

1. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The petroleum potential of Permit T13P is evaluated by consideration of the similarities and differences between it and the central deep of the Gippsland Basin to the north. Although the gross stratigraphic sequence in T13P is similar to that of the Gippsland Basin, sufficient difference exists, particularly as regards potential depositional environment and structural style, to require that it be evaluated largely on its own merit. Petroleum prospects range from largely stratigraphic plays on the edge of the continental shelf, in water depths of 100-200 metres, to structural/stratigraphic plays on the continental shelf edge and slope, in water depths of 150-700 metres.

The existing three shallow wells and the old, relatively sparse seismic data provide very little information on the sediments, and exploration targets cannot be adequately defined. Renewed exploration effort should be initially aimed at elucidating the structure and stratigraphy of the shelf margin, since this is critical to the exploration potential of the block as a whole. For this purpose, the proposed reprocessing of old data and a new seismic survey are considered justified.

2. INTRODUCTION

The permit area lies to the south of the Gippsland Basin (between Tasmania and Victoria) in which the most important oil fields in Australia, as well as several large producing gas fields, are located. These fields, of relatively large dimensions, were discovered more than 10 years ago. Further exploration achieved only minor success until recently when, using the state-of-the-art geophysical technology and encouraged by more favourable economic conditions, exploration resulted in new discoveries and extensions to existing pools. Although relatively small, they are significant and economic.