

Otway Exploration Drilling Program

Safe Operations Guide – August 2025

ConocoPhillips Australia is progressing its plans to explore for natural gas in the Otway basin to supply the domestic market.

The Transocean Equinox rig is scheduled to start work for ConocoPhillips Australia in October 2025 (weather and operational conditions permitting). The rig will drill two exploration wells in the Otway basin before the end of the year. Anchors and mooring chains will be deployed ahead of the rig arriving at each well. The first well is Essington-1 (see map overleaf), this well is approximately 55km offshore from Port Campbell.

Location

Well name	Latitude (GDA1994)	Longitude (GDA1994)
Essington-1	39° 5.748 S	142° 48.715 E
Charlemont-1	39° 0.856 S	142° 36.483 E

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Timings and activities	Anchors and mooring chains will be deployed by a vessel at Essington-1 in September 2025 and at Charlemont-1 between September and November 2025. Once in position these will be marked with a surface buoy and navigation light. The Transocean Equinox and support vessels will transit to Essington-1 in October 2025 ahead of drilling the first well and then move to Charlemont-1 later in the year. The anchors and mooring chains will remain in position during drilling activities and will be collected within 3 months of activity completion at each well. <i>Program timing is dependent on prior titleholder operations and sequencing of wells. Additionally, timeframes are dependent on weather and operational conditions. Minor adjustments to the well locations may occur.</i>		
Safety exclusion zones	Vessels in the area are required to observe a 500m radius Petroleum Safety Zone at Essington-1 and Charlemont-1 locations and a further 3km radius cautionary zone around each well for avoidance of mooring chains and anchors.		
Notice to Mariners	A Notice to Mariners will be issued by the Australian Hydrographic Office.		
Drill rig and support vessel details	Marine users can communicate with the Transocean Equinox rig and support vessels at any time via Channel 16 or via the contact details below: Transocean Equinox Drilling Rig - Call sign: V7A7397 - Contact number: +61 8 6263 5790	Support vessels Andreas Viking - Call sign: LFSD3 - Contact number: +61 448 911 478 Sea 1 Emerald - Call sign: LFAG3 - Contact number: +61 437 305 673	Sea 1 Aquamarine - Call sign: LARB3 - Contact number: +61 407 135 062 Sea 1 Amethyst - Call sign: LCBM3 - Contact number: +61 461 460 567

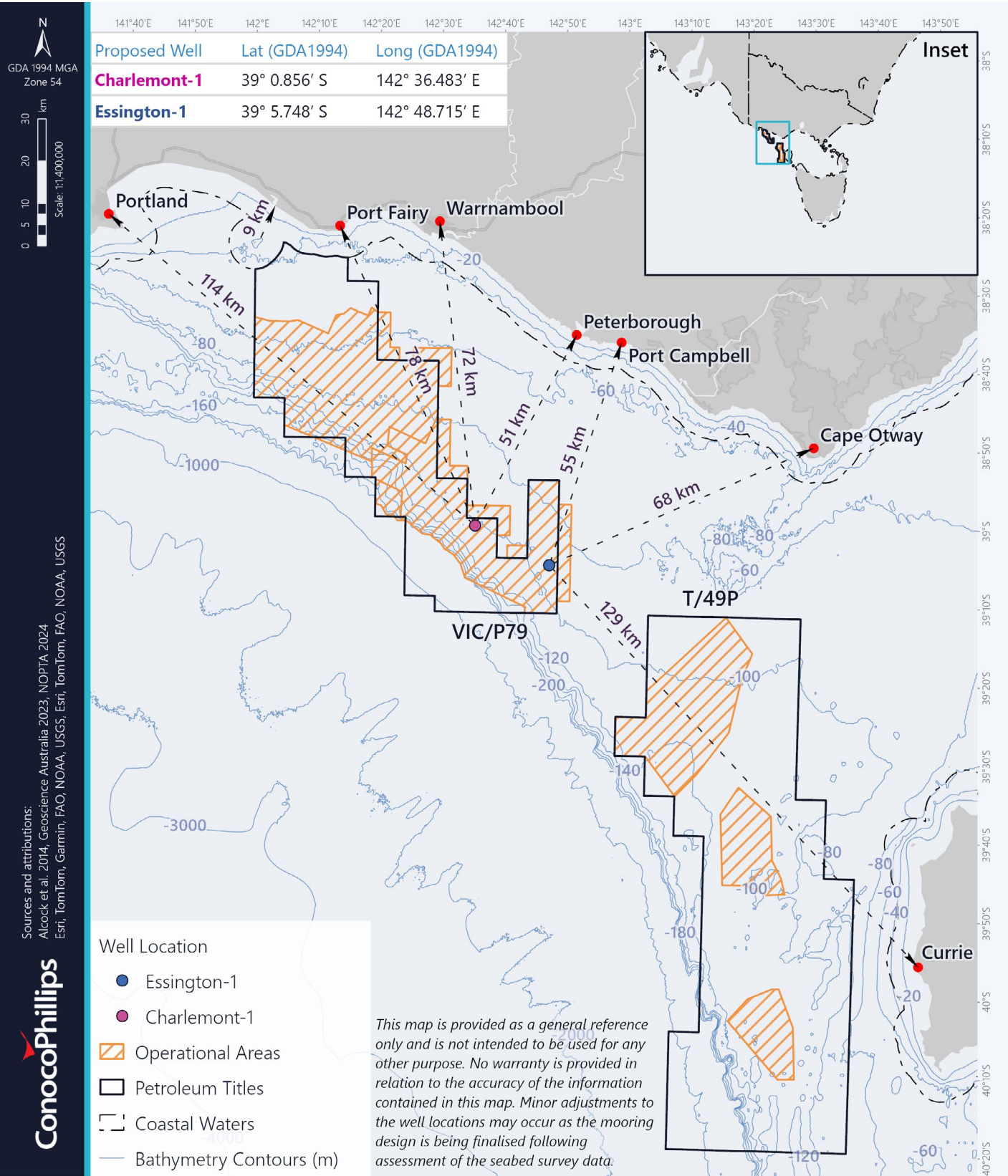
NB: Maximum of three support vessels will be active at a time

Environment Plan

All activities will be undertaken in accordance with the accepted [Environment Plan](#).

Adjustment Protocol

The Otway Marine Industries Co-Existence Cooperative (OMICC) promotes sustainable coexistence between commercial marine operators in the Otway region and gas exploration activities. It includes an Otway Adjustment Protocol to offer a fair, evidence-based compensation process for commercial marine operators who may be affected by exploration activities. This could include compensation for displacement, loss of catch, or fishing gear loss or damage. Visit www.omicc.com.au for more information.



For safety reasons, 500-metre Petroleum Safety Zones remain in place around the three potential well locations from 1 July 2025 until 1 March 2026, in accordance with the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006.

Contact Us

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