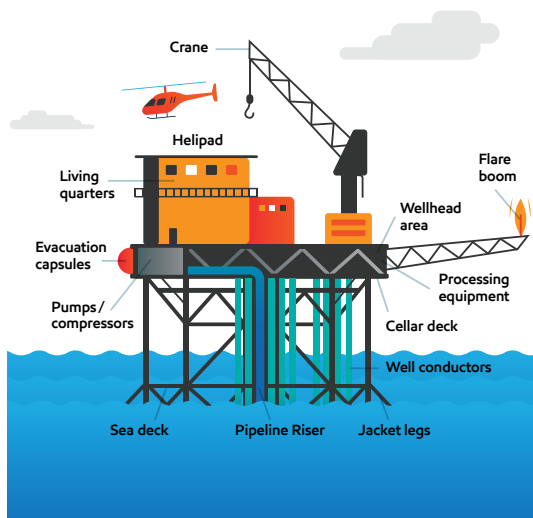


# Offshore operations

The offshore installations in Bass Strait consist of 19 platforms and four subsea facilities.



These installations recover crude oil, condensate and natural gas which, with associated water, are trapped in subsea sandstone reservoirs located between 1200 and 2500 metres below sea level. When the fluids reach the platform they are separated into oil, gas and water. The gas and oil are transported onshore through a 600 kilometre network of underwater pipelines connecting the platforms with the processing plants at Longford.

## Our offshore operations

### Platforms

Most platforms have a tubular steel base structure (or jacket) which is fastened to the sea floor by piles. The jackets support the 'topsides' which include the production facilities, living quarters for the personnel working on the platform and a helicopter landing pad.

The wells through which the oil and gas are produced are located at the northern end of the platform as is the flare boom, an essential safety system burning constantly with a small pilot flame. To the south of the wells are located the facilities used to separate the oil, water and gas and small amounts of sand from the produced fluid. The living quarters and emergency escape craft are located at the southern end of the platform behind steel fire

### Fast facts

- Production from our first platform commenced in 1969.
- There are 23 offshore platforms and installations in Bass Strait which feed a network of 600km of underwater pipelines.
- Development of the Kipper and Turrum fields in recent years has seen the newest addition of the Kipper subsea installations and Marlin B platform in 2013.
- Up to 300 people live and work offshore at any time.
- Platforms operate 24 hours a day and crews typically work 12 hour shifts on a roster system.
- The biggest platforms are capable of sleeping up to 80 people at any one time.

walls. The helicopter landing pad is located above the living quarters.

Esso's platform crews are made up of Operations Technicians who control the oil and gas flow to the surface and monitor the processing facilities on each platform, maintenance personnel who look after electrical, mechanical and instrumentation equipment, crane drivers and trades assistants. Others do specialised jobs such as drilling, diving, painting, catering and construction.

### Underwater pipelines

Seven underwater pipeline systems bring the oil and gas onshore from the platforms. When in production, oil from the Bream, Kingfish, Cobia, Mackerel, Blackback and Fortescue fields travel by pipelines to the Halibut platform which, as well as producing oil, is also a central pumping station from which a main 450mm oil line carries the oil to the Longford crude stabilisation plant. Oil produced from the Snapper, Tuna, Flounder and Marlin fields also comes ashore via the main oil line from Halibut.

Gas produced by the Tuna, Flounder and Marlin fields is sent ashore via a pipeline from Marlin. Gas produced from the Bream field comes ashore by its

own independent pipeline. Once onshore, these three gas lines connect into a 750mm pipeline which sends the gas to Longford Plants.

Smaller underwater pipelines carry oil produced by the Perch and Dolphin fields and the Seahorse, Tarwhine and Barracouta fields to shore. Gas produced by the Barracouta field travels ashore via an independent pipeline from Barracouta platform.



### Safety is our priority

We place the highest priority on operating flawlessly in all aspects of our business. One of the key tools in maintaining safe operations is the ExxonMobil Operations Integrity Management System which provides a systematic process to set objectives, measure progress, plan improvements and ensure accountability for results. Workforce Health and Safety Representatives are also an integral part of safely managing the facilities.

An emergency response plan is in place for all offshore locations. Emergency response plans are tested several times a year at various locations and can involve the participation of outside authorities and emergency services. The plan provides procedures that are designed to account for and ensure the safety and welfare of all personnel and to handle an emergency efficiently in order to preserve the environment and the integrity of the facility and associated equipment.

All facilities are equipped with emergency escape capsules and rafts which provide alternate evacuation methods if helicopters cannot be accessed.

Our offshore facilities are operated under a safety case which requires risks to be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable. Each platform has its own safety case written in consultation with the workforce, which documents the platform's operational risks and its associated preventive measures.

All Esso and contractor personnel have the skills and recognised qualifications to perform their tasks. A safety induction program to offshore platforms is compulsory for all personnel working offshore. As well as this, staff undergo training in firefighting, helicopter escape training and sea survival, use of rescue and escape craft and various levels of first aid.

### Environmental management

We are committed to achieving and maintaining excellence in environmental care throughout our operations. Each of our platforms are operated in accordance with an Environment Plan approved by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). We also develop an Environment Plan which covers Esso's pipeline activities in Victorian State Waters which is approved by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR). The purpose of these plans is to provide an assessment of the potential environmental effects of production activities and identify measures to mitigate or minimise those effects.

### Community outreach

Consultation with appropriate government departments and environmental groups is an established and important part of our planning. We ensure that we remain in touch with the views and concerns of the many stakeholders that reside within the community through regular engagement with local government, opinion leaders, regulators, local businesses and community groups to ensure we listen, understand and appropriately respond to our commitment of being a responsible corporate citizen.

*The Gippsland Basin Joint Venture (GBJV) oil and gas fields and associated production and processing facilities are owned by Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (EARPL) and BHP Billiton Petroleum (Bass Strait) Pty Ltd (BHPB) in a 50:50 joint venture. EARPL receives services, including personnel, from its wholly owned subsidiary, Esso Australia Pty Ltd (Esso). Esso has day-to-day management and control of the operational assets and is the designated operator for safety and environmental purposes under the relevant legislative frameworks.*

