

# SAVE OUR BEACHES FROM OIL DISASTER

GREENPEACE

## The crude truth about deep-sea oil drilling in Aotearoa

### NEW ZEALAND GETS A BAD DEAL:

- Foreign companies are preparing to set up offshore drilling operations in New Zealand waters
- The oil is NOT for New Zealanders, but is shipped overseas
- As little as five per cent of the royalties from any oil found and sold could go to the New Zealand Government
- We have no control of the global price of oil no matter how much is found in our coastal waters

### THE THREAT OF A SPILL IS REAL:

- Drilling will be happening at depths of up to 3000 metres – more than twice the depth the *Deepwater Horizon* was exploring in when the US Gulf of Mexico oil disaster occurred
- There are no adequate safeguards or regulations for when something goes wrong
- Foreign companies with bad safety records like Anadarko (Gulf of Mexico spill) and Petrobras (Brazilian spills) have been given access to New Zealand waters without any public consultation
- The cost to our economy, livelihoods and international reputation could amount to billions, if an oil spill occurred in our precious coastal waters
- It took over 6000 ships to try (unsuccessfully) to clean up the Gulf of Mexico spill – New Zealand wouldn't have a hope of mustering that many



© The United States Coast Guard

### CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT GOING AWAY

- Burning fossil fuels like oil drives climate change - the biggest threat that humanity's ever faced
- In the era of climate change the world is crying out for alternatives to oil – with our good reputation and talent for innovation New Zealand should be leading the way in clean energy alternatives

Many of us watched dumbfounded as the oil-spill disaster in the US Gulf of Mexico unfolded in 2010. Amazingly, as the oil was gushing from BP's well, Energy and Resources Minister Gerry Brownlee was issuing permits for deepwater exploration to be carried out here. Mr Brownlee never questioned Petrobras' environmental record – which happens to be terrible.

## STOP DEEP-SEA OIL DRILLING

© Greenpeace / Daniel Beltrá

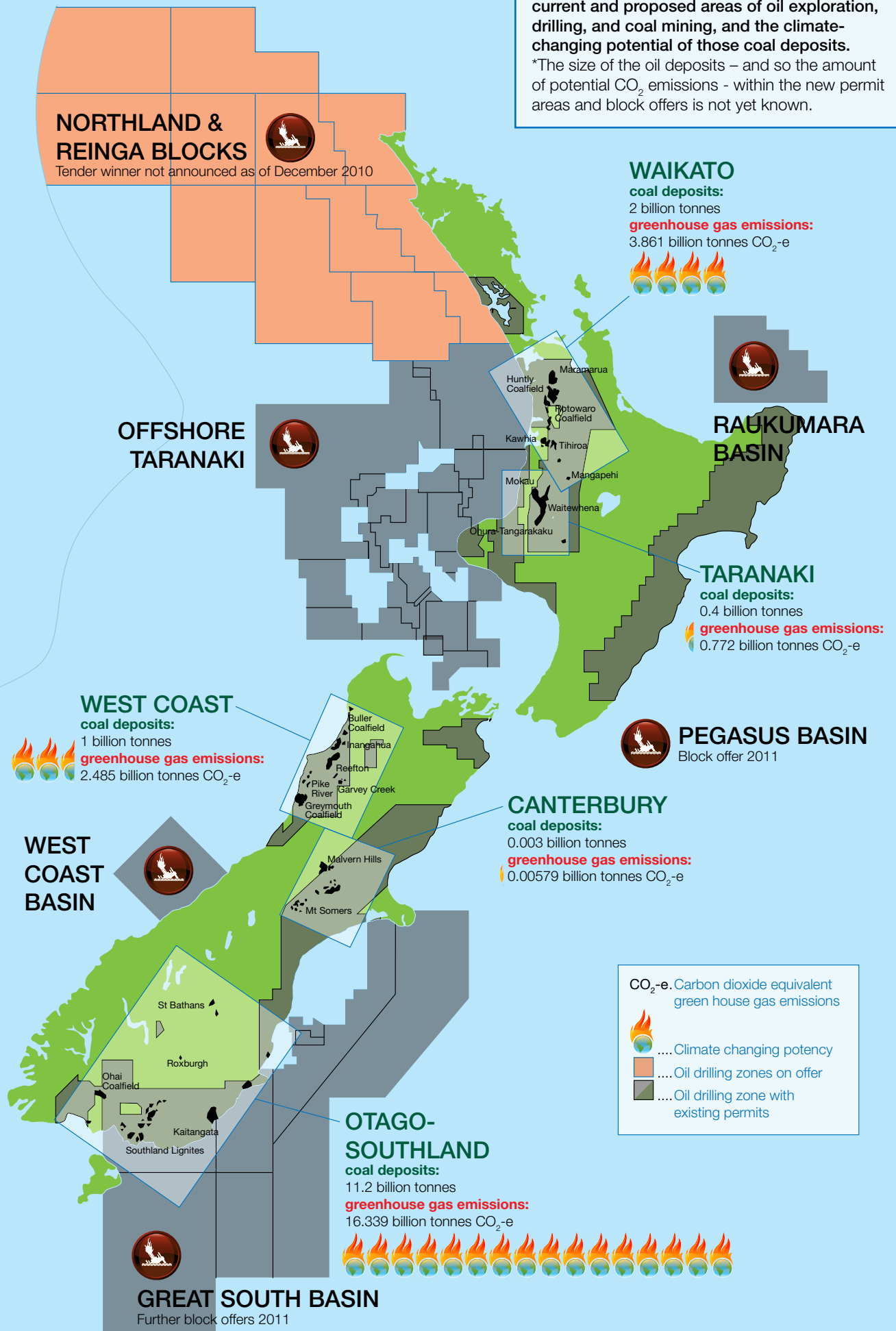
Sign our petition at [www.greenpeace.org.nz/oil](http://www.greenpeace.org.nz/oil)

# The new fossil fuel frontiers

## Oil and coal expansion in Aotearoa\*

\*As of December 2010

This map shows the approximate boundaries for current and proposed areas of oil exploration, drilling, and coal mining, and the climate-changing potential of those coal deposits.  
\*The size of the oil deposits – and so the amount of potential CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – within the new permit areas and block offers is not yet known.



# Keep our beaches oil free

As New Zealanders, we love our pristine beaches ... but they are under serious threat from a combination of reckless Government policy, and the global oil industry's pursuit of extreme oil.

The world is running out of cheap oil. The oil industry is chasing the hard-to-reach stuff, and is looking for countries with an eye for a fast buck - and a relaxed attitude to environmental protection - to get access to that oil.

Resources Minister Gerry Brownlee is promoting Aotearoa as just such a place, a frontier in the search for 'new oil.' The Government is auctioning off the rights to drill off some of the country's most spectacular pieces of coast, such as Northland's West Coast, the East Cape, and Foveaux Strait.

The water in some of these areas is up to 3000 metres deep ... far deeper than the water the *Deepwater Horizon* was working in when it lost control of its test well, spilling 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

It is a myth that oil spills can be cleaned up. Oil companies can pay people to clean birds and scrape tar balls into rubbish sacks, but the reality is they're only ever scratching the surface. Oil can still be found under the sand in Prince William Sound, Alaska, where the *Exxon Valdez* spilt its load in 1989.



© Greenpeace / Daniel Beltrá

Meanwhile, the dispersants the oil companies use in the event of a spill are highly toxic, an environmental disaster in their own right.

And just because a well might be exploratory, it could still contain enough oil to cause a disaster ... the *Deepwater Horizon's* well was an exploratory one too.

**And not forgetting the climate crisis ....**  
*Even if chance was on our side, and there is never any spill, we know that burning fossil fuels only makes the climate crisis worse, and that is something that is well on the way to becoming a disaster like no other. We are frighteningly close to a state of runaway climate change, in which the effects of global warming will themselves trigger the release of even more greenhouse gases, creating an unstoppable momentum of its own.*



© Greenpeace / Sean Gardner

**“Coal is the single greatest threat to civilization and all life on our planet.”**

James Hansen, Director of Nasa's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

## The problem with coal:

The Government's other big push is into coal – a prehistoric resource which may have been the darling of the 19th century, but which has no place in the 21st century, and which must stay in the ground if humanity is to have a hope of survival. Climate scientist James Hansen, the director of Nasa's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, puts it like this, describing coal as “the single greatest threat to civilization and all life on our planet”, because of the amounts of climate-changing carbon dioxide released when it is burnt.

Those businesses that burn coal in New Zealand have plenty of good alternatives. A case in point is our biggest company, Fonterra, which has its own coal mines, and which burns 500,000 tonnes of coal in its dehydrators each year. Fonterra could just as easily burn biomass, a carbon-neutral, locally grown and cost-effective alternative to coal.

Included in the plans for expansion are Southland's lignite deposits. Lignite is a so called 'brown' coal, the lowest grade there is. In terms of emissions, there's nothing dirtier.

© Greenpeace / Nick Cobbing

# Clean-tech – a solution and an opportunity

Since 2005, investment in clean technologies around the world has grown 230 per cent, resisting the global financial crisis better than any other sector. In 2009, US\$162 billion was invested in clean energy, eclipsing the investment in fossil fuels for a second year running. What the Government must do now is develop the vision needed to drive this transition to a cleaner future, and understand the opportunities on offer. For example, China,

the US and the UK have all adopted cleantech-friendly policies. Other nations wanting to compete effectively for clean energy jobs and manufacturing will have to do the same. Our famous 'number eight wire' approach to practical problems is a real asset in creating low-carbon energy solutions. There are already a number of companies whose great ideas have the potential to be licensed worldwide.

## NEW CLEAN ECONOMY NOW

### Government's vision:



### Greenpeace's vision:

