

Geelong Refinery

Crude Ship-to-ship (STS) Transfer Operation

Viva Energy undertakes an operation called ship-to-ship (STS) transfers at Crib Point Jetty, in Western Port Bay.

An STS transfer is the process of transferring crude oil between two vessels to reduce the discharging vessel's draft, thereby enabling it to access otherwise inaccessible shipping channels and port facilities. Currently the Corio Bay shipping channel to the Geelong Refinery Pier is not deep enough to accommodate some larger vessels.

The vessels berth at Crib Point where they transfer their cargo to a smaller vessel, which sails into Port Phillip and Corio Bay, to deliver the crude to Geelong Refinery.

This operation allows Viva Energy to bring crude oil to the refinery in larger shipments, enabling lower freight costs, access to more economic crude oils from around the world and improving the viability of Geelong Refinery.



Geelong Refinery

Corio Bay

Port Phillip Bay

Crib Point Jetty
STS Transfer location

Western Port Bay

The operation involves the following steps:

- **SUEZMAX** class crude vessel (~285 m length) carrying crude oil, sails into Western Port Bay and berths at Crib Point Jetty.
- **AFRAMAX** (~250 m length) class vessel berths alongside the larger ship and **crude oil** from the SUEZMAX is pumped into the AFRAMAX vessel.
- The AFRAMAX vessel sails out of Western Port and into Port Phillip Bay to **Geelong Refinery** to unload the crude oil for processing.
- The process may be repeated to enable the full cargo to be delivered to the refinery.

Approval of this operation is granted by the Ports Victoria Harbourmaster. Viva Energy has undertaken meticulous planning and involved a range of key stakeholders to be able to undertake this operation.

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