

Commonwealth of Australia

Exemption under section 158 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

I, **Peter Garrett**, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, being satisfied that it is in the national interest to do so, hereby exempt, under section 158 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the persons specified in this notice, from the application of all of the provisions of Part 3 and Chapter 4 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in relation to the action specified in this notice.

Specified persons

- PTTEP Australasia (Ashmore Cartier) Pty Ltd (ACN: 004 210 164); and
- any person authorised, directed or requested by PTTEP Australasia (Ashmore Cartier) Pty Ltd to take the specified action.

Specified action

The drilling of a relief well (and all associated activities) in production licence AC/L7 or AC/L8 to stop the current uncontrolled flow of oil, gas and condensate from the Montara H1 well including but not limited to:

- drilling a relief well in an appropriate location (anticipated to be approximately 2km from the Montara Well Head Platform) using the West Triton drilling rig, taking currents, winds and well geometry into account;
- designing the relief well to have good formation strength near the intercept point with the Montara H1 well, approximately 2500m below the sea bed surface;
- drilling to a secure point above this target point;
- using precision technology to drill into the Montara H1 well;
- pumping mud into the well to stop the flow of oil, gas and condensate;
- cleaning up the West Atlas rig and making it safe to tow away from the Montara well head platform.

This exemption takes effect on the date of this notice.



Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Dated this 5th day of September 2009