



Drilling underway at Ruru exploration well near Maui gas field



Noble Discoverer drill ship and the Pacific Worker anchor handling vessel.

Shell Todd Oil Services Limited (STOS) has started drilling the Ruru exploration well, using the Noble Discoverer drill ship. The well will take about two months to complete.

Soon after the ship arrived in South Taranaki the crew received an on-board welcome and blessing from the Reverend Albie Martin representing the Ngati Tara

hapu (Taranaki iwi). Ngati Tara suggested the name 'Ruru' which means 'protector', for the well.

"Safety and environmental protection comes first for us. Many of the hundred men, some from overseas, were visibly moved as the Reverend Martin wished them safekeeping in their work and, reciting an ancestral Taranaki prayer, blessed the working

areas of the ship," says Rob Jager General Manager of Shell Todd Oil Services.

A comprehensive safety and environmental plan is in place for the Ruru well. STOS has been safely operating the offshore Maui field for more than 30 years without a significant discharge incident.

The demand for energy is growing, and oil and natural gas, alongside alternative

energy sources, will be part of that energy future for years to come. In 2009 the oil and gas sector contributed \$2.5 billion to GDP (Source Venture Taranaki).

Ruru is approximately 40 kilometres off the South Taranaki coast and straddles both the Maui Production License and the adjacent Petroleum Exploration Permit (Ruru, PEP 381203).



Reverend Albie Martin blessing the crew and ship.