

### 2003 Exploration highlights

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#### ABSTRACT

The exploration and appraisal highlights of 2003 are reviewed through the granting of selected exploration awards to companies who made significant discoveries during the year, successfully appraised existing fields, invested heavily in frontier exploration, or otherwise applied leading edge technology to advance the exploration cause.

### PESA Industry review 2003

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#### ABSTRACT

Five developments started production in 2003—these were ARC Energy's HOVEA onshore oil development Perth Basin, OMV's Patricia Baleen offshore/onshore gas development in East Gippsland, ENI's Woollybutt and Apache's Double Island offshore oil fields and Woodside completed the first phase of their NW Shelf expansion project.

### Environmental updates for 2003

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#### ABSTRACT

The Southern Margins of southeastern Australia comprise a remarkable marine ecosystem that is exemplified by the Bonney Upwelling. This is one of only a handful of known areas in the world that are regularly visited for feeding by blue whales, the largest of all known animals, living or extinct. Add to this the area's importance to the tourism, fishing and petroleum industries and there is plenty of potential for conflict between different interests.

This presentation summarises recent research that has been carried out by Santos, Deakin University/Australocetus Research Blue Whale Study, and Curtin University Centre for Marine Science and Technology during Santos' late 2003 seismic and drilling activities. These activities presented an excellent opportunity to acquire additional scientific information in the Bonney Upwelling ecosystem, and also in the waters to the west of Kangaroo Island. The surprising early arrival of blue whales in the Bonney Upwelling, and their unexpected presence to the west of Kangaroo Island, resulted in unique opportunities to study the behaviour of blue whales in the vicinity of seismic acquisition. This case study demonstrates the importance of the co-operative approach to collecting the data that is needed to facilitate management decisions on the basis of sound science (as opposed to politics or emotion).

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