

#### 1.4 Previous Exploration

No discoveries have been made in the current Permit area which is adjacent to the Yolla 1 retention Lease, T/RL1. A promising gas show occurred in the Esso operated 1967 well, Bass 3, which was the first well drilled in T/18P. The Bass 3 high is the most prominent basement involved high in the Permit and the well had targetted the top EVCM closure, but failed to encounter hydrocarbons in any of the EVCM section apart from the above gas show which occurred in the Palaeocene section. Cormorant 1 was drilled by Esso in 1970 on a major inversion feature in the duly named Cormorant Trough. A FIT recovered oil from the top EVCM but no accumulation occurs in the structure due to early Miocene keystone faulting which not only breached the top seal, but also allowed biodegradation to occur. A follow up well, King 1, was drilled by SAGASCO Resources (now Boral Energy Resources Limited) in 1992 but it encountered very minor oil shows.

Tarook 1, drilled by Esso in 1972, was aimed at a prominent top EVCM closure in the southern part of the Permit, but was subsequently plugged and abandoned with no shows. The Tarook feature results from early Miocene inversion and in addition appears to have a sill implaced just below the well's TD in the M.diversus section. The structure probably postdates hydrocarbon migration at this position in the basin. Hematite operated the Aroo 1 well in 1974 which intersected a non-commercial 7 metre gas condensate zone in the Palaeocene section and was plugged and abandoned. No closure is present at the Aroo 1 location on current mapping.

The T/18P permit, therefore, has a long history, but with only four independent well tests (Table 1.2, Figure 1.2) in the 1975 square kilometre area, exploration is relatively immature, particularly since only two wells have penetrated the prospective Palaeocene level.