

2008

### [Revised draft “Minerals Programme for Minerals \(Excluding Petroleum\) 2008”](#)

25 January 2008 - The revised draft “Minerals Programme for Minerals (Excluding Petroleum) 2008”, and the Chief Executive’s report to the Associate Minister of Energy on the submissions received and recommendations, can now be viewed via the links below. The revised draft is to be publicly notified on Saturday, 26 January 2008, in major national newspapers.

### [Trans-Orient plans multi-well programme in onshore East Coast](#)

28 January 2008 - CANADIAN-based explorer Trans-Orient Petroleum Ltd plans a multi-well drilling campaign in its onshore East Coast Basin acreage as well possibly redrilling shallow oil and gas wells.

### [Drilling of Kupe production wells reaches halfway](#)

28 January 2008 - Drilling of the three production wells at the Kupe gas condensate project offshore from south Taranaki in PML 38146 is making good progress with each well reaching over halfway.

### [Pike River plans to complete all rock drilling before starting on coal](#)

28 January 2008 - Pike River Coal has decided to complete all rock tunnelling including its pit bottom facilities before driving across the Hawera fault into the first coal seam.

### [Spring Creek underground coal mine resumes production](#)

28 January 2008 - Spring Creek underground coal mine near Greymouth, a joint venture between Solid Energy and Cargill, has resumed coal production following a 14 month \$25 million redevelopment to access 3.1 million tonnes of semi-soft coking coal.

### [New Minerals Programme and Regulations for Minerals and Coal comes into force](#)

2 February 2008 - The Associate Minister of Energy, Hon Harry Duynhoven, announced that the Minerals Programme for Minerals (Excluding Petroleum) 2008 and the Crown Minerals (Minerals and Coal) Regulations 2007 both came into force from 1 February 2008.

### [Additional supplementary Notice for the Onshore Taranaki Blocks Offer](#)

07 February 2008 – An additional supplementary notice has been released for the Onshore Taranaki Blocks Offer.

### [Origin and Contact acquire Swift Energy’s NZ interests](#)

8 February 2008 - Australian-based Origin Energy and its 51% owned New Zealand subsidiary Contact Energy have bought most of Swift Energy’s New Zealand oil and gas assets for approximately NZ\$115 million.

### [Closure of New Plymouth power station](#)

8 February 2008 - Contact Energy has announced it has officially closed its gas-fired New Plymouth power station.

### [L&M Petroleum plans more 2008 drilling](#)

13 February 2008 - Wellington-based L&M Petroleum Ltd expects to drill between two to five wells in 2008 in its West Southland permits and a new interest on the South Island’s West Coast.

### [Two seismic vessels make progress in Great South Basin](#)

13 February 2008 - A large two-vessel seismic data acquisition programme underway in the Great South Basin is making good progress despite delays caused by poor weather and ocean swells.

### [Kupe pipeline laying completed by specialist vessel Apache](#)

15 February 2008 - The 30 km pipeline that will carry Kupe gas and condensate from the offshore field has been laid by the pipelaying vessel Apache, project operator Origin Energy says.

### [Maari oil field may have additional 37 million barrels, Horizon says](#)

15 February 2008 - The greater Maari oil field in offshore Taranaki has an updip potential which could increase the field's current planned 50 million barrels to total reserves of 87 million barrels, junior partner Horizon Oil says.

### [OceanaGold finds new underground gold mine prospect at Macraes](#)

15 February 2008 - OceanaGold Corporation, which has just commissioned its first underground gold mine at Macraes, says it has located another underground panel under the first pit drilled at the east Otago mine.

### [Contact plans to increase size of gas-fired peaking station to 300MW](#)

19 February 2008 - Contact Energy intends to boost the size of its planned gas-fired peaking plant at Stratford in Taranaki to up to 300 MW compared with the 100 MW size which the company announced in November last year

### [Strong Tui field performance lifts projected oil output again](#)

19 February 2008 - Strong performance by the Tui oil field in offshore Taranaki has prompted Sydney-based operator Australian Worldwide Exploration to again revise upward oil production targets.

### [AWE plans for future exploration in Taranaki and Canterbury](#)

26 February 2008 - AWE, which now operates the largest number of offshore Taranaki exploration permits, is carrying out a large programme of assessment and interpretation in this acreage and has also become operator of its Canterbury permit.

### [Two extra Kupe wells may be drilled NZOG says](#)

26 February 2008 - The Kupe field partners are considering drilling two extra wells after the initial three development wells are completed, one of the partners New Zealand Oil & Gas says in its December quarter report.

### [Additional supplementary Notice for the Onshore Taranaki Blocks Offer](#)

27 February 2008 - The third supplementary notice has been released for the Onshore Taranaki Blocks Offer.

### [Petroleum Conference focuses on New Zealand's potential in the face of global influences](#)

5 March 2008 - The biennial New Zealand Petroleum Conference, being held at Auckland's Sky City Convention Centre from 9-12 March, brings together those organisations and people intending to participate in petroleum exploration and development in New Zealand. Some are already active in developing what is recognised as one of the world's most promising regions.

### [Solid Energy says coal export prices could double this year](#)

10 March 2008 - Solid Energy is expecting export prices for both coking and thermal coals to possibly double in price from July this year as world coal prices boom and supplies tighten.

### [Solid Energy seeks large extension to Huntly East underground mine](#)

10 March 2008 - Solid Energy is seeking consents for an \$85 million expansion to the Huntly East underground coal mine in the Waikato to supply most of the coal to fire New Zealand Steel's Glenbrook steel plant.

### [Eastern wins coal contract for second Canterbury dairy plant](#)

10 March 2008 - Queensland-based coal company Eastern Corporation Ltd's Takitimu mine in the Ohai area of Southland has won a contract to supply coal to a new independent dairy plant in South Canterbury.

### [Reefton mill modifications help boost gold output](#)

10 March 2008 - Mill modifications at OceanaGold Corporation's new Reefton mine on the West Coast of the South Island have boosted gold output while exploration has added to reserves.

### [Austral Pacific well produces from Urenui formation](#)

25 March 2008 - Austral Pacific Energy has begun producing from its first Urenui formation production well at its Cheal oil field in onshore Taranaki.

### [Solid Energy flares coal seam gas tests and looks at gasifying deep coal seams](#)

25 March 2008 - Solid Energy is flaring gas to test flow rates from appraisal wells at its Huntly coal seam gas project.

## [Methanex looks at start up of half Motunui methanol plant](#)

25 March 2008 - Methanex is looking at the possibility of restarting part of the mothballed Motunui methanol plant in Taranaki.

## [Discovery Geo to drill Awakino South-1 in offshore Taranaki mid year](#)

26 March 2008 - Texas-based explorer Discovery Geo Corporation plans to drill the Awakino South-1 well offshore from the north Taranaki coast in mid-year using the Ensco-56 jackup rig now drilling at Pohokura.

## [New Zealand Petroleum Conference: Beyond 08](#)

26 March 2008 - March 2008 saw Crown Minerals host the biennial NZ Petroleum Conference at Auckland's SkyCity Convention Centre. This was made possible with the generous support of a number of sponsors including Major Sponsors, Westpac Institutional Bank, Genesis Energy, Bell Gully, and Fugro.

## [More gas discoveries needed Minister of Energy says](#)

1 April 2008 - New Zealand will need more gas discoveries even though the Government had set a target of generating 90% of electricity from renewable sources by 2025, the Minister of Energy the Hon David Parker told the New Zealand Petroleum Conference.

## [NZ oil exports now 70% of oil imports new quarterly statistics show](#)

1 April 2008 - A new quarterly survey of energy statistics and trends shows that exports of New Zealand-produced oil equalled almost 70% of import oil volumes in the December quarter of 2007.

## [Seafloor minerals explorer Neptune Minerals sets up Wellington office](#)

1 April 2008 - Neptune Minerals plc, an international explorer for seafloor gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc is planning a programme of continuous exploration in northern New Zealand offshore waters called Project Trident.

## [New major gold-bearing structures in Otago, Glass Earth says](#)

1 April 2008 - Wellington-based gold explorer Glass Earth Gold Ltd says it is exploring new major gold-bearing structures in Otago similar to that hosting Macraes gold mine containing 8 million oz in resources and production.

## [Origin plans deepwater well on potential giant prospect off Dunedin](#)

14 April 2008 - Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - Origin Energy has identified a large double structure in the deepwater Canterbury Basin offshore from Dunedin. The company believes that this prospect has the potential to be a giant oil or gas field.

## [Origin looks to drill shallow offshore prospect south-west of Auckland](#)

14 April 2008 - Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - Origin Energy and joint venture partner OMV have developed four potential hydrocarbon prospects in exploration permit PEP 38619 located in the shallow waters of the Northland Basin south west of Auckland.

## [Coal seam gas could supply 5-10% of NZ's gas needs](#)

14 April 2008 - (Sources: Resource Development Technology, MBA Petroleum Consultants and Lindsay Clark). Coal seam gas could supply from 5 to 10% of New Zealand's gas supply, Steve Stepanek of Denver-based Resource Development Technology LLC told the New Zealand Petroleum Conference.

## [Oil may have profound effect on NZ economy says US investment manager](#)

17 April 2008 - Source: Buechler NZ Petroleum Conference presentation - US investment manager William J Buechler says successful oil exploration could have a profound positive impact on the New Zealand economy.

## [Discovery Geo to drill well in onshore Wairarapa, East Coast Basin](#)

17 April 2008 - Source: Discovery Geo and Lindsay Clark - Texas-based Discovery Geo Corporation plans to drill the first modern era petroleum well in the onshore Wairarapa area of the East Coast Basin from late March.

## [Hyundai joins Global Resources to explore Taranaki Basin](#)

22 April 2008 - (Source: Crown Minerals) Korean company Hyundai Hysco will join the hunt for oil and gas in the deepwater Taranaki Basin, the Ministry of Economic Development announced today.

## [Contact orders 200 MW gas-fired peaking turbines for Stratford](#)

30 April 2008 - Source: Contact Energy and Lindsay Clark - Contact Energy has placed an order for two fast-start gas-fired turbine peaking units which are expected to be generating power by the winter of 2010.

### [Kupe production drilling completed and Momoho-1 well to drill next](#)

30 April 2008 - Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - The drilling phase of the Kupe gas condensate project has been successfully completed and the joint venture partners have announced plans to immediately drill the Momoho prospect, 6 km south of the Kupe platform.

### [Solid Energy expects greater output and profit in second half and 2009](#)

30 April 2008 - Source: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - Energy producer, Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd, has made an after-tax loss of \$2.7 million for the first half of its financial year to 31 December 2007 but is expecting a recovery for the full year and a strong result in the 2009 year.

### [Widespread Energy wins new permit off West Coast](#)

30 April 2008 - Source: Widespread Energy and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand-based exploration company Widespread Energy Ltd has been awarded an offshore West Coast South Island exploration.

### [Tui oil transforms NZOG's financial position in six months](#)

30 April 2008 - Source: NZOG and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd's financial position has "quite literally been transformed" in just six months with the start-up of the Tui oil field, the company says in its half year report to 31 December 2007.

### [Marsden Point oil refinery expansion project underway](#)

30 April 2008 - Source: NZ Refining and Lindsay Clark - Detailed engineering is nearly completed for the \$180 million expansion project at the Marsden Point oil refinery near Whangarei, the New Zealand Refining Company says.

### [L&M Petroleum finds gas shows at Fireball Creek-1](#)

5 May 2008 - Source: L&M Petroleum and Lindsay Clark - Explorer L&M Petroleum has located gas shows in its Fireball Creek-1 well in the onshore Westland Basin PEP 38521 south of Hokitika.

### [Auzex locates molybdenum and copper anomaly at Mt Radiant](#)

12 May 2008, Source: Auzex Resources and Lindsay Clark - Auzex Resources has identified a well defined molybdenum and copper prospect at Mt Radiant, inland from Karamea in the Buller area of the South Island West Coast.

### [Auzex finds encouraging gold assays from Lyell and Kirwan](#)

12 May 2008, Source: Auzex Resources and Lindsay Clark - The Australian and New Zealand mineral explorer Auzex Resources has reported highly encouraging gold assays from its Lyell gold field's permit which is a northern extension of the Reefton gold field.

### [Newmont Waihi gold sales up 121% in first quarter](#)

12 May 2008, Source: Newmont Mining Corporation and Lindsay Clark - Gold sales from Newmont Waihi operations were up 121% in the first quarter of 2008 from the first quarter of 2007, Newmont Mining Corporation reports.

### [Gas hydrates off East Coast could be future gas resource](#)

28 May 2008, Source: GNS Science and Lindsay Clark - Frozen gas hydrates which lies just below the seabed deep off New Zealand's East Coast may contain a future resource of over 8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, says Stuart Henrys, a senior research scientist at GNS Science.

### [Maari oil field platform installed and FPSO Raroa arrives](#)

28 May 2008, Sources: Horizon Oil, Cue Energy and Lindsay Clark - The Maari wellhead platform is now installed at New Zealand's largest oilfield offshore Taranaki and the floating production storage and offloading vessel Raroa arrived on site.

### [Pike River tunnel on track to intersect coal in July](#)

28 May 2008, Source: Pike River Coal and Lindsay Clark - Pike River Coal Ltd's coal mine development on the South Island West Coast has completed its eastern pit bottom in rock and is now beginning the final push across the Hawera Fault and into its coking coal target.

### [Eastern produces \\$1.2 m of coal in first quarter](#)

28 May 2008, Source: Eastern Corporation and Lindsay Clark - Queensland-based coal company Eastern Corporation Ltd has increased coal sales to \$1,225,000 in the first quarter of 2008 from its two South Island production mines.

## [Heritage Gold flies Waihi aeromag and starts drilling Rahu holes](#)

28 May 2008, Source: Heritage Gold and Lindsay Clark - Gold explorer Heritage Gold has flown an aeromagnetic survey near Waihi in the southern Coromandel and begun drilling at Rahu in its Karangahake tenements.

## [Strong gas and condensate test flows from Kupe field](#)

05 June 2008, Source: NZOG and Lindsay Clark - The three Kupe field production wells have together test flowed a total of over 115 million standard cubic feet a day and a condensate flow of over 15,000 barrels a day, one of the Kupe partners New Zealand Oil & Gas (NZOG) reports.

## [Pohokura gas-condensate field completed](#)

05 June 2008, Source: Shell Exploration NZ and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand's biggest natural gas and condensate field Pohokura just offshore from New Plymouth has been completed, operator Shell Exploration NZ Ltd announced on behalf of the joint venture owners.

## [L&M Coal Seam Gas awarded permit in south Waikato](#)

05 June 2008, Source: L&M Group and Lindsay Clark - Christchurch-based L&M Coal Seam Gas Limited has been granted an exploration permit over a large area of south Waikato.

## [Macraes underground gold grades expected to rise further](#)

10 June 2008, Source: OceanaGold and Lindsay Clark - Gold grades from the Frasers underground mine at OceanaGold's Macraes mine in east Otago has improved and grades are expected to increase further this year, OceanaGold says.

## [Reefton mine produces 18,000 oz in qtr as plant exceeds design](#)

10 June 2008, Source: OceanaGold and Lindsay Clark - OceanaGold's gold mine at Reefton is performing above expectations producing 18,204 oz during the first quarter of 2008, the company says in its March quarter report.

## [L&M Petroleum awarded second West Coast permit](#)

12 June 2008, Source: L&M Petroleum and Lindsay Clark - An L&M Petroleum-led joint venture has been granted a second exploration permit in the Westland Basin of the South Island, adjoining the acreage where it recently drilled the Fireball Creek-1 well.

## [Greymouth acquires Swift's Kowhai onshore Taranaki discovery](#)

12 June 2008, Source: Greymouth Petroleum and Lindsay Clark - Auckland-based private petroleum explorer Greymouth Petroleum has bought the remaining portion of Swift's New Zealand oil and gas assets from Swift Energy Corporation.

## [North Canterbury onshore well Kate-1 plugged](#)

12 June 2008, Source: Gas2Grid and Lindsay Clark - The onshore North Canterbury well Kate-1 drilled by private company Green Gate Ltd and its Australian-based farm-in partner Gas2Grid Ltd has been plugged and abandoned after reaching a total depth of 1,112 metres.

## [More gas availability enables Methanex to restart Motunui plant](#)

12 June 2008, Sources: Methanex, Contact Energy and Lindsay Clark - Improved natural gas supply in New Zealand has prompted Methanex Corporation to restart one of the twin-trains at its idled methanol plant at Motunui, near New Plymouth.

## [Origin extends Canterbury permit over Carrack-Caravel prospects](#)

12 June 2008, Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - Origin Energy has been awarded a 940 sq km extension to one of its Canterbury Basin permits PEP 38262 to fully cover the large deepwater prospects Carrack and Caravel about 50 km offshore from Dunedin.

## [Tui FPSO contract extension will produce extra 5m barrels of oil](#)

12 June 2008, Source: AWE and Lindsay Clark - A three-year extension to the charter for the Tui oil field's FPSO vessel Umuroa will allow at least five million barrels more oil to be recovered from the field, operator AWE Ltd says.

## [Macdonald-Chartwell awarded two coal seam gas permits](#)

13 June 2008, Source: Macdonald-Chartwell joint venture and Lindsay Clark - The Macdonald-Chartwell coal seam gas joint venture has been awarded two coal seam gas exploration permits in Waikato-Thames Valley area and in the Buller area of the South Island's west coast.

## [L&M Petroleum identifies coal seam gas prospects in Southland](#)

19 June 2008, Source: L&M Petroleum and Lindsay Clark - L&M Petroleum Ltd says it has identified coal seam gas potential within the company's onshore Western Southland Basin permit areas containing up to 300 billion cubic feet of resource near the Ohai coalfield.

### [Tui operator AWE plans merger with Perth-based ARC Energy](#)

19 June 2008, Source: AWE and Lindsay Clark - One of the most active explorers in New Zealand's offshore Taranaki Basin, Sydney-based Australian Worldwide Exploration Ltd is to grow bigger by a proposed takeover of another Australian explorer ARC Energy Ltd.

### [Underworld drilling at both Oturehua and Thames projects](#)

2 July 2008, Source: Underworld Resources and Lindsay Clark - Underworld Resources Inc, the New Zealand-based mineral explorer listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, has begun gold drilling in Central Otago in the South Island and near Thames in the North Island.

### [Grey River gold dredge permit area tripled in size](#)

2 July 2008, Sources: Birchfield Minerals and Lindsay Clark - The large Grey River alluvial gold dredge inland from Greymouth has been granted an extension to its mining permit area almost tripling its potential mineable acreage.

### [Neptune sees attractive margins in seafloor massive sulphides](#)

2 July 2008, Source: Neptune Minerals and Lindsay Clark - Attractive economic margins are possible from mining seafloor massive sulphides on deep undersea volcanoes in New Zealand waters, an engineering scoping study for Neptune Minerals indicates.

### [Pike River to sell first year's coal at US\\$300 a tonne](#)

3 July 2008, Source: Pike River Coal and Lindsay Clark - West Coast coking coal mining company Pike River Coal Ltd has settled the sales price for four buyers at US\$300 per tonne for deliveries in the year ended March 2009.

### [Tui oil reserves lift again to 50 million barrels](#)

9 July 2008, Source: AWE and Lindsay Clark - Oil reserves in the Tui field in offshore Taranaki have been lifted again to 50.1 million barrels from the previous estimate of 47 million barrels.

### [Good gas shows in Momoho-1 well in Kupe permit](#)

9 July 2008, Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - The Momoho-1 exploration well being drilled by the Ensco 107 jackup rig 6 km south of the Kupe gas field platform has encountered good gas shows in the primary target in the Farewell Formation.

### [Austral Pacific's Cheal-A7 step out well finds oil](#)

25 July 2008, Sources: Austral Pacific Energy and Lindsay Clark - Austral Pacific Energy has discovered oil bearing sands in its step-out Cheal-A7 well in its Cheal field in onshore Taranaki.

### [Pohokura oil reserves rise to 61mmbbls, gas to 980 bcf](#)

25 July 2008, Source: Ministry of Economic Development and Lindsay Clark - Oil reserves contained in New Zealand's largest petroleum field at Pohokura offshore from New Plymouth have been lifted 38% to 61 million barrels.

### [Momoho-1 discovery in Kupe field a 'small gas condensate pool'](#)

25 July 2008, Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - Kupe gas field operator Origin Energy reports it has discovered a small gas-condensate pool at its Momoho-1 well 6 km south east of the Kupe platform in offshore South Taranaki waters.

### [Record 42 wells drilled in 2007 as NZ exploration activity expands](#)

25 July 2008, Source: Ministry of Economic Development and Lindsay Clark - A record 42 petroleum wells were drilled in New Zealand in 2007 as exploration and development activity reached new heights.

### [OceanaGold sees excellent potential for more gold discoveries](#)

25 July 2008, Sources: OceanaGold and Lindsay Clark - Gold miner OceanaGold says there is excellent potential for additional gold discoveries at both its Macraes and Reefton gold mines.

### [Solid Energy granted resource approval for Huntly East development](#)

25 July 2008, Source: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - The Huntly East coal mine has been granted resource consent to mine an additional 6 million tonnes of coal over the next 10-15 years, mine owner Solid Energy says.

### [Huntly coal seam gas flows steadily increasing says Solid Energy](#)

12 August 2008, Sources: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - Test flows of coal seam gas from appraisal wells drilled in the Huntly coal field last year have been steadily increasing production since testing began.

### [L&M Petroleum to drill up to 8 coal seam gas wells in Southland](#)

12 August 2008, Sources: L&M Petroleum and Lindsay Clark - L&M Petroleum Ltd is about to begin a new programme of exploration for coal seam gas in its Western Southland onshore permits with plans to drill up to eight wells.

### [Methanex more optimistic about NZ gas – may operate two plants](#)

12 August 2008, Sources: Methanex and Lindsay Clark - Vancouver-based Methanex Corporation has expressed optimism about the longer term future of its Taranaki-based gas to methanol plants and potentially operate both of its facilities.

### [Greymouth Petroleum flows Kowhai field gas from Matapo sands](#)

29 August 2008, Source: Greymouth Petroleum and Lindsay Clark - Greymouth Petroleum has reported it has test flowed the first commercial gas from the Matapo sandstone formation in Taranaki at its onshore Kowhai-1 well east of New Plymouth.

### [Origin commits to drill Carrack-Caravel prospect off Dunedin](#)

29 August 2008, Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - Origin Energy has committed to drill a deepwater exploration well into the large double prospect Carrack and Caravel which lies 65 km east of the South Island city of Dunedin.

### [AWE plans major development of wider Tui field](#)

29 August 2008, Source: AWE and Lindsay Clark - Australian Worldwide Exploration is planning a major expansion of the Tui oil field next year.

### [Tui field produces 90% of AWE's oil production in June quarter](#)

29 August 2008, Sources: AWE and Lindsay Clark - The Tui oilfield continues to flow strongly in the June quarter producing 3.81 million barrels and averaging approximately 41,800 barrels per day, operator AWE says in its June quarter report.

### [Singapore company STP Energy takes over Awakino South-1 permit](#)

5 September 2008, Source: STP Energy and Lindsay Clark - A Singapore-based company STP Energy Pte Ltd which has taken over ownership of offshore North Taranaki PEP 38479 exploration acreage has taken the Ensco-56 jackup rig to the Awakino South-1 wellsite.

### [Contact Energy expects gas prices to rise further next year](#)

5 September 2008, Source: Contact Energy and Lindsay Clark - The cost of natural gas is expected to rise again next year as the lower cost Maui legacy gas is exhausted, major gas user Contact Energy says.

### [Oil and gas bonanza for Taranaki in the pipeline](#)

23 September 2008: Taranaki can look forward to a bonanza of new oil and gas exploration, Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven said today, as he announced the awarding of nine new onshore permits for the region.

### [Neptune to partner NZ researchers in studying underwater geology](#)

16 September 2008, Source: Neptune Minerals and Lindsay Clark - Sydney-based Neptune Minerals, which is exploring for copper-gold-silver-zinc-lead rich seafloor massive sulphide deposits in offshore New Zealand waters, is to partner New Zealand and British researchers to study underwater mineral geology on the Kermadec arc.

### [Glass Earth drills first of 10 holes into 5km-long Muirs prospect](#)

16 September 2008, Source: Glass Earth Gold and Lindsay Clark - Wellington-based gold exploration company Glass Earth Gold has drilled the first of 10 holes into its 5km-long Muirs Reef prospect near Te Puke in the North Island's Bay of Plenty region.

### [Eastern signs contract to sell more Cascade coal to cement plant](#)

16 September 2008, Source: Eastern Corporation and Lindsay Clark - Queensland-based coal company Eastern Corporation Ltd has increased production at its Cascade mine near Westport following the signing of a new coal contract with the Holcim cement plant at Cape Foulwind.

### [Kupe onshore production station progressing well](#)

17 September 2008, Source: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - Kupe gas condensate project operator is now entering its last stage - the construction of the onshore production station near Hawera is progressing well.

### [New opportunities for oil and gas exploration open](#)

23 September 2008 - New opportunities for oil and gas exploration are opening up for Taranaki, Canterbury, Northland, and the East Cape of the North Island.

### [Horizon and Cue acquire acreage in Todd's Matariki prospect](#)

30 September 2008, Source: Horizon, Cue and Lindsay Clark - Two Australian-based explorers Horizon Oil and Cue Energy Resources have farmed in to Wellington-based Todd Exploration's Matariki oil prospect 22 km south of the Maari oilfield in offshore Taranaki.

### [L&M Coal Seam Gas says its potential NZ gas prospects now 1.2 TCF](#)

30 September 2008, Source: L&M Coal Seam Gas and Lindsay Clark - A new potential in-ground gas resource of 1.2 trillion cubic feet has been declared by Christchurch-based L&M Coal Seam Gas Ltd including an estimated 780 PJ from one permit in south Waikato.

### [AWE takes over operatorship of D'Urville permit from Austral](#)

30 September 2008, Source: AWE and Lindsay Clark - Active offshore Taranaki oil explorer Australian Worldwide Exploration has taken over the operatorship of a southern Taranaki Basin permit northwest of D'Urville Island at the northern tip of the South Island.

### [NZ's offshore mineral resources worth billions, scientists say](#)

30 September 2008, Source: GNS Science and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand has continental-scale mineral resources because it has control of a vast submarine continent containing minerals worth potentially many billions of dollars, two scientists say.

### [NZ Steel sells Taharoa ironsand export business to Hong Kong firm](#)

30 September 2008, Source: BlueScope Steel and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand Steel's export ironsands business at Taharoa on the west coast of the North Island has been sold for NZ\$250 million to Hong Kong's largest infrastructure firm Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings, also known as CKI.

### [L&M Petroleum finds thicker and deeper coal in first Ohai CSG drill](#)

6 October 2008, Source: L&M Petroleum and Lindsay Clark - Wellington-based explorer L&M Petroleum has a thicker and deeper target coal seam than expected in the first of eight coal seam gas wells planned for its western Southland exploration permits.

### [Austral Pacific announces strategic alternatives review](#)

6 October 2008, Source: Austral Pacific and Lindsay Clark - Wellington-based petroleum explorer Austral Pacific Energy Ltd has announced it will initiate a strategic alternatives review of its business.

### [Origin stronger as takeover threat ends; new deal with Conoco](#)

7 October 2008, Sources: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - Origin Energy, the Australian company with substantial exploration and development interests in New Zealand, has emerged financially stronger after resisting a takeover from BG Group and entered instead a cash-up-front partnership deal with Conoco-Phillips.

### [NZ's new continental shelf rights adds 42% to offshore exploration estate](#)

7 October 2008, Source: Land Information New Zealand and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand's rights over the Continental Shelf sea floor around its coast have been officially extended by 1.7 million sq km or 42% greater than covered by the 200 nautical mile-wide EEZ area.

### [NZ coal exports rise sharply and expected to grow further in 2009](#)

8 October 2008, Sources: NZ Energy Quarterly and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand's coal production increased by 21% in the latest June quarter compared with the same quarter of 2007, according to the New Zealand Energy Quarterly, published by the Ministry of Economic Development.

### [Solid Energy's Terrace underground mine aims to improve returns](#)

8 October 2008, Source: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - Solid Energy will continue to operate the Terrace underground mine near Reefton until at least mid-2009, with the likelihood of further production if the mine achieves better returns.

### [Glass Earth says Muirs Reef drill results indicates potential for wide gold system](#)

14 October 2008, Source: Glass Earth Gold and Lindsay Clark - Exploration company Glass Earth Gold Ltd's first stage drilling at its Muirs Reef prospect near Te Puke in the North Island's Bay of Plenty region, has indicated a high-level epithermal system, the company reports.

### [L&M Coal hold 46 MT of coal resources in Buller coalfield](#)

14 October 2008, Sources: L&M Coal and Lindsay Clark - L&M Coal Ltd has established a potential coal resource of 128 million tonnes in four separate coal exploration permits in New Zealand, including 45 million tonnes in the Buller coal field near Stockton.

### [Notification of the relocation of Crown Minerals Lower Hutt petroleum core store](#)

20 October 2008, Source: Crown Minerals- Crown Minerals manages a petroleum core library facility at 41a Bell Road South, in Lower Hutt, Wellington. This facility is used to accommodate core, sediment and liquid samples obtained during exploration drilling for oil and gas. A smaller amount of coal and mineral drill core and bagged samples are also present.

### [Seafield to begin test drilling for gold off West Coast](#)

4 November 2008, Sources: Seafield Resources and Lindsay Clark - Offshore Westland placer gold explorer Seafield Resources Ltd will begin its first ship-based drill sampling for gold this summer.

### [Record export coal prices boost Solid Energy at end of year](#)

4 November 2008, Sources: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - Energy producer Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd's results for the year to 30 June 2008 were boosted in the last quarter by record prices of up to US\$300 a tonne for hard coking coal.

### [Notice to Extend the Land to be Unavailable for Priority in Time Applications: Offshore East Coast of the North Island](#)

05 November 2008, Source: Crown Minerals - From 10 October 2008 an area of the Offshore East Coast of the North Island identified in the attached map is closed to Priority in Time petroleum permit applications until further notice.

### [Standards for Submitting Digital Data to Crown Minerals to be enforced from 1st January 2009](#)

18 November 2008, Source: Crown Minerals - From 1st January 2009 Crown Minerals will no longer accept data submittals that fail to meet the requirements outlined in the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Regulations 2007.

### [Eastern shifts some operations to NZ as big coal contract starts](#)

17 November 2008, Source: Eastern Corporation and Lindsay Clark - Brisbane-based Eastern Corporation Ltd have moved their accountancy operations to their Timaru office as they begin supplying coal to their biggest customer the Fonterra milk processing plant Clandeboye in South Canterbury.

### [Pike River Coal begins mining first coal](#)

17 November 2008, Source: Pike River Coal and Lindsay Clark - First coal from the brand new Pike River coal mine accessed through a 2.3 km rock tunnel has been trucked to the company's coal preparation site.

### [Solid Energy plans to reopen Maramarua opencast coal mine](#)

17 November 2008, Source: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - After a break of some years Solid Energy is preparing to resume mining operations in the Kopako 1 (K1) pit at the Maramarua opencast mine about 80 km north of Huntly.

### [NZOG takes major stake in Barque permit in offshore Canterbury](#)

21 November 2008, Sources: NZOG and Lindsay Clark - New Zealand Oil & Gas has entered into an agreement to acquire a 40% stake in permit PEP 38259, which lies in the offshore Canterbury Basin about 50 km south east of Oamaru.

### [Solid Energy begins generating power from Huntly coal seam gas pilot wells](#)

21 November 2008, Source: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - Christchurch-based coal producer Solid Energy has begun producing the first electricity from coal seam gas at pilot wells west of Huntly which first flowed gas in December 2007.

### [Abu Dhabi and Austrian governments take 50.7% of OMV shares](#)

21 November 2008, Source: OMV and Lindsay Clark - The Austrian-based company OMV which is taking a prominent role in oil and gas exploration in New Zealand, is now 50.7% owned by a consortium of an investment arm of Abu Dhabi Government and the Austrian Government.

### [Seismic ship Pacific Titan begins multi-permit surveys over summer](#)

21 November 2008, Sources: Global Resources, AWE, Greymouth Petroleum, Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - The CCG Veritas seismic survey ship Pacific Titan has begun acquiring 2D seismic for a number of exploration companies in the Taranaki, Deepwater Taranaki, Canterbury and Great South basins.

### [Tui oil field partners look at expanding FPSO fluid handling capacity](#)

21 November 2008, Sources: NZOG and Lindsay Clark - The Tui oil field partners are looking at greatly expanding the fluid handling capacity of the production vessel moored on the field.

### [Ensco 107 rig begins Maari oil field drilling](#)

28 November 2008, Sources: Horizon Oil and Lindsay Clark - Initial drilling of the Maari oil field production wells by the Ensco 107 jack-up drill rig has made good progress in the second half of November.

### [Kupe gas project over 85% complete with focus now onshore](#)

28 November 2008, Sources: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - The Kupe gas condensate project in south Taranaki is now over 85% complete with focus on completion of the onshore production facilities and finalisation of commercial arrangements, field operator Origin Energy says in its third quarter report.

### [Tui oil field partners look at expanding FPSO fluid handling capacity](#)

28 November 2008, Sources: NZOG and Lindsay Clark - The Tui oil field partners are looking at greatly expanding the fluid handling capacity of the production vessel moored on the field.

### [Newmont identifies promising Waihi gold prospects](#)

28 November 2008, Sources: Newmont Waihi Gold and Lindsay Clark - Newmont Waihi Gold has identified a number of promising exploration projects including a possible extension to the gold and silver ore body of its Favona underground mine near Waihi.

### [Solid Energy and New Zealand Steel sign coal supply contract](#)

28 November 2008, Sources: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - Coal producer Solid Energy plans to invest more than \$100 million developing and extending the Huntly East underground mine over the next five years following the signing of a big coal contract with New Zealand Steel.

### [OceanaGold expects gold output to reach up to 300,000 oz in 2009](#)

3 December 2008, Sources: OceanaGold and Lindsay Clark - Higher grades from OceanaGold's Frasers underground and openpit Macraes mine and from higher production at Reefton have encouraged the company to predict gold output of over 265,000 ounces (oz) for the full 2008 year.

### [Solid Energy looks to develop more Buller coking coal resources](#)

3 December 2008, Sources: Solid Energy and Lindsay Clark - Solid Energy has reappraised its hard coking coal reserves on the Buller coal field in light of current prices for the coal which it exports from the Stockton mine.

### [Oil and gas exploration opened in East Cape and Northland](#)

### [Notice of Land Unavailable for Priority in Time Applications: Offshore Raukumara Basin](#)

### [Ensco 107 rig begins Maari oil field drilling](#)

16 December 2008, Sources: Horizon Oil and Lindsay Clark - Initial drilling of the Maari oil field production wells by the Ensco 107 jack-up drill rig, has made good progress in the second half of November.

### [Kupe gas project over 85% complete with focus now onshore](#)

16 December 2008, Sources: Origin Energy and Lindsay Clark - The Kupe gas condensate project in south Taranaki is now over 85% complete with focus on completion of the onshore production facilities and finalisation of commercial arrangements, field operator Origin Energy says in its third quarter report.

### [New Zealand Energy Quarterly - September 2008 -Issue 4](#)

17 December 2008 - The New Zealand Energy Quarterly provides quarterly statistics and trend data on the supply of major fuel types, electricity generation and its associated greenhouse gas emissions, and liquid fuel prices.

### [Solid Energy's new estimate of Matura coalfield at 3 billion tonne](#)

19 December 2008 - Recent drill exploration by Solid Energy in two of its large eastern Southland lignite fields at Matura and Croydon has consolidated knowledge of the resource.

### [New Minister of Energy Brownlee opens Pike River Coal mine](#)

19 December 2008 - The new Pike River coal mine north of Greymouth has been opened by the new Minister of Energy and Resources Gerry Brownlee in his first official function since the National-led Government took office.

### [Origin to acquire 3D seismic over Carrack-Caravel in January](#)

24 December 2008 - Origin Energy is to begin a large 3D seismic survey in January 2009 over its deepwater Carrack and Caravel complex prospect located in the southern Canterbury Basin some 65 kilometres (km) east of Dunedin on the South Island.

### [NZOG agrees to sell Kupe LPG to Vector](#)

24 December 2008 - New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd (NZOG) has made an agreement to sell its share of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) produced from the offshore Kupe field to gas and power infrastructure company Vector Ltd.

### [Maari oilfield 10 weeks away from first oil](#)

21 January 2009 - Conductor casings for the nine development well slots in the Maari offshore oil field have now been completed with first oil production expected only ten weeks away in February 2009.

### [Tui to use 2009 rig for more exploration, and defer development well](#)

21 January 2009 - The Tui oilfield partners have agreed to concentrate on drilling further exploration prospects near the main Tui pool in 2009 and postpone the extra development well.

### [Major oil finds would provide step change in NZ economy, energy briefing says](#)

21 January 2009 - Confirmation of large oil fields in offshore water of New Zealand could provide a step change in national income for the country, an energy briefing to the new Minister of Energy and Resources Gerry Brownlee says.

### [Tests confirm L&M Petroleum coal seam gas discovery potential](#)

27 January 2009 - Wellington-based explorer L&M Petroleum says that laboratory analysis of coal samples from its first coal seam gas well drilled near Ohai in western Southland last year has confirmed the presence of a gas resource.

### [First Maari 1.5 km horizontal production well completed all in oil sands](#)

27 January 2009 - The first of five production wells in OMV's Maari oil field in the offshore south Taranaki Basin has successfully completed 1.5 kilometres (km) of horizontal drilling across the top of the target Moki reservoir formation entirely in clean, oil-bearing sandstone.

### [Tui fields produce 20 millionth barrel of oil](#)

27 January 2009 - The Tui area oil fields in the offshore Taranaki Basin have produced the 20 millionth barrel of oil, one of the partners in the field New Zealand Oil & Gas (NZOG) says.

### [Government repeals thermal ban on new gas-fired power stations](#)

27 January 2009 - Restrictions on the building of large natural gas and coal stations to generate thermal powered electricity have been repealed by the newly-elected National-led Government.

### [Solid Energy exports Southland coal fines out of Lyttelton](#)

30 January 2009 - Solid Energy has begun exporting Southland coal fines from Ohai through its Lyttelton coal terminal.

### [Conservation Minister visits 'showcase' Pike River underground mine](#)

30 January 2009 - The Conservation Minister in the newly-elected National-led Government, Tim Groser, has visited the Pike River Coal export coking coal mining site high in the Paparoa Ranges on the West Coast.

### [NZOG awarded new south Taranaki offshore permit](#)

12 February 2009 - Wellington-based New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd (NZOG) has been awarded a new offshore Taranaki exploration permit to the west and south of the Kupe development.

### [Start-up of Motunui plant almost doubles methanol output in quarter](#)

12 February 2009 - The Vancouver-based Methanex Corporation almost doubled its New Zealand methanol production in its latest December quarter following the startup in October of its Motunui plant.

### [NZOG buys 15% stake in Tui partner Pan Pacific Petroleum](#)

12 February 2009 - New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd has bought a 15% stake in fellow Tui oil field partner Pan Pacific Petroleum NL which is Australian-based.

### [New Stockton coal processing plant as export demand turns down](#)

16 February 2009 - New Zealand's largest coal exporter Solid Energy is to invest \$100 million in a new coal processing plant at its Stockton opencast mine near Westport as the next step in a long-term investment programme designed to secure a further 20-year life for the mine.