

by Hematite and Esso was unsuccessful.

Drilling established that all major shows, as well as the Pelican Field gas reserves, occur deeper within the EVCM section and pointed to the potential for deeper plays of a type different from those producing in the Gippsland Basin.

The Bass Basin was formed by extensional tectonics associated with the rift separation of the Australian and Antarctic continents. Initial rift phase sedimentation during the late Jurassic consisted of fluvio-lacustrine sediments of Otway Group equivalence. Actual separation of the two continents corresponded with major tilting of fault blocks in the Basin. Deposition of the Eastern View Coal Measures in this setting produced up to 15,000 feet of fluvio-lacustrine sediments ranging in age from late Cretaceous to Eocene.

The late Eocene Demons Bluff Formation shales and fine grained clastics form a regional seal over the EVCM and are marine in origin. The younger Tertiary (Oligocene to Pliocene) section consists of marine shales and limestones.

The primary prospects are in the Eastern View Coal Measures, below the level of the Early Eocene M. diversus unconformity. Source rocks are present in all stratigraphic intervals, but only those below the M. diversus unconformity are mature in depocentre areas. In general, EVCM sediments below 9,000 feet are mature, becoming supermature below 18,000 feet. The existence of Pelican Field pay zones within this interval and numerous shows confirm that maturation, hydrocarbon generation and some entrapment have occurred.