

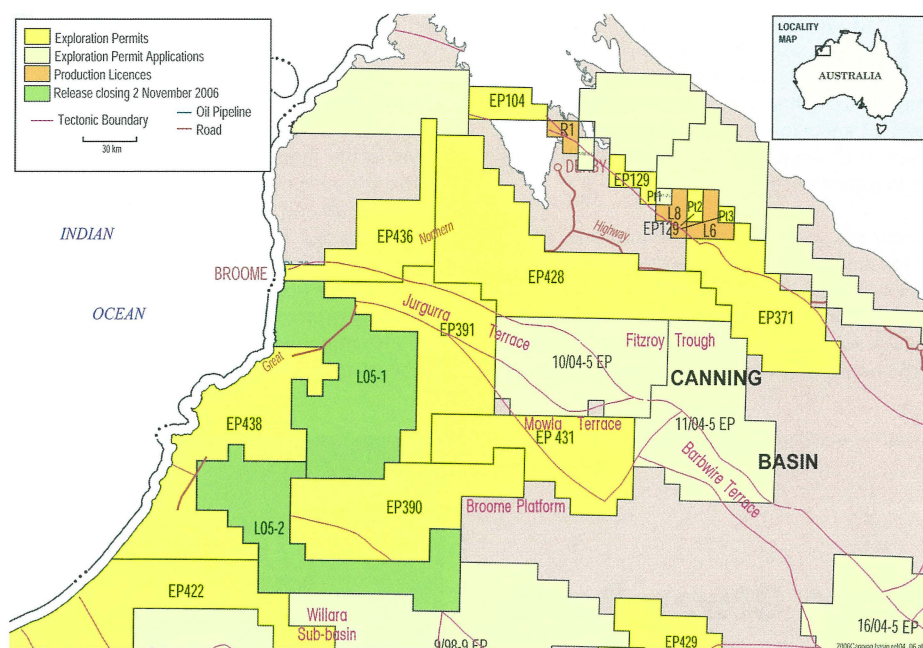
Nine Acreage Areas Released In WA

Six new and three re-released blocks in the onshore Perth and Canning basins and offshore northern Carnarvon Basin have been released by the Western Australian Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR).

DOIR Director, Bill Tinapple, said a new area in the southern part of the onshore Perth Basin is being released, and an area is being re-released in the northern part of the basin. "Key targets in these areas are sandstones of Jurassic and Permian age, respectively", he said. "The northern Perth Basin is a hot spot for onshore petroleum exploration in WA, with current production of about 2 MMBbl per year from recent discoveries, aided by the application of 3D seismic techniques."

Two areas in the onshore western Canning Basin have been re-released. Tinapple said these areas have post-salt and pre-salt targets in the largely Palaeozoic basin. "Post salt plays include Devonian sandstones and reef carbonates, as well as Permian sandstones", he said. "The pre salt play is characterised by a thick salt section overlying Ordovician reservoirs with frequent oil occurrences, which in turn overlie an excellent source rock."

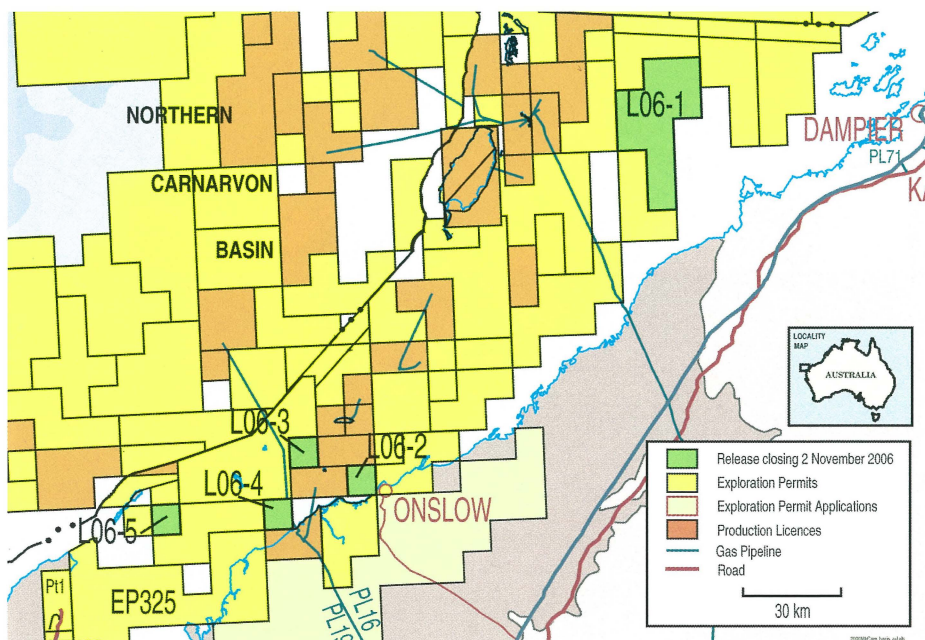
He said an acreage release package, available from the DOIR, contained information on a number of leads, data on seismic surveys reprocessed by Robertson Research, and a report on the prospectivity of release areas produced by RPS Energy. "There are signs of



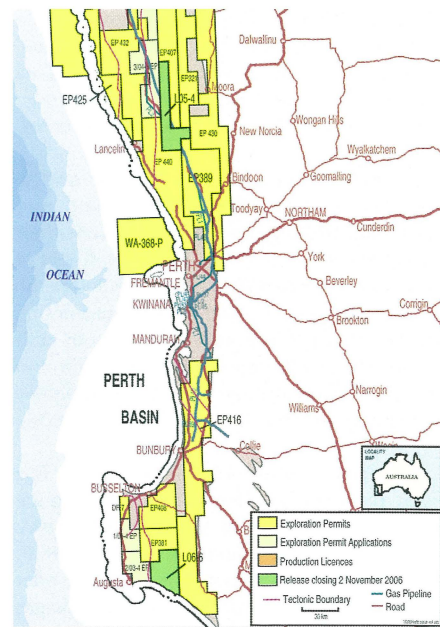
Two areas in the onshore western Canning Basin have been re-released. These areas have post-salt and pre-salt targets in the largely Palaeozoic basin.

renewed interest in the Canning Basin, with both international and Australian companies requesting the release of acreage and conducting farmin negotiations, and applications are being progressed through the Native Title process", Tinapple said.

In the offshore northern Carnarvon Basin, five areas are being released in North West Shelf state waters. "This is an area noted for its Cretaceous oil production", he said. "These areas are largely in the Barrow Sub-basin. There is a good coverage of seismic in the release areas. Water depths are less than 50 m." Bids close 2nd November 2006. ■



Five areas are being released in North West Shelf state waters in the offshore northern Carnarvon Basin.



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