

estimated oil reserves have been raised to 450 million kilolitres (9,900 million gallons), enough to ensure Australia 65 per cent self-sufficiency throughout this decade.

Production in Bass Strait is currently based on seven platforms. Four produce oil, two produce oil and gas, and one produces gas. A subsea completion production well is operating in the Cobia field and pipes crude oil from the wellhead on the sea floor and along the bed to the Mackerel platform. Five new platforms are in various stages of development. One (Snapper), has the jacket installed and development drilling has commenced. The West Kingfish jacket has been fabricated and will be laid in mid-1981. The cost of West Kingfish has been estimated at \$230 million. The Cobia platform is expected to cost \$250 million and will be completed in 1983. Two other platforms (Flounder and Fortescue) are planned for completion in 1984. They will cost about \$300 million each.

The North West Shelf gas development project in Western Australia will encompass the development of three gas fields. The North Rankin (estimated reserves 8.6 trillion cu. ft.), Goodwyn (2.6 trillion cu. ft.), and Angel (1.4 trillion cu. ft.). Initially, however, development will be confined to North Rankin. Two drilling-production platforms, capable of producing a daily average of 720 million cu. ft. of wet natural gas, will be constructed and sited. The gas and condensate will be piped ashore through a 40-inch diameter submarine pipeline to onshore facilities that will be built at Withnell Bay.

The timetable for the overall project calls for delivery of natural gas to local users by 1984 and LNG sales to Japan by 1986. Total cost has been estimated at \$7.3 billion and it will require a construction force of about 5,000 people. To meet delivery deadlines the operator, Woodside Petroleum Development, has called many tenders for components with longer lead times. Indeed, the first of the two platform jackets was recently awarded to the Japanese firm, Nippon Kokan. While a number of Canadian equipment and service companies have registered their interest with Woodside Petroleum to bid on downstream development work, in general the