

Whilst clay is the dominant lithology, sandy beds constitute up to a few percent of the drilled section in a number of holes, and locally may comprise 25 - 100% of section. The sands are therefore considered to be lenticular, but insufficient is known of their areal distribution and spatial relationships to determine their environment of deposition. Individual sand bands range in thickness from 2m to about 20m, and almost always occur at a stratigraphic level below the brown coal bearing strata.

Exploration drilling by CSR has identified up to four principal brown coal intervals, each comprising up to 16 individual seams. All seams are lenticular, generally thinning towards basement highs, and occur at comparatively shallow depths.

The brown coal seams have been correlated using characteristic downhole geophysical log signatures and by examination of cross-sections. Correlations can be made with reasonable confidence in the central areas of the deposits where maximum coal development occurs, but become tentative towards the margins. Seam correlation between deposits has not been possible, although with additional drilling, the Hillcrest prospect may provide a link between Loatta and Selbourne.

Cumulative overburden ratios (expressed as bank cubic metres overburden per tonne of coal) calculated to the lowest drilled horizon at Loatta, Pipers Lagoons and Selbourne are, respectively, approximately 3:1, 5:1, and 8:1.