

Reserves Estimation and Influences on Coal Seam Gas Productivity in Eastern Australian Basins*

Bruce McConachie¹, Peter Stanmore¹, Michael Creech¹, Lucas McLean Hodgson¹, Anargul Kushkarina¹, and Edward Lewis¹

Search and Discovery Article #10749 (2015)**

Posted July 13, 2015

*Adapted from oral presentation given at AAPG Asia Pacific Region, Geoscience Technology Workshop, Opportunities and Advancements in Coal Bed Methane in the Asia Pacific, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, February 12-13, 2015

**Datapages © 2015 Serial rights given by author. For all other rights contact author directly.

¹SRK Consulting, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia (bmccconachie@srk.com.au)

Abstract

SRK Consulting has undertaken many unconventional gas estimation projects in Australia plus China, USA, Canada, Botswana and South Africa. Our experience with projects indicates many potential pit falls in the estimation of both Resources and Reserves can lead to either overstating or underestimating potential. Geology is a significant control and the context of gas estimations is critical to ensure their delivery as economic Reserves.

SRK Consulting has experience of coal seam gas (CSG/CBM) Reserve and Resource in most eastern Australian basins and we have observed that the impact of coal quality and depositional environments are commonly underestimated and some potential gas upside is not necessarily captured from other aspects associated with coal seam gas analysis. The coal seam environment is complex comprising fluvial deposition in upper to lower delta plain settings where the complex interaction of sedimentary deposition is compounded by variations relating to the original peat swamp environment.

The nature of the peat-forming environment and the genesis of the contained methane in shallow CSG reservoirs often results in highly variable gas saturations. By understanding these processes and identifying the geological features responsible for high-frequency variations in gas contents, exploration can be better targeted. Individual coal seam reservoirs typically split and coalesce within hundreds of metres but seam characteristics such as ash content can also vary over similar distances. The thin nature of the CSG reservoir also provides the potential for common relatively small faults (<5 metres) to fully displace the coal seam and effectively compartmentalise the reservoir.

It is important to have a good understanding of the origin of the methane and how it has been stored in the reservoir. SRK has undertaken several projects in the Surat Basin where shallow coals are often highly gas productive. Deeper coals can be significantly undersaturated resulting in lower gas contents and significant dewatering requirements to achieve first gas. Lack of meteoric influx due to geometry and permeability barriers can result in minimal biogenic gas enhancement resulting poor permeabilities that require lateral wells to achieve reasonable productivity.

Selected References

Barker G., 2012, CBM Geology & Well Design: 5th Annual CBM & Unconventional Gas, Wednesday 27 June 2012.

Creech, M., and B. McConachie, 2014, Reserve estimation and the influence of coal seams on coal seam gas productivity: AusIMM Bulletin, Issue 1 (Feb 2014).

Engelder, T., 2014, Truth and Lies about Hydraulic Fracturing: AAPG Explorer, Web Accessed June 27, 2015, <http://www.aapg.org/publications/news/explorer/details/articleid/12416/truth-and-lies-about-hydraulic-fracturing>.

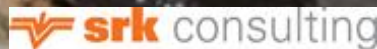
Kuuskraa, V.A., and C.F. Brandenburg, 1989, Coalbed methane sparks a new energy industry: Oil and Gas Journal, v. 87/41, p. 49–56.

U.S. Department of Energy, 2009, Modern Shale Gas Development in the United States: A Primer: Web Accessed June 27, 2015, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2013/03/f0/ShaleGasPrimer_Online_4-2009.pdf.

AAPG Geosciences Technology
Workshop 2015
12-13 February 2015, Brisbane

RESERVES ESTIMATION AND INFLUENCES ON COAL SEAM GAS PRODUCTIVITY IN EASTERN AUSTRALIAN BASINS

Bruce McConachie, Peter Stanmore, Michael
Creech, Lucas McLean Hodgson, Anargul
Kushkarina and Edward Lewis

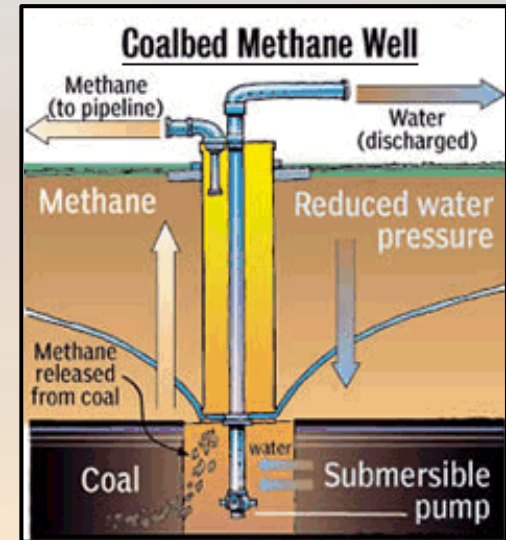


Level 6, 141 Queen Street, Brisbane,
Queensland, 4000, Australia
GPO Box 1881 Brisbane,
Queensland, 4001, Australia
Bruce McConachie +61488776101

Coal Seam Gas/ Coal Bed Methane

Topics to Cover

- Unconventional Gas and Coal
- Fracking
- Associated Gas and Reserves
- Surat Basin
- Clarence Moreton Basin
- Bowen Basin
- The Place of Unconventional Gas in the World



Coal Seam Gas is produced from coal and storage is dominantly adsorption

Shale Gas is derived from petroleum source rocks

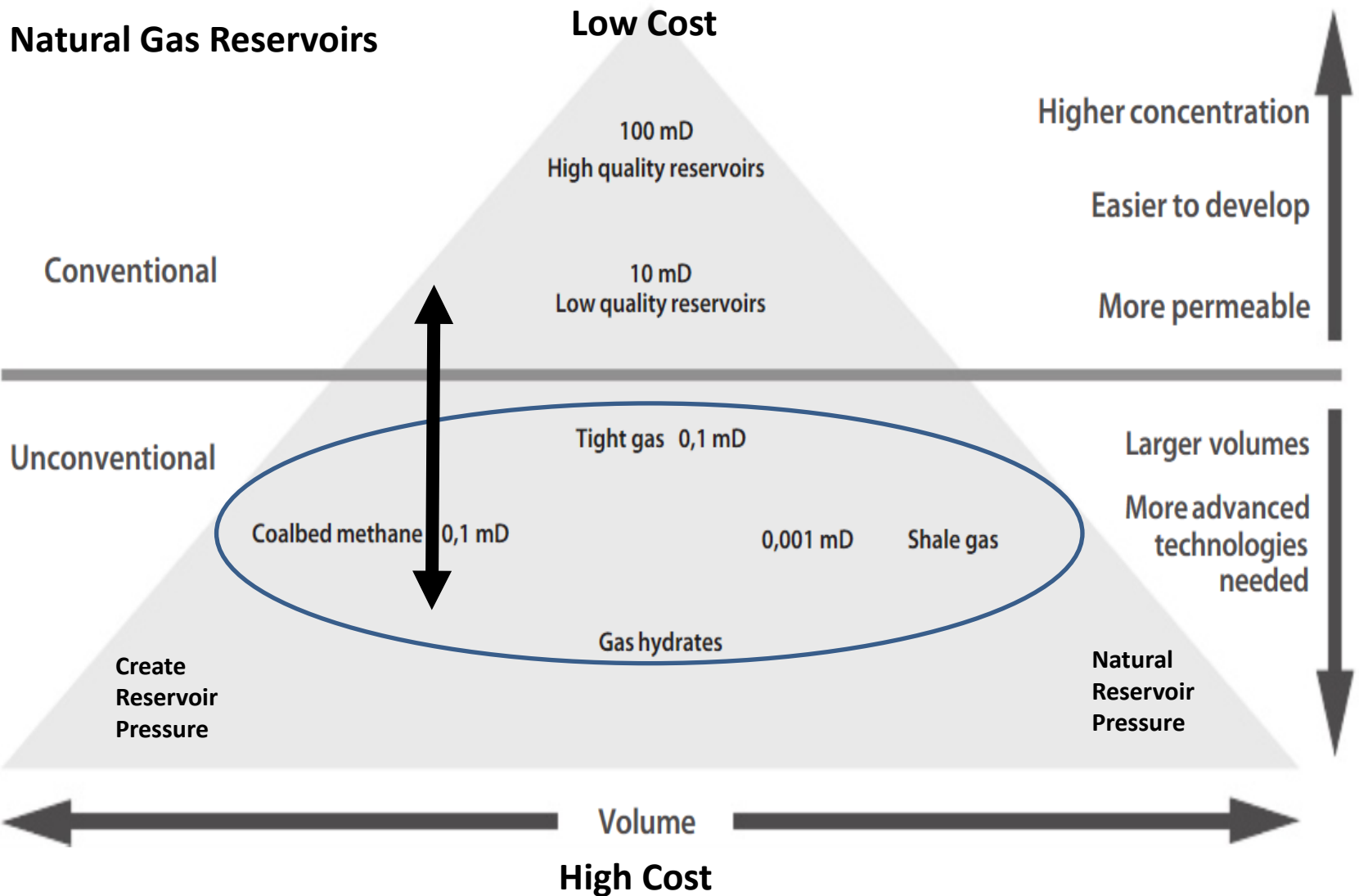
Coalbed Methane (Gas)



Shale (Oil & Gas)



Source: Allen Kimble, Cano Petroleum



based on: IEA 2009, *World Energy Outlook*

“Unconventional” Natural Gas Reservoirs

Geologically complex and low permeability (<0.1 md normally) gas reservoirs that require special (non-standard) evaluation and technology.

Reservoir Spectrum



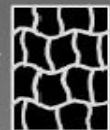
Organic Content, wt. %



Gas Filled Porosity
(Compression)

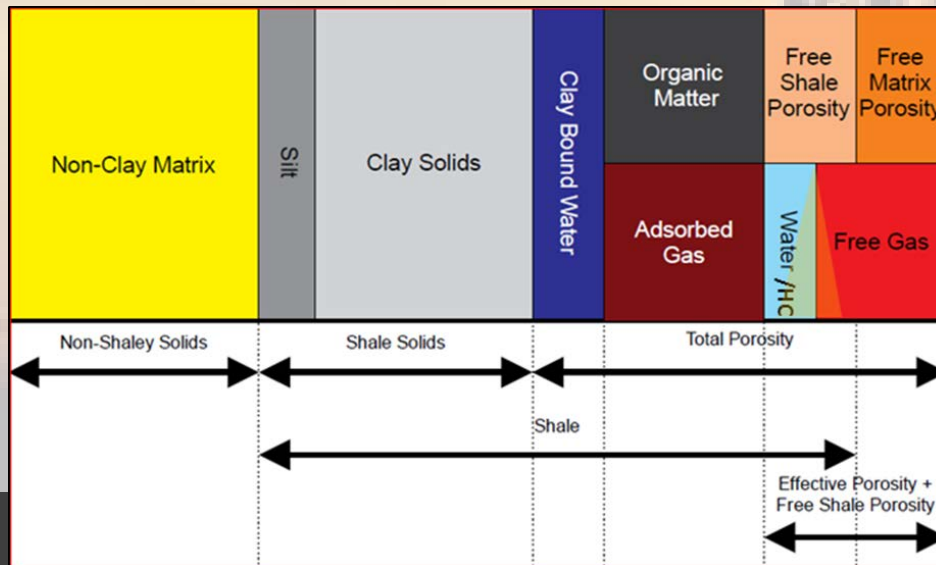
Water Filled Porosity

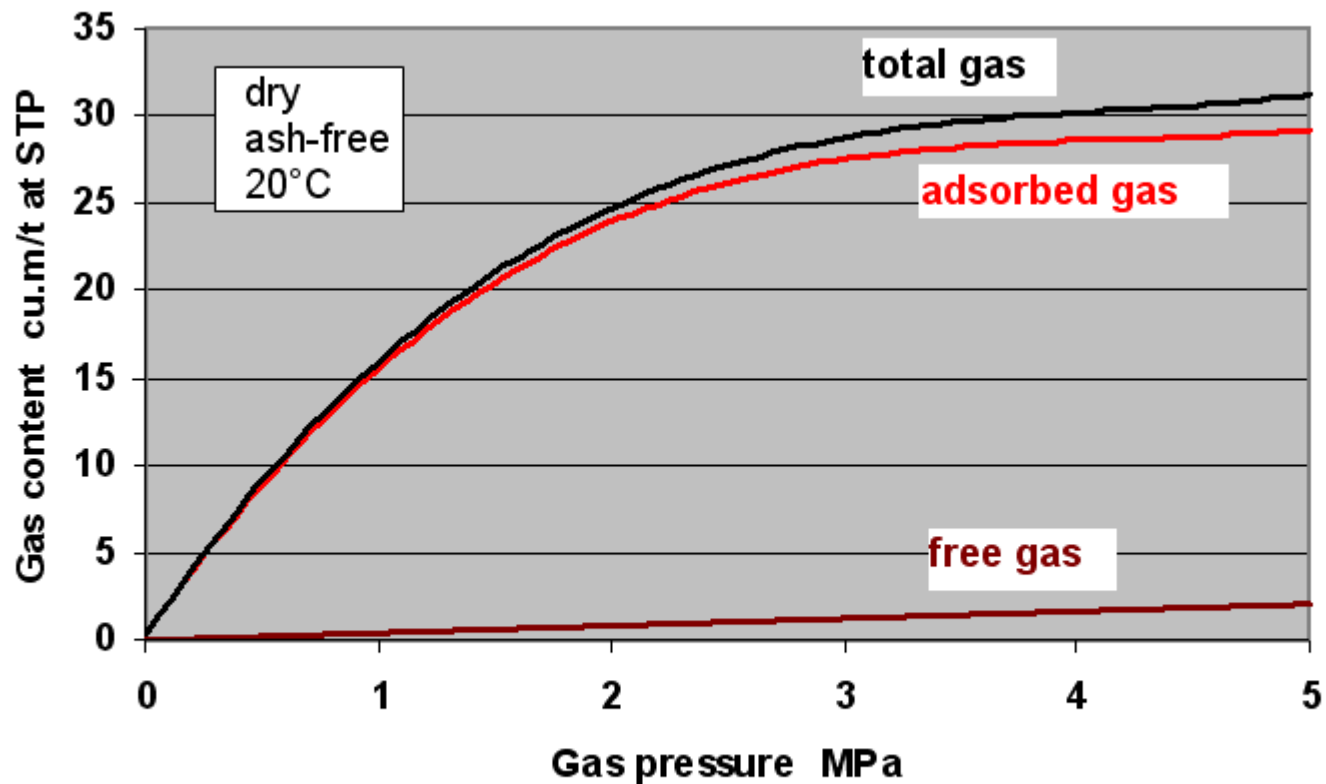
Gas Filled Micropores
(Adsorption)



NSAI (2012)

Organic Content

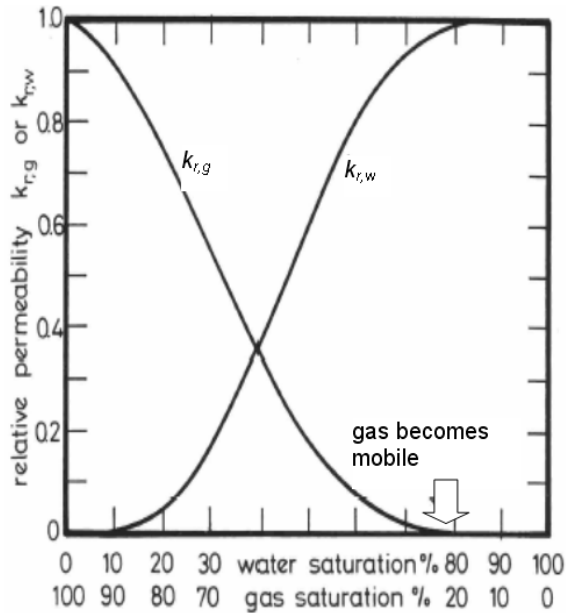




adsorbed, free and total gas isotherms for methane in coal

Coal seam gas containment versus Pressure

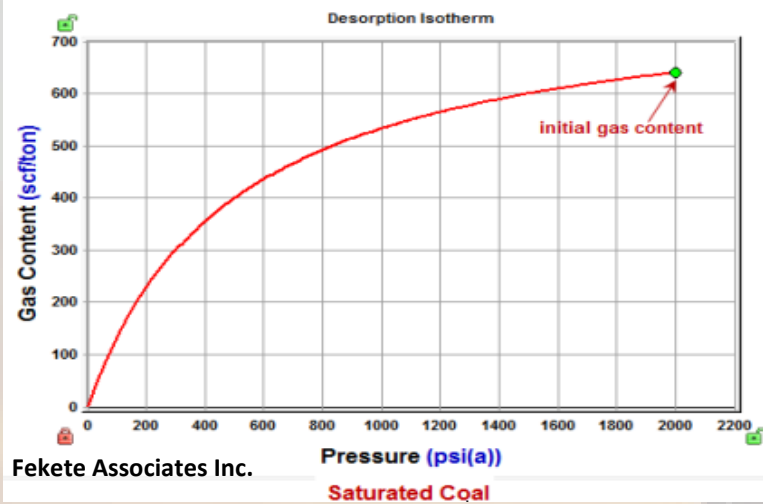
Imbibition is a function of Coal Type



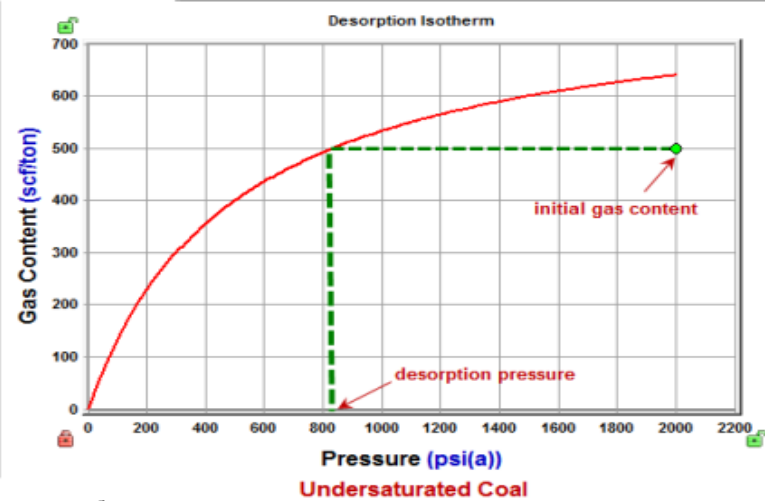
Illustrates a typical behaviour of relative permeabilities with respect to saturations of water and gas. The actual loci of the relative permeability curves depend upon whether the coal substance is wetted preferentially by the water or the gas. This, in turn, varies with the proportion of coal constituents, **vitrain and clarain tending to prefer the gas** while **durain and fusain are more easily wetted by water**

The curves suggest a net hydrophobic coal, i.e. the gas is the preferred wetting phase. The water will, therefore, tend to reside in the larger openings within the matrix and inhibit migration of the gas which exists in the smaller interstices. Hence, the gas will not become mobile until the water saturation has fallen significantly below 100%. This saturation explains why considerable volumes of water may be produced from a borehole before gas flows appear.

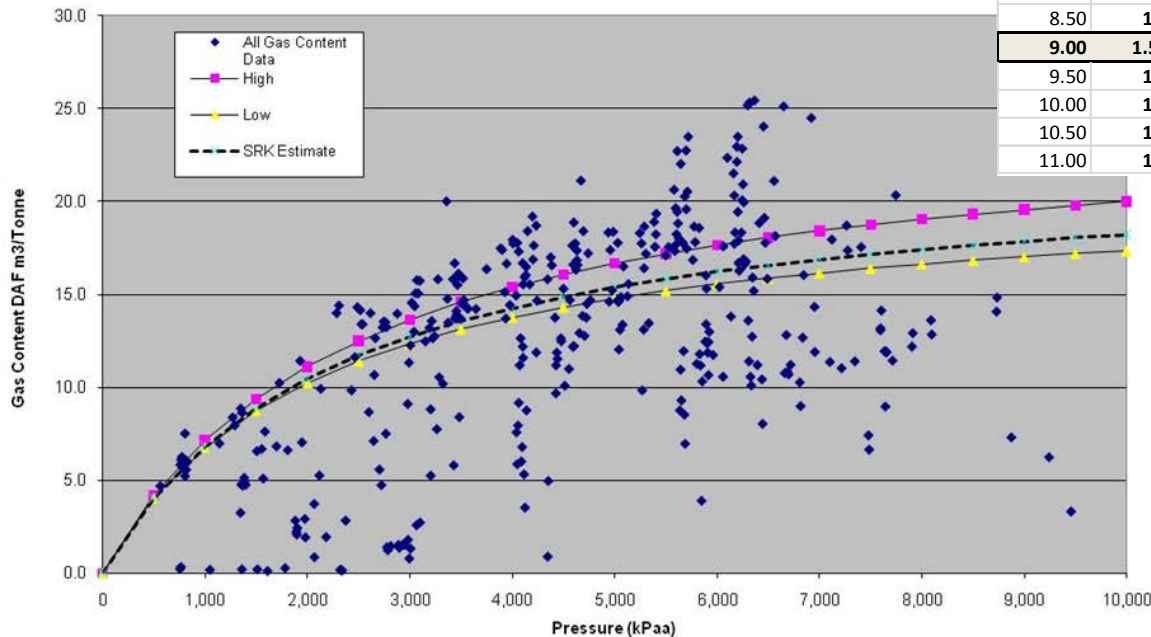
Saturated Coal Reservoir



Undersaturated Coal Reservoir



Gas Content Vs Pressure



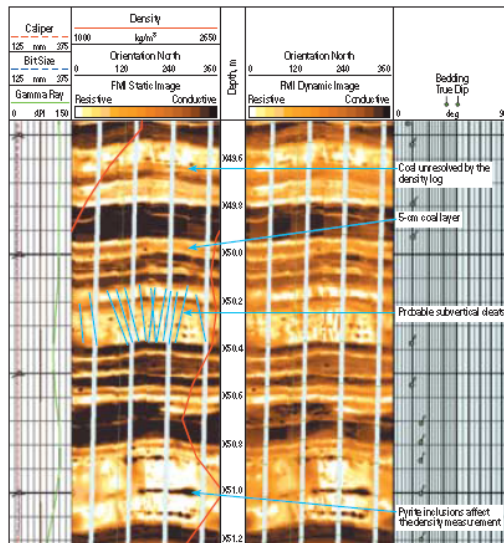
ppg	psi/m	psi/ft	MPa/100m	Mpa/km	atm/100m		
7.00	1.19	0.364	0.824	8.24	8.13		
7.50	1.28	0.390	0.882	8.82	8.71		
8.00	1.36	0.416	0.941	9.41	9.29	fresh water	0.433 psi/ft
8.50	1.45	0.442	1.000	10.00	9.87		
9.00	1.535	0.468	1.059	10.589	10.451	sea water	0.465 psi/ft
9.50	1.62	0.494	1.118	11.18	11.03		
10.00	1.71	0.520	1.177	11.77	11.61		
10.50	1.79	0.546	1.235	12.35	12.19		
11.00	1.88	0.572	1.294	12.94	12.77		

Gas Saturations and pressure are important

Undersaturation

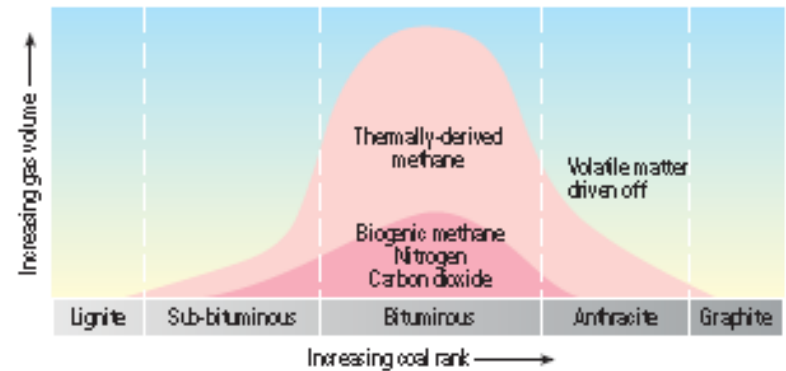
May or may not be a problem depending on the amount and type of potential water production

CSG/CBM Criteria



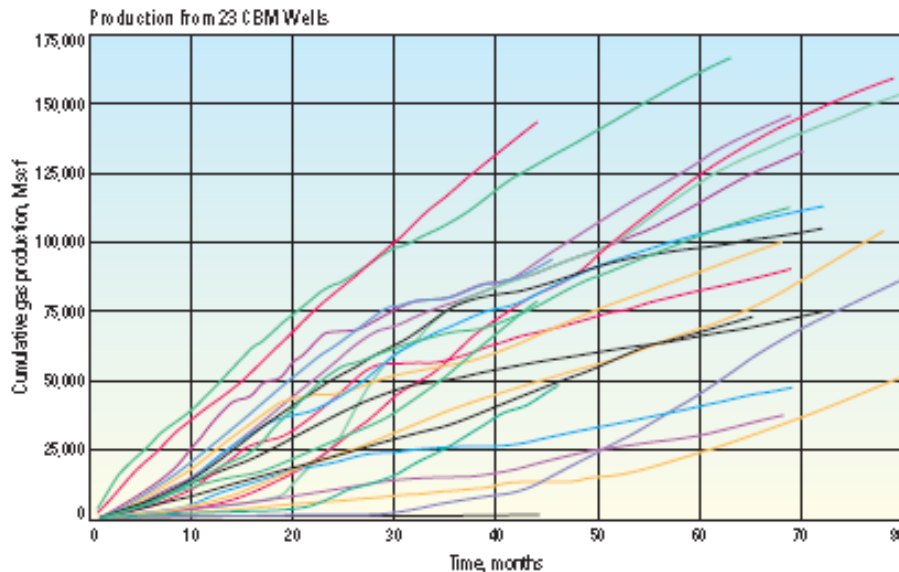
High-resolution measurements in thin-bedded coals. Many coals are thin-bedded and may not be identified with standard measurements. The FMI Fullbore Formation MicroImager tool has a vertical resolution of 0.2 in. [0.5 cm], which allows analysts to image thin coals. Track 1 contains gamma ray, caliper and borehole orientation data. A comparison between the density log and the FMI static image is displayed in Track 2. The FMI tool clearly identifies the thin coal at X50.0 m, where the density log does not. Pyrite inclusions that dramatically affect the density at X51.0 m appear as dark spots on the FMI image. Track 3 contains the FMI dynamic image, and Track 4 displays dip information.

Gas Generation as a Function of Coal Rank

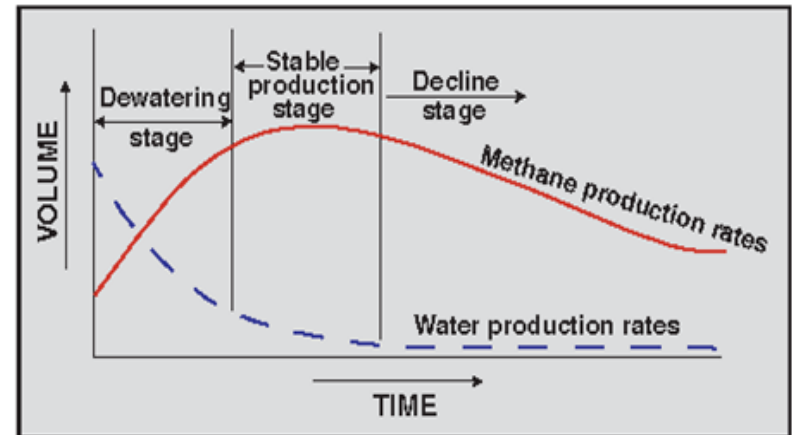


Gas generation in coal. As temperature and pressure increase, coal rank changes along with its ability to generate and store methane. Through time, dewatering and devolatilization occur, causing shrinkage of the coal matrix and creation of endogenous cleats.

Gas adsorbed in CSG

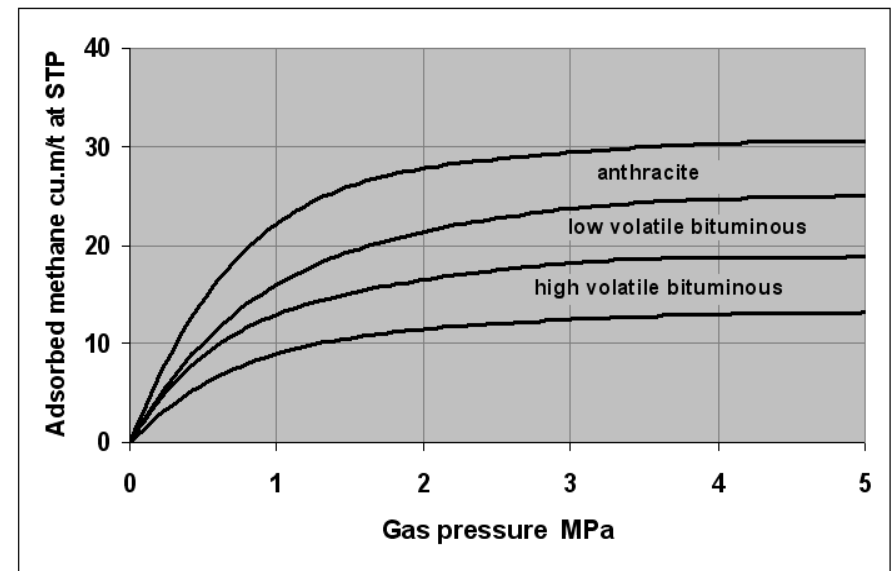


Local well-performance variations in a group of 23 similar wells in a field in the Black Warrior basin, USA. In this area, the differences are attributed to local changes in cleat and natural-fracture permeabilities. The plot shows cumulative gas production through time for each of the 23 wells.

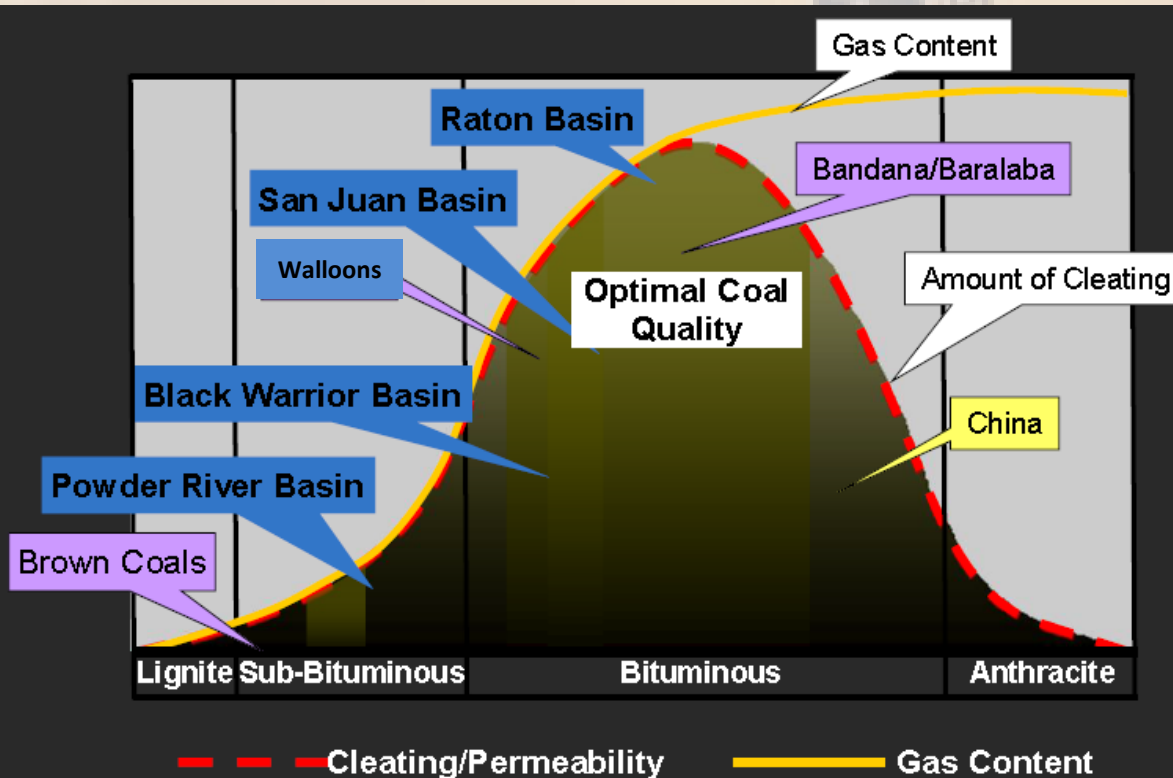


Typical production curves for a coal-bed methane well showing relative volumes of methane and water through time. Modified from Kuuskraa and Brandenburg (1989).

Gas content is a function of coal rank
But so is permeability



Examples of adsorption isotherms for methane in coal. The amount of gas adsorbed increases with the carbon content of the coal.



Hydraulic Fracturing Issues - Social License

Engelder, AAPG Explorer (2014)

Identified 6 Key mistakes made by companies

- ☐ **Failure to establish baseline water chemistry before drilling campaigns**

Traditionally oil wells were first drilled in places where oil was leaking to the surface, gas similarly leaks

It is common for water wells to produce gas (spring water commonly effervesces)

- ☐ **Use of cemented casing to cover the reservoir levels is important**

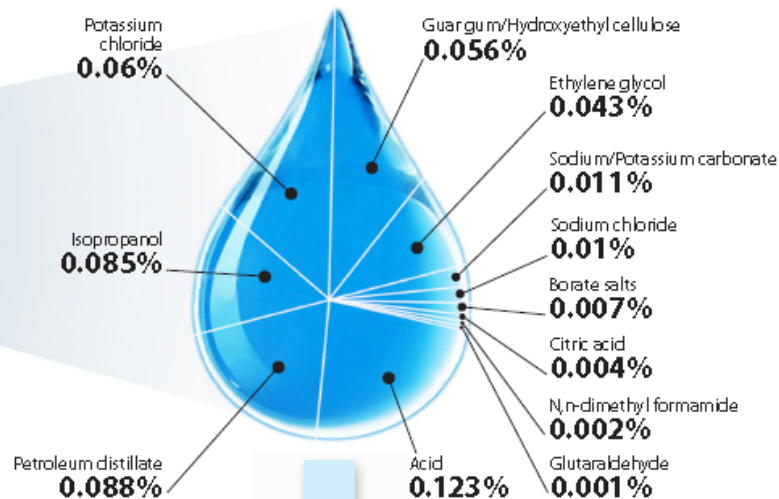
- ☐ **Use of air drilling to penetrate reservoirs in shallow aquifer settings**

- ☐ **Supporting Energy Policy that allowed hydraulic fracturing companies to keep their additives proprietary**

- ☐ **Disposing of flow back in large enough volumes to trigger earthquakes**

- ☐ **Water management associated with potential open pit leakage**

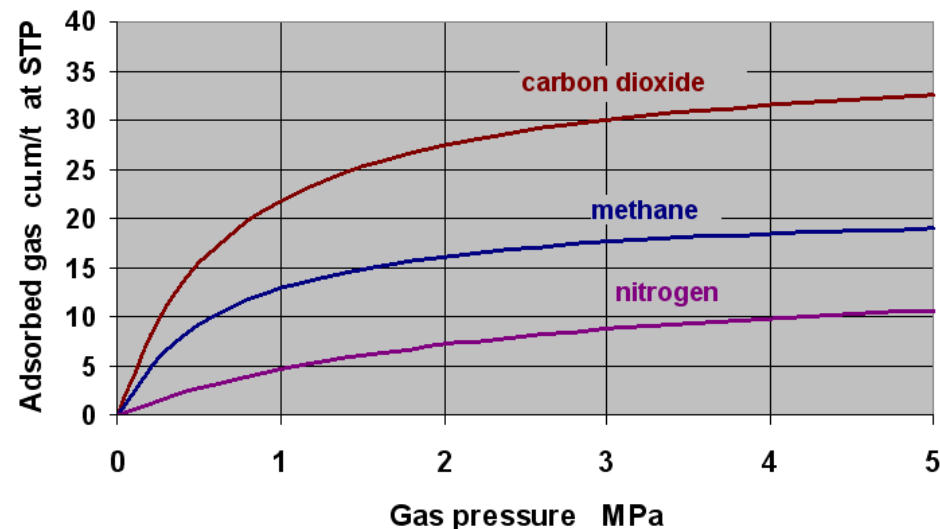
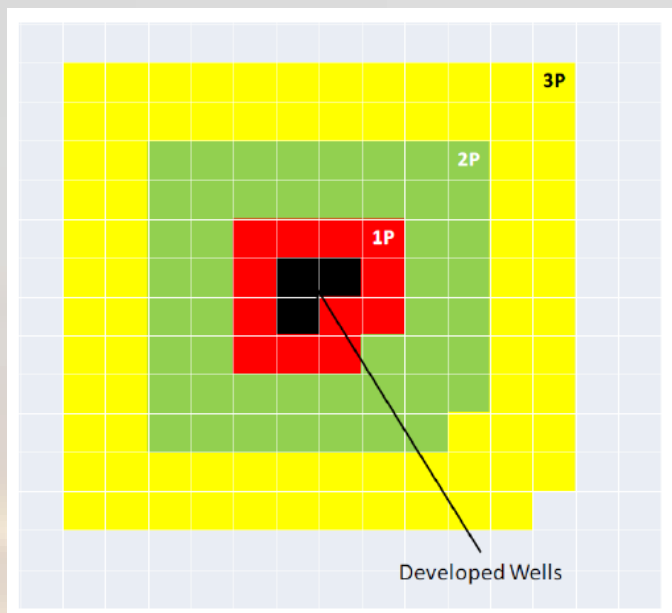




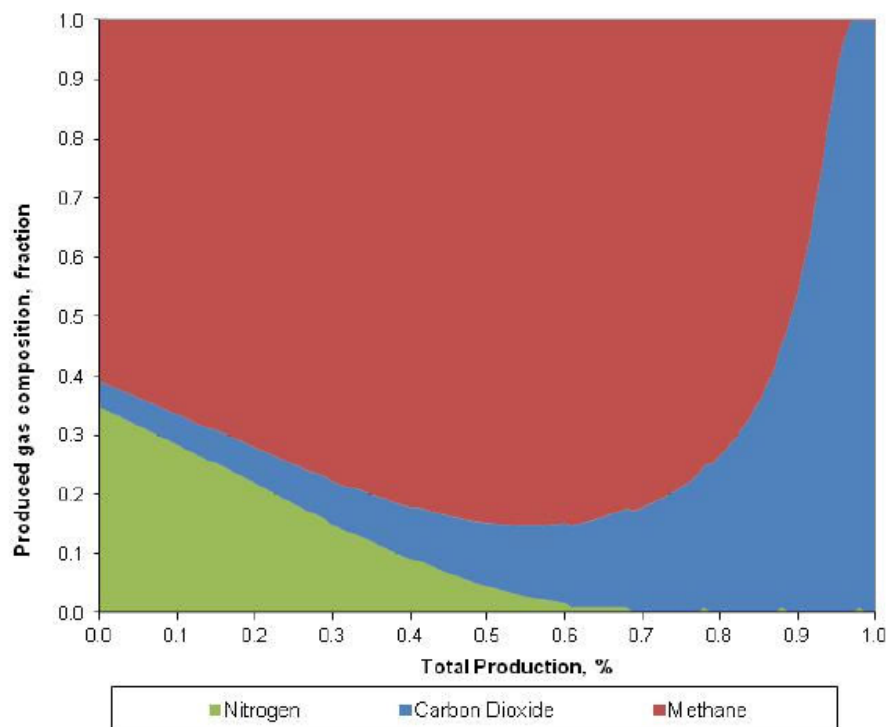
The dilute 0.49%

Source: DOE, GWPC: Modern Gas Shale Development In the United States: A Primer (2009)

Compound*	Purpose	Common application
Acids	Helps dissolve minerals and initiate fissure in rock (pre-fracture)	Swimming pool cleaner
Glutaraldehyde	Eliminates bacteria in the water	Disinfectant; Sterilizer for medical and dental equipment
Sodium Chloride	Allows a delayed break down of the gel polymer chains	Table Salt
N, n-Dimethyl formamide	Prevents the corrosion of the pipe	Used in pharmaceuticals, acrylic fibers and plastics
Borate salts	Maintains fluid viscosity as temperature increases	Used in laundry detergents, hand soaps and cosmetics
Polyacrylamide	Minimizes friction between fluid and pipe	Water treatment, soil conditioner
Petroleum distillates	"Slips" the water to minimize friction	Make-up remover, laxatives, and candy
Guar gum	Thickens the water to suspend the sand	Thickener used in cosmetics, baked goods, ice cream, toothpaste, sauces, and salad dressing
Citric Acid	Prevents precipitation of metal oxides	Food additive; food and beverages; lemon juice
Potassium chloride	Creates a brine carrier fluid	Low sodium table salt substitute
Ammonium bisulfite	Removes oxygen from the water to protect the pipe from corrosion	Cosmetics, food and beverage processing, water treatment
Sodium or potassium carbonate	Maintains the effectiveness of other components, such as crosslinkers	Washing soda, detergents, soap, water softener, glass and ceramics
Proppant	Allows the fissures to remain open so the gas can escape	Drinking water filtration, play sand
Ethylene glycol	Prevents scale deposits in the pipe	Automotive antifreeze, household cleansers, deicing, and caulk
Isopropanol	Used to increase the viscosity of the fracture fluid	Glass cleaner, antiperspirant, and hair color



Adsorption isotherms for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen in a bituminous coal at 25°C.



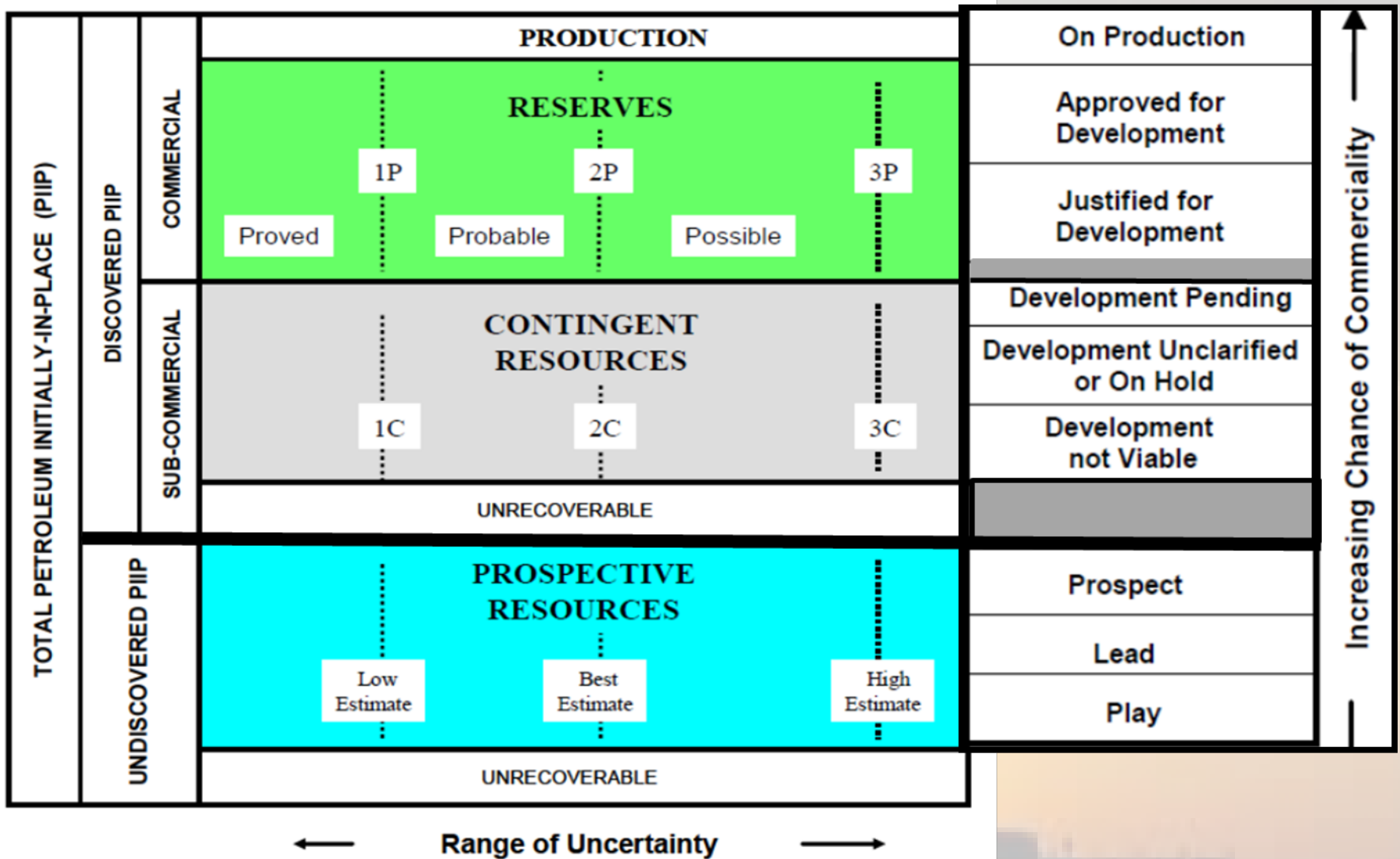
LNG FROM CSG—CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nigel J. Unsworth
Project Process Manager
Foster Wheeler
Reading, UK

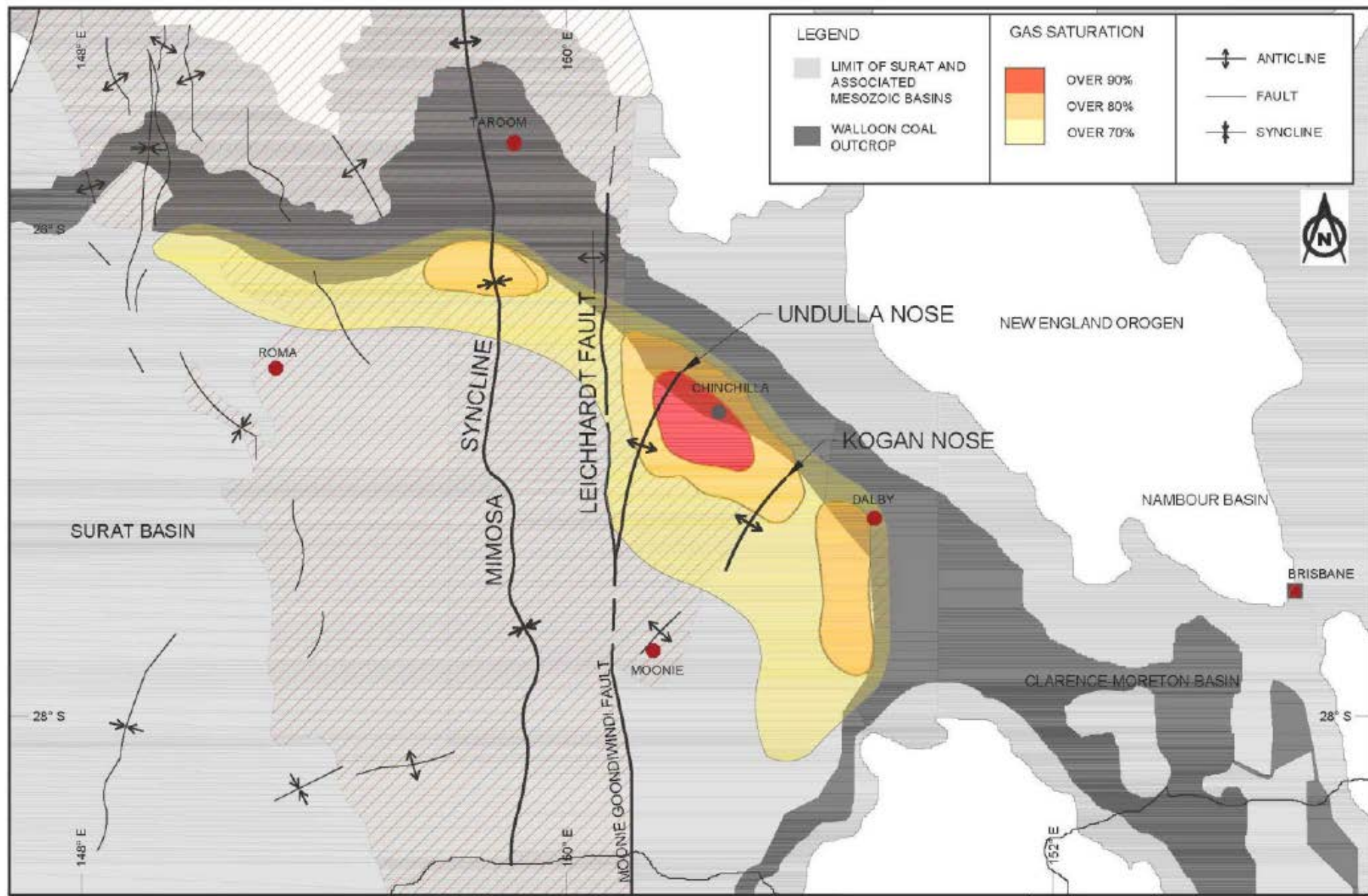
Coal has a
higher affinity for
carbon dioxide than
methane or nitrogen

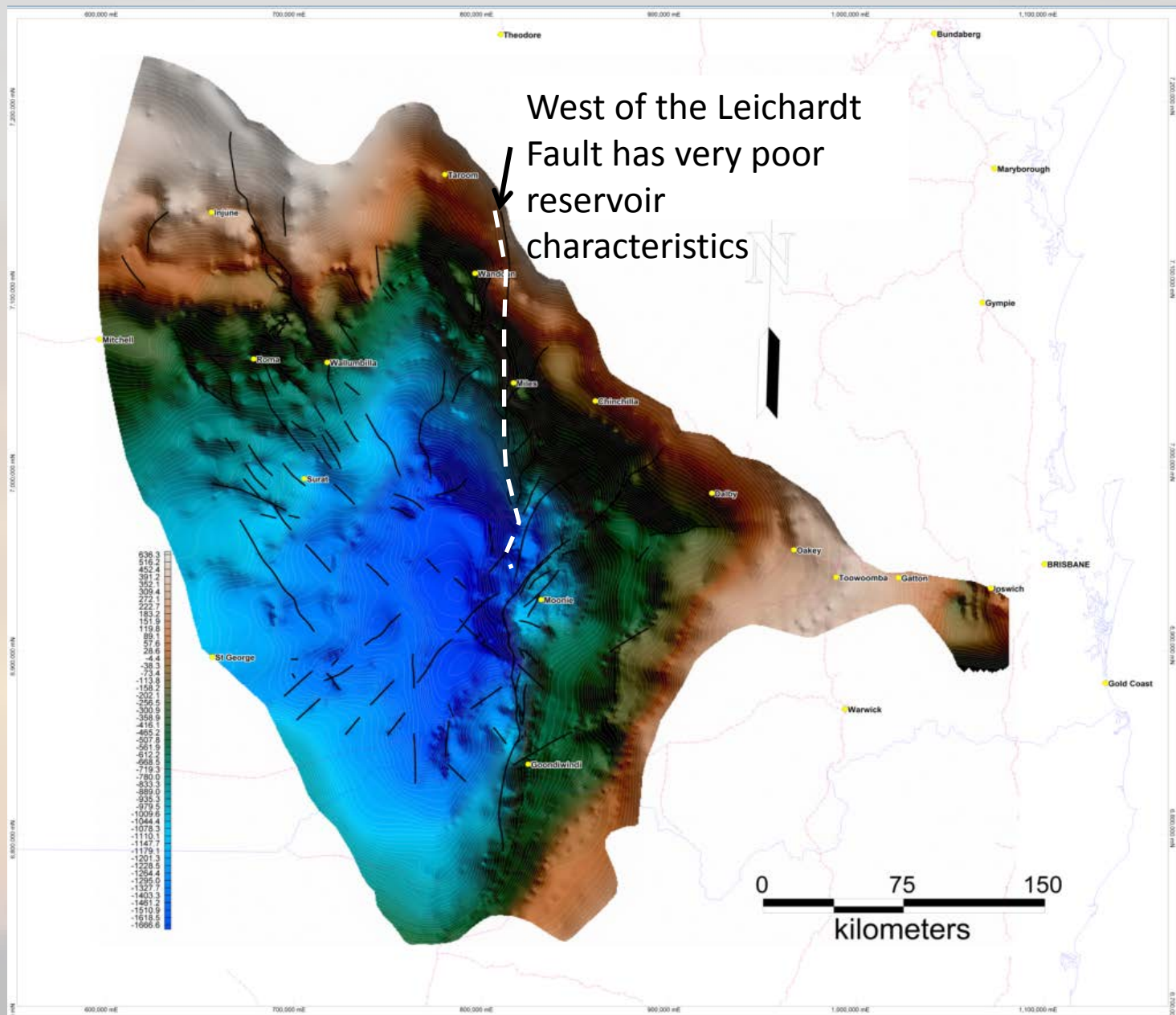
CBM Geology
& Well Design
5 TH ANNUAL CBM &
UNCONVENTIONAL GAS
WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2012
GEOFF BARKER

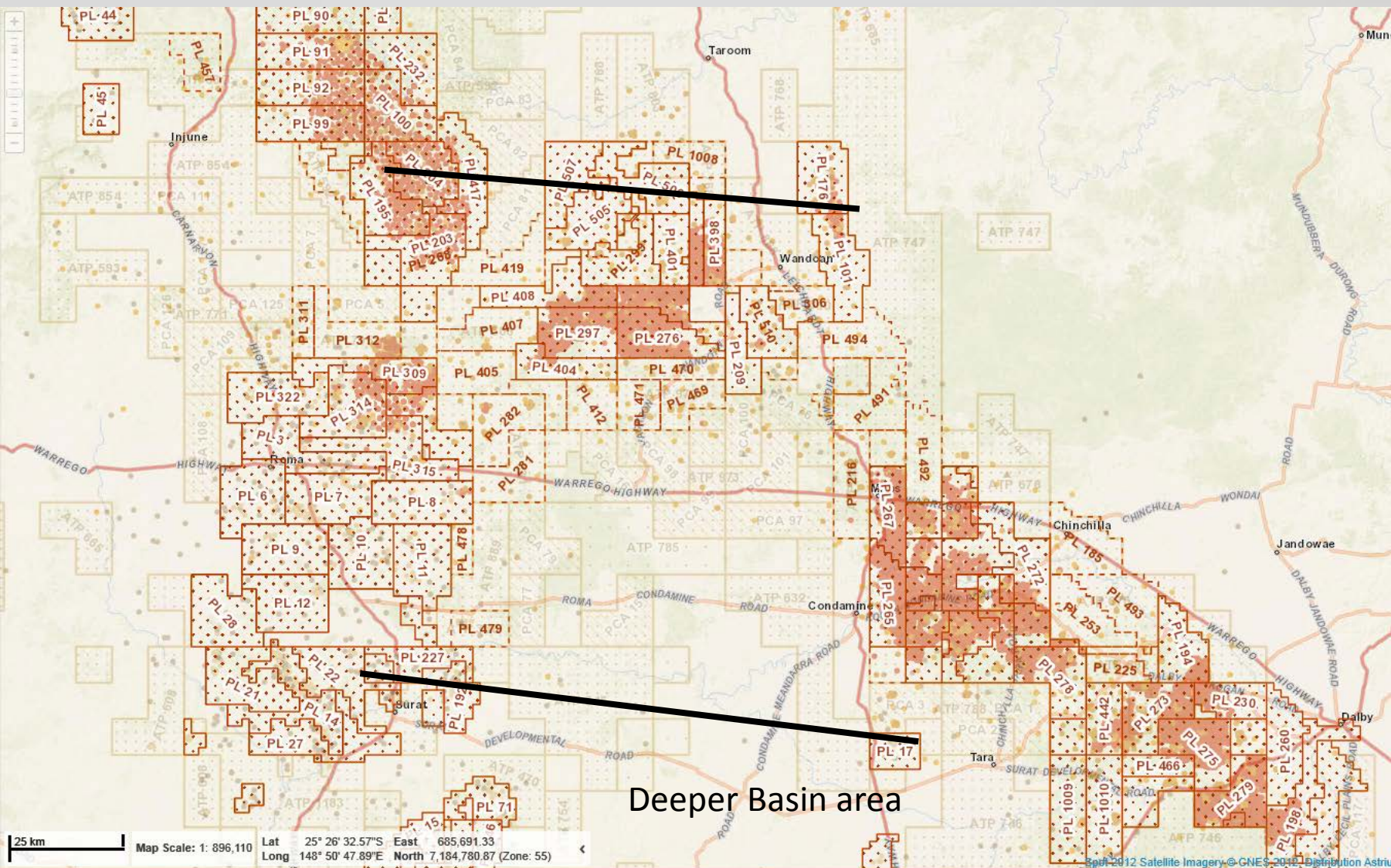
Associated Gases in Coal and Reserves Designations



Reserves and Resources as classified by PRMS (not to scale)



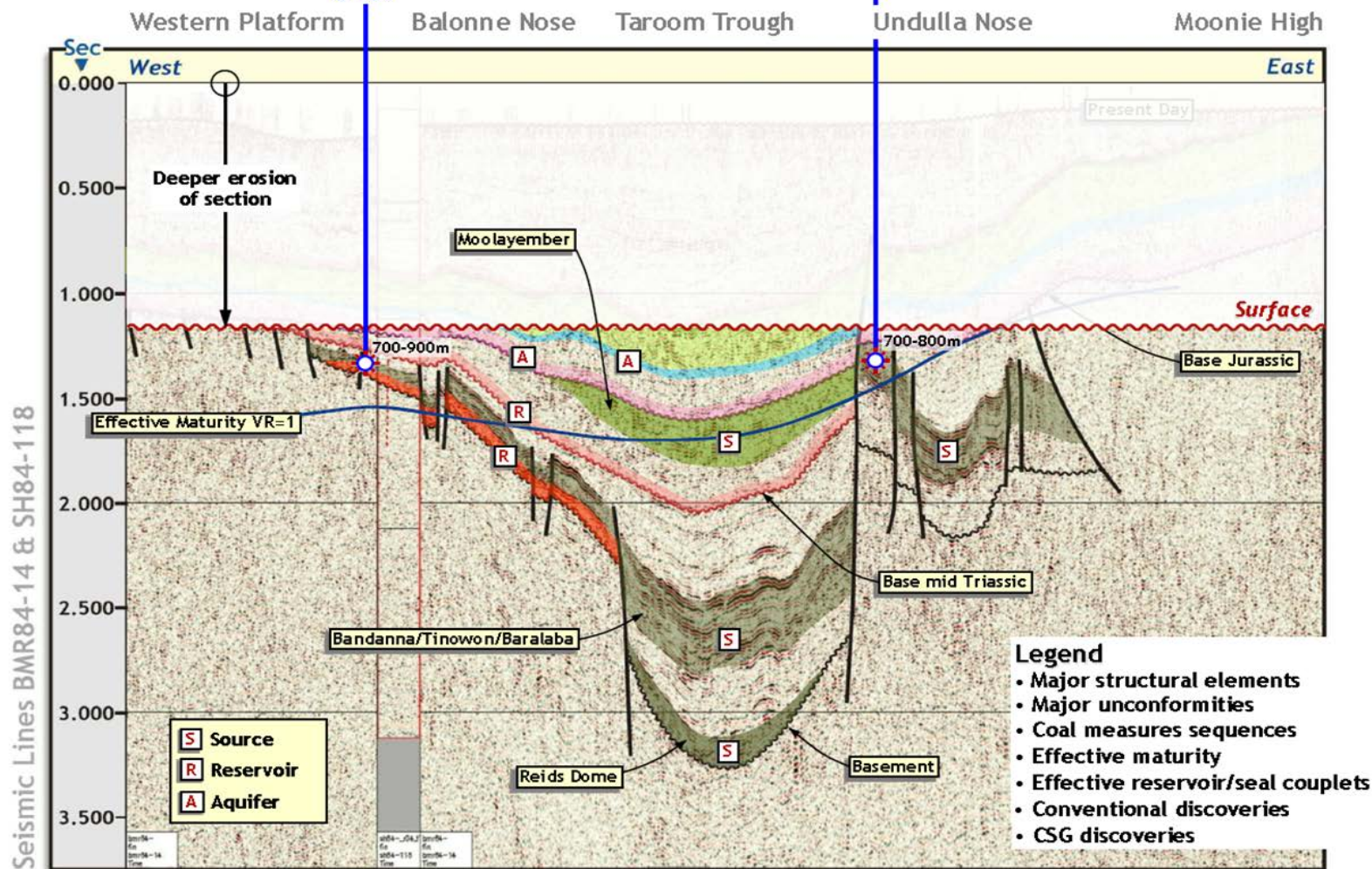




To the north....

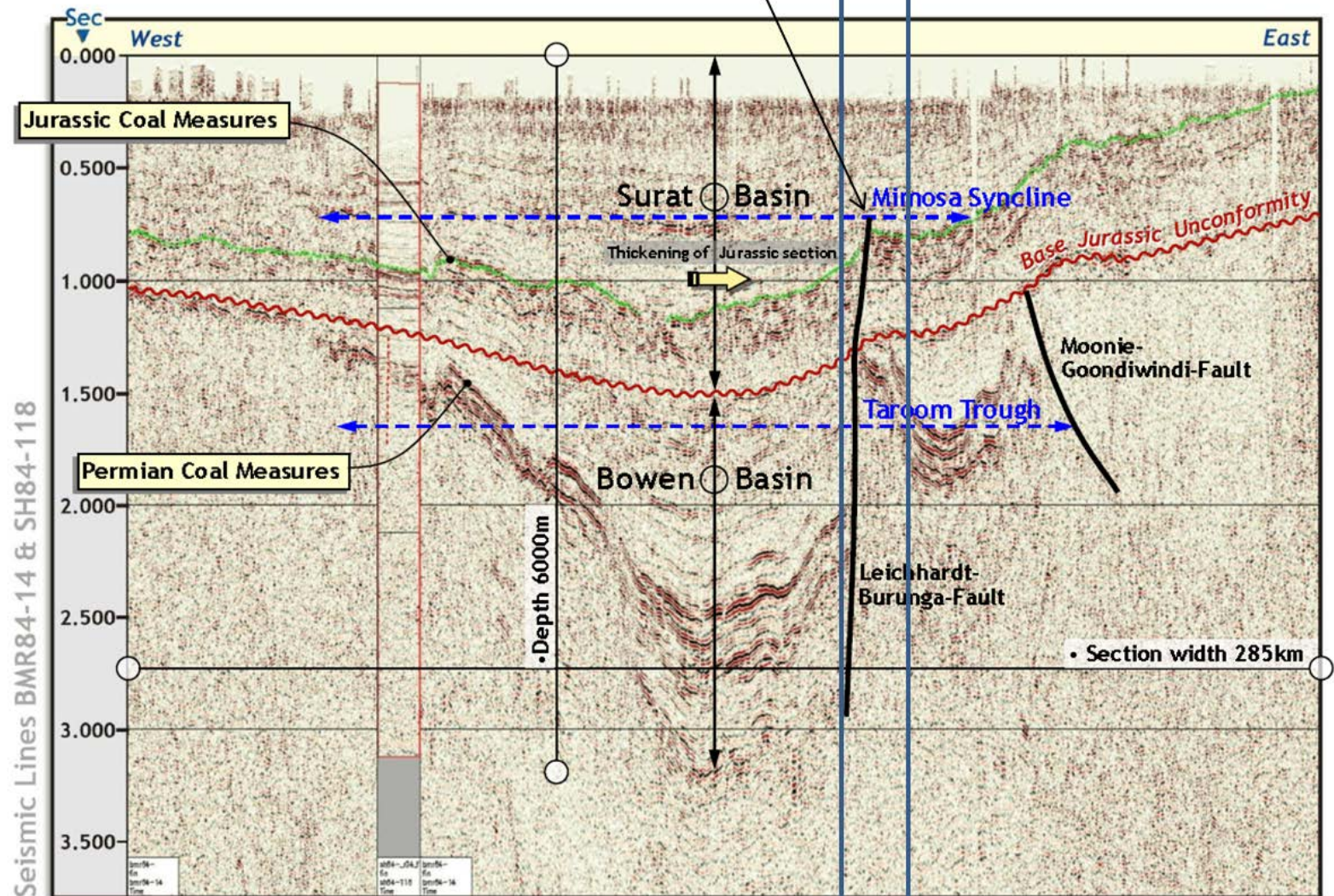
Fairview
Spring Gully
Durham Ranch
(proj.)

Scotia
Peat
(proj.)

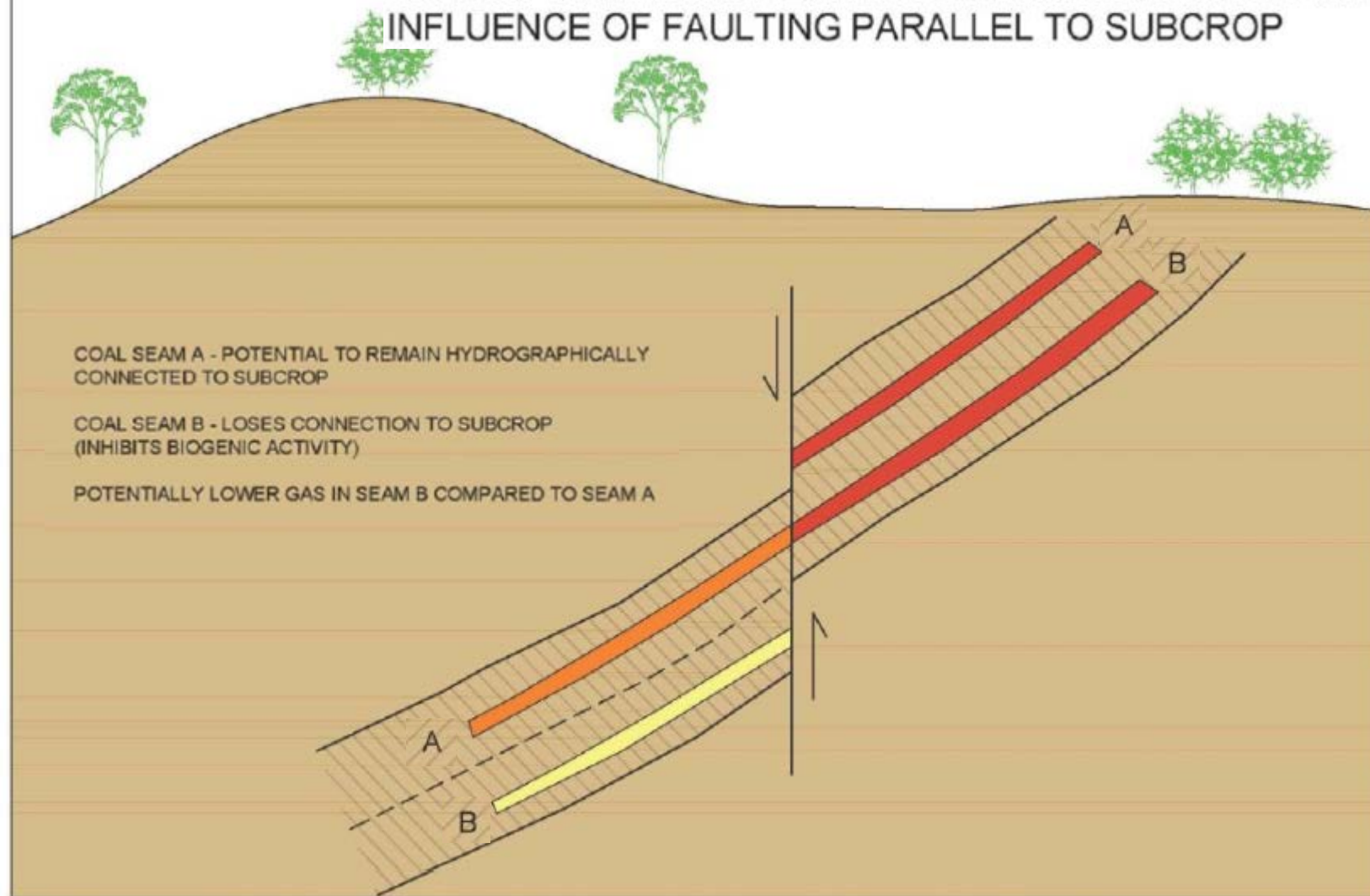


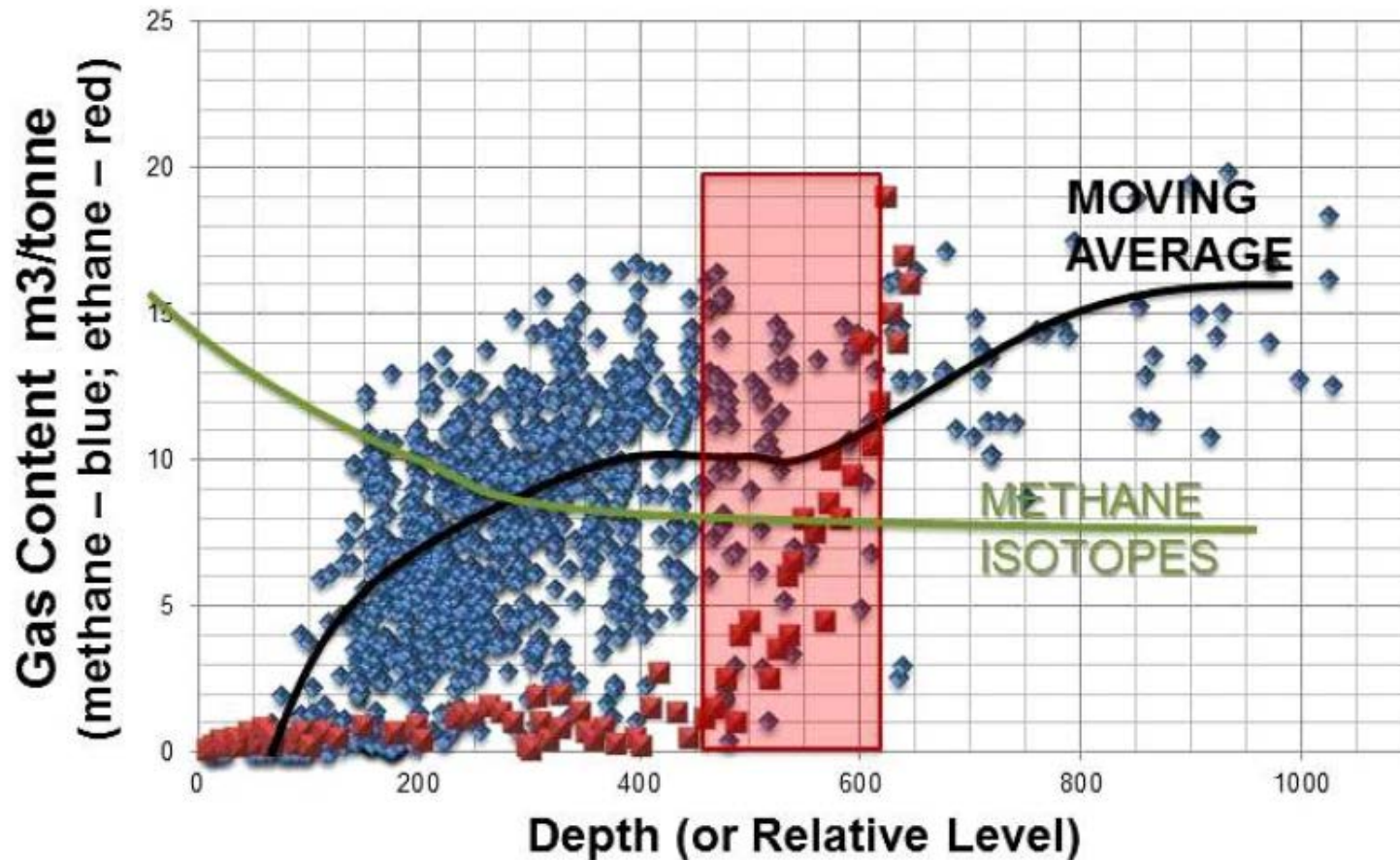
West of Leichardt fault is very poor CSG reservoir

PPL17



LOSS OF METEORIC RECHARGE ON INDIVIDUAL SEAMS INFLUENCE OF FAULTING PARALLEL TO SUBCROP





Changes in gas characteristics with depth – Surat Basin

Reserve estimation and the influence of coal seams on coal seam gas productivity
Michael Creech, Bruce McConachie, SRK Consulting (AusIMM Bulletin, Feb, 2014)

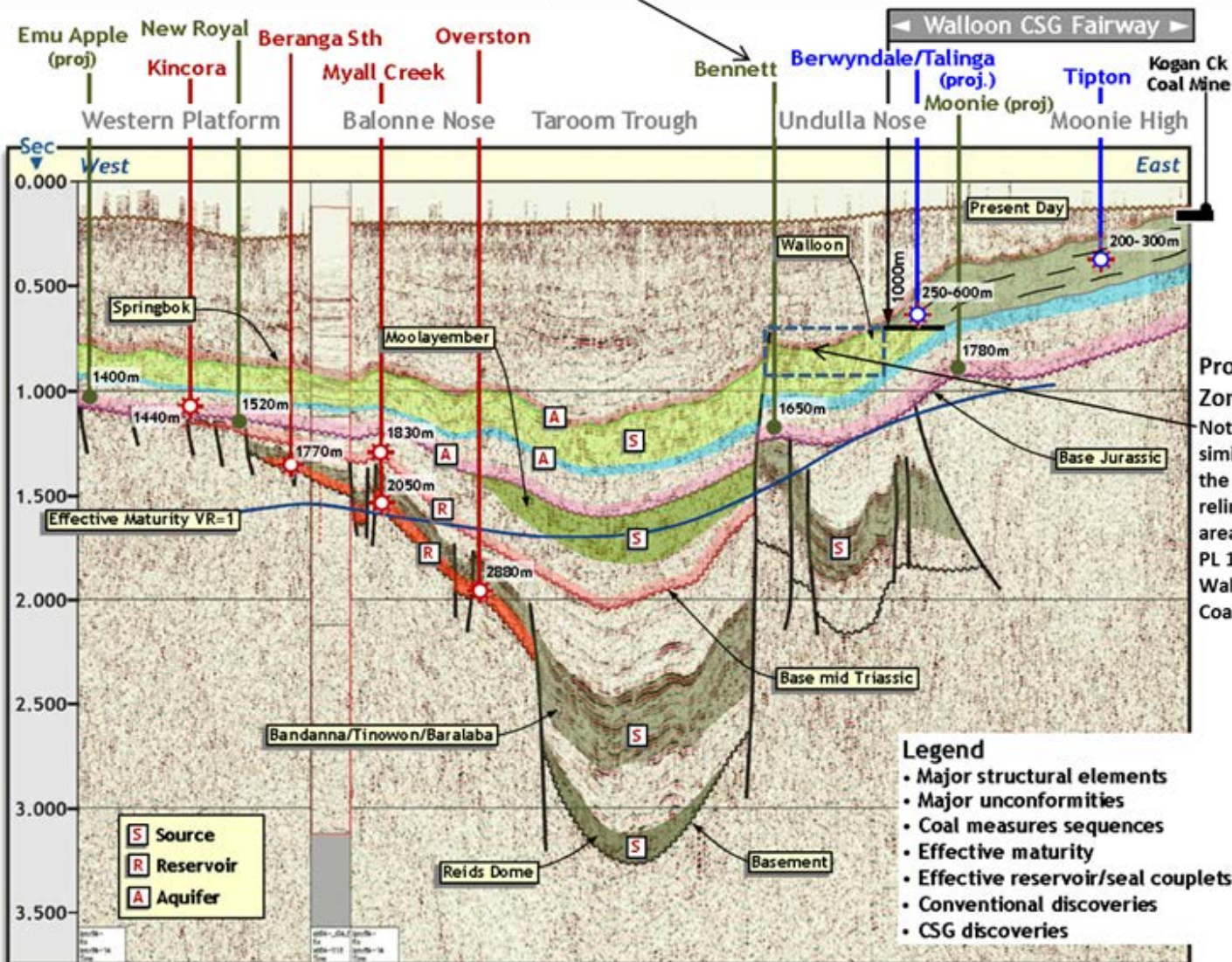
Location	Maximum distance from subcrop (km)	Maximum depth (m)	Estimate of general permeability (mD)
Surat Basin	20-30	7-800	<100
Undulla Nose	30-40	800	100s
Bowen Basin	10-15	5-600	<50
Fairview	10-15	1000 (steep dips)	<100
Sydney Basin	10-15	3-800 (variable)	<10
Newcastle Coalfield	5-10	4-500	<5
Gunnedah Basin	15-20	6-800	<10
Ordos Basin, China	5-10	6-700	<5
San Yuan Basin, USA	50	1500	100s
General	10-15	6-800	Driven by permeability

Table 1. Influence of biogenic recharge – depth and distance from subcrop.

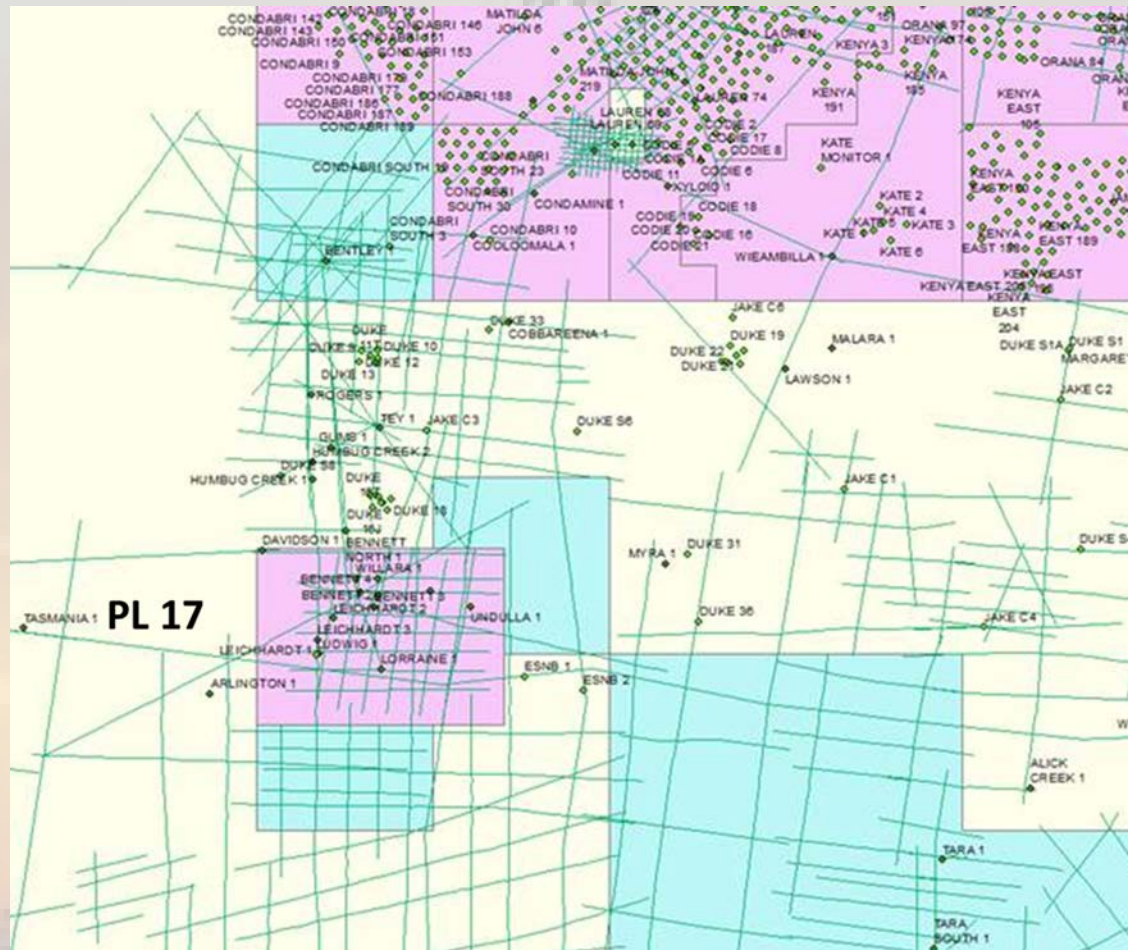
Reserve estimation and the influence of coal seams on coal seam gas productivity

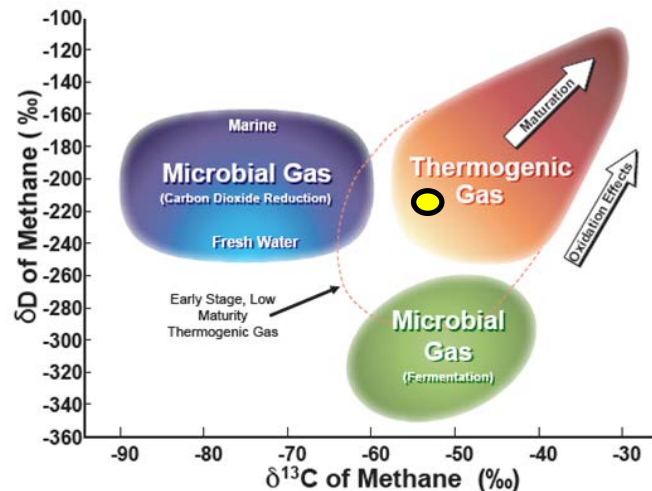
Michael Creech, Bruce McConachie, SRK Consulting (AusIMM Bulletin, Feb, 2014)

Immediately north of PL17



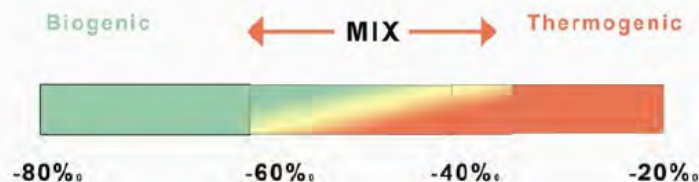
Well locations in the Surat Basin





Company: Santos Limited
 Well Name: Ludwig-1
 Job Number: 1132-06
 Date: 7/07/2009

Seam Name	δ13C Methane			
	Run1	Run2	Average	Std dev
Upper Juandah	-54.5	-54.1	-54.3	0.28
Lower Juandah	-51.9	-52.0	-52.0	0.07
Taroom	-58.2	-58.0	-58.1	0.14



Desorbed gas samples selected by the client were used for isotopic analyses. The results of the analysis for $\delta^{13}\text{CH}_4$ suggest a mixed biogenic and thermogenic origin for the gas in the coals which is common for sub-bituminous to bituminous ranked coals.

Run1	Hydrogen		
	Run2	Average	Std dev
-208	-212	-210	2.83
-207	-210	-208	2.23
-220	-219	-220	0.71

SANTOS QNT PTY LTD

LUDWIG 1

WELL COMPLETION REPORT

PL 17 - QUEENSLAND

Weatherford reported "A total of five drill stem tests (DSTs) were run over the relevant coal seams. Water but no gas was recovered to surface during any of the DSTs indicating that the Upper Juandah, Lower Juandah and Taroom coals are under-saturated with respect to gas at this location".

Prepared by:



Reviewed By:

A. Buck

For
 SANTOS QNT PTY LTD
 A.B.N. 33 083 077 196
 Level 14 Santos House
 60 Edward Street
 Brisbane Qld 4000
 October 2008

ACS Laboratories Pty Ltd GAS DESORPTION DATA SUMMARY

WELL NAME: Ludwig-1

SAMPLE DETAILS

SAMPLE NO	5	CAN NO	D
SEAM NAME	Upper Juandah	CAN LENGTH (m)	0.5
DEPTH FROM (m)	1002.40	CAN WEIGHT (kg)	3.377
DEPTH TO (m)	1002.90	CAN + SAMPLE WT (kg)	5.228
THICKNESS (m)	0.5	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	1.851
COAL LENGTH (m)	0.5	CAN VOLUME (cc)	2200
COAL WEIGHT (kg)	1.851	SAMPLE VOLUME (cc)	1559
CORE DIAM (mm)	63	CAN VOID SPACE (cc)	641
SAMPLE TYPE	Core	ESTIMATED VOID (cc)	0

CORE DETAILS

	Date	Time
CORE PENETRATED	5/13/2008	13:20:00
CORE LEFT BOTTOM	5/13/2008	15:30:00
CORE AT SURFACE	5/13/2008	15:48:00
COAL IN CANISTER	5/13/2008	16:05:00
CORE ON TEST	5/13/2008	16:08:00
TIME ZERO	5/13/2008	15:39:00

COAL ANALYSIS DATA

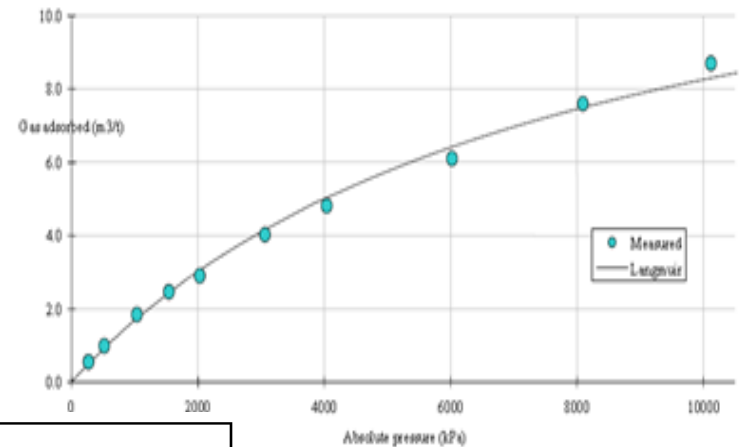
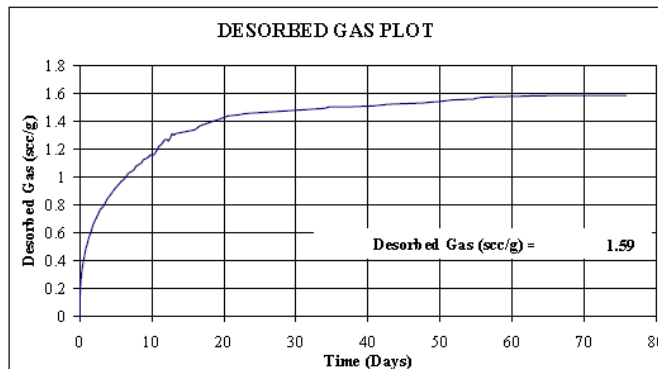
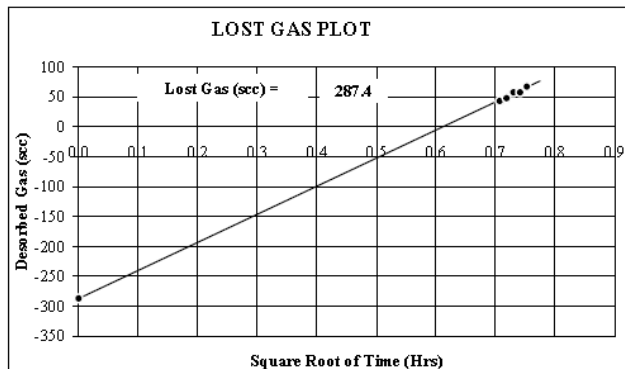
ASH %	20.5
VOLATILE MATTER %	41.1
INHERENT MOISTURE %	4.0
FIXED CARBON %	34.4

DESORPTION TIME

ON TEST	75.8
63% Q2	6.4
63% Q1+Q2	5.3

GAS ANALYSIS (Air-Free)

	Early	Late
CH4 (%)	95.64	96.16
C2H6 (%)	0.02	0.02
CO2 (%)	0.34	0.66
N2 (%)	4.00	3.16



**Ludwig-1
5**

Upper Juandah

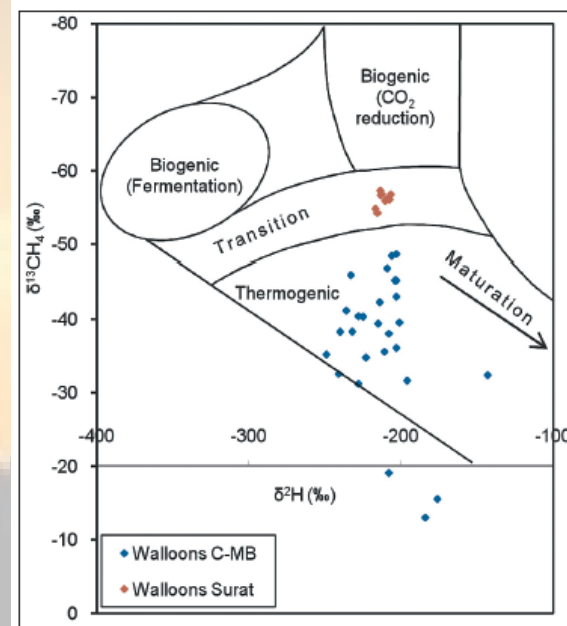
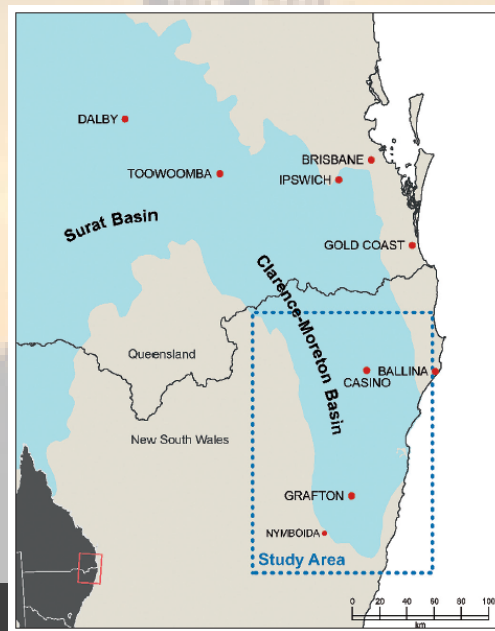
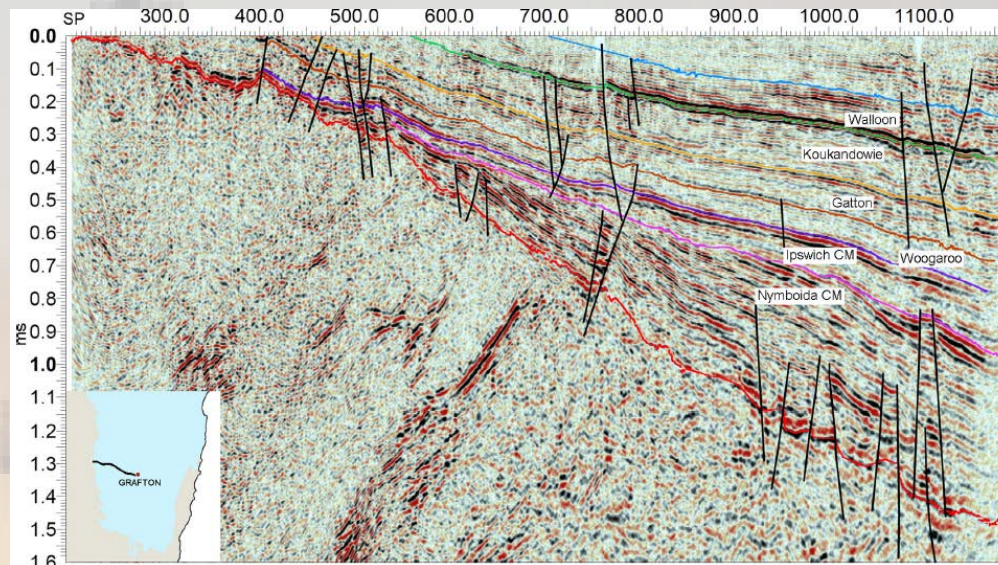
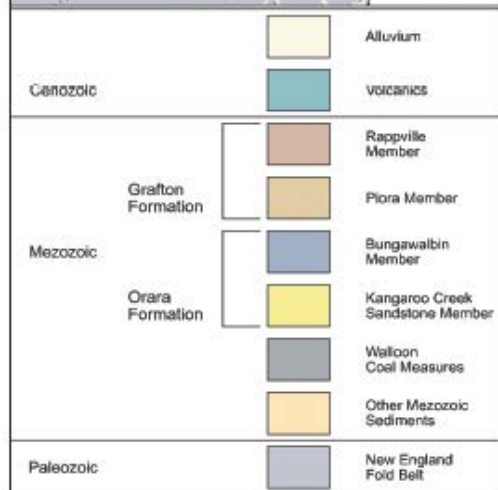
Parameters

Gas adsorbed (total gas)		V_L (abs, daf)
equilibrium V_L (abs)=	14.60 m³/t	17.52
P_L (abs)=	7680 kPa	
Gas content at 1 atm.		0.19 m³/t

gas (m³/t)

CH4 storage capacity of coal at seam depth (based on isotherm)
8.16 m³/t

Clarence Moreton Basin



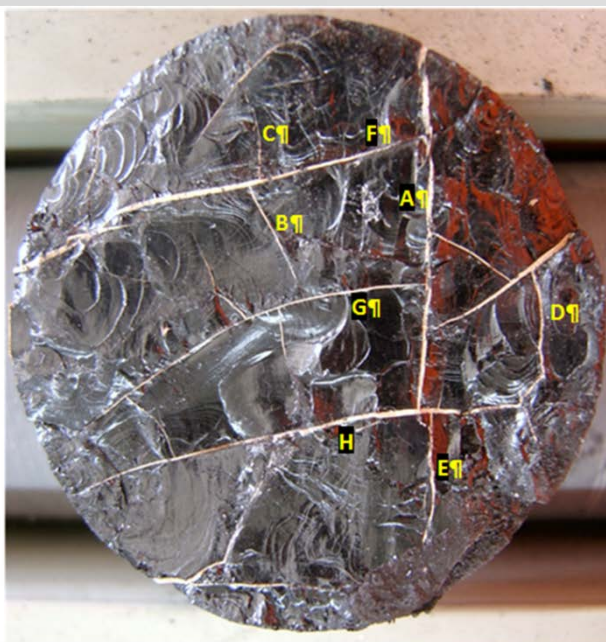


Figure 5. DH-54. Castor-2 Seam ~667m.

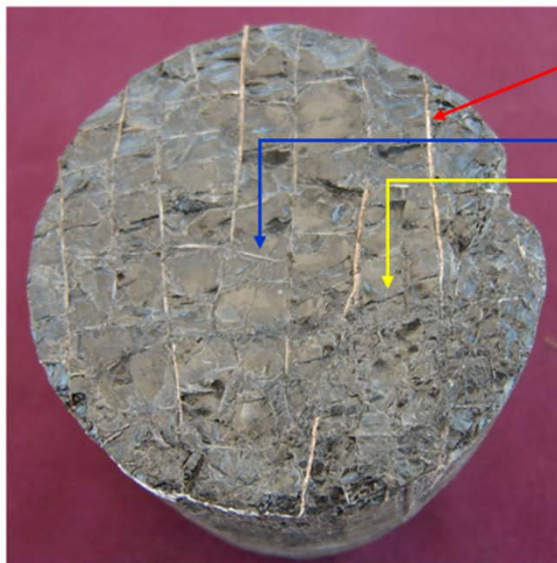
Orthogonal-cleat-system-is-present-but-face/butt-relationships-are-not-consistent.

"N-S" cleats-are-A,B,C,D,E....."E-W" cleats-are-F,G,H..F-and-G-abut-A, however-A-abuts-H, and-B-abuts-F-etc.

Photo: SV408480

Tectonic environment at time of cleat formation: Maximum and minimum horizontal stress magnitudes near equal and azimuths interchange .

David Titheridge



"N-S" face cleats filled with pink-brown clay

"E-W" butt cleats filled with white calcite

Some "E-W" butt cleats no fill

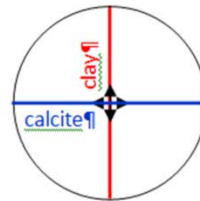
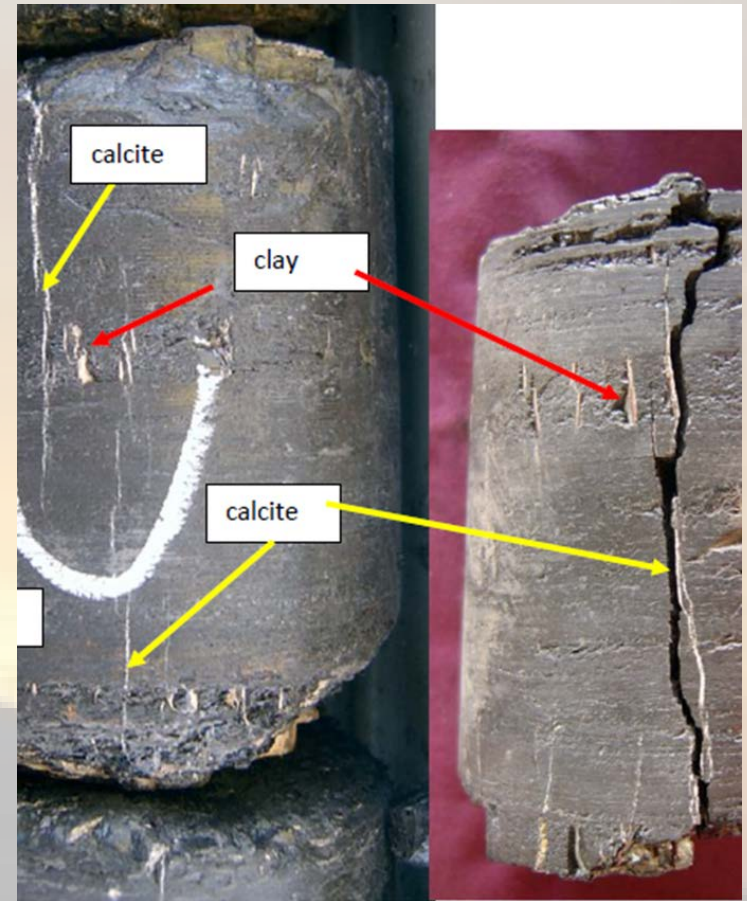
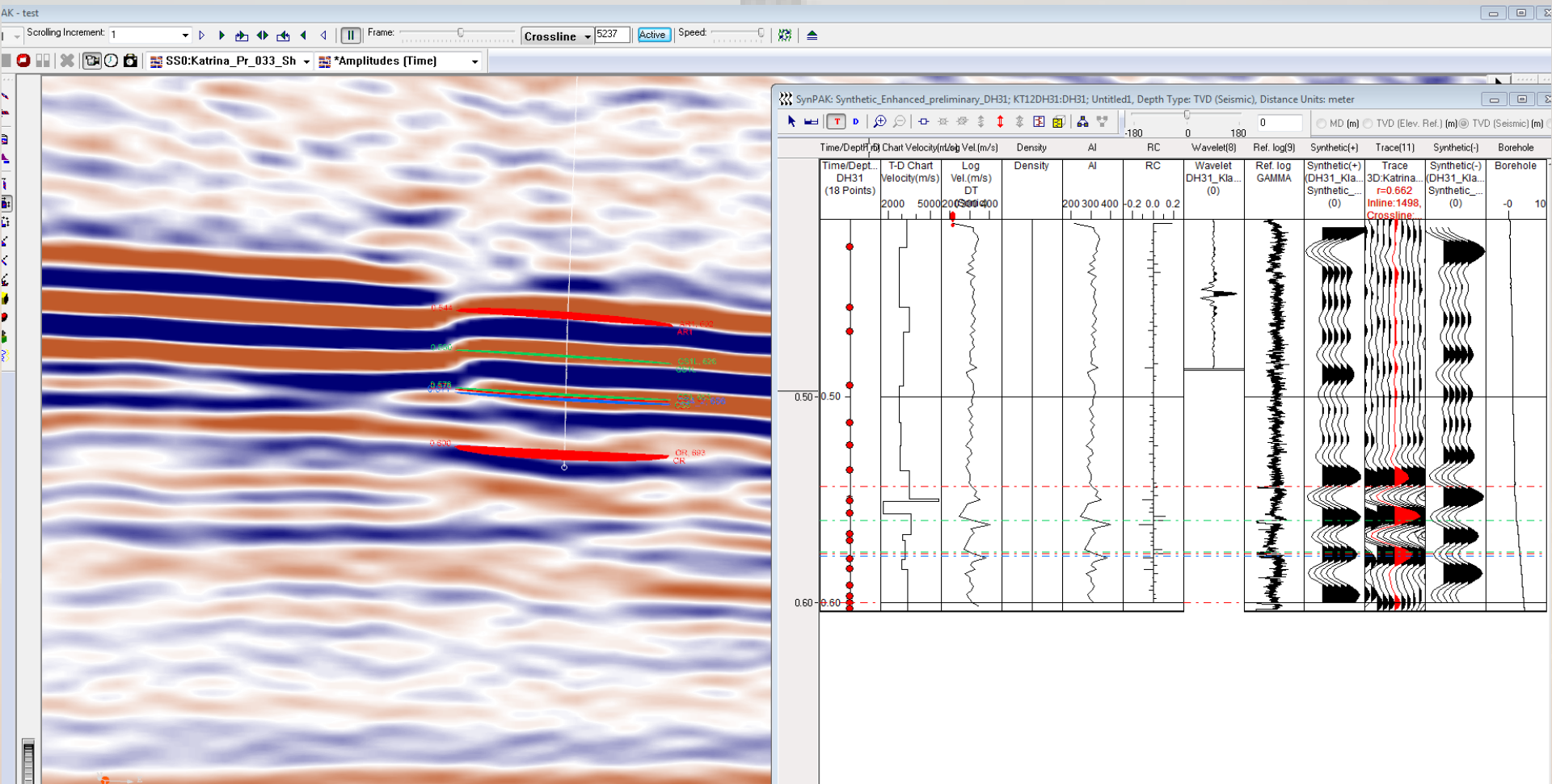


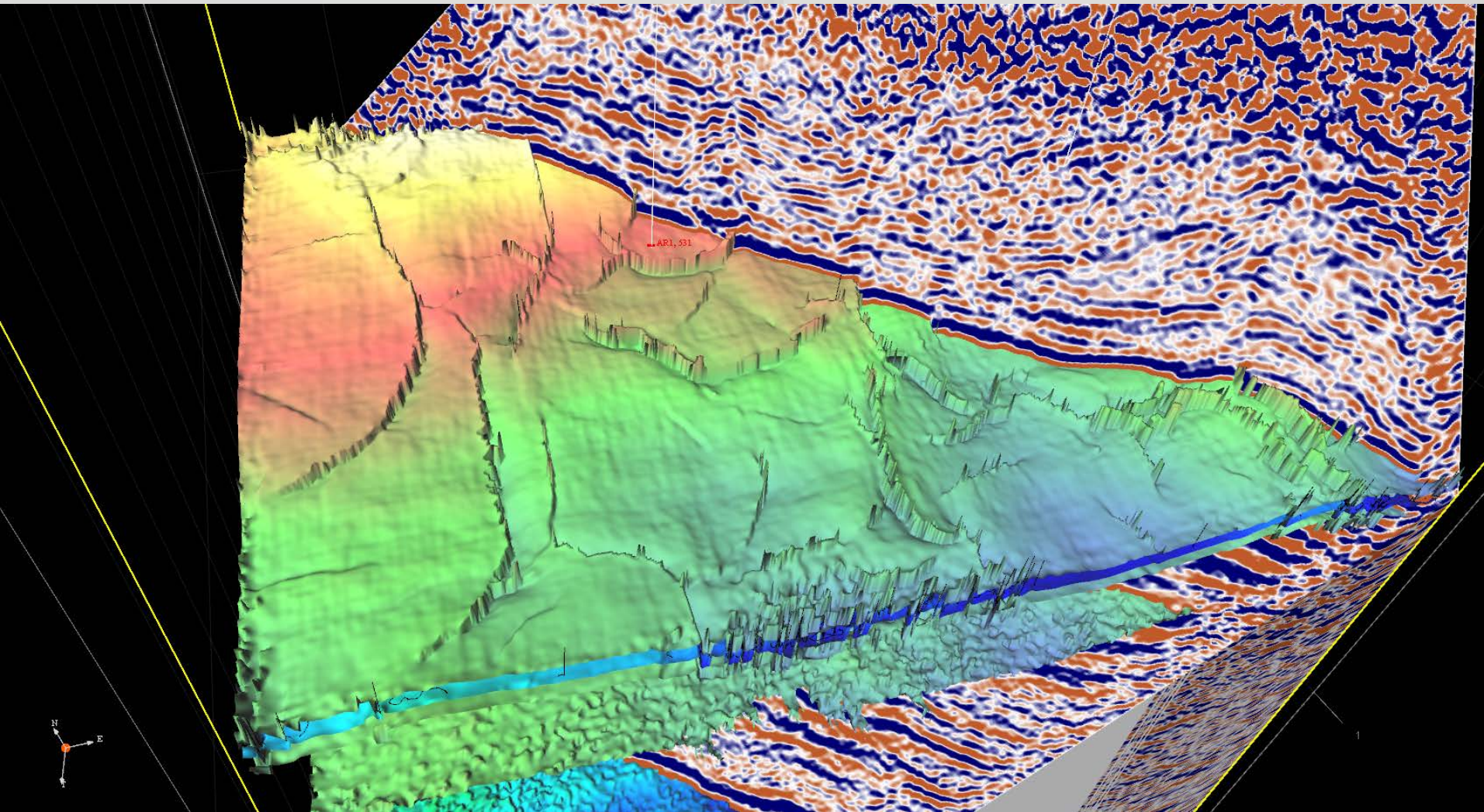
Figure 9. DH-60 Castor-4 Seam. Distinct orthogonal-face-and-butt-cleat. Face-cleats-clay-filled, butt-cleats-filled-with-calcite-or-no-fill. Photo: SV408268.



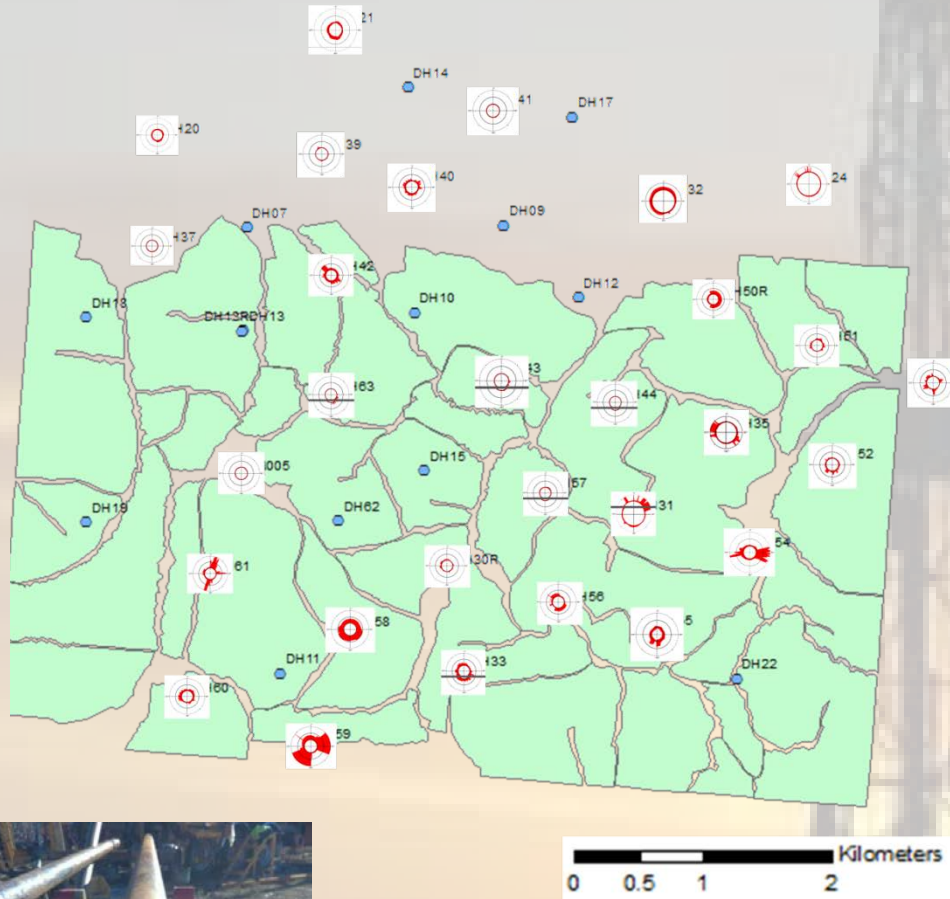
Fault definition by synthetic generation and comparison



Fault mapping from 3D seismic data in the southern Bowen Basin

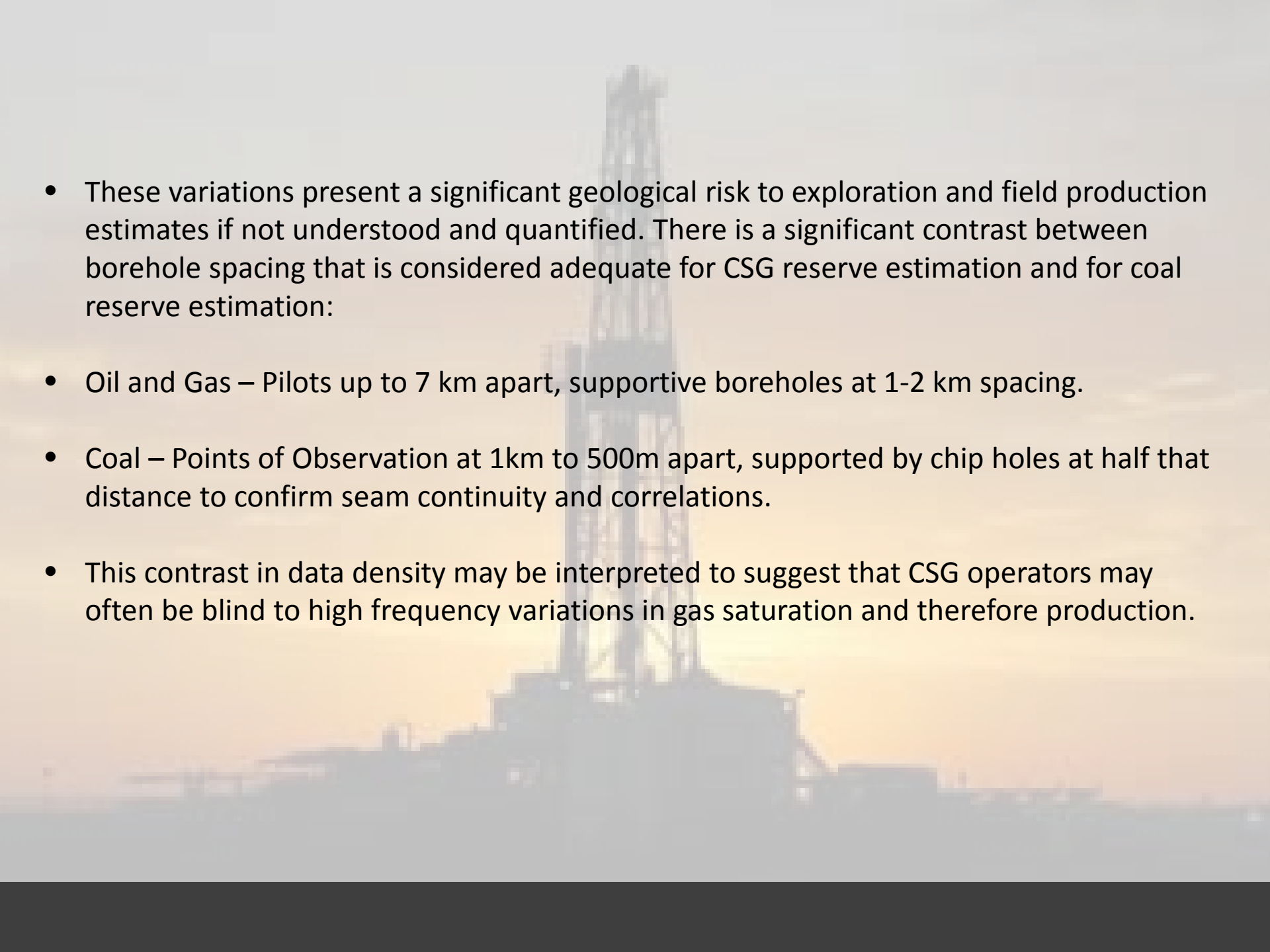


Well breakout plots across Bowen Basin 3D seismic area

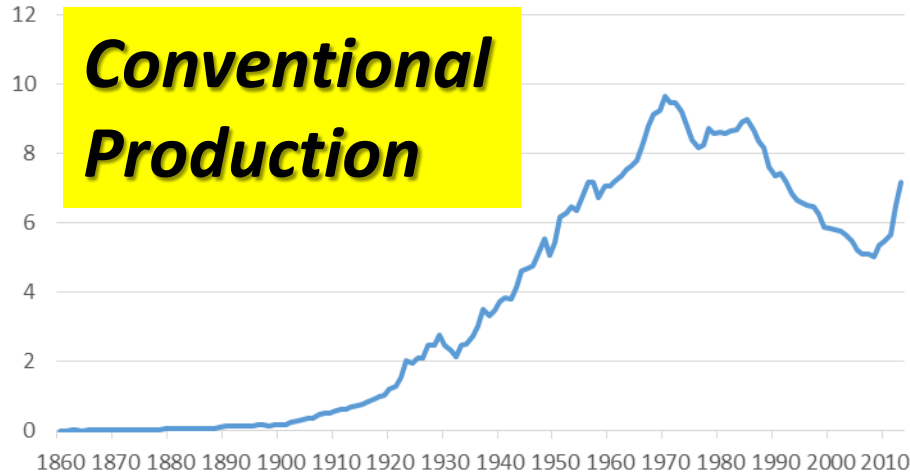


Katrina
Evaluated safely under the Coal
Legislation for \$400k/drillhole

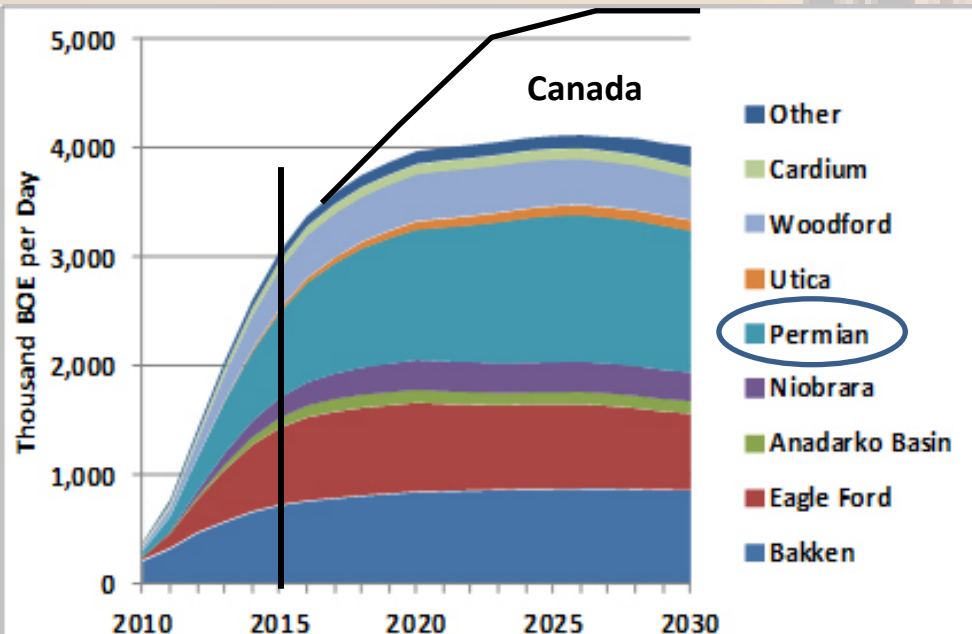
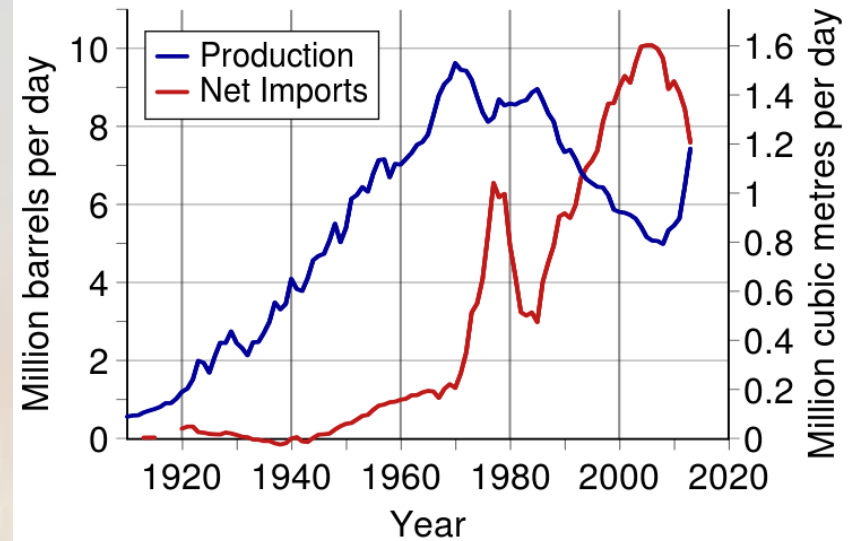


- 
- These variations present a significant geological risk to exploration and field production estimates if not understood and quantified. There is a significant contrast between borehole spacing that is considered adequate for CSG reserve estimation and for coal reserve estimation:
 - Oil and Gas – Pilots up to 7 km apart, supportive boreholes at 1-2 km spacing.
 - Coal – Points of Observation at 1km to 500m apart, supported by chip holes at half that distance to confirm seam continuity and correlations.
 - This contrast in data density may be interpreted to suggest that CSG operators may often be blind to high frequency variations in gas saturation and therefore production.

U.S. field production of crude oil, 1860-2013



U.S. Crude Oil Production and Imports



**Peak
Unconventional Gas
in North America
maybe 2030**

Unconventional Gas and Oil Production

Where did it come from:

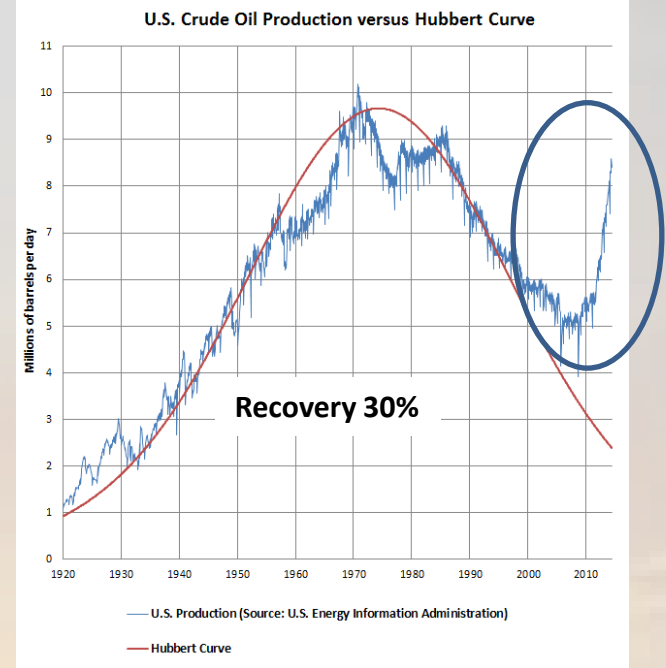
Its always been around but uneconomic or unrecogmised

Where is it going:

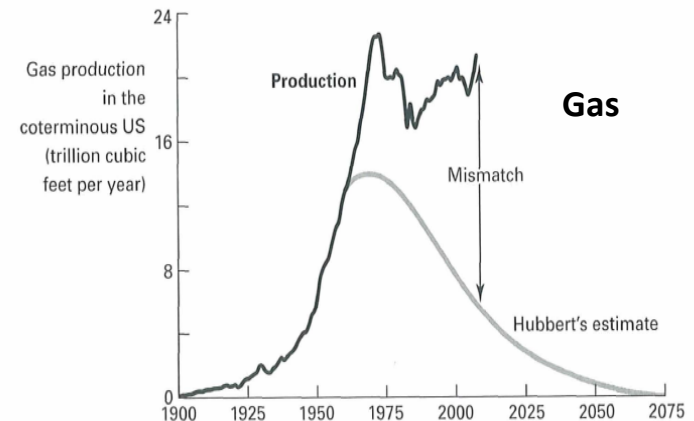
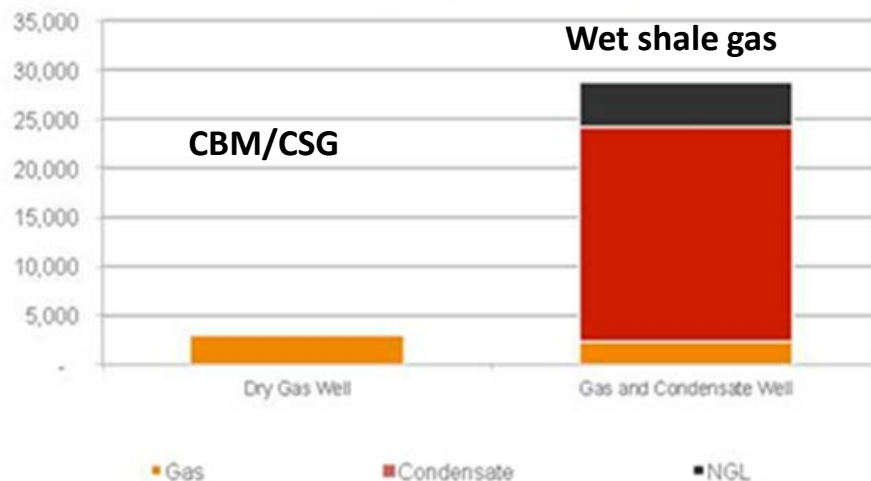
Further than you think

The cost curve is the key

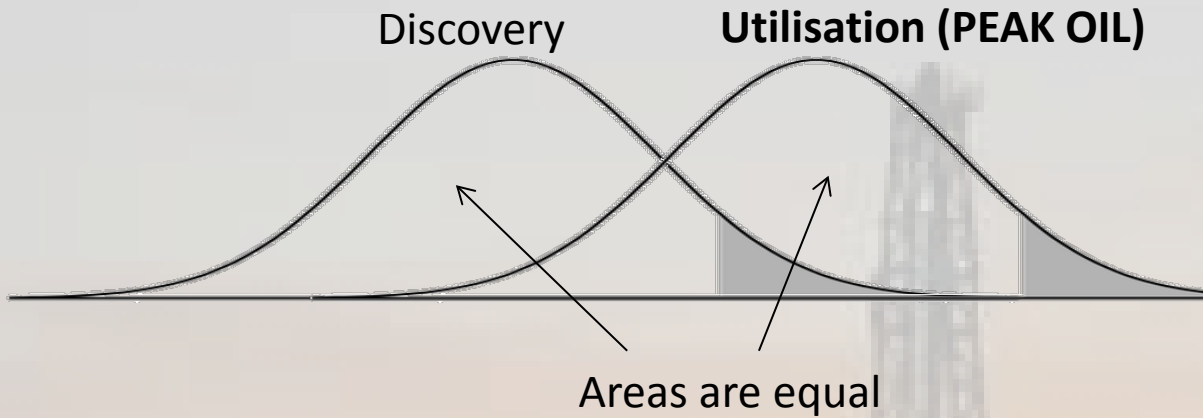
Many basins exhibit the requirements for unconventional gas development



Example Generated Revenue From Each 1 mmscf

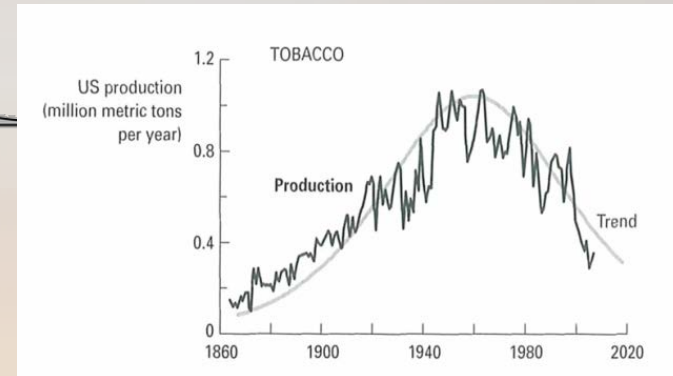


Comparison of 1956 Hubbert's prediction of US natural gas production with actual natural gas production data showing a significant mismatch. Hubbert's original curve in 1956 was drawn by hand (after Deming (2000)¹⁸). (Data: production from EIA and curve from Hubbert (1956)¹⁹)

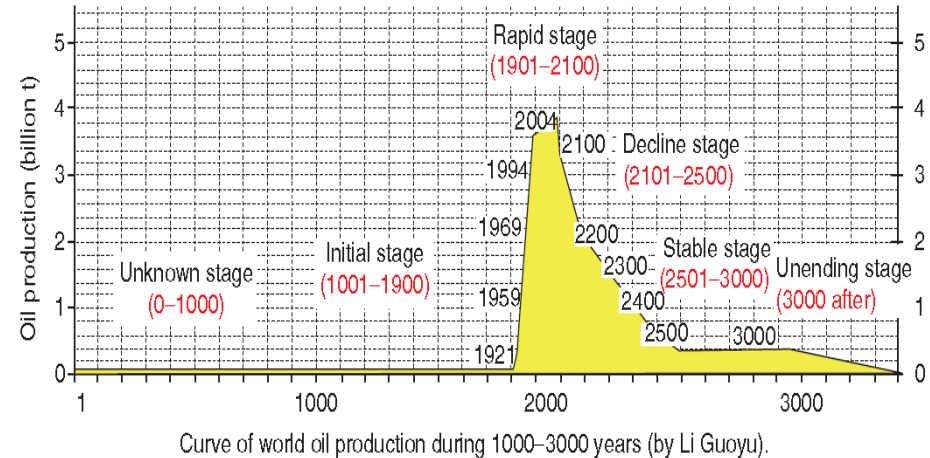
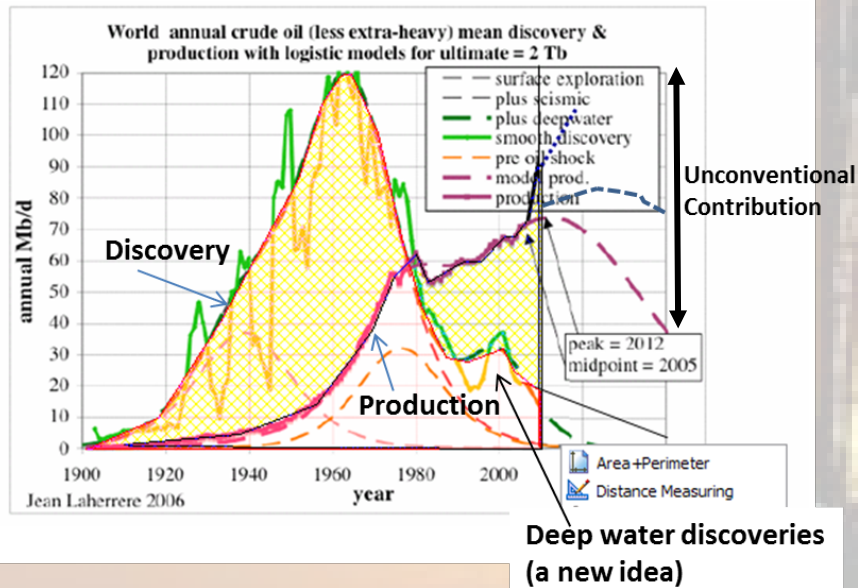


Hubbert's Concept

Economic discoveries and economic utilisation



Peak Oil - a misleading concept



Graph of world oil production, with postulated production up to the third millennium.

Enormous volume of unconventional HCs
now recognised

Global Oil and Gas Discovery and Production

What's actually occurring

Actual Discoveries

Including uneconomic and unrecognised especially Unconventional HC's

Recognised Discoveries

Areas are equal

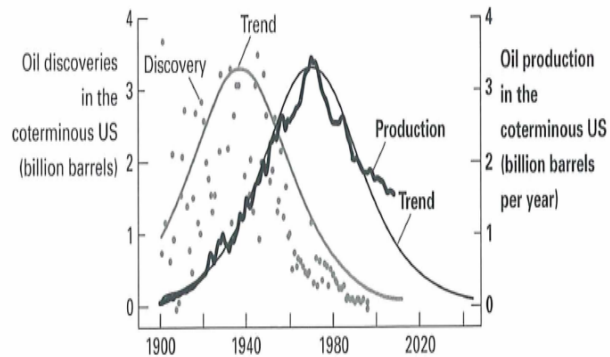
Changing economics drives innovation, increased recoveries and substitution

Multi Peak Production Curve

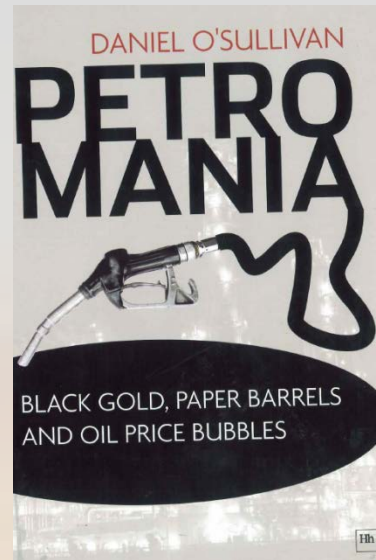
PRODUCTION

Actual Utilisation

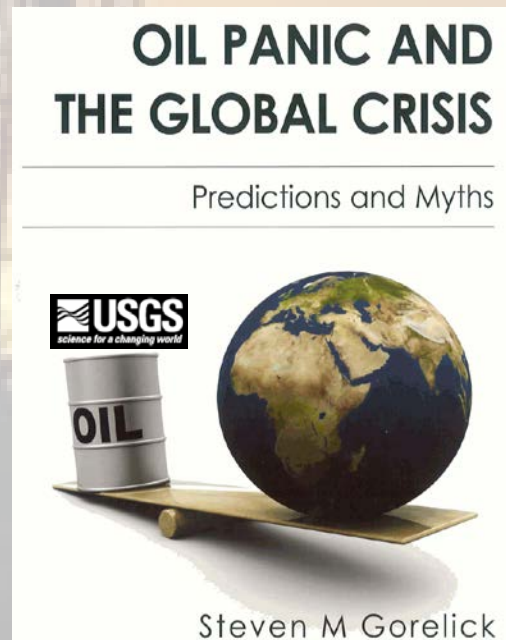
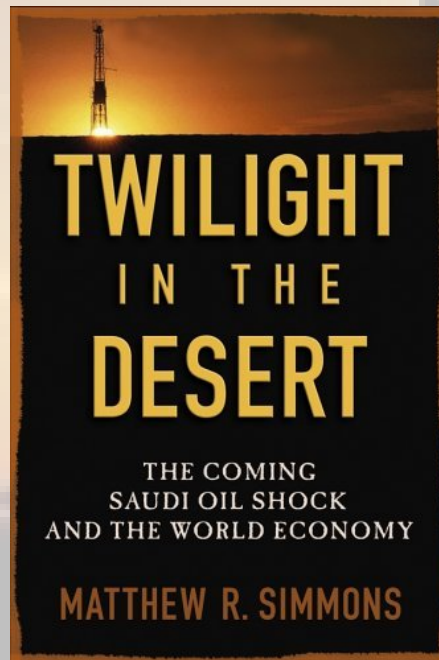
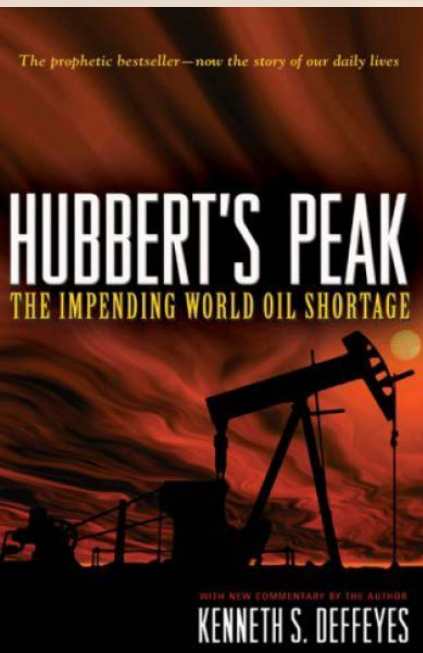
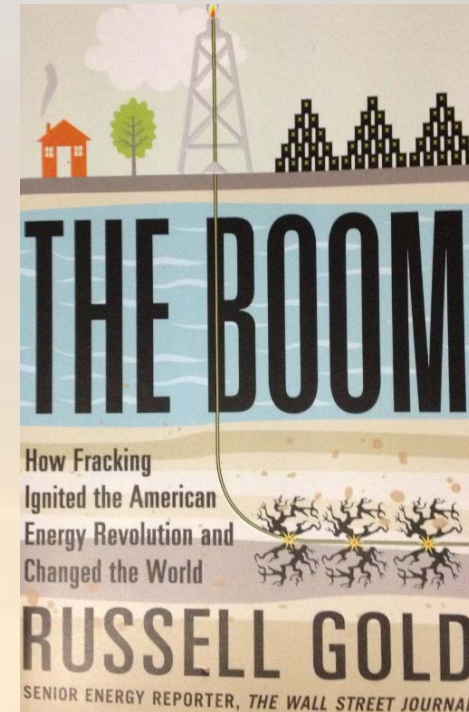
The world is about here



Peak in 1935 of oil discoveries in the US lower 48 states and corresponding peak in US lower 48 state oil production in 1970. Note: a similar analysis and figure is presented by Laherrère.⁵⁶ (Data: production, EIA; discovery, Klett (2003)⁵⁷)



**“Black Gold” or
“Devils Excrement”**



Acknowledgements

AGL Limited

SRK Consulting Australia

Thankyou for your attention

conventional and unconventional petroleum
capability statement



 **srk** consulting

**SRK Recent Unconventional Project
experience in Shale Gas,
Coal Seam Gas and Tight Gas
Australia >15 projects
China 3 projects
USA 1 project
Canada 1 project
Botswana 1 project
South Africa 1 project**



Petroleum Frontier Exploration Services, Basin Studies, Resources & Reserves, G&G, M&A, DD, IPO's, Conventional & Unconventional (Shale & CBM) Hydrocarbons, Hydrogeology and EIA.

Our global experience gives you expert, integrated solutions on every phase of your project worldwide with 40 offices.

Brisbane brisbane@srk.com.au +61 7 3054 5000

Perth perth@srk.com.au +61 8 9288 2000

www.srk.com.au