

3200 kilometres of regional lines covering the whole basin with ties to wells and adjacent basins (Gippsland and Otway) were collected along with gravity and magnetic data. These data have opened up the deeper basin beneath the Eocene coal measures and revealed new and exciting hydrocarbon plays, as well as providing a sounder basis for understanding basin formation mechanisms.

STRATIGRAPHY

Early Cretaceous deposition filled graben and half-graben with volcanogenic detritus under fluvial and alluvial conditions. These sediments are at least 6 km thick in the depocentres and thin to a few hundred metres or less over horst blocks and near basin margins. Seismic interval velocities and well data together with the volcanogenic nature of sediment indicate low porosity and low permeability. Slower basin subsidence prevailed in the Late Cretaceous with sediment derived from eroded Palaeozoic and Proterozoic highland regions, as well as elevated portions of horst blocks. These sediments were deposited under fluvial and lacustrine conditions. Minor marine incursions may have occurred as these are known to occur in the Otway Basin to the west. During the Paleocene-Eocene, coal deposition was widespread in what appears to have been a dominantly alluvial basin. In the latest Eocene a barrier