



AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION & EXPLORATION
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Media Release – APPEA 2009 Conference & Exhibition

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Woodside Wins APPEA Environment Award

Woodside Energy has won APPEA's 2008 Environment Award sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers for its pioneering research into the effects of appraisal activity on the surrounding marine environment at Scott Reef.

Announcing the award during the opening session of the APPEA conference, APPEA Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said that the extensive environmental research and monitoring prior to, during and after the Woodside-operated Browse Joint Venture's appraisal activities have demonstrated that these activities were, and can continue to be, carried out without a detrimental environmental impact.

"The judges were highly impressed by the Gigas and Maxima seismic survey research programs and the appraisal drilling undertaken by Woodside. The programs have significantly improved the understanding of the impact of oil and gas appraisal activities," said Ms Robinson.

Woodside's Gigas survey measured the impact of ocean bottom cable seismic surveys in shallow waters (< 20 m depth) on coral and fish communities.

The Maxima research program quantified the impacts of seismic activity on coral and fish as well as providing key results on the overall impacts of seismic on marine life.

Appraisal drilling on the Torosa-6 well at Scott Reef left a very small footprint, restricted to just the small legs of the jack-up rig through the innovative use of riserless mud recovery systems to recover all cuttings from the well. The result was verified through remotely operated underwater video surveys of the seafloor.

Ms Robinson said that the results of this research have demonstrated that the effects of oil and gas appraisal activity on the surrounding environment, even in sensitive areas, are much lower with quicker recovery rates than previously thought.

"Australia's oil and gas industry recognises that its environmental credentials and commitment to continuous improvement are critical factors in engendering and maintaining the confidence of Australian communities and governments," said Ms Robinson.

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The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association represents the upstream oil and gas industry in Australia. APPEA member companies produce around 98 per cent of Australia's oil and gas.