

Drake

ENERGY & MARITIME
CONSULTING

THE DORADO OIL AND GAS FIELD

History, Potential and Key Challenges in a Changing Global Energy Context

The current conflict in the Middle East has increased volatility in global oil markets and reinforced the vulnerability of international energy supply chains. Disruptions to critical shipping routes and production infrastructure have highlighted the exposure of petroleum-importing nations such as Australia, which is heavily reliant on refined fuel imports. In this context, potential petroleum developments in Australia have re-emerged as strategically relevant.

The Dorado oil and gas field, located offshore Western Australia, is one such project that has gained renewed attention as a potential contributor to longer-term energy security.



PROJECT TIMING

Project timing and investment certainty also present major challenges. The final investment decision has been delayed beyond initial targets, and key development steps such as FEED progression and FPSO acquisition have been deferred pending further optimisation. These delays reflect both project-specific considerations and broader market dynamics affecting offshore oil investment.

Santos stated earlier this year that it is ready to accelerate development of the Dorado project. Production could begin approximately four years after FID.

OUTLOOK

The Dorado field remains a high-potential development with the capacity to make a meaningful contribution to Australia's future energy supply. Its large, relatively low-carbon resource base and proximity to existing onshore gas and LNG infrastructure support its long-term viability. At the same time, the project's outlook depends on achieving a balance between technical feasibility, commercial competitiveness and regulatory approval.

In the context of ongoing geopolitical instability, including the current Middle East conflict, the strategic rationale for developing fields that could supply domestic markets is likely to remain strong.

Dorado's proximity to refineries in South East Asia, and the lower freight costs compared with supplying Australian refineries, highlights the tension between using offshore petroleum projects to strengthen domestic energy security and maintaining commercial viability.

CONCLUSION

In the context of current geopolitical instability and constrained global supply, Dorado's economics take on an additional strategic dimension.

The Dorado oil and gas field represents one of Australia's most significant undeveloped offshore petroleum resources. From a geological perspective, it offers a high-quality accumulation with the potential to support sustained production over many years. From a commercial perspective, however, it highlights the increasingly complex interplay between cost, risk and investment in modern offshore developments.

Drake / ENERGY & MARITIME CONSULTING

Drake Energy & Maritime Consulting provides strategic advisory and consultancy services to clients in the energy, infrastructure and maritime sectors.

Drawing from extensive industry experience working in executive and advisory roles across these sectors, our team of specialist consultants offers organisations pragmatic and customised advice that is specific to the energy,

infrastructure and maritime sectors' distinct issues and individual challenges.

This comprehensive offering of professional expertise enables Drake Energy & Maritime Consulting to develop strategic, industry-informed strategies and solutions to assist our clients in managing and improving their operations in the energy, infrastructure and maritime sectors.

FOR A DISCUSSION ON HOW WE CAN ASSIST YOU CONTACT

Rod Johannessen (Director/Principal Consultant)

📞 0400 950 587 ✉️ rod@demc.net.au 🌐 demc.net.au