

### History of Discovery

The first onshore well in South Australia was drilled in 1882 at Alfred Flat north west of the Otway Basin margin. The first significant discovery of petroleum was the Gidgealpa gas field in the Cooper Basin in 1963. Oil discoveries were made in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins during the 1970s and gas was discovered in the Otway Basin in the 1980s.

Gas production commenced in 1969 from Moomba to Adelaide and to NSW from Moomba in 1976. The Moomba - Adelaide pipeline has been extended to supply a number of country centres, the largest of which are Port Pirie and Whyalla. At present, a gasline is being built to extend supply to several cities east and south east of Adelaide on the Murray River.

Oil production commenced from the Moomba plant in 1983 and a 660 km liquids line was built from Moomba to Port Bonython (near Whyalla) in 1984. A liquids fractionation shipping plant was completed at Port Bonython together with storage facilities at the same time. Production of condensate and LPG commenced in 1984.

In the SE of South Australia, gas was discovered in the onshore Otway Basin at Katnook in 1987. A gas plant was built in 1990 together with approximately 67 km of pipeline to deliver gas to local industrial and domestic markets. Gas production commenced in 1991. Further gas and oil discoveries have been made in the area. The new discoveries include offshore gas at Troas, 40km south west of Robe which is presently considered uneconomic.

The first production from petroleum operations in South Australia actually occurred in the Otway Basin. The Caroline carbon dioxide field was discovered in 1966 as a result of petroleum exploration. Production from the discovery well commenced in 1968 and has continued uninterrupted to the present. The carbon dioxide is thought to be sourced from the deep mantle.

#### Government Initiative

The South Australian Government is undertaking exploration activities to promote exploration in unlicensed areas which are considered to have oil and gas potential. The South Australian Exploration Initiative (SAEI) has been used to fund seismic and aeromagnetic surveys together with stratigraphic, fission track geochemical

and source rock studies. Projects have been undertaken in the Cooper/Eromanga, Otway, Officer and Stansbury Basins as well as the Eringa Trough.

Gas supplies from SW Queensland commenced to Adelaide via Moomba in early 1994. Negotiations are underway for additional gas supplies to be delivered to Adelaide from offshore gas discoveries in the Otway Basin of Victoria and from uncommitted reserves in the Cooper Basin.