



Next in the sequence is the Latrobe Valley (Eocene) delta sandstones and coal measures. The sandstones contain fresh water on land, becoming more brackish or marine eastward.

The combined sequence composed of the Upper Cretaceous-Paleocene unit and the Latrobe Valley (Eocene) unit are referred to as the "Latrobe Complex".

The Latrobe Valley sequence is overlain by the Lakes Entrance (Oligocene) shales, the first fully marine deposits, which are followed, in turn, by the Gippsland formation (Miocene), consisting of marine sands, marls, muds and predominant limestones. Non-marine Upper Pliocene to Recent sediments comprise the remainder of the stratigraphic section.

Structurally, the Gippsland basin probably began forming during Jurassic time, subsiding along an east-west trend. This was in contrast to the existent north-south trending Tasman Geosyncline, where Paleozoic sediments were collected in a trough along eastern Australia extending from New Guinea to Tasmania.

Uplift occurred at the end of early Cretaceous (Strzelecki) time. Thereafter, periods of sedimentation and uplift, accompanied by folding and faulting, alternated through Eocene time. Orogenic movements became progressively weaker as the Gippsland basin attained its present shape as an east-west trough bounded on the southwest by a down-to-the-north fault system.

After a late Eocene uplift and erosional period, subsidence occurred allowing the sea generally to cover the entire basin until near the middle of the Pliocene.

During this time of predominant marine deposition, river channels and other topographic lows were filled while minor localized folding and faulting took place. The sea