

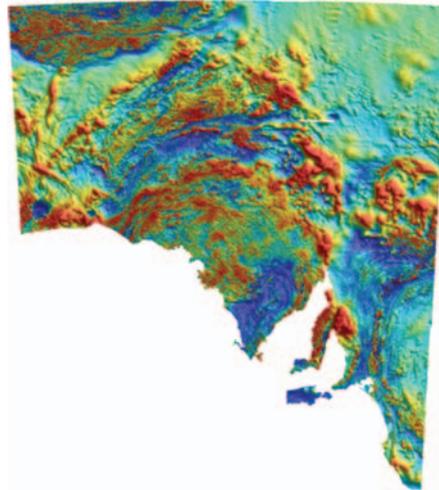
President's welcome

Welcome to Adelaide and the 25th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition. This conference is jointly hosted by the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG), The Petroleum Explorations Society of Australia (PESA) and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG). This conference brings together three key societies of geoscience to share ideas and innovations, which can only enhance the continual advancement of geoscience in Australia and internationally.

The organising committee from South Australia have put together a fantastic programme with oral and poster presentations over three days, together with an exhibition of local and overseas companies. The workshops, which are programmed for before and after the presentation days, offer an opportunity for further education and an update on new ideas and technologies.

Adelaide is a great city to host a conference. Known for its wine, cycling, great food, churches and festivals, it also has a steep history in innovation. The South Australian government has funded significant exploration initiatives, as the state geological survey has always recognised the application of geophysical techniques as a key role in understanding the geology of their state. Some of the earliest aeromagnetic surveys in Australia were flown in South Australia in the 1950s.

One of the most significant initiatives was in 1992 when the South Australian government launched the South Australian Exploration Initiative (SAEI), which included aeromagnetic surveys, stratigraphic drilling, seismic surveys and mapping. \$22.5 million of funding was allocated to this initiative over five years (1992–1996). It raised the exploration profile of South Australia internationally as well as within Australia. The results saw many companies taking up new exploration licenses and thus the overall exploration expenditure in South Australia increased.



South Australia was in a state of exploration excitement and I was lucky to be a part of it, in my early career in airborne geophysics. I had the great opportunity to fly part of the magnetic and radiometric survey over Maralinga, before the British had cleaned up the region after their atomic experiments.



The South Australia exploration successes attributed to the SAEI include the Challenger and Tunkillia gold deposits, Golf Bore and Campfire Bore gold prospects and the definition of iron ore resources in the Gawler Craton; the Abminga area diamond potential; base metal and gold deposits in the Portia region of the Curnamona Province; groundwater resources and improved assessments of groundwater in the Great Artesian Basin. In fact, the success of the SAEI, saw it become the template for further initiatives within South Australia and used as a standard within other states in Australia, which followed with similar programmes.

Petroleum exploration in South Australia has extended back to 1866 in the Otway Basin. The 1960s saw the discovery of gas in Copper Basin, which along with the Eromanga basin, are now considered Australia's largest onshore petroleum province. This early discovery also saw the rise of Santos and Beach Energy (formerly Beach Petroleum). The challenge of offshore exploration, which has in part been answered by technology advances, has seen an increase in the exploration in South Australia's offshore acreage. This year has seen one of our key sponsors of the conference, BP, announce a planned \$605 million exploration in the Great Australian Bight.





The theme of the conference is 'Interpreting the Past, Discovering the Future' and I have a firm belief that there are opportunities in the data, old and new, for new discoveries. At our conference in Adelaide there will be presented case studies, new processing techniques, different applications for geophysics, new and advanced interpretation techniques, and new datasets. There is the opportunity to use what is discovered here to not only apply to present day data, but also review and look at older data.

Finally, I would like to thank the organising committee for the brilliant effort in putting together such a wonderful conference. The conference

committee are all volunteers that along with their day to day work, work together to bring together sponsors, the technical programme, a student day, a social programme, the exhibition, and the workshops, and at the same time look after the marketing and accounts. Without these volunteers, this type of conference just would not be possible. I would also like to thank the sponsors and exhibitors for their continuous support of the conference.

Please go forth, taste the wine, enjoy catching up with colleges and friends and discover.

Audio video disco invenio
(I hear, I see, I learn, I discover)



*Katherine McKenna
President of the Australian Society of
Exploration Geophysicists*



BP is investing in Australia's energy future.

BP began operations in Australia in 1919 and since then we've been providing Australia with energy to keep the country moving.

By capitalising on our unique strengths in deep water exploration and advanced technology we have begun exploring for new oil and gas resources in the Great Australian Bight off South Australia.

This exploration builds on our existing production assets: for more than twenty five years, BP has also been providing clean natural gas to Western Australia and Asia through the North West

Shelf Venture. And with our fellow joint venture participants, we are continuing to invest in future energy supply through the development of more fields and more infrastructure, at the North West Shelf Venture, in the Greater Gorgon area, and in the Browse Basin.

Through our fuel refining distribution and marketing assets we also manufacture and sell billions of litres of fuel every year, continuing our commitment to Australia's energy future.