

### **Hot Rock Limited**

A Review of Current Geothermal Development Activities in the Otway Sedimentary Basin, Victoria, Australia

Peter Barnett and Kerry Burns SMU Conference, Dallas 17-18 June. 20088

## Australia'





# Strong drivers for geothermal development in Australia

#### **Š Vast sources of deep heat**

- **š** In granites
- **š** In wet and dry sedimentary rocks above the granites

### Pioneering "EGS" work by Geodynamics

- **š Cooper Basin**
- **š** the 'right' tectonic environment

# Recent strong Government support for renewables

- š Reduction of large carbon footprint
  - **š** Wind
  - š Geothermal
  - **š** Solar
  - Š



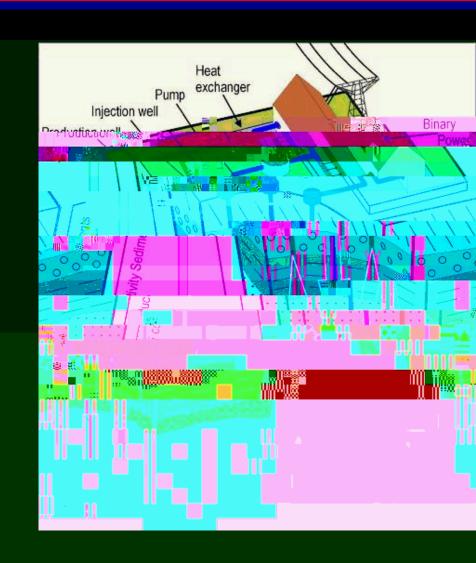
# Rapidly growing private sector involvement in geothermal

Geothermal Stocks	ASX	Price	Shares (m)	Options (m)	Mkt Cap (\$m)	Area	Model
Geodynamics	GDY	\$1.55	211.6	4.0	334	SA/NSW	HDR
Eden Energy	EDE	\$0.34	166.8	86.5	86	Focus on hydrogen	HDR
Petratherm	PTR	\$0.85	57.9	13.1	60	SA/Spain	HDR/HWR
Geothermal Resources	GHT	\$0.66	33.0	1.8	23	SA	HDR
Torrens Energy	TEY	\$0.40	50.1	28.2	31	SA	HDR



# Types of Australian Geothermal Resources

- š High temperature granites >200°C
  - Š Naturally impermeable / require fracturing
  - š "HDR" / "HFR" / "EGS"
- Š Moderate temperature sedimentary, 100–200°C
  - Š Naturally permeable
    š "HWR", "SG"
  - Š Naturally impermeable
    - š thermal insulators above granites
      - š "HEWI" (Petratherm) "EGS"



# HRL focus is on "Sedimentary Geothermal"

### **§** Naturally permeable systems

**Š** Don't require hydro fracturing

### Naturally wet

Š Don't require injection of water / circulation loop

### Lower development costs due to

- Shallower production drilling targets
- š Higher well flow rates

### Lower operating costs

š Reduced parasitic pump costs

#### Lower Risk

- S Proven production and power plant technology
- **š** 100 year history of geothermal electricity generation



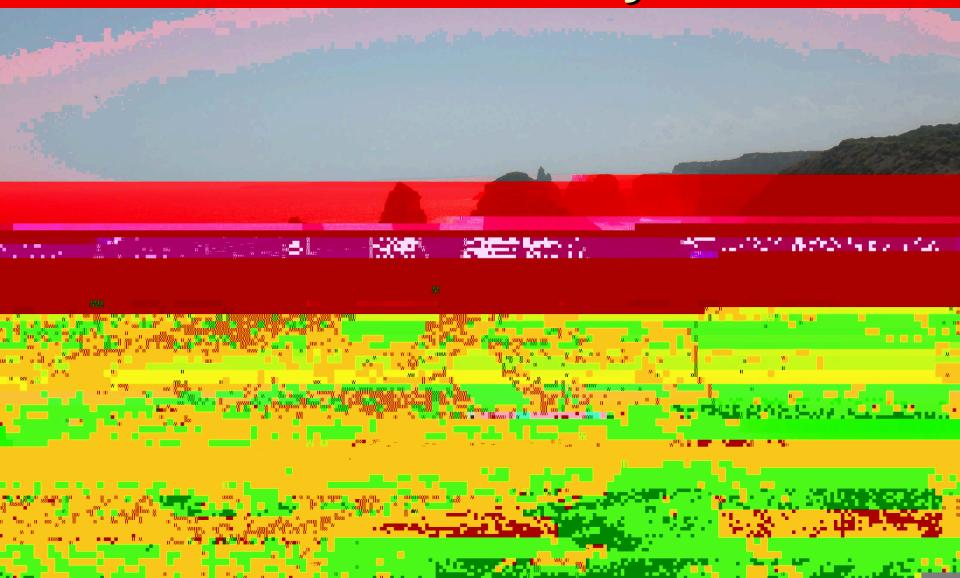


## **Onshore extent of Otway Basin**





# Onshore outcrops of Otway Basin sedimentary rocks

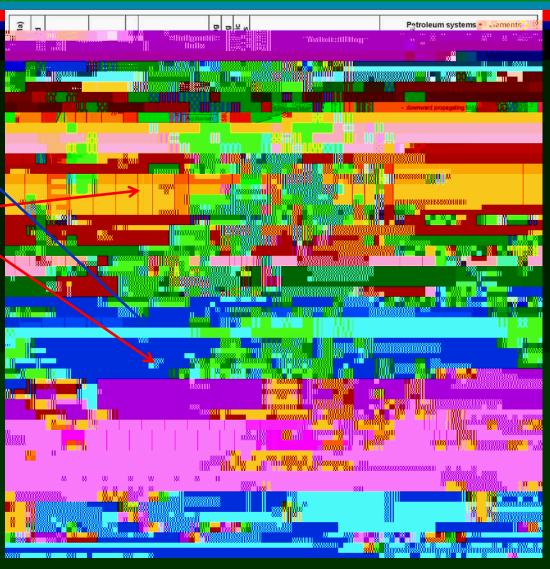


# Otway Basin - Stratigraphy

- Š Thick sequences of:
  - Low permeability
    msts and zsts
    (thermal insulation)
    high porosity /
    permeability clean
- Š Crustal thinning as a result of rifting

ssts

Elevated heat flow Voluminous recent basaltic volcanism





## Otway Basin - recent volcanism





## Otway Basin – recent volcanism







## Close proximity to markets &



# HRL Otway Basin Geothermal Permits

- Š 4 permits cover large area of prospective Otway Basin (+18,000sqkm)
- **Anomalous** geothermal gradients
  - š Elevated heat flow up through basement
  - Structurally controlled upflows of hot fluids from depth to shallow levels
  - Some association possible with young volcanic





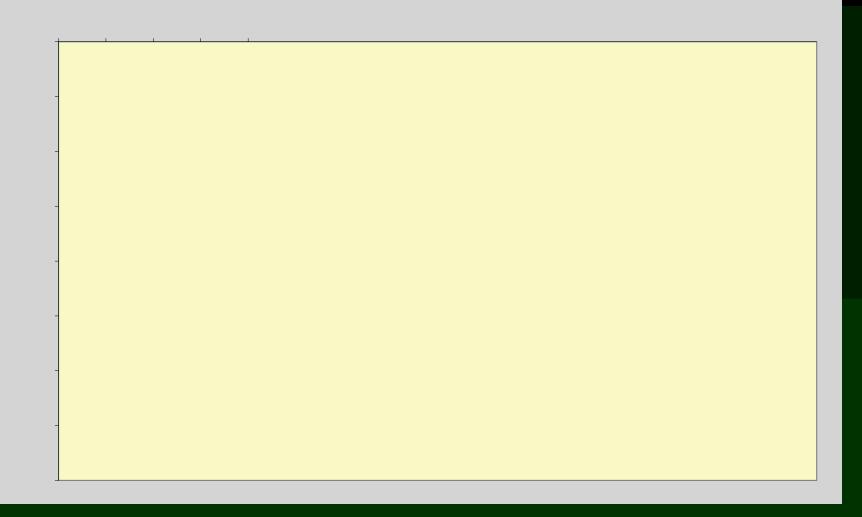


# Invaluable existing exploration and well data

**S** Decades of active oil and gas exploration



# Otway Basin wells - measured temperatures

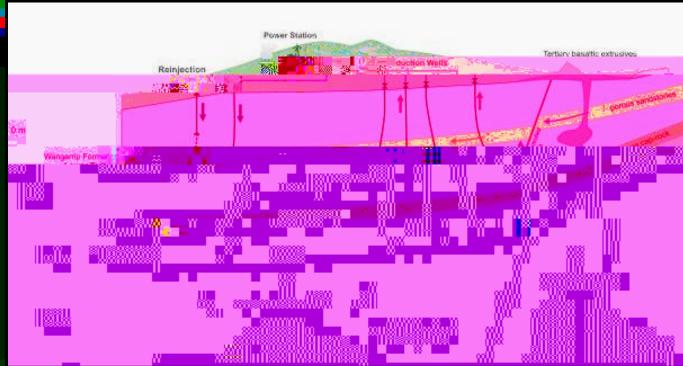








## Otway sedimentary basin hydrogeological model



- Large sedimentary basin with several hot aquifers
- Geothermal reservoir contained in Early Cretaceous Crayfish Group
  - Up to 800m thick aquifer / High porosity 20% / High perm (1000 mD)
  - Temperatures of at least 142°C + at 2,700m to 3,500m depth
- Developable with low risk, proven HWR technology 27

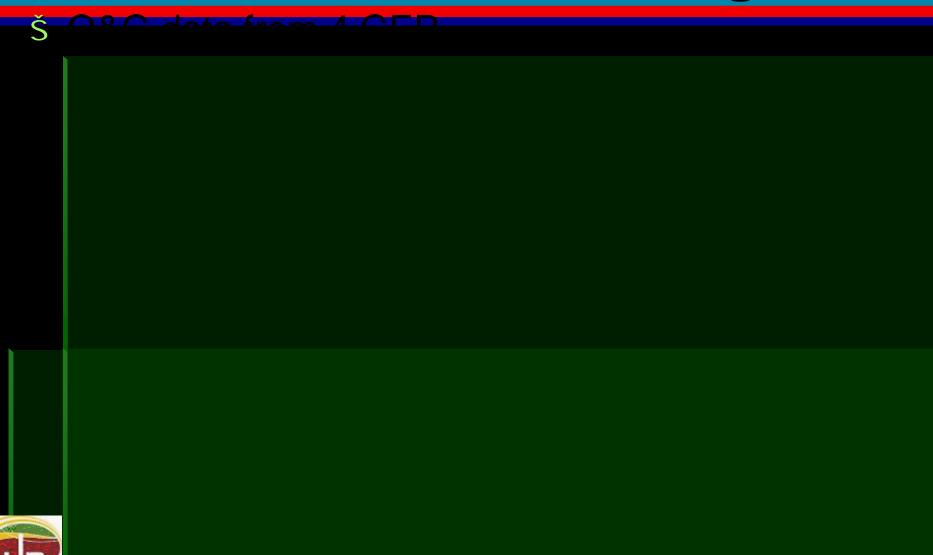


# Initial assessment of geothermal resource capacity

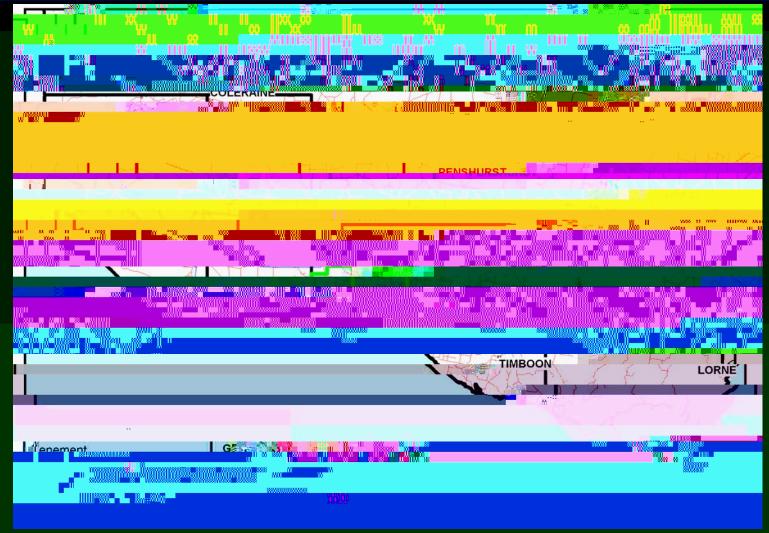
- **S Volumetric stored heat calculations for 17** geothermal "depo centres" in 4 GEP's, based on simple conceptual exploration model with conservative assumptions yield:
  - § potential power generation targets ranging from 300 to 720 MWe per prospect, 1750MWe in total
  - § 40% of Victoria's base load power
  - \* potential total annual gross revenues of A\$ 1.1billion
- Suggests initial pilot plant of 1MWe with series of staged subsequent commercial power developments with a capacity of 50 MWe per plant



## **Current Status HRL Program**

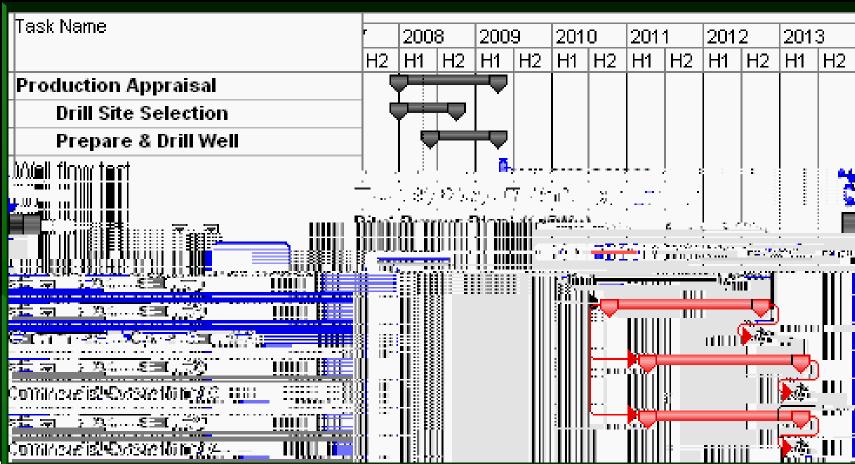


# Koroit Area: Priority Development Target





# Anticipated Longer Term Program at Koroit: up to 4 x 50MWe by 2013





### **Market Considerations**

- š Good geothermal market in Victoria
  - Š For both electricity and cascaded waste heat from power plant
- **š Potential off-takers:** 
  - **š** Utilities
    - š Local LV (22kV and 66kV) and HV
  - **š** Industrial
    - š Alcoa aluminum smelter
    - š Dairy Industry (Goulburn Co-op)
    - **š** Portland City (hot water)
    - š Timber chip and pulp industry (drying)



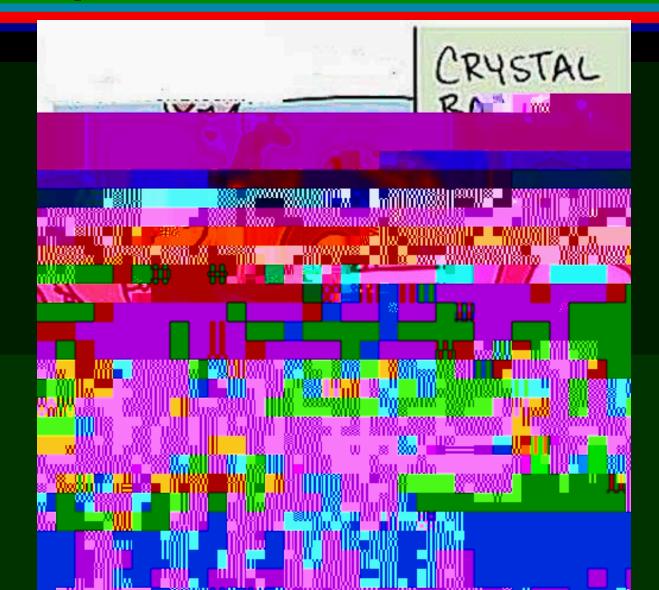


# Composition of average power price in

Australia - 2007 (source BBP)



### **Development Costs / Costs of Power?**



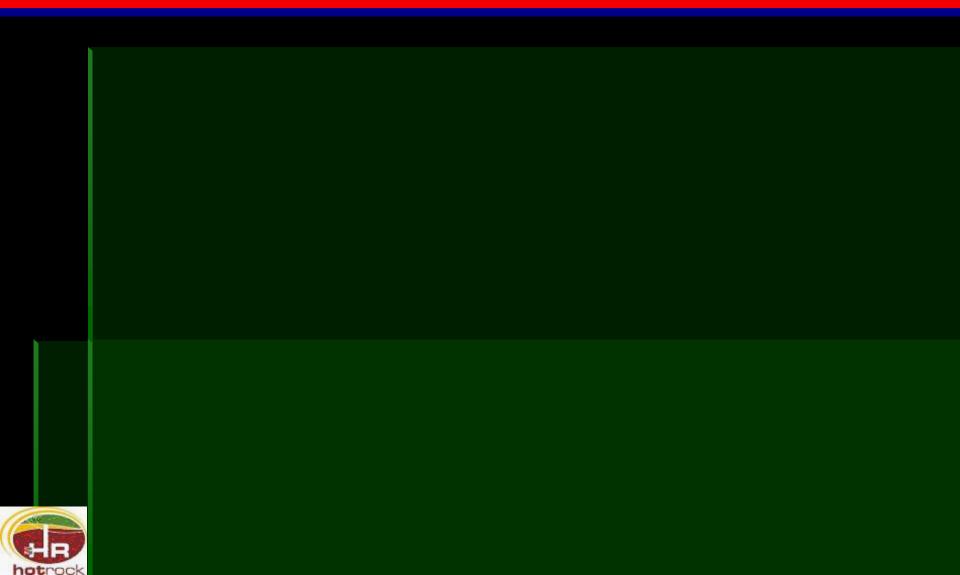


## HRL Development Assumptions

- **š** Production wells
  - š depths 3,500m
  - **š** 12-1/4 inch holes to 3500m with 13-3/8 inch PCsg
  - š shallow down-well electric production pumps
  - § 4 MWe per well production rates
    - š 16 wells for 65MWe gross / 50MWe net development
- š Injection wells
  - š depths 1500m
  - **š** 13 wells required for 50MWe net plant
- **š Power Plant** 
  - š Organic



## Key financial assumptions



# Assessed Costs for HRL 65MWe (gross) development

- **š** Capital Cost
  - **š** \$US300m
- **š** Specific Capital Cost
  - šš\$US 4,600 / kWe
  - š (wells, power plant, transmission)
- **S Power tariff**



### Incentives – State Level

- š Victoria Geothermal Act has no royalty
- š VRET Scheme (Jan 2007)
  - Š State government is committed to reducing Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions to 60% by 2050
  - š mandates Victoria's consumption of electricity generated from renewable sources be increased to 10% by 2016
  - Š objectives to encourage additional generation of electricity from renewable sources.
- š Renewable energy fund of \$72million (April 08)
  - **š** ex Clinton Foundation



### **Incentives - Federal Level ..1**

- Š Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) policy to be introduced to reduce the effects of climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions
  - Š Aiming for 2% of Australia's power supply from renewable sources by 2010 and 20% or 42,000 (60,000?) Gigawatt hours by 2020.
  - š MRET expected to replace VRET



### Incentives - Federal Level ...2

- š Emissions trading scheme to be introduced 2010
  - Š Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to be issued to eligible parties
  - š RECs are sold by the holder to other registered groups and add to the renewable power generators income.
  - fossil fuel generators will need to add the cost of emission certificates to their generating costs
  - š a maximum penalty for a power generator not complying



### **Incentives - Federal Level ..3**

- Š Federal government is also in advanced stages of planning for:
  - š a \$500 million Renewable Energy grant fund
  - š includes a \$50million drilling fund for geothermal production wells
  - S Objectives are to:
    - š encourage early investment into renewable energy demonstration projects
    - š expand the range of renewable technologies



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