

HISTORY OF BP IN AUSTRALIA

BP and its predecessor companies have operated in Australia for nearly 100 years, making a significant contribution to employment, investment and energy security.



1919: The Commonwealth Government formed a Joint Venture with (BP predecessor company) Anglo Persian Oil, which then constructed Australia's first ever oil refinery at Laverton Victoria in 1924. The Joint Venture, Commonwealth Oil Refineries, sold fuel under the C.O.R brand in Australia.



1952: BP purchased the Commonwealth Government's share of Laverton Refinery from the Menzies Government, and continued to sell fuel under the C.O.R brand until 1959. The brand imagery readily transferred to the "BP Shield" used for the remainder of the century.

BP also began the construction of the Kwinana Oil Refinery in Western Australia. Starting operations in 1955, the refinery today remains Australia's largest operating refinery and supplies the bulk of the liquid fuel needs of WA and SA.

1980s: BP increased its footprint by expanding into the offshore oil and gas sector. In 1982, investment began to build the giant North West Shelf Gas project in which BP and Woodside (the Operator) and four other companies had equal shares. Today the project continues to supply natural gas to Western Australia, LNG to export markets, as well as oil, condensate and LPG.

1986: BP drilled its first exploration well in the Great Australian Bight: Duntroon-1. Without discovering commercial volumes, another twenty-five years would pass before BP re-entered the GAB with the award of four exploration permits in 2011.



Today: as well as exploring in the GAB, BP is a participant in the North West Shelf Venture and fields in the Greater Gorgon Area, as well as the Browse Gas fields off the Kimberley coast. The company owns and operates the Kwinana Refinery, and across Australia supplies fuel to about 1400 service stations. Around 1050 of these are independently owned, but sell fuel under BP's brand, with the remainder owned and operated by BP. Altogether, BP employs above 6,000 people in Australia.