

II. INTRODUCTION

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The Otway Basin occupies approximately 33000 square miles and extends about 400 miles in a west-northwest to east-southeast direction both onshore and offshore of South Australia, Victoria and offshore Tasmania. (Figure 1). In the area of Prawn A-1 seismic data had indicated the presence of a deep anticline below the base of the Tertiary section with the possibility of closure extending up into basal Tertiary strata (Figure 4a). Prior to the drilling of the well seismic data was interpreted as indicating about 650 feet of Upper Cretaceous strata to be present above the Lower Cretaceous Otway Group. It was also tentatively believed that only very old Otway sediments would be encountered. Sandstones of Upper and Lower Cretaceous ages were considered to be the primary objectives of the well.

Upon drilling Prawn A-1 the base of the Tertiary was encountered at 4150 feet (-4061 subsea) which agreed reasonably well with a predicted depth of 3989 feet (-3900 feet subsea). Below the base of the Tertiary however, 5510 feet of Upper Cretaceous strata were penetrated before encountering the Otway Group at 9660 feet (-9571 feet subsea). The difficulty of constructing seismic correlations below the base of the Tertiary had long been recognized and was further confirmed.

Porous and permeable sandstones were encountered within the Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous sequences. Structural closure apparently did not extend far enough up into Tertiary strata to form a trap and the absence of sufficient shales above and within the Upper Cretaceous section apparently prevented the entrapment of hydrocarbons in the Sherbrook Group. Lower Cretaceous sandstones were found to be impermeable in the same manner as those encountered by Shell Oil Co. in their Pecten and Nerita wells. Prawn A-1 was designated a stratigraphic test in the Drilling Prospectus submitted for Commonwealth Subsidy and evaluated the following:-

1. Regional and stratigraphic control in the undrilled offshore area south of Cape Otway and northwest of King Island, Tasmania.
2. Lithology of the offshore section.
3. A partial evaluation of the hydrocarbon potential of the Otway Basin.
4. The presence or absence of hydrocarbons in the proposed well.

III. WELL HISTORY1. General Data

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| i) <u>Well name and number:</u>                      | Prawn A-1   |
| ii) <u>Name and address of Operator:</u>             | Esso Exploration & Production<br>Australia Inc.<br>A.N.Z. Bank Building<br>71 Collins Street<br>Hobart<br>Tasmania 7000               |
| iii) <u>Name and address of<br/>Tenement Holder:</u> | Hematite Petroleum Pty. Ltd.<br>G.P.O. Box 2752<br>Melbourne<br>Victoria 3001<br><br>440 Collins Street<br>Melbourne<br>Victoria 3000 |