

and is considered to be economic basement. Over 8,500 feet of the Strzelecki Group has been encountered onshore and the unit probably thickens to 10,000 feet basinwards.

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. During these periods of sedimentation the Latrobe Valley Delta Complex was deposited. This complex ranges in age from Upper Cretaceous to Eocene and the several cycles of sedimentation and uplift resulted in local unconformities. Two main units have been defined and are the Upper Cretaceous-Paleocene unit referred to as the Childers Formation and the Eocene Latrobe Valley Coal Measures.

The Childers Formation is a deltaic (?) unit that is apparently predominantly continental in origin but contains beds with interstitial salt water. The unit is estimated to attain a thickness of 6,000 feet in the Tuna area and consists of interbedded sandstone, siltstone, shale and coal. The sands are typically clean and range from very fine to pebbly. Porosity values of up to 25% and permeabilities up to 300 m.d. are attained in this unit.