

Geoscience Australia Hosts Frontier Basins Workshop

On October 13th and 14th, Geoscience Australia hosted its inaugural Frontier Basins Workshop.

Representatives from more than a dozen exploration companies, both Australian and international, attended the workshop at the Geoscience Australia building in Canberra. The two-day workshop presented results from the Australian Government's new petroleum initiative. Geoscience Australia has had two roles in this initiative:

- 1) Undertaking a program of data acquisition to provide new pre-competitive information to the petroleum exploration industry.
- 2) Preserving the national archive of seismic data by copying old seismic data sets onto new digital media.

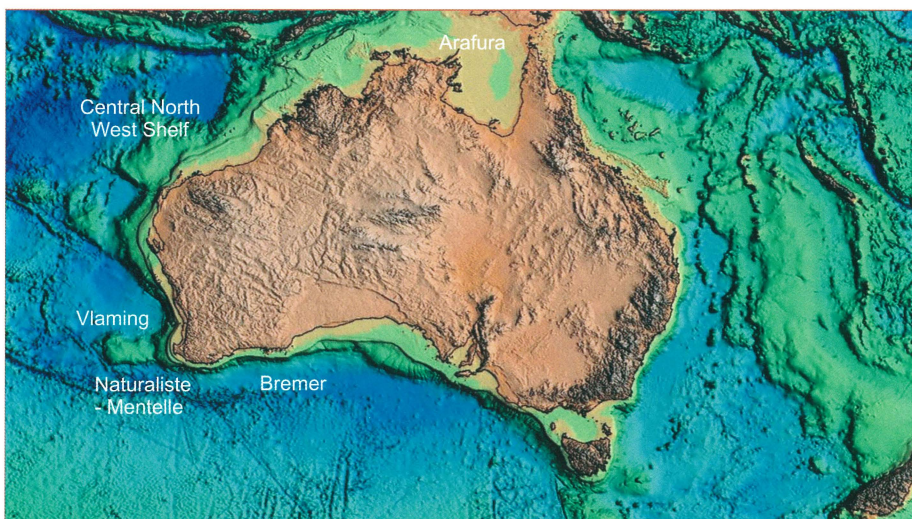
A number of marine surveys have already been undertaken to acquire new seismic data. Research, utilising geochemistry of dredge samples and oil seep detection studies, has also been a part of Geoscience Australia's work program.

New data and research undertaken through the initiative were presented to attendees of the workshop. These included interpretation results of the new seismic data that was acquired from the southwest margin, plus results from hydrocarbon seeps studies in the Arafura Sea.

A presentation of the results for the Bremer Sub-basin study was a highlight of the workshop. The Bremer is the first Australian frontier basin offered for acreage release in the new program. It is an investment opportunity developed and documented with new seismic and geological sample data sets. Bidding closes on the Bremer Sub-basin release areas on April 20th, 2006. The basin is a designated frontier area for taxation purposes.

Results from a geological sampling survey of the Bremer Sub-basin conducted in February–March 2004 have been documented in GA Record 2005/05, which is now available from the Geoscience Australia sales centre. The record includes a GIS that provides key spatial data sets, such as the new 225 m bathymetry grid, and dredge sample locations with analytical results included in the attribute tables. A CD-ROM containing workshop presentations on the Bremer Sub-basin study is also available. To obtain a copy contact Barry Bradshaw (Barry.Bradshaw@ga.gov.au).

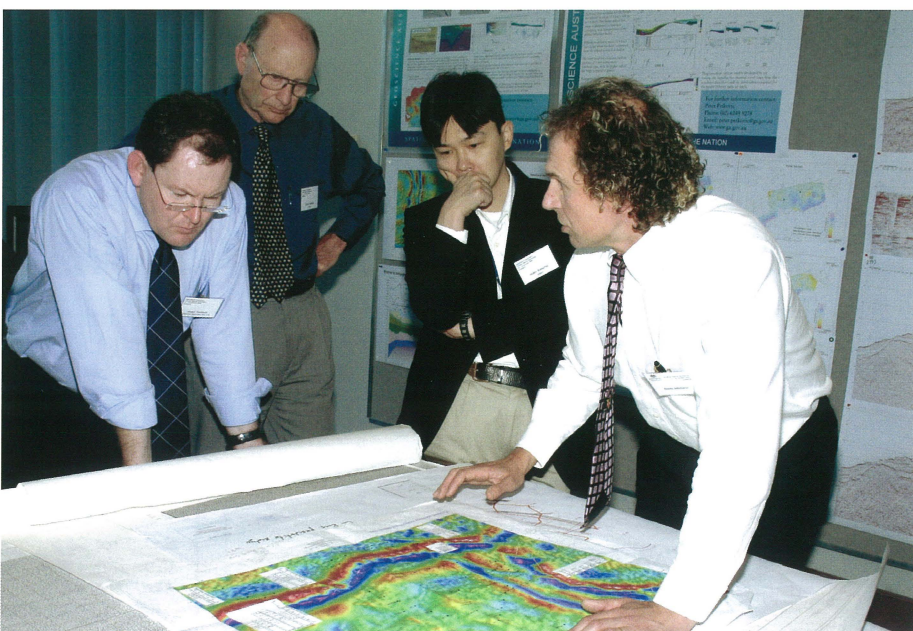
The second day of the workshop was dedicated to other projects within the Big Oil program, including studies in the Arafura Basin, Offshore Canning Basin and northern Lord Howe Rise, as well as results obtained from hydrocarbon seeps studies in northern Australia. ■



Frontier basins of interest to Geoscience Australia



Dr Barry Bradshaw raises a smile



Dr Alexey Goncharov discussing potential fields in frontier basins