

II INTRODUCTION

Two distinct periods can be recognised in the history of exploration of the Bass Basin.

The first, involving Esso and BHP, lasted from the early 60's until 1982. During this period 19 wells were drilled (table 7), which tested several play concepts: some were found to be false (e.g. carbonate reef play, where the buildup turned out to be, in fact, a volcanic intrusion in Bass -1 well), others survived and have become major playtypes for exploration in the Bass Basin (e.g. Top EVCM as well as Intra EVCM).

Although no commercial discoveries were made during this period, several encouraging shows were recorded, such as oil in Cormorant -1 and gas/condensate in Pelican -1, -2 and Bass -3.

The second period of exploration, involving AMOCO and Bridge/Weaver-led groups, began in 1984. Eight wells have been drilled by the time this report is completed (see table 7, figure 1). Yolla -1 may become first commercial discovery. Together with the old play concepts several new ones have been introduced: Base of Tertiary play [ref. 7], tilt-block related Paleocene/Late Cretaceous plays and shale diapirism in the thickest parts of the Late Cretaceous section [ref. 10, ref. 19].

Based on BB85 seismic survey, Bridge has likewise developed several play concepts in T-15-P/T-16-P. This report will elaborate on new playtypes recognised in the Upper Cretaceous Durroon sub-basin as well as playtypes conventional to Bass Basin.