



# Media Release

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For Immediate Release

## **NOPSA forms investigation team following drilling rig evacuation**

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) has formed an investigation team and is conducting preliminary enquiries into an uncontrolled release of hydrocarbons from a well head platform in the Montara field in the Ashmore Cartier region in the Timor Sea, about 690km west of Darwin.

The Montara wellhead platform is operated by PTTEP Australasia (Ashmore Cartier) Pty Ltd and is normally unmanned. The West Atlas mobile offshore drilling unit operated by Atlas Drilling (S) PTE Ltd was engaged in well operations conducted through the platform when an uncontrolled release of hydrocarbons from one of the platform wells occurred.

NOPSA has been informed by the facility operator that all 69 personnel onboard were safely evacuated from the drilling rig to nearby vessels.

The uncontrolled oil and gas flow from the well is presently continuing, resulting in oil being discharged to the surrounding area.

NOPSA continues to monitor the situation. The timing of further NOPSA investigatory action is dependent upon the well being brought under control by the operators.

Ends.

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*The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) is the occupational health and safety (OHS) regulator for the Australian offshore petroleum industry. NOPSA is a Commonwealth statutory agency that regulates under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 in Commonwealth waters and equivalent OHS legislation in designated coastal waters of the States and Northern Territory.*