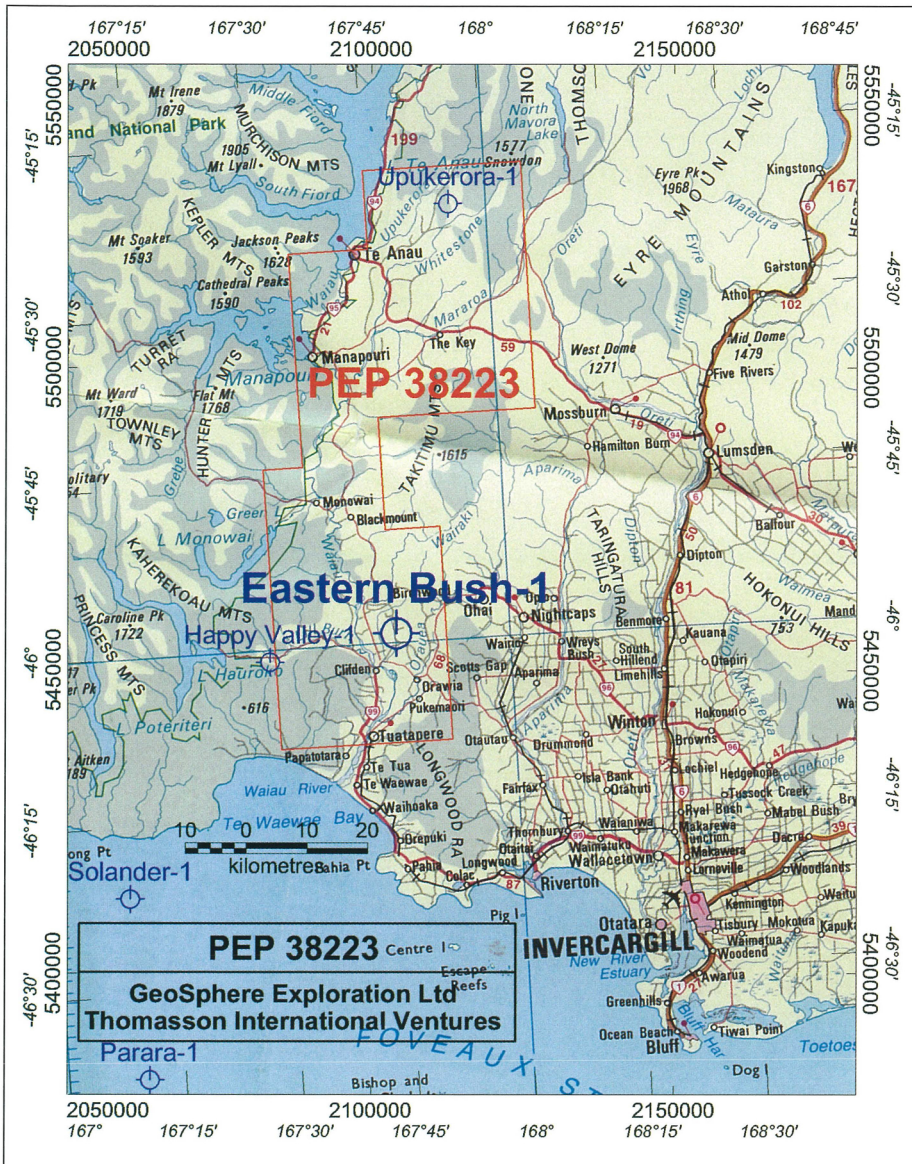


New Partners Revive Old Permit



Wellington based exploration company, GeoSphere Exploration Ltd, is seeking farm-in partners after being awarded onshore acreage that traverses the Te Anau and Waiau basins.

GeoSphere and Denver based Thomasson International Ventures each hold 50% interest in PEP 38223, which traverses the border of the Te Anau Basin and Waiau basins in the southern South Island.

The partners plan to drill the Eastern Bush prospect in the Waiau Basin section of the permit area, between Tuatapere and Ohai. The prospect contains Eocene fluvial sandstones in a four-way dip closure, adjacent to a trough in which oil-prone lacustrine source rocks are modelled to have reached peak maturity for oil during the middle Miocene.

The Waiau Basin section of the permit area was previously part of permit PEP 38213, which was surrendered by EEX Corporation at the end of 2001.

The Te Anau Basin has seen little exploration. The Upukerora-1 well, drilled by Petrocorp in 1987, recorded weak gas shows in early Miocene strata.