

005

AREA DEFINITION

Location and Accessibility

Exploration Licence 16/72 of 1460 square miles encompasses the whole of the Northern Midlands Plains and adjacent areas of known Tertiary sediments. It extends from Tunbridge, in the south, north to Dilston on the Tamar River, with the towns of Poatina, Westbury and Frankford on the western flank.

Within the E.L. the area recently investigated extends as a swathe from just east of Conara down the South Esk Valley to Evandale, thence west through the Cressy-Longford region to a line between Bracknell and Carrick, representing approximately 250 square miles.

The centre of the area has the co-ordinates $41^{\circ}41'S$, $147^{\circ}15'E$.

The whole area is served by the regional city of Launceston (population+60,000) at the head of the Tamar Estuary, whose wharves can accommodate vessels drawing a maximum of 18', i.e. up to about 2500 tons gross. The main port facilities are at Bell Bay near the mouth of the Tamar, about 25 miles from Launceston. A new rail link is almost completed. Vessels of up to 755 ft. length, drawing a maximum of 35', i.e. up to 55,000 tons, can be accommodated here.

The main north-south railway (3'6" gauge) extends from Launceston through Conara Junction where a branch line runs east up the South Esk Valley. The main north-west line branches off at Western Junction, near Evandale, and runs through Longford and Westbury.

Launceston Airport at Western Junction handles daily passenger and cargo traffic to Hobart and Melbourne/Sydney and its runway is able to accommodate aircraft to Boeing 727 size.

The Midlands Highway (2 lane bitumen) extending from Launceston through Conara serves the eastern part of the area, with the Bass Highway extending west from Launceston through Westbury, flanking the northern side. The whole area is very well served by secondary bitumen roads and with all weather gravel roads serving local farming centres. Access to all of the country covered is very good with the exception of the Epping Forest tracts through Epping and Conara. Here access is restricted to property tracks. The relatively low to moderate rainfall of the area makes most property tracks trafficable the whole year round with the possible exception of brief periods during the winter.

Small towns in the area south of Launceston with a population of around 1000 or more are Longford, Westbury, Evandale and Campbell Town while other small towns or villages within the area examined are Cressy, Carrick, Bishopsbourne, Perth, Epping, Conara, Cleveland and Nile.

Property Tenure

The area investigated falls within Exploration Licence 16/72 of 1460 square miles issued on November 3, 1972, and in force until May 1, 1973. The E.L. has been issued by the Tasmanian Government to Tenneco Australia, Inc., which in turn has agreed to Getty Oil Development Company Limited earning a 50% interest in the property for the expenditure of \$150,000. Getty Oil has functioned as the operator and manager of the just completed exploration phase.