

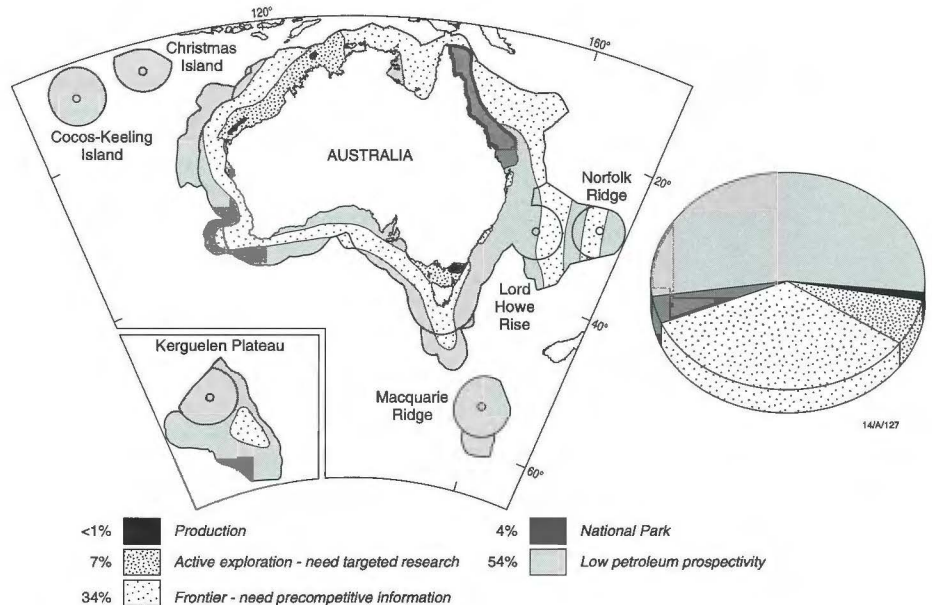
Australian 'Frontiers' Promoted at US Petroleum Convention

Australia's petroleum exploration frontiers were presented by the Commonwealth and State Governments and the Northern Territory at the international pavilion of the 1998 Annual Convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), in Salt Lake City from 17-20 May 1998.

The Department of Primary Industries & Energy was represented by the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO) and the Bureau of Resource Sciences in a combined booth. As well as promoting the current round of petroleum acreage release, the broad theme of this year's presentation focused on Australia's underexplored territory.

With exploration concentrated into about 8% of Australia's offshore acreage, of which 1% accounts for more than 95% of offshore production, a vast area remains as an exploration frontier and is the subject of AGSO's embryonic 'Frontiers of Petroleum' project. AGSO in consultation with industry, is developing details of this project, following discussions at the APPEA 98 Conference held in April.

Components of the 'Frontiers of Petroleum' project include intellectual frontiers, which



A petroleum exploration perspective of the Exclusive Economic Zone, plus the provisional outer limits of the continental shelf beyond it, for Australia and the Australian offshore territories (excluding the Australian Antarctic Territory) - Christmas Island, Cocos-Keeling Islands, Kerguelen Plateau, Macquarie Ridge, Lord Howe Rise, Norfolk Ridge.

address major geoscientific problems affecting petroleum exploration and risk assessment around Australia and spacial frontiers, which include poorly understood basin systems in both deep and shallow water geographic provinces.

The AAPG meeting attracted between 8,000 and 10,000 delegates from around the world, and provided a showcase for participating countries to attract international explorers and investors.