

faults. In the southeastern extremity of the basin, a near symmetrical Early Cretaceous graben is overprinted by northwest trending, Late Cretaceous tilt blocks. This episode of faulting may be related to Tasman Sea spreading.

The Early Cretaceous fault and tilt blocks play a key role in the development of hydrocarbon plays. Much of the structuring in the more prospective overlying rocks results from differential compaction over and/or rejuvenation of these deep structures. Anticlinal closures over buried tilt block corners have been extensively explored along the basin margin (e.g. Dondu-1, Bass-3). However the major hydrocarbon indications have been found closer to the basin depocentre. The Pelican gas field is located in just such a mid-basin structure. Whereas previous interpretations have correlated the Pelican structures with those along the southwest margin of the basin, this new structural model correlates them across transform-like faults with the major tilt block near Aroo-1 and Bass-1, in the basin centre. The coincidence of an Early Cretaceous tilt block with a thick Late Cretaceous to Paleocene source section is now regarded as being highly prospective, and play concepts have been developed accordingly.