

Recent Advances in Assessing the Commerciality of the Shale Basins of Australia: From the Precambrian McArthur Basin to the Triassic Perth Basin and Several Shales In-between

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Abstract

Focused unconventional ultra-tight reservoir exploration drilling in Australia can said to have begun in 2006 with the Falcon Jamison – 1 well in the Beetaloo sub-basin of the Greater McArthur Basin. Since that time there have been additional wells in the McArthur, Cooper, Georgina, Canning and Perth Basins with many of the wells cored, some stimulated and tested and select few with hydrocarbons produced into commercial distribution systems. Despite estimates of over 350 TCF of recoverable gas resources and 17 Billion barrels of recoverable oil resources from Australian shales (US EIA) the past year has seen the abandonment of several ventures by major international oil companies. Using the key framework for reservoir commerciality: Rock Quality (RQ), Organic Quality (OQ) and Mechanical Quality (MQ): each of the basins will be assessed, based on public data, for the contributing factors that might lead to future commerciality.