

(8) Contribution to Geological Concepts Resulting from Drilling

The most significant contribution of Prawn A-1 to geological concepts is the information derived from strata encountered below the base of the Tertiary section. An unexpectedly thick (5510 feet) Upper Cretaceous section was penetrated above the Lower Cretaceous Otway Group. This section was comprised of very thick quartz sandstones with the amount of shale present being negligible. The occurrence of a massive basal conglomerate of Upper Cretaceous age is also interesting.

The great thickness of sand and basal conglomerate encountered of Upper Cretaceous age would probably indicate a nearby sand source. The King Island "high" might be postulated to have furnished this sand. (See figure 1)

Prawn A-1 evaluated the hydrocarbon potential for the drillsite and a portion of the Otway Basin. The test is believed to have been drilled "on-structure" with the absence of hydrocarbons attributed to the lack of a sufficient amount of shale capable of forming a seal within the interval of closure.