

Kea awarded onshore Northland permit around Kaipara Harbour

16 October 2009 - Private New Zealand company Kea Petroleum Ltd has been awarded an exploration permit over an area surrounding Kaipara Harbour just north of Auckland.

Kea chief executive Dr Dave Bennett said PEP 51339, covering an area of 2,157 km², was a longer term exploration project over the little explored onshore Northland Basin.

He said attention has focussed on offshore Northland with the Karewa gas discovery and now two further wells planned by Origin Energy next year.

Dr Bennett said an oil or gas discovery in the Kaipara permit could be readily developed, with gas being particularly well placed for power generation to the expanding Auckland electricity market.

Kea is operator of the permit on behalf of itself and two Australian alliance partners Rawson Resources Ltd, and Hardie Oceanic Pty Ltd.

The initial work programme will involve gravity and soil gas geochemical surveys. This would lead to seismic surveys over areas of greater interest with potential drilling within four years.

Sources: Kea Petroleum and Lindsay Clark

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