

INTRODUCTION

Esso BASS - 3 was drilled in the south eastern quadrant of the Bass Basin at latitude $39^{\circ}53'09''$ and longitude $146^{\circ}18'15''$ E, which is some 52 miles north of Stanley, Tasmania. The well was drilled in a water depth of 192' M.S.L.

Sample Detail: Rotary cutting samples were submitted at 30' intervals from 840' to 2800' and examined at 90' intervals. Below 2800' "canned cuttings" were examined every 100'. The $13\frac{3}{8}$ " casing shoe was set at 2753'. Down-hole contamination was extremely heavy between 3400' and T.D. (7978').

Small samples were submitted from cores 1 to 11. Further samples were selected where necessary. Foraminifera were isolated from cores 1 to 5. Side wall core selection was partially based on this preliminary examination and 8 side wall cores were examined. Scaled position of cores and side wall cores are shown on Fig.1.

All depths discussed here were those shown on submitted samples: datum given as +31' M.S.L. (R.T.). The stated tops of all biostratigraphic units must be considered as approximate depths.

FAUNAL SEQUENCE

No foraminifera were found between the top of the samples section (840') and 1290', where a sparse assemblage of upper Miocene benthonic species was recorded. There is an apparently uninterrupted sequence from there into the upper Eocene at 4653' (side wall 29). Core-5 and side wall cores 28 to 23 reveal sporadic faunas. The base of the sequence is taken as 5175' (side wall 24). No definite or diagnostic fauna was isolated below this level, although core-6 (5315' to 5336') contained glauconite pellets which have the form of globigerinid foraminifera.