

2 November 2005

## Santos awarded acreage adjoining Caldita gas discovery

Santos Limited today announced that it has been awarded exploration permit NT/P69, located in the Timor Sea adjacent to exploration permit NT/P61 which contains the recent Caldita gas discovery.

Exploration permit NT/P69 is in the Bonaparte Basin offshore Northern Territory, approximately 310 kilometres north-northwest of Darwin, and contains the previously discovered Lynedoch gas resource.

"This additional exploration acreage further enhances Santos' position in the emerging northern Australian LNG province," Santos Managing Director, Mr John Ellice-Flint, said today.

"The new permit is of particular interest in light of the recent Caldita gas discovery in the adjoining block," he said

Both the NT/P69 and NT/P61 permits are jointly held by a wholly-owned Santos subsidiary, Santos Offshore Pty Ltd (40%), and an affiliate of ConocoPhillips (60% and operator).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

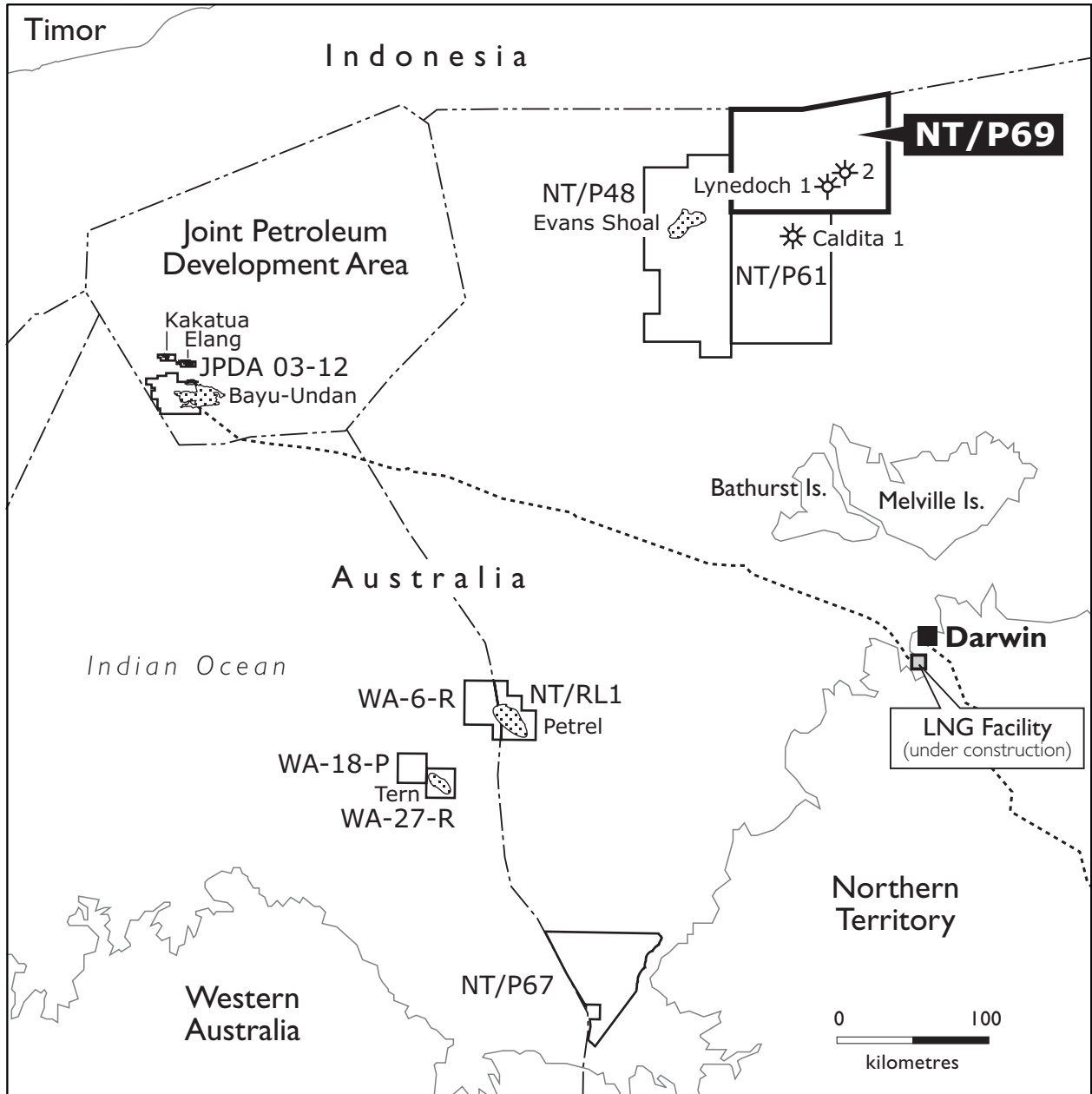
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**Santos stock symbols: STO (Australian Stock Exchange), STOSY (NASDAQ ADR), Ref #82-34 (Securities Exchange Commission)**

Map attached.

# Timor Sea



**Legend**

- Santos acreage
- Oil Field
- ▣ Gas Field
- Gas Pipeline

