun producing electricity as part of its commissioning.

Contact pays 28% more for gas in latest half year

13 April 2007 - Contact Energy says that average natural gas prices it pays have risen 28% in a year, the company says in its latest report for the six months to 31 December 2005.

Eastern identifies 26m tonne coal resource near Westport

18 April 2007 - Queensland-based coal mining company Eastern Corporation Ltd says drilling has identified an initial resource of over 25 million tonnes of coking and thermal coal in its Whareatea West permit near Westport on the west coast of the South Island.

Eastern and Fonterra sign contract for Clandeboye coal supply

18 April 2007 - Queensland-based Eastern Corporation has won a major coal supply contract for its recently acquired Takitimu coal mine near Ohai in Western Southland.

Auzex drills Kirwan tungsten deposit near Reefton

18 April 2007 - The Australian and New Zealand mineral explorer Auzex Resources says it plans to begin drilling in April its Kirwans tungsten prospect on the West Coast of the South Island.

Austral plans two more Cheal production wells

9 May 2007 - Wellington-based petroleum explorer Austral Pacific Energy Ltd plans to drill two additional production wells at its Cheal oil field in onshore Taranaki from June as soon as its newly constructed production station is commissioned.

Tui oil field's FPSO vessel Umaroa takes up station

9 May 2007 - The Tui oil field's floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel Umaroa has arrived at the field where it will play a key role in controlling oil production from the offshore Taranaki field.

Maari project 40% complete but further rig delay

9 May 2007 - The Maari oil project in offshore South Taranaki has progressed to 40% complete but the arrival of the jack-up rig to drill the production wells has been delayed a further three months, one of the Maari partners Horizon Oil says.

Canadian-listed Underworld Resources seeks gold, base metals

9 May 2007 - A new New Zealand-based mineral exploration company Underworld Resources, recently listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, is exploring for massive sulphides minerals near East Cape in the North Island and for gold in Central Otago in the South Island.

Neptune to begin offshore Kermadec minerals exploration

9 May 2007 - Neptune Minerals plc, an international explorer for gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc in massive sulphide deposits found on underwater seamounts, plans to start work this month on a second round of exploration in licence areas in northern New Zealand offshore waters.

Solid Energy to explore for coal west of Hamilton

14 May 2007 - Solid Energy has been awarded a coal exploration permit about 15 kilometres west of Hamilton in the Whatawhata coalfield.

Swift Energy granted second offshore permit, quarter output down

14 May 2007 - Swift Energy New Zealand has been granted its second offshore south Taranaki exploration permit to the southeast of the Kupe gas condensate field.

AWE plans extra exploration well and adds two more permits

14 May 2007 - Sydney-based E&P oil company Australian Worldwide Exploration plans to increase its strong involvement in offshore Taranaki oil exploration by drilling an additional exploration well Kopuwai-1 while adding two new permits to its extensive acreage.

Genesis granted permit for offshore north Taranaki

14 May 2007 - Electricity producer Genesis Power has made its first step on its own into offshore exploration with the granting of a permit to the company over the Mangatōa area in nearshore North Taranaki.

Newmont flies aerial surveys over Waihi area

14 May 2007 - Newmont Waihi Gold is undertaking nearly 2000 square kilometres of both magnetic and electromagnetic aerial surveys in the southern Coromandel area, the company's website newsletter Newmont Update reports.

Newmont refurbishes Waihi gold plant

14 May 2007 - Newmont Update reports that Newmont's gold processing plant near Waihi has completed major refurbishments as the company switches to use of ore from the new underground Favona mine as output of ore from the Martha open pit mine winds down.

New Tasman Goldfields company exploring in Otago and Southland

14 May 2007 - A new gold exploration company, Tasman Goldfields Ltd, plans to list on the Australian Stock Exchange later this year and seek A\$8 million in new funds. The company holds a number of permits in Otago and Southland

Latest round of Government petroleum seismic surveys to begin

17 May 2007 - Crown Minerals today announced the start of the government's third seismic petroleum data survey. 2,200 km of 2D seismic data will be acquired north of the Raukumara Peninsula, off the East Coast of the North Island, and a further 300 km will be acquired off the southern Wairarapa Coast.

OceanaGold ships first gold concentrate from Reefton mine

23 May 2007 - The first shipment of gold ore concentrate from the Globe Progress open cut mine at Reefton has been transported to OceanaGold's treatment facilities at its Macraes mine in east Otago.

OceanaGold continues Reefton drilling

23 May 2007 - OceanaGold's March quarter report says a programme of infill and extensional diamond drilling that commenced in third quarter of 2006 at the General Gordon and Empress deposits near the Globe-Progress mine was completed during the March quarter. The drilling further confirmed distribution of gold grades within the open pit designs.

Pike River Coal access tunneling rates improve

23 May 2007 - The Pike River Coal project's rate of advance through its access tunnel to its West Coast coking coal mine has improved, parent company New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd says in its first quarter report.

Personnel changes at Pike River Coal

23 May 2007 - On 1 April 2007, Gordon Ward was appointed as managing director of Pike River Coal with the company team presently comprising 21 full time employees.

Swift Energy reviews NZ operations alternatives

25 May 2007 - Houston-based Swift Energy Company has announced it plans to begin a review of strategic alternatives for its New Zealand operating unit, Swift Energy New Zealand Ltd.

Kupe pipeline welding base for Port of Marlborough

25 May 2007 - The Kupe gas project is to set up a spoolbase at the Port of Marlborough to weld together 10km lengths of its main 30km long gas pipeline for later laying on the seafloor from the platform to the South Taranaki coast.

Additional 58bcf of gas firmed from Maui reserves

25 May 2007 - The Maui gas field in offshore Taranaki has proved up a further 60.8 petajoules (or 58 billion cubic feet) of gas to firm contracted commitments to downstream gas buyers.

L&M to drill Dean-1 gas prospect in current 4-well Southland campaign

29 May 2007 - Wellington-based explorer L&M Petroleum Ltd has announced plans to drill the Dean-1 gas prospect as part of its current multi-well drilling campaign in the little explored Western Southland Basin.

Greymouth acquires Westech's Taranaki mining permits

30 May 2007 - Auckland-based Greymouth Petroleum has announced it has bought out Denver-based Westech Energy New Zealand's interests in three small onshore mining permits in central Taranaki.

Solid Energy enters biodiesel market with plans for big expansion

30 May 2007 - Major coal producer Solid Energy has entered the liquid fuels business with acquisition of a biodiesel company and plans to greatly expand its production.

Greymouth Petroleum discovers oil and gas in historic oil field

30 May 2007 - Greymouth Petroleum has discovered oil testing at over 200 barrels a day in recent extended wells into the historic Moturoa oil field under New Plymouth's harbour.

Northland's mineral potential remains largely untapped

31 May 2007 - Two studies released today have found that considerable potential exists to expand Northland's minerals industry and enable the industry to contribute further to the region's economic development, Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven said.

L&M's Eastern Bush-1 dry, but shows at Sharpridge Creek-3

12 June 2007 - L&M Petroleum Ltd reports that its first deeper well in this season's drilling campaign at Eastern Bush-1 in western Southland had been plugged and abandoned.

AWE granted permit for area along west side of Maui field

12 June 2007 - Sydney-based AWE New Zealand Pty Ltd and its other Tui partners have been granted a new petroleum exploration permit south of Tui and adjoining the western side of the Maui field.

Auzex granted further Buller permit; drilling for tungsten

12 June 2007 - The Australian and New Zealand mineral explorer Auzex Resources Ltd has been awarded an exploration permit near Westport on the West Coast of the South Island

OceanaGold begins Macraes underground ore production

12 June 2007 - OceanaGold Ltd's Frasers underground development at its Macraes project in Otago has begun producing ore as it readies for commissioning by the end of 2007.

Gold output lower in first quarter for OceanaGold

12 June 2007 - OceanaGold's gold production of 36,255 oz during the first quarter of 2007 was lower than the 53,188 oz output from the corresponding 2006, but was in line with the 2007 operating plan, the company says in its first quarter report.

OceanaGold to form new Canadian holding co. New Oceana

12 June 2007 - OceanaGold Ltd has announced it is to form a new Canadian holding company, OceanaGold Corporation ("New Oceana") as part of seeking listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Amendments to Crown Minerals Regulations...

15 June 2007 - Amendments to the Crown Minerals (Petroleum Fees) Regulations 2006, Crown Minerals (Minerals Fees) Regulations and Enactment of the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Regulations 2007.

Spring Creek Mining Company joint venture gears up to lift coal output

27 June 2007 - The Spring Creek Mining Company joint venture has been approved by the Overseas Investment Office with Cargill Coal taking a 49% investment in the mine.

Greymouth acquires controlling interest in Bridge Petroleum

27 June 2007 - Auckland-based Greymouth Petroleum said it has acquired more than 90% of the shares of fellow onshore Taranaki exploration company Bridge Petroleum Ltd.

Swift Energy engages advisor for possible sale of NZ assets

27 June 2007 - Houston-based Swift Energy Company has announced it has retained global oil industry mergers and acquisitions specialist Scotia Waterous (USA) Inc as an advisor for the potential sale of some or all of its New Zealand assets owned and operated by Swift Energy New Zealand Ltd.

Eastern stripping at Takitimu mine in Southland

2 July 2007 - Eastern Corporation is stripping overburden from its Takitimu coal mine near Nightcaps in Western Southland, prior to beginning a new contract to supply sub-bituminous coal to the Fonterra Clandeboye plant in South Canterbury. The mine is the former Mossbank coal mine, located within mining licence ML 37 079.

Newmont gold drill results from west Waihi, more drilling ahead

2 July 2007 - The US-based, Newmont gold company, has reported modest gold mineralised intercepts from three exploration holes drilled in the Waihi West exploration permit 40 767, joint venture partner Glass Earth says.

Great South Basin oil and gas quest set to begin

11 July 2007 - The economies of Southland and Otago are to get a major boost from oil and gas exploration, as international investors prepare to spend more than a billion dollars exploring the vast Great South Basin over the next five years, according to Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven.

Notice of area unavailable for Priority in Time (PIT) permit applications - Offshore Southern East Coast

11 July 2007 - From Wednesday 11 July 2007 an area of offshore Southern East Coast (Great South Basin) identified in the attached map is closed to Priority in Time petroleum permit applications until further notice.

Gas2Grid farms in to Green Gate's Kate-1 onshore Canterbury well

16 July 2007 - Sydney-based company Gas2Grid Ltd says it has entered into an agreement with private New Zealand oil and gas explorer, Green Gate Ltd, to help fund the onshore Kate-1 well in an anticline oil prospect 50 kilometres north of Christchurch near Amberley in North Canterbury.

Westech to test flow Waitahora-1 East Coast well

16 July 2007 - Denver-based Westech Energy has successfully drilled the Waitahora-1 well in the onshore East Coast Basin and is to begin a test flow at the well in mid-July.

Notice of area unavailable for Priority in Time (PIT) permit applications - Onshore Canterbury.

25 July 2007 - From Wednesday 25 July 2007 an area of onshore Canterbury identified in the attached map is closed to Priority in Time petroleum permit applications until further notice

Greymouth Petroleum joins Great South Basin quest

26 July 2007 - Greymouth Petroleum is to join the hunt for oil and gas in the challenging Great South Basin, Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven said today.

Pogo to be sold to fellow US independent Plains Exploration

27 July 2007 - Independent US oil firm, Pogo Producing Company, which holds over 25,700 square kilometres of exploration permits in New Zealand, is to be taken over by a fellow Houston-based independent, Plains Exploration & Production (PXP), in a US\$3.6 billion deal.

Reefton goldfield's Globe Progress mine officially opened

31 July 2007 - Hardrock gold mining operations on the Reefton goldfield, on the South Island's West Coast, are now back in business after 56 years with the official opening of OceanaGold Corporation's Globe-Progress open cut mine.

Pike River Coal project makes rapid strides

31 July 2007 - Pike River Coal Ltd's high quality coking coal mine project is making rapid progress with successful capital raising completed, access tunnel almost halfway, and other construction well underway.

Improving regulation of environmental effects in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone

7 August 2007 - The Ministry for the Environment is consulting on proposals to improve regulation of environmental effects in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Takitimu-Longwood Area Mineral Exploration Data and GIS Map Compilation

10 August 2007 - Crown Minerals has compiled into a coherent GIS database all known mineral exploration data from the Takitimu - Longwood area of Southland, New Zealand.

Illegal Mining Prosecution Case

22 August 2007 - An incident of illegal mining of alluvial gold and gravel near the Snowy River north of Ikamatua has led to a successful prosecution under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Mr John Leckie pleaded guilty to the charges against him and has been sentenced accordingly by the District Court at Greymouth.

Auzex prospect potentially high tons low grade tungsten

4 September 2007 - Early indications from the drilling of mineral explorer Auzex Resources Ltd's Kirwans tungsten prospect near Reefton showed the prospect has the potential to host a high tonnage low grade tungsten resource, the company says.

Newmont continues NZ exploration

4 September 2007 - Exploration success in the Hauraki goldfield will be critical to the future of Newmont Waihi Gold's operations at Waihi, the general manager of the company Glen Grindlay told the AusIMM conference in Christchurch.

Skills needed for mining workforce

4 September 2007 - A major challenge for Newmont Waihi Gold was the ability to hold a skilled workforce, general manager Glen Grindlay told the AusIMM conference in Christchurch. Five years ago the ratio at local hard rock mines was 80:20 skilled to new workers and trainees, but today that ratio was reversed.

Otago survey shows complex schist geology structure

4 September 2007 - Initial results from the recent Otago aerial geophysical survey has revealed some previously unrecognized and unexplored structures in the Otago schist, Glass Earth senior geologist Sean Doyle told the AusIMM conference recently.

Solid Energy looks at partner for next stage of lignite project

4 September 2007 - Solid Energy is likely to seek an international partner for the next pre-feasibility stage of its proposed large lignite processing project in Southland, the company's chief operating officer Barry Bragg told the AusIMM minerals conference in Christchurch.

Macdonald Investments awarded first coal seam gas mining permit

7 September 2007 - Wellington based coalbed methane company Macdonald Investments Ltd (MIL) has been awarded the first New Zealand mining permit for coal bed methane for an area near Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island.

Drill project and consortium manager plans to bring semi-sub rig to NZ in 2008

7 September 2007 - A Melbourne-based well engineering and drilling project management company Australian Drilling Associates, is planning to mobilise a semi-submersible rig Kan Tan IV to New Zealand late next year as part of its coordinated multi operator Australia/New Zealand consortium.

No shows in Hector-1

7 September 2007 - The Hector-1 wildcat exploration well drilled by operator Australian Worldwide Exploration Ltd in PEP 38483 south west of the Maui gas field has proved dry.

Lakes Oil awarded East Coast permit in Wairarapa

28 September 2007 - Melbourne-based junior oil explorer, Lakes Oil NL, has been awarded an onshore-offshore East Coast Basin exploration permit at the south of the North Island.

Onshore Taranaki field developments

28 September 2007 - The onshore Taranaki Cheal oilfield production station has come online producing at up to 1,000 barrels a day, operator Austral Pacific Energy told a shareholder briefing in Wellington.

New NZ fields to bring 140 million barrels of oil reserves to market

28 September 2007 - New Zealand petroleum liquids production, in decline for 10 years, will reverse this trend over the next three years.

[AWE's West Cape-1 starts drilling after Taranui-1 dry](#)

28 September 2007 - Operator Australian Worldwide Exploration, reports that its Taranui-1 well in the Tui Area field has been plugged and abandoned, but the Ocean Patriot offshore rig has moved on to begin drilling the West Cape-1 well nearby.

[Eastern builds up coal production from new Southland mine](#)

28 September 2007 - The Takitimu coal mine in the Nightcaps area of Western Southland being developed by the Queensland-owned coal company, Eastern Corporation, is building up production to meet demand.

[Eastern revises Cascade mine resources](#)

28 September 2007 - Eastern Corporation's Cascade open cut coal mine, in the Buller coalfield north-east of Westport is expected to produce between 50,000 and 55,000 tonnes of coal per year over the next four years.

[OceanaGold drills new Reefton prospect](#)

28 September 2007 - OceanaGold Corporation has reported encouraging assay results from its first drilling of the Crushington prospect north of its Globe-Progress gold mine near Reefton.

[Macraes underground mine pushes into first Frasers panel](#)

28 September 2007 - The new Frasers underground mine at the Macraes gold mine in eastern Otago, had higher than predicted mining activity in the three months to June, Oceana Gold Corporation says in its second quarter report.

[Underworld granted Aorere goldfield permit in Golden Bay](#)

5 October 2007 - Underworld Resources, a New Zealand-based mineral exploration company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, has been awarded an exploration permit over part of the historic Aorere goldfields in Golden Bay.

[Glass Earth sees deep crustal structure as key to gold discovery in Taupo Volcanic Zone](#)

5 October 2007 - A corridor of several highly prospective epithermal gold deposits within the Taupo Volcanic Zone appear to be linked to major fault structures with gold-bearing occurrences on the Coromandel Arc, according to a paper by Glass Earth geologist Bruce Smith.

[River coal mine access tunnel 65% completed](#)

23 October 2007 - Pike River Coal's 2.3 kilometre rock access tunnel to its new coking coal mine on the West Coast of the South Island was 65% completed at the start of October as the project aims to mine coal next year.

[Strong forecast coking coal prices may benefit Pike River](#)

19 October 2007 - Stronger prices forecast for world coking coal in 2008 and beyond, may benefit new producer Pike River Coal when it begins mining.

[NZOG sets ambitious exploration and growth targets](#)

19 October 2007 - Wellington-based, New Zealand Oil & Gas, has laid out an ambitious exploration spending plan, and reserves and production growth targets in its 2007 annual report.

[Pohokura partners to explore area west of field](#)

19 October 2007 - The Pohokura gas condensate field partners have been granted a four-year appraisal extension over the Okoki structure a few kilometres west of where the Pohokura offshore production wells are now being drilled.

[Maui partners granted new permit on southeast edge of field](#)

19 October 2007 - A new 213 square kilometre exploration permit along the southeast edge of the Maui gas field has been granted to the Maui partners

[Grande Energy awarded offshore West Coast Basin permit](#)

24 October 2007 - Private independent Texan explorer Grande Energy has been awarded an exploration permit largely offshore of the West Coast of the South Island.

[Widespread Energy granted Kotuku permit on West Coast](#)

24 October 2007 - Widespread Energy Ltd, a New Zealand-based energy investment company, has been awarded on onshore West Coast petroleum exploration permit which includes the Kotuku oil seeps.

[Introducing Chris Kilby](#)

24 October 2007 - Chris is the new Group Manager Crown Minerals and took up the reins in September.

[Tui field flows 2.4 million barrels in two months](#)

24 October 2007 - The offshore Tui area oil field has produced about 2.4 million barrels of crude oil in just over two months of operation, one of the Tui partners New Zealand Oil & Gas says.

[Enso 107 rig arrives to drill Kupe gas and Maari oil fields](#)

24 October 2007 - The Enso 107 offshore jackup rig has arrived in New Zealand waters to drill development wells for both the Kupe gas field and later the Maari oil field.

[Updated Petroleum Blocks Offers Schedule](#)

8 November 2007 - The Petroleum Blocks Offers Schedule page has recently been updated to list future Blocks offer projects.

[Record year for coal and energy producer Solid Energy](#)

19 November 2007 - Coal and energy company Solid Energy produced record coal sales of 4.8 million tonnes in the year to 30 June 2007, up slightly from 4.67 million tonnes in the previous year.

[Solid Energy increases coal reserves by 10% to 33 m tonnes](#)

14 November 2007 - Solid Energy increased its coal reserves proven feasible and economic to mine, by 10% to 33 million tonnes in its financial year to June 30 2007 from 30 million tonnes in the previous year, the company says in its annual report.

[Industry - Government Collaboration](#)

15 November 2007 - Are we doing enough to support each other and promote our industry?

[L&M Petroleum obtains coal seam gas prospect; Sharpridge-4 dry](#)

27 November 2007 - Christchurch-based L&M Petroleum has acquired a petroleum exploration permit near Ohai in Western Southland that contains coal seam gas potential.

[Contact Energy plans gas-fired peaking power station](#)

26 November 2007 - Electricity company Contact Energy is planning to build a 100 MW gas-fired peaking plant at the company's Stratford power station site, chief executive David Baldwin has announced.

[Minister opens Onshore Taranaki Basin Blocks Offer](#)

3 December 2007 - Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven today announced one of the largest onshore blocks offers in recent years, in opening the Onshore Taranaki Basin Blocks offer.

[NZ oil output expected to treble with Tui reserves up further 30%](#)

6 December 2007 - New Zealand oil production is expected to approximately treble over the next year with the announcement that the Tui oil field is now expected to produce 11 million barrels in the year to 30 June 2008.

[Biggest gas buyer Contact Energy expects prices to rise over 20%](#)

5 December 2007 - Electricity producer Contact Energy, the largest single purchaser of natural gas in New Zealand, says its gas costs will rise 20% in 2007 and possibly as much again next year.

[AWE enthusiastic on offshore Taranaki potential](#)

6 December 2007 - Sydney-based exploration and production company AWE Ltd said it remains enthusiastic about the potential of the offshore Taranaki region after its recent exploration campaign.

[Swift Energy receives higher product prices though output down](#)

10 December 2007 - Houston-based Swift Energy Company received higher prices for oil, gas and natural gas liquids from its New Zealand operations in the latest quarter though production was down sharply.

[Green Gate-Gas2Grid JV plans to drill Kate-1 with new-build rig](#)

11 December 2007 - The partners in the Kate-1 well project in onshore North Canterbury are negotiating to secure the services of new-build rig to drill the well in the first quarter of 2008, Sydney-based Gas2Grid Ltd says in its third quarter report.

[Trans-Orient sees potential in onshore East Coast permits](#)

11 December 2007 - A technical report on Trans-Orient Petroleum Ltd's onshore East Coast basin permits for the Canadian-based gas explorer has identified numerous structural traps and potential reservoirs.

[Moana-1 and Kanuka-1 wells drilled in north Taranaki Basin](#)

12 December 2007 - The Moana-1 well drilled by OMV New Zealand, Origin Energy, and Todd Energy in the offshore north Taranaki in PEP 38485 has been plugged and abandoned.

[Austral Pacific to drill two Cheal wells plus Kahili well in early 2008](#)

12 December 2007 - Wellington-based Austral Pacific Energy plans to drill two more Cheal oil field wells in the first quarter of 2008 following the recent completion of its field production station in onshore Taranaki.

[Macraes underground decline reaches Frasers panel 1](#)

6 December 2007 - OceanaGold's Frasers underground mine development at the Macraes gold mine in eastern Otago has now reached the first of the two panels earmarked for extraction.

[Reefton gold plant output improves after extended ramp-up](#)

7 December 2007 - Modifications to the processing plant at the new Globe Progress gold mine at Reefton have resulted in significant improvements in gold concentrate production, OceanaGold says in its third quarter report.

[Heritage Gold plans exploration programme around Waihi](#)

6 December 2007 - Auckland-based mineral explorer Heritage Gold plans to intensify its exploration programme around the Waihi area drilling its gold tenements there in 2008.

[Newmont considering two Martha open pit laybacks](#)

13 December 2007 - Newmont Waihi Gold is considering proposals to lay-back the eastern and western walls of the Martha open pit goldmine at Waihi.

[Todd makes substantial gas discovery at Mangahewa](#)

17 December 2007 - A substantial discovery of natural gas has been made at the Mangahewa gas condensate field in onshore Taranaki during new appraisal operations by Todd Energy.

[Solid Energy JV wells near Huntly ready to test flow coal seam gas](#)

17 December 2007 - A multiwell test of a coal seam gas field south of Auckland near Huntly potentially containing between 25 and 200 petajoules (PJ) of natural gas is currently underway.

[Pike River changes coal transport route to rail via Lyttelton](#)

14 December 2007 - Pike River Coal Ltd, due to produce first coal in April 2008, has decided to rail its export coking coal to Lyttelton instead of shipping out of Greymouth.

[Spring Creek mine to expand production using hydraulic monitors](#)

17 December 2007 - Solid Energy plans to start coal extraction with a water-blasting hydraulic monitor by the end of the year at its Spring Creek underground mine, near Greymouth.

[Pike River Coal's access tunnel now 80% completed](#)

18 December 2007 - The access tunnel to Pike River Coal Ltd's hard coking coal mine north of Greymouth is now 80% completed and about 450 m away from intersecting first mineable coal.

Production stepped up at Solid Energy's Waikato coal mines

19 December 2007 - Coal production from Solid Energy's Rotowaro opencast and Huntly East underground mines increased substantially in the past year.

Eastern building processing plant at Nightcaps mine

20 December 2007 - Brisbane-based coal company Eastern Corporation Ltd has begun work on the design and building of a new 200,000 tonnes a year coal processing plant at its Takitimu mine in Western Southland.

Notice of area unavailable for Priority in Time (PIT) permit applications – Offshore Taranaki

20 December 2007 - From Thursday 20 December 2007 an area of offshore Taranaki identified in the attached map is closed to Priority in Time petroleum permit applications until further notice.

Enactment of the Crown Minerals (Minerals and Coal) Regulations 2007

21 December 2007 - The Crown Minerals (Minerals and Coal) Regulations 2007 were enacted on 17 December 2007.

Three more Taranaki blocks on offer for exploration

24 January 2008 - Three more blocks are to be opened up for oil and gas exploration in Taranaki, Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven announced today.