

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

MARCH 2003



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RESOURCES

2003 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release

New acreage for petroleum exploration off the Northern Territory, Western Australia, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia coastlines was released on 24 March 2003 by the Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Ian Macfarlane.

The announcement coincides with the Annual Conference of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association being held in Melbourne.

The 35 areas being made available for open bidding by the petroleum exploration industry include:

- 15 areas off Western Australia
- 7 areas off Northern Territory
- 4 areas off Victoria
- 4 areas off Tasmania
- 2 areas off South Australia
- 3 areas off the Ashmore and Cartier Islands.

These areas will be the principal release of offshore acreage this year. They will be subject to the work program bidding system and any subsequent exploration permits will be awarded for an initial term of six years.

For the first time, any exploration permits arising from this release will be subject to a maximum of two 5 year renewals. This new initiative follows from the 2000 review of petroleum legislation against competition policy principles, and should expand the opportunities available for exploration in the future.

Bids for the areas will close either on 25 September 2003 or 25 March 2004, as described below.

Today's announcement was made in conjunction with Minister Macfarlane's ministerial counterparts in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Information on the release areas and application requirements can be found by visiting website www.industry.gov.au/petexp or requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mailing petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au.

Award of offshore exploration permit in the Western Australia adjacent area from the 24 October 2002 closing round

A new offshore exploration permit has been awarded from the closing round of 24 October 2002, details are set out below.

<u>Permit No</u>	<u>Basin</u>	<u>Area No</u>	<u>Date Granted</u>	<u>Successful Applicant(s)</u>
WA-340-P	Carnarvon	W02-12	6 Mar 03	Strike Oil NL, Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL, Sun Resources NL, Victoria Petroleum (WA-209P) P/L

Permit **WA-340-P** (originally released as area W02-12 in the Dampier Sub-Basin) has been awarded to Strike Oil NL (40% operator), Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL (20%), Sun Resources NL (20%) and Victoria Petroleum (WA0-209P) Pty Ltd (20%), which proposed a guaranteed program for the first three years of 100km 2D seismic survey, 200km 2D seismic reprocessing and geoscience studies at an estimated cost of \$0.28m.

The companies also propose a secondary program of 1 well and data review at an estimated cost of \$4.1m. The permit was awarded on 6 March 2003. There were no other bids for the area.

The permit is awarded for a term of six years under the work program bidding system, and each component of the program must be completed in the designated year or earlier.

Areas currently available for bidding

	Areas	Bid Closing Date
2002 Release areas (2 nd bidding round) [36 areas]	NT02-2 to 9, W02-1 to 11, S02-1 to 8, V02-1, V02-3 to 4, T02-1 to 4	10 April 2003
2002 Re-release area (1 st bidding round)	W02-14	10 April 2003
2003 Release areas (1 st bidding round) [18 areas]	V03-1, T03-4, W03-7 to 15 and NT03-1 to 7	25 September 2003
2003 Release areas (2 nd bidding round) [17 areas]	V03-2 to 4, T03-1 to 3, S03-1 to 2, W03-1 to 6 and AC03-1 to 3	25 March 2004

Further information on any of these areas can be obtained by requesting a free CD-ROM by e-mailing petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au, or by visiting our website at www.industry.gov.au/petexp.

Promotion of Australian offshore acreage

Departmental representatives will be available to discuss Australian offshore acreage matters at the following conferences:

APPEA Melbourne, Australia 23-26 March 2003
(Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association)

SEAPEX Singapore 9-11 April 2003
(South East Asia Petroleum Exploration Society)

AAPG Salt Lake City, USA 11-14 May 2003
(American Association of Petroleum Geologists)

Seminars will be held in early April in Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul and Taipei, as well as Houston and Calgary in mid-May.

We would be happy to try and organise private meetings with companies in conjunction with any of the above events. To take advantage of this offer, please e-mail your interest in meeting with our representatives to:
petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au

Progress on new Regulations and Guidelines

Work has been continuing on the replacement of the 'Schedule of Directions' under the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* with objective based regulations and guidelines. The latest development is the completion of the harmonisation of the current regulations (Safety, Environment, Pipelines and Diving) and the draft regulations (Resource Management, Drilling and Data Management) to ensure that there is consistency in approach and definitions where possible across the suite of regulations. On 14 March 2003, the recommendations arising from the harmonisation process were approved by the Upstream Petroleum Sub-Committee, a working group under the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources.

The next step is to finalise the text of the draft regulations through the Resource Management, Drilling and Data Management Regulations Working Groups, in consultation with the Office of Legislative Drafting. These Groups include representatives from the Commonwealth, States/ Northern Territory and industry. If you would like to be involved in the Working Groups, or would like further information please contact Carolyn Barton, phone 02 6213 7203, or email carolyn.barton@industry.gov.au

Geoscience Australia Petroleum Exploration Databases

Geoscience Australia's nationwide Oracle databases will again play an integral part at APPEA, to be held late in March, when the new acreage release blocks are promoted to industry. The petroleum exploration databases can be accessed via the Internet and include comprehensive data for over 200 key wells in and nearby new acreage. The data can be downloaded free of charge.

The databases include PEDIN (well & seismic header data), STRATDAT (biostratigraphy, well picks, events), RESFACS (REServoir, FACies and hydrocarbon Shows), ORGCHEM (organic geochemistry) and DEVIANT (down hole survey data). They represent more than 50 person years of effort, and have already proven powerful tools for petroleum exploration companies and researchers.

The related nature of the databases facilitates rapid generation of information on a time-series basis (timeslices, palynological zones, sequences, millions of years, etc) so that variables in wells from either a permit or entire petroleum system can be compared for specific time intervals.

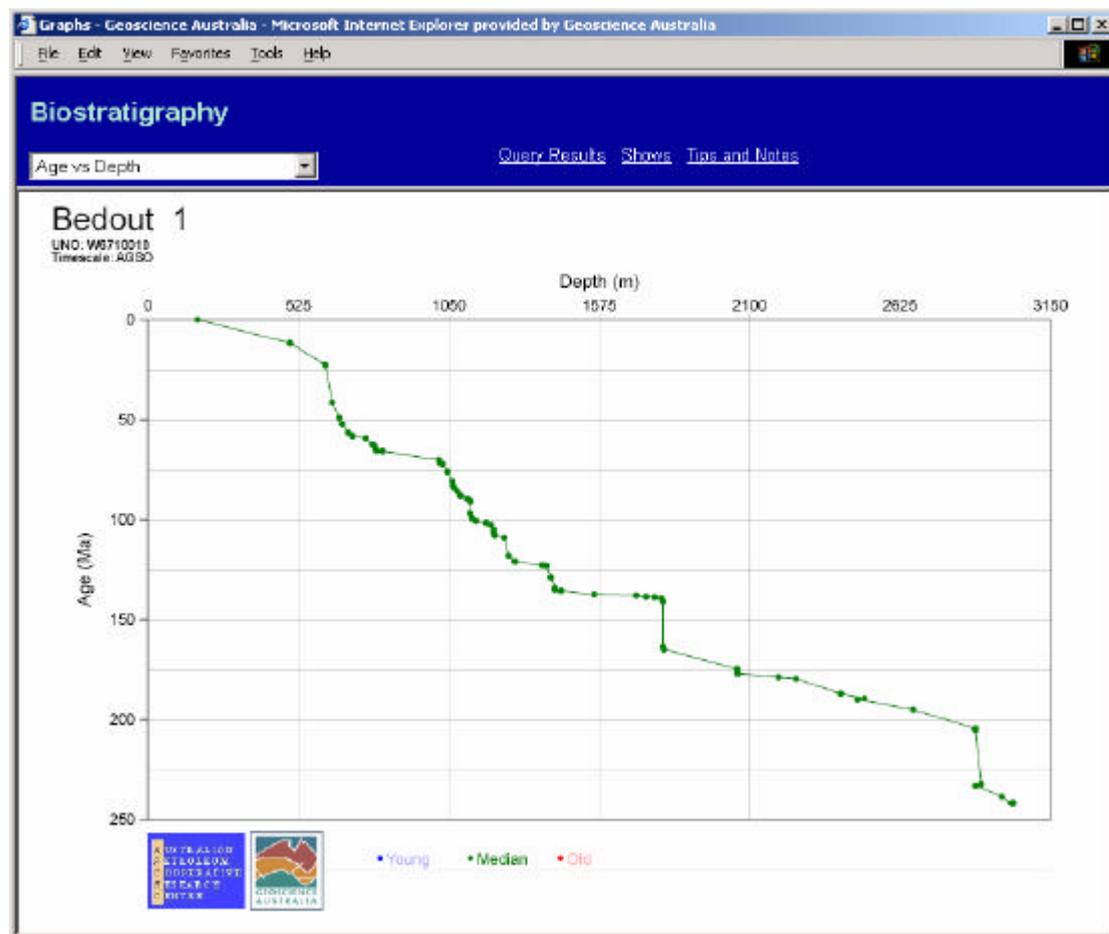
In addition to providing raw data, Geoscience Australia has incorporated special web applications for the databases, allowing users to produce plots of hydrocarbon indices and age-depth curves for wells on-line. Time-series movies of organic geochemistry and reservoir parameters will also be downloadable after APPEA.

As well as supporting Geoscience Australia's acreage release promotion program, the databases provide essential support to Geoscience Australia's regional projects and have proven effective in refining a global geological timescale (AGSO 95 Phanerozoic Timescale).

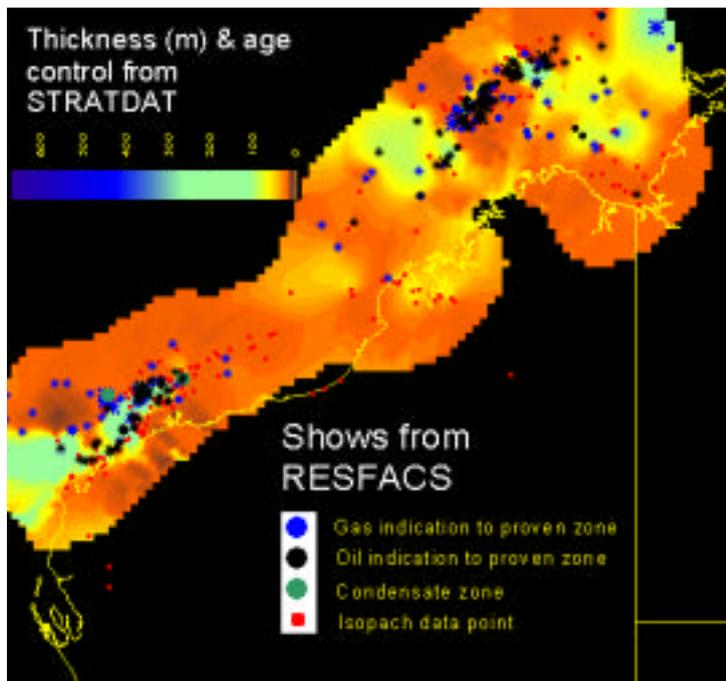
The following web addresses have links to the online databases:

- <http://www.ga.gov.au/oracle/apcrc/>
- <http://www.ga.gov.au/oracle/#online>.

For further information please phone David Rowland on +61 2 6249 9253 or e-mail David at david.rowland@ga.gov.au.



Depth Age curve for Bedout 1 (petroleum well)



Map of Kimmeridgian (146-151 MA) thickness and hydrocarbon shows for the North West Shelf

Query Results - Geoscience Australia - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Geoscience Australia

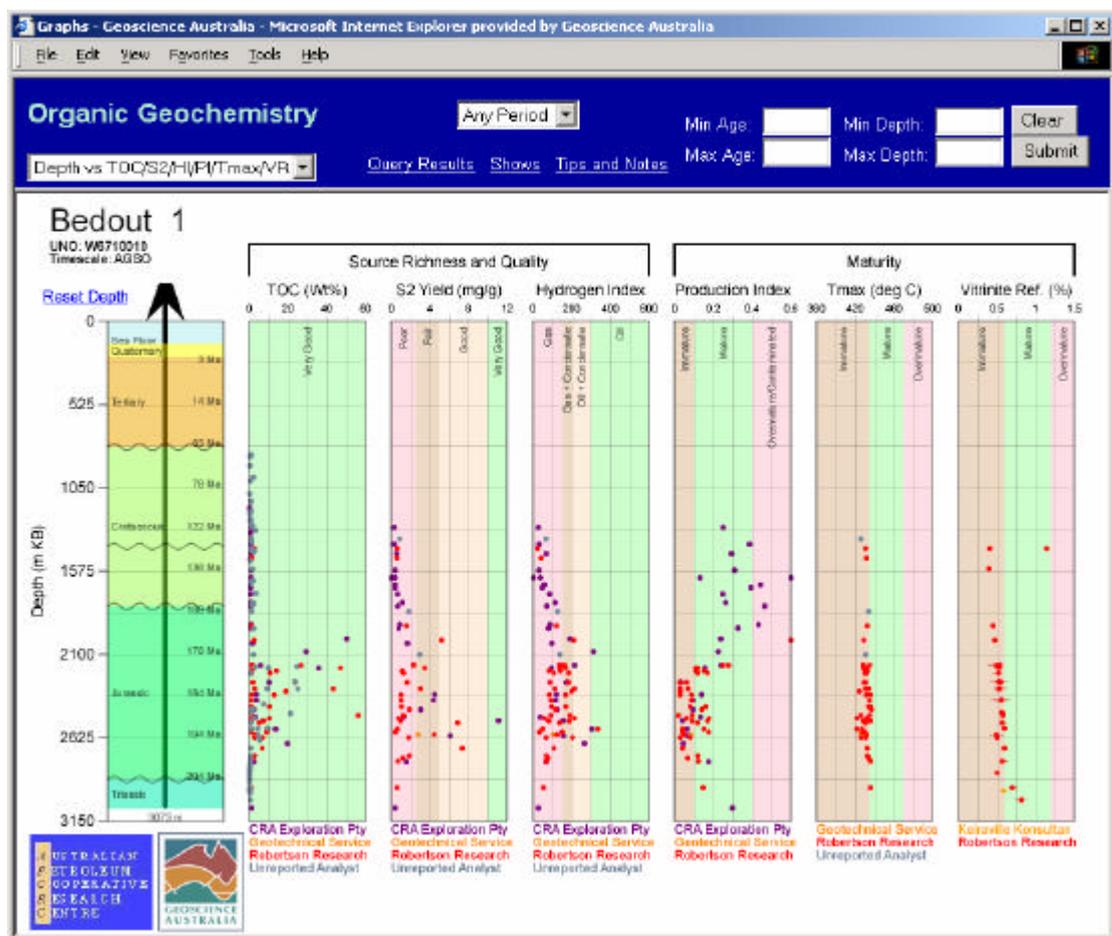
Database Query Results:
 Query: - Sort by well - Timescale: AGSO - All Wells - Lat: 17.892 to 19.995 - Long: 117.539 to 120.501 - Location: Anywhere

Disclaimer: [Help](#) [Setting csv file](#) [csv help](#) [Timescale Datum Dictionary](#) Download SVG Viewer

Press [Alt] and left arrow to return after Submitting.

Name	UNO	State	Status	OrgChem		StratDat		ResFacs	
				Select	Clear	Select	Clear	Select	Clear
Bedout_1	W6710010	WA	Dry	210	Graph	111	Graph	113	Graph
Bruce_1	W6790009	WA	Dry	4	Graph	39	Graph	110	Graph
Chinjo_1	W6680016	WA	Dry	6	Graph	5	Graph	N/A	
Cimba_1	W6940004	WA	Dry	N/A		N/A		N/A	
Darwin_1	W6950006	WA	Dry	15	Graph	81	Graph	N/A	
Depuch_1	W6740002	WA	Dry	125	Graph	115	Graph	167	Graph
Halo_1	W6950010	WA	Dry	N/A		N/A		N/A	
Huascarani_1	W6200128	WA	CONFIDENTIAL	N/A		N/A		N/A	
Keraudren_1	W6730014	WA	Dry	128	Graph	100	Graph	84	Graph
Lagrange_1	W6820022	WA	Dry	84	Graph	48	Graph	57	Graph
Minilya_1	W6740013	WA	Dry	43	Graph	88	Graph	42	Graph
Nebo_1	W6930010	WA	Dry	N/A		35	Graph	14	Graph
North Turtle_1	W6820007	WA	Dry	120	Graph	77	Graph	106	Graph
Phoenix_1	W6800002	WA	Dry	292	Graph	105	Graph	256	Graph
Phoenix_2	W6820100	WA	Dry	42	Graph	63	Graph	244	Graph
Picard_1	W6720015	WA	Dry	293	Graph	124	Graph	234	Graph
Poissonnier_1	W6730025	WA	Dry	50	Graph	77	Graph	60	Graph

Results box generated from web query.



Depth vs various geochemical parameters for Bedout 1.

Australian Petroleum Statistics

The Australian Petroleum Statistics monthly publication is now available via e-mail in Microsoft Excel format, with the January 2003 edition out now. The publication contains statistics on petroleum production, refining, consumption, and stocks. Also available in the January issue are petrol prices and taxes in OECD Countries for the September quarter. Annual subscriptions cost \$270 or \$27 per issue. Copies can be obtained by contacting Ms Rae Fisher on +61 2 6213 7967, or alternatively by e-mail at rae.fisher@industry.gov.au. Archived issues are now also available electronically.

Staff Changes

Farewell to Debbie Elmslie who is leaving the Exploration Section after 5 years of, among other things, editing this Newsletter. Best wishes in your new role in the Minerals Development Section.

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