

sandstones representing marginal marine facies developed on an irregular platform. The gentle northeast regional dip of the beds apparently is parallel to the paleo-depositional slope. From the fold-belt margin eastward the shale-sand ratio in the Permian beds gradually increases. This may be due to deepening of the basin or increasing distance from the source.

The Permian and older sediments and the basement complex have been intruded at several places along the present coast by igneous plugs of probable Tertiary age.

Cenozoic conglomerates, sandstones, siltstones and lignitic shales are intermittantly exposed overlying the Paleozoic basement along the coast, adjacent to the southern part of the Area of Investigation. No marine fossils have been recorded and the sediments appear to represent back-swamp, paralic to fresh-water deposits. It is possible that these deposits have thicker marine equivalents offshore on the continental slope.

2. East Gippsland Area

The Gippsland Basin is fairly well defined in southeastern Victoria and the adjacent offshore area. However, the eastern and southern boundaries are unknown.

During Paleozoic time the area was part of the Tasman Geosyncline, and great thicknesses of sediments were deposited along with intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks. The Lower Paleozoic strata are not prospective for hydrocarbons because of their intensely folded and metamorphosed nature. However, the Upper Devonian, Carboniferous and Permian rocks have been reported as having possible source and reservoir potential.