New Impetus for Otway Exploration

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ABSTRACT

The combination of commercial opportunity and technological advancements has revitalised hydrocarbon exploration in the onshore Otway Basin. Until 1999, small field size, poor exploration success and lack of markets ensured only modest drilling activity, even within the prospective Port Campbell Embayment. Following the construction of the Iona to Geelong Gas Pipeline, activity has intensified to the point of drilling five exploration wells and the acquisition of 180 km$^2$ of 3D seismic data in 2001. The recent exploration successes from the 2001 programme have provided support for a continued high level of activity over the next few years.

The key technological driver for exploration has been the extensive use of 3D seismic for prospect delineation and prioritisation. The ability to ‘cream’ the Waarre play has also been afforded by the application of campaign drilling, reducing the exploration cost and therefore improving the economic return.

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