

## Northland Basin

### Key facts

#### Where

A mainly offshore basin of over 50,000 sq km along the west coast of the northern North Island.

#### Geology

Contiguous with Taranaki Basin to the south, with up to 9,000 m of Jurassic to Quaternary basin fill.

#### Wells drilled

Only two significant exploration wells drilled: Waimamaku-1 (onshore, 1969), and Wakanui-1 (offshore, 1999). Karewa-1 (offshore, 2003) was drilled in the far northeast of the adjoining Taranaki Basin.

#### Known hydrocarbons

Late Cretaceous allocthonous oil shale outcrops onshore, gas seeps, gas shows in Waimamaku-1 and -2.

#### Prospects

Strong geological similarities with Taranaki Basin but virtually unexplored.

#### Potential source rocks

Jurassic and Cretaceous coal measures, Cretaceous to early Cenozoic marine mudstones, possible Cretaceous to Eocene coal measures.

#### Potential reservoir rocks

Late Cretaceous terrestrial-paralic-nearshore sandstones, Eocene turbidites, Miocene volcanoclastics and turbidite sandstones.

#### Downstream infrastructure

Oil refinery and port at Marsden Point, Whangarei, with connections to the North Island gas pipeline network and a liquids pipeline to Auckland.

#### Auckland region gas consumers

Otahuhu B 380 MW; Southdown freezing works gas/cogen 118 MW; planned Otahuhu C (2006) 400 MW. Connection to high-pressure pipeline to Huntly power station gas/coal 1000 MW.

#### Port facilities

Marsden Point, Whangarei, is the deepwater port for the New Zealand Refining Company's oil refinery. The jetty can take tankers of up to 145,000 tonnes displacement.

- [Northland Basin Exploration Potential \[1.1 MB PDF\]](#)
- [Northland Basin map](#)

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