

# ONSHORE EXPLORATION WELL MANAGEMENT & ABANDONMENT CASE STUDY

Tap Oil  
Onshore Taranaki Basin, New Zealand

## AWT DISCIPLINES

Drilling Engineering  
Logistics Planning  
Project Management  
Wellsite Supervision  
HSE Management

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

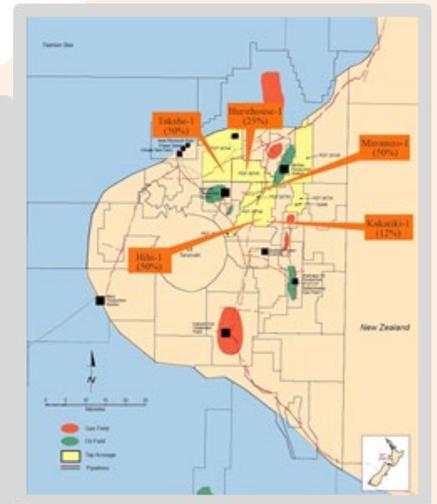
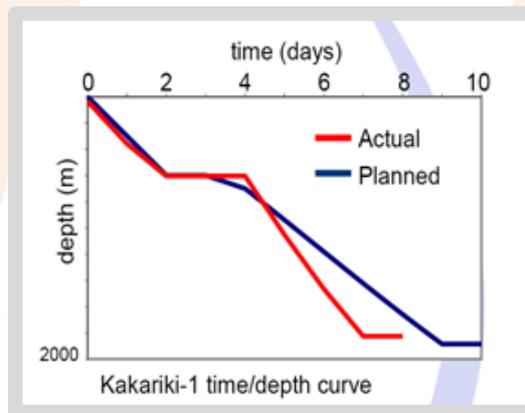
As part of TAP Oil's regional exploration operations, AWT was contracted to fully plan, execute and manage drilling operations for TAP Oil's Inglewood campaign, located in Taranaki's onshore exploration tenement zones. At that time approximately 500 million barrels of oil and 200 billion cubic metres of gas had been discovered in the rift complex. In comparison with other regions of its size, exploration in the basin had only covered a fraction of potential reserves

### Location:

Taranaki Basin,  
West Coast of New  
Zealand's North Island

### Project Objective:

To drill four onshore exploration wells located in exploration zones near the Taranaki town of Inglewood



## AWT WORK SCOPE

- As an independent provider of drilling project management services, AWT solicited tenders from various specialist subcontractors to provide:
  - Drilling and casing equipment
  - Wellhead hardware
  - Drilling fluids and services
  - Cement and associated services
  - A drilling rig and support hardware
- In addition to exploration well equipment, AWT procured completions and production equipment on standby in the event commercial grade hydrocarbon was discovered in the exploration wells.
- Equipment supplies and services were secured and delivered on time, allowing exploration drilling to commence according to TAP Oil's required schedule. All four wells were successfully drilled to specified depths either on or ahead of schedule, on average 21% below budget and without incident. Well abandonment was subsequently completed in total accordance with New Zealand's safety and environmental regulations.

## AWT VALUE ADDED

- AWT's ability to engage in a close technical and commercial partnership with the customer allowed the solutions provider to coordinate various subcontractors to successfully sidetrack the original drilling path of the Hihiri-1 exploration well to the updip Hihiri-1A location to suit TAP's changing requirements.
- AWT was also able to expedite environmental approvals for TAP's drilling campaign by working closely with a local New Plymouth based environmental consultancy while complementing the application process with AWT's own considerable experience in environmental approvals.