OMV in New Zealand

OMV is a hydrocarbon producer and an explorer in the search for new oil and gas reserves offshore New Zealand.

The company began operating in New Zealand after acquiring a 30% share in the Maari oil field following the purchase of Cultus Petroleum of Australia in 1999. It has since expanded into a range of other assets through subsequent acquisitions. These include the Māui gas field and a 74% share in the Pohokura gas field. OMV New Zealand is a subsidiary of OMV Upstream, which is part of the OMV Group, one of Austria’s largest listed industrial companies.

As of year-end 2019, OMV’s proven worldwide reserves were 1.33 billion boe (barrel of oil equivalent). In 2019, OMV Upstream’s global oil and gas production averaged 487,000 boe per day.

OMV is a highly experienced operator of mature onshore and offshore fields, focused on delivering safe and efficient production.

With offices in Wellington and New Plymouth, the company is a significant contributor to operating profit within OMV Upstream’s portfolio. OMV NZ contributed more than 2.1 million New Zealand Dollars in tax and royalties to the New Zealand government in 2019.

Production

OMV has interests in three offshore production licenses or petroleum mining permits – all in the Taranaki region. Current production is 40,000 boe per day (OMV), comprised of 70% gas, 30% condensate and oil.

Pohokura

OMV has a 74% share in the Pohokura gas field in the Taranaki Basin. Pohokura began production in late 2006 and meets about 40% of New Zealand’s gas demand.

Production is processed through the Pohokura Production Station, which has no staff on site and is remotely controlled from the New Plymouth office.

Māui

Māui was New Zealand’s largest gas field until 2008. It meets about 20% of New Zealand’s gas needs and is 100% owned by OMV. Māui was discovered in 1969. The first gas to shore was ten years later, in May 1979.

Maari

Maari is New Zealand’s largest oil field and lies 80 km off the south Taranaki coast. OMV agreed to divest its 69% interest in the Maari Field in 2019.
Exploration
OMV is actively searching for oil and gas resources in New Zealand. OMV currently holds interests in seven operated exploration permits.

Taranaki Basin
OMV is exploring in the Taranaki region with five operated exploration permits. A dynamic work program is underway across all operated license areas with the intent to grow OMV’s and New Zealand’s reserves through new discoveries in our permits.

Pegasus Basin
OMV operates one offshore permit in Pegasus Basin, offshore Wairarapa. Understanding of this relatively unexplored frontier basin has increased significantly since seismic data was acquired in the first half of 2017. Ongoing geological and geophysical studies will enable a drilling decision, expected to be made in 2021.

Great South Basin (GSB)
OMV has been active in the GSB since 2007 and acquired 19,000 km of 2D seismic data and 4,820 km² of 3D seismic data in the last ten years. OMV drilled the GSB well in early 2020.

In our communities
Being socially responsible is a key part of OMV’s approach to sustainability. OMV actively supports the communities where we operate.

Projects include:
- Large scale tree planting projects in Taranaki and Wairarapa
- Training and employing iwi representatives as professional marine mammal observers during seismic surveys
- WISE Better Homes funding to retrofit homes with insulation for low income Taranaki households
- Roderique Hope Trust - emergency supplies for displaced Taranaki families in need
- Translocation of sea birds to Mana Island and wetlands
- Tiaki te Mauri o Parininihi Trust – protecting the health and spirit of Parininihi, Taranaki – including the reintroduction and monitoring of kōkako birds.
- Reintroduction of rare birds at Rotokare Scenic Reserve in Taranaki
- Providing equipment and operating costs for Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust
- Support for Taranaki’s WOMAD festival.

Milestones
1999 Acquires 30% of Maari oil field
2002 Acquires 10% of Māui gas field. Increases Maari share to 69% and becomes operator.
2003 Acquires 26% of Pohokura gas field
2007 Secures Great South Basin (GSB) exploration permits
2008 Maari drilling program begins; Maari wellhead platform and FPSO Raroa arrive
2009 Maari first oil. Drilling of Manaia ERD well
2010 Maari reaches 10 million barrel milestone; acquires additional seismic in the GSB
2011 Secures two additional Taranaki Basin exploration permits
2012 Completes GSB 3D seismic program. Additional permits in Taranaki and GSB
2013 Drills Matuku-1 exploration well and Manaia-2 appraisal well; purchase of the FPSO Raroa by the Maari JV
2014 Start of Maari Growth redevelopment drilling campaign; acquires Kaka 3D and Mohua 2D seismic. Awarded two operated exploration permits: Pegasus Basin and Taranaki Basin
2015 Awarded four exploration permits in Taranaki Basin
2017 Maari Field produces 35 million barrels of oil
2018 Acquires Shell’s Upstream assets in New Zealand, including interests in Pohokura and Māui and related infrastructure for production, storage and transportation
2019 OMV agreed to divest its 69% interest in the Maari Field.

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