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No. 8126

OEL 20 AND OEL 21, PEL 5 AND PEL 6

REGIONAL GEOLOGICAL STUDIES

TECHNICAL REPORTS AND DATA

Submitted by

Delhi International Oil Corp., Delhi Petroleum Pty Ltd and Santos Ltd
1993

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ENVELOPE 8126

TENEMENT: OELs 20 and 21; PELs 5 and 6

TENEMENT HOLDER: Delhi International Oil Corp., Delhi Petroleum Pty Ltd and Santos Ltd (operators)

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THE STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK OF
THE COOPER/EROMANGA BASINS

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SUMMARY

The main characteristics of this set of maps are summarized in the following point form.

THESE MAPS SATISFY THE FOLLOWING CONSTRAINTS:

- o Fault alignments and orientations, shape and orientation of anticlines and synclines conform with the structural history and styles model as developed previously and the stress-strain ellipsoid.
- o Structural trend map alignments and orientations incorporating Landsat and aeromagnetic studies.
- o Contours satisfy 'all' the wells Tops (est. 500).
- o Contours conform with the six composite regional framework seismic/ geological lines.
- o Key seismic lines have been used to check the main synclines, complex structures, and the zero edges.
- o Contours of different formations are compatible with the overlying and underlying formations, and the Isopach maps.
- o The top of a younger formation is not allowed to be deeper than that of an older formation.
- o The Top Toolachee and Top Patchawarra depth maps are essentially seismically derived time maps based on good continuous reflectors. They have been converted to depth maps via well control.

On the other hand, the Top Nappamerri, Daralingie and Tirrawarra-Patchawarra maps were derived by phantoming from the Top Toolachee and Top Patchawarra depth maps with the respective Isopach maps.

THE USEFULNESS OF THESE MAPS IS:

- o They provide correlatable perspective for most of the structures in the Cooper Basin.
- o A correlatable perspective for the hydrocarbon occurrences became apparent on some of these maps eg. Gussow's principle.
- o These maps will be useful as a guide for the orientation and alignment of faults and anticlines in prospect generation.
- o These maps can also be used to classify structural and hydrocarbon trends. In that process some new prospects and plays will probably emerge.
- o In conjunction with Isopach maps, appropriate cross-sections and well data they provide the framework for geological studies e.g. paleo-environmental, reservoir development, sedimentological and source rock studies.

- o Gussow's principle apparently applies for the hydrocarbons trapped in Toolachee and Patchawarra Formations and ought to be exploited to assist in production, appraisal, and exploration efforts.
- o They also resulted in defining clearly the associated hydrocarbon plays.

THE LIMITATIONS OF THESE MAPS ARE:

- o The zero boundaries are poorly defined especially at the Basin edges where most of these formations onlap disconformably and gradually fall beneath seismic resolution. Besides, the basement normally corresponds to a very strong seismic reflection below which the rocks are (semi-) metamorphosed. Seismically, this is an ideal environment for peg leg multiples, best illustrated by the fact that more than 70% of our exploration wells are unable to predict basement to $\pm 70'$ or $\pm 15\text{msec}$.
- o The contour interval of 250' masks the presence of the low relief structures. However, in complex areas supporting maps of 1:100,000 have been produced with 100' contour interval, and in the case of producing fields larger scale maps with smaller intervals have also been produced eg. Toolachee, 1:50,000(50'), Jackson, 1:10,000 (10').
- o Since most of the remaining undrilled prospects have relief of less than 100' these regional maps do not provide the resolution required for prospect generation at this stage of exploration in Cooper/ Eromanga Basins, but they will help in the alignment and orientation of faults and structures.
- o Due to the Pepita-Wackett-Nockatunga trend being an effective hinge line with a very thin Permian section in the Northern Cooper, only the Top Toolachee and 'Top Patchawarra' depth-structure maps were produced for this region.
- o The large amount of data handling will result in some local unavoidable wrong posting of values and fault locations.

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The analysis methodology used here in general parallels the classical sparsely drilled basin analysis approach. However, the Cooper-Eromanga Basins being mature basins with more than 500 wells and 70,000kms of good quality seismic allow one to develop some innovative and effective short cuts. These include the creation of geological cross-sections with fault interpretations, Isopach-Subcrop and Structural maps to clarify the tectonic mechanisms and effects associated with key unconformities as well as detailed field studies exploiting the precision that high well density can provide for some of the key parameters of Basin analysis.

Analysis of Cooper-Eromanga Basins began with identifying the best possible fence diagram linking up all the critical wells drilled in the Basins. This was followed by the study of the relevant stratigraphic and seismic cross-sections. The stratigraphy, being the 'frame of reference' is extremely important for any subsurface study. To familiarise himself, the geologist initially correlates these wells without the aid of seismic. Seismic is also very important since it is the tool that tells us precisely what happens in between wells. Considerable effort was directed into improving the quality of the seismic. It turned out that some reprocessing, migration, and squeezed sections improved the quality of the seismic significantly.

Faults and unconformities are equivalent to lateral and vertical breaks in the continuity of subsurface stratigraphy. A clear three dimensional picture of the subsurface stratigraphical relationships can only be envisaged and clearly understood, if it is well defined on cross-sections and maps. Tools critical for improving fault definitions are seismic migration, and understanding of structural styles. Similarly, the geological cross-sections, and Isopach-Subcrop maps are the main tools used for defining the unconformities.

Once the seismic lines were of satisfactory quality, interpretation of them commence interactively with creation of new geological cross-sections incorporating the faults. This process improves the reliability of stratigraphic correlation. Concurrently, Isopach and Isopach-Subcrop maps were also created to further improve our stratigraphic correlations, and our understanding of the structural history and styles. In areas where ambiguities existed, larger scale mapping and detailed field correlation were carried out to further improve control. Certain key fields recognised to be representative of certain structural styles were also analysed in detail.

The preceding work provided the framework from which a reliable model of the stratigraphical, tectonic history and structural style of the basin was recreated (Ref. 1&2). They in turn provided a firm basis for the creation of this set of high quality regional depth structure maps.

REGIONAL FAULT DEFINITION MAPS

Regional fault definition maps corresponding to the Top Toolachee and Top Patchawarra Formations were generated with the guide provided by the History and Styles of the Cooper-Eromanga Basin structural model, major lineaments defined by a Landsat Study, and the stress strain ellipsoid (Maps 1 & 2).

Four main fault systems have been identified:

NE-SW FAULT SYSTEM:-

This is the most dominant fault system in the southern Cooper Basin. It was active during the basin inception and again at the Daralingie unconformity time. They are reactivated thrust faults with a right lateral strike-slip movement (Map 2). The structures associated with this fault system are parallel to the faults, and elongated along their strikes.

WNW-ESE FAULT SYSTEM:-

These faults are the second most important set of faults in the Cooper Basin. They were active during the basin inception and are characterized by high angle basement involved wrench movements. Structures associated with these fault systems are sub-parallel to the strikes of these faults (Map 2).

NW-SE FAULT SYSTEM:-

These faults were generated by the coupling effects of the wrench movements of the ENE-WSW fault system at the end of Triassic time. They are classical en-echelon wrench structures and faults, and are best expressed in northern Cooper Basin, where the Permian section is thin (Map 2).

N-S FAULT SYSTEM:-

In general this fault system reflects the compressional tectonics of the Winton unconformity time. The structures are parallel to the often 'pair' faults and in seismic they are high-angle faults which normally cut right up to surface.

In areas where several of these fault systems interact strongly, very complex fault patterns are created, e.g. Innamincka-Pepita-Candra area.

TOP TOOLACHEE DEPTH-STRUCTURE MAP (MAP 3)

The top of the Toolachee Formation, often a coal marker, corresponds to the end of the last extensive lower delta plain environment cycle within the Cooper Basin. The coal marker is an excellent regional seismic marker from which a time structure map was created. With the aid provided by the structural history and style model, the fault alignments and orientations as well as the shapes and orientations of the anticlines were determined. The constraints of numerous well data, key seismic lines, isopach maps and geological cross-sections superimposed onto the time map, resulted in the generation of a high quality regional Top Toolachee depth structure map.

THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE TOP TOOLACHEE DEPTH-STRUCTURE MAP ARE:

- o The structures of the southern Cooper Basin are dominated by i) the large reactivated NE-SW thrust faults; ii) the WNW-ESE tear faults associated with the reactivated thrust faults, and iii) the wrench structures generated by the coupling effects of the strike-slip components of the reactivated thrust faults and the tear faults. (Ref. 1 & 2). The areas corresponding to the intersection of the reactivated thrust and tear faults are complexly faulted.

- o The structures of northern Cooper Basin are controlled by three sets of faults, namely;

- i) The two WNW-ESE 'P' fracture systems and the Pepita-Wackett-Nockatunga tear fault. The first 'P' fracture cuts roughly from Hookey and Kercummurra to just north of Cook.

The second 'P' fracture cuts from just north of Wilson and north of Keilor to south of Doonmulla well.

Coupling between these three right-lateral wrench faults resulted in the NW-SE trending 'en echelon' structures and fault systems.

- ii) The second set of faults trending NWN-SES is associated to the Triassic Nappamerri unconformity and represents the synthetic faults generated by the tear faults and the P fractures.

- iii) The third set is approximately N-S orientated. They correspond to the Winton unconformity compressional tectonic event.

- o General Comments:

The zero edge on the NW section of northern Cooper Basin differs significantly from the Queensland teams' mapping. The Queensland teams zero edge ends perpendicular to the NWN-SES system which at Permian Toolachee time has yet to exist, and as such will not control the sedimentation distribution as implied by their mapping. Instead, sedimentation is probably more controlled by the NE-SW semi-dormant reactivated thrust system of Curalle and Morney. On this map, the NW zero edge as mapped does not cut perpendicularly across the main Basin synclines axis. If it did, then northern Cooper Basin must have been actively wedging into the Pepita-Wackett-Nockatunga trend during Toolachee time. A map with the isopach values posted on the wells of northern Cooper shows no such tilting (Fig. 1).

Hydrocarbons occur within a central core area surrounding the Nappamerri Trough. The gas trapped in the central deeper part of the basin is generally tight gas, with dry gas trapped intermediately and wet gas at the edge of this core area. Available data indicate that nearly all the structures except those at the edges are filled to spill. We presume therefore that the classical Gussow's principle applies, which will be of considerable value in assisting production, appraisal and exploration efforts (Fig. 2).

The absence of Toolachee Formation on the Merrimelia, Packsaddle and Innamincka highs suggest that the Daralingie reactivation was fairly severe.

NAPPAMERRI DEPTH-STRUCTURE MAP (MAP 4)

The Nappamerri depth structure map was only created for the southern Cooper Basin where most of the hydrocarbons occur. It was derived from cross-contouring the Nappamerri Isopach map with the Top Toolachee depth i.e. adding the thickness of Nappamerri Formation to get the Top Nappamerri depth maps.

This map shows a severe uplift of the south western portion of southern Cooper. It is postulated to be caused by the wrenching of a major transform fault. A less severe north eastern tilt is also recognised from the migration of south eastern zero edge of this formation when compared with the Top Toolchee Formation depth map (Maps 3 & 4). A fairly severe uplift is also noted around Chookoo-Jackson area which is probably due to the concurrent wrenching of the Pepita-Wackett-Nockatanga tear fault. These uplifts probably cause the migration of Nappamerri sedimentation over the Toolachee zero edge in the northern Cooper. Other smaller WNW-ESE fault systems are probably also concurrently wrenching.

Commercial hydrocarbon distribution is known along the main reactivated thrust system of the Merrimelia-Bookabourdie-Packsaddle trend (Fig. 3). This is probably related to the relaxation phase of the reactivated thrust faults which allows palaeo rivers to flow along this structural trend, i.e. reservoir development.

The hydrocarbons discovered in Moorari, Epsilon and Burke could again be due to reservoir development of some poorly understood palaeo-rivers system.

DARALINGIE DEPTH STRUCTURE MAP (MAP 5)

The Daralingie depth structure map was derived from the Top Toolachee depth map minus the Isopach of the Toolachee Formation. Due to the inability to subdivide the Permian stratigraphy below the Toolachee Formation north of the Pepita-Wackett-Nockatunga hinge line, the creation of this map was restricted to the southern Cooper Basin.

This map shows very clearly the reactivation of the major NE-SW reactivated thrust fault system if one compares this map with the Roseneath Shale Isopach map (Fig. 4). The preceding statement is well supported by the absence of this formation on the structural highs associated with the NE-SW reactivated thrust fault system, as well as north-west of the Gidgealpa-Merrimelia-Yanpurra system.

The amount of commercial hydrocarbons found within this formation is fairly significant and is concentrated around two areas, namely; Big Lake-Moomba and Dullingari-Burke areas. These areas appear in the Toolachee Isopach map to be adjacent to probable delta systems, and as expected, reservoir development has been observed to be rather erratic (ref. 3).

The Daralingie unconformity probably forms an important conduit for hydrocarbon migration. This point is best illustrated by overlaying the transparent Top Daralingie depth map with hydrocarbon distribution over the same Top Toolachee map. Note, most of the hydrocarbons found in Toolachee Formation are located in areas where Daralingie Formation subcrops and where most of the Daralingie hydrocarbons were discovered.

"TOP PATCHAWARRA" DEPTH STRUCTURE MAP (MAP 6)

Due to the Pepita-Wackett-Nockatunga trend being an effective hinge line for the Early Permian sedimentation, the stratigraphy of northern Cooper is remarkably different from that of southern Cooper Basin. In general, the lacustrine environment of Roseneath and Murteree is replaced by lower delta plain environment. The "Top Patchawarra" Formation in northern Cooper Basin is less definitive and in general corresponds closer to Top Early Permian sequences. The methodology used in creating this map is similar to that of Top Toolachee depth map, the latter also strongly guiding it.

THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TOP PATCHAWARRA MAP

- o The main characteristics of the "Top Patchawarra" map are in general similar to those of the Top Toolachee depth map.
- o It shows the basin to be actively growing (note the density of contours), and with a clearer structural style.
- o Gussow's principle probably again applied but over a much larger area with proportionally larger area of tight gas (Fig. 5).
- o It shows the presence of a second closed boundary (north west of the Gidgealpa-Merrimelia-Yanpurra trend) within which the reservoirs are in general saturated with hydrocarbons.
- o Better reservoir preservation with respect to depth of burial is observed in Patchawarra Southwest area. This is probably partly caused by the lower geothermal gradient of that area.
- o Due to the Patchawarra being thin in northern Cooper and directly overlying the basement, the wrench nature of the northern Cooper Basin structures becomes more distinct.
- o The presence of Roseneath Shale around Jackson area makes the correct pick of "Top Patchawarra" suspect (Fig. 4).

TOP TIRRAWARRA/BASE PATCHAWARRA DEPTH STRUCTURE MAP OF SOUTHERN COOPER (MAP 7)

This map was created because of the presence of significant oil in the Patchawarra central area, and to show more clearly the structural styles of the southern Cooper Basin.

The main characteristics of this map are:

- o At Tirrawarra time, the Patchawarra Trough is nearly as dominant as the Nappamerri Trough, but by Patchawarra time the Nappamerri Trough becomes the main depo-centre (Refs. 1 & 2).
This point is illustrated by comparing the Tirrawarra and Patchawarra zero edge positions on the map.
- o The structures along the NE-SW fault are controlled by reactivated thrust faulting while the structures in between are caused by wrench coupling. The structures on the eastern side are dominated by tear faults, and intrusion (due to divergent wrenching) while structures on the extreme western side shows characteristics of convergent wrenching. In summary the structures are nearly all basement-involved and therefore a map at this level provides the best insights.
- o So far, commercial oil within this formation has been restricted to the Tirrawarra-Moorari-Fly Lake area (Fig. 6).

STRUCTURAL TRENDS MAP (MAP 8)

With a comprehensive tectonic model, fault alignment maps, Isopach maps, structural maps, Landsat lineaments map and aeromagnetic contour maps, we now have all the essential components for generating a good structural trend map.

The structural trend map is generated by making sure that all the above maps are consistent with one another, and that the trends are associated to the main tectonic events. They must also satisfy the constraints of being relatively straight and that trends generated by the same tectonic events are parallel to sub-parallel.

The different structural trends are summarised in the attached map.

References:-

- Reference 1: K.S. Kuang 1985, History and style of Cooper/Eromanga Basin structures.
- Reference 2: K.S. Kuang, F. Ariesen and C. Castro, April 1986, Basic support data of the preceding report as presented in the 1986 APEA Conference in Adelaide.
- Reference 3: Detailed field studies
F. Ariesen, Feb. 1986, Study of Hutton Sandstone and Birkhead Formation.
C. Castro (in prep.) Moomba, Big Lake, Tirrawarra field studies.
- Reference 4: F. Ariesen, Dec. 1985, Description of the Cooper Basin Basement and its structural consequences.

Acknowledgements: The Author is grateful for the contribution of James Small, other members of the regional team and its supervisor.

ALL THE MAPS SHOWN HERE ARE ORIGINALLY DONE ON A 1:250,000 SCALE.

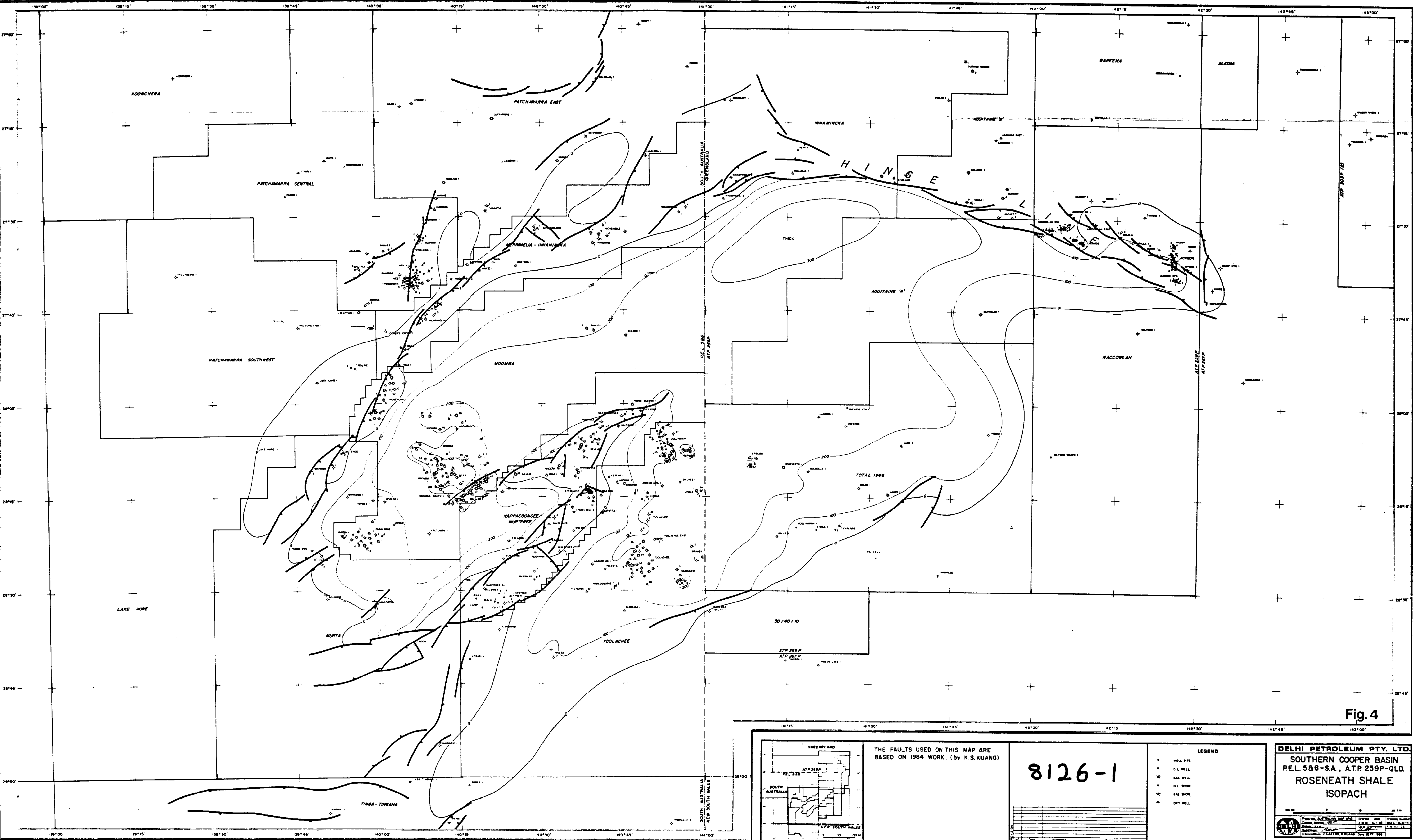
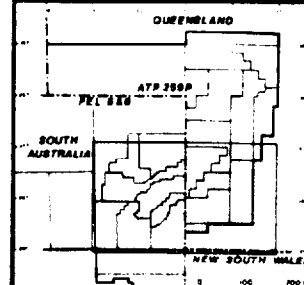


Fig. 4



THE FAULTS USED ON THIS MAP ARE
BASED ON 1984 WORK. (by K.S. KUANG)

8126-1

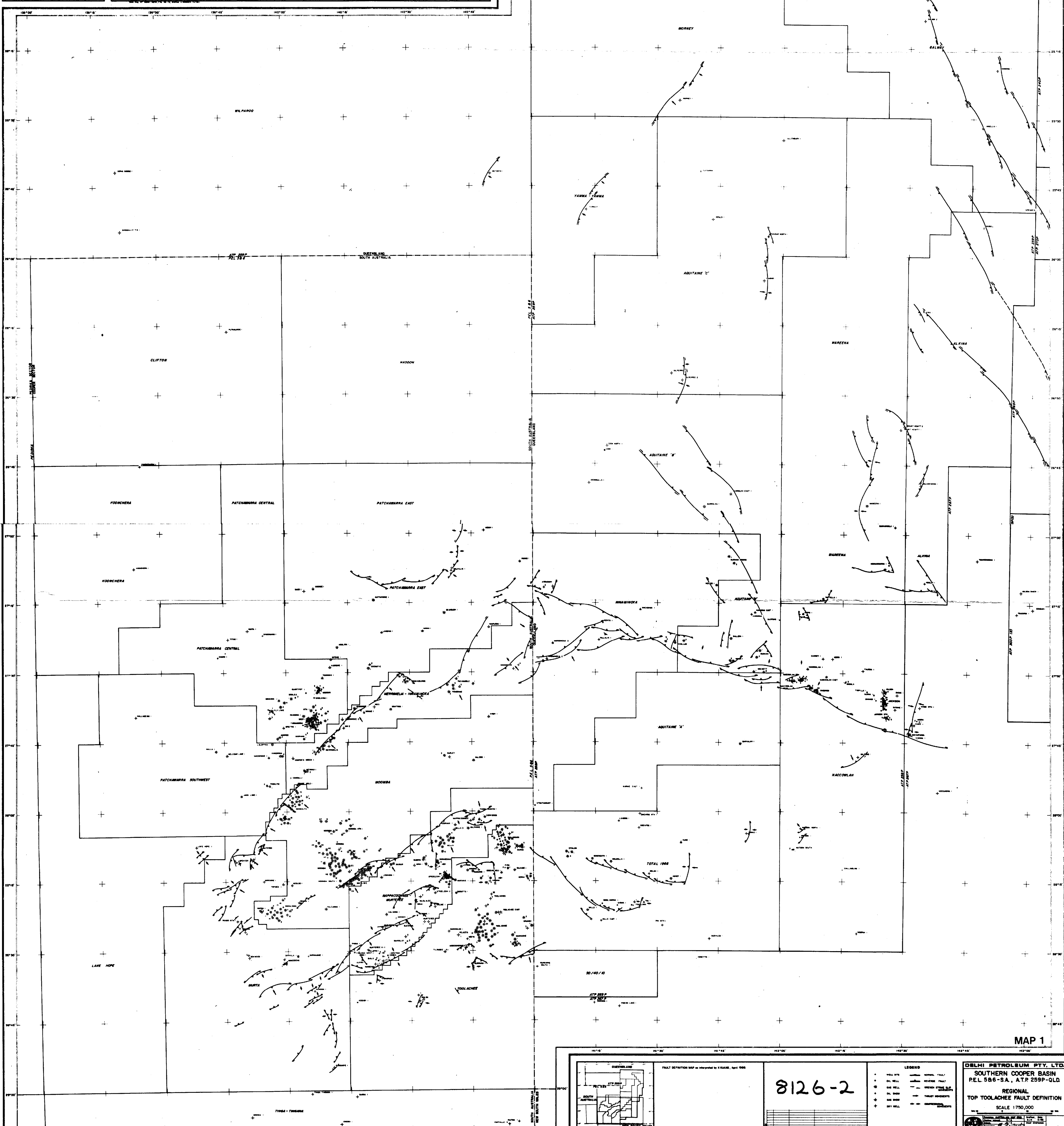
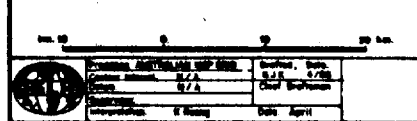
- LEGEND
- WELL SITE
 - OIL WELL
 - GAS WELL
 - OIL SHOW
 - GAS SHOW
 - DRY WELL

DELHI PETROLEUM PTY. LTD.

SOUTHERN COOPER BASIN
REL 586-S.A., ATP 259P-OLD
ROSENEATH SHALE
ISOPACH

Scale: 1:50,000
Datum: AD 83
Projection: UTM
Units: METERS

Author: K.S. KUANG
Date: 1984
Drawn: K.S. KUANG
Checked: K.S. KUANG
Approved: K.S. KUANG



MAP 1

FAULT DEFINITION MAP as interpreted by S. DAVIS, April 1986

8126-2

LEGEND

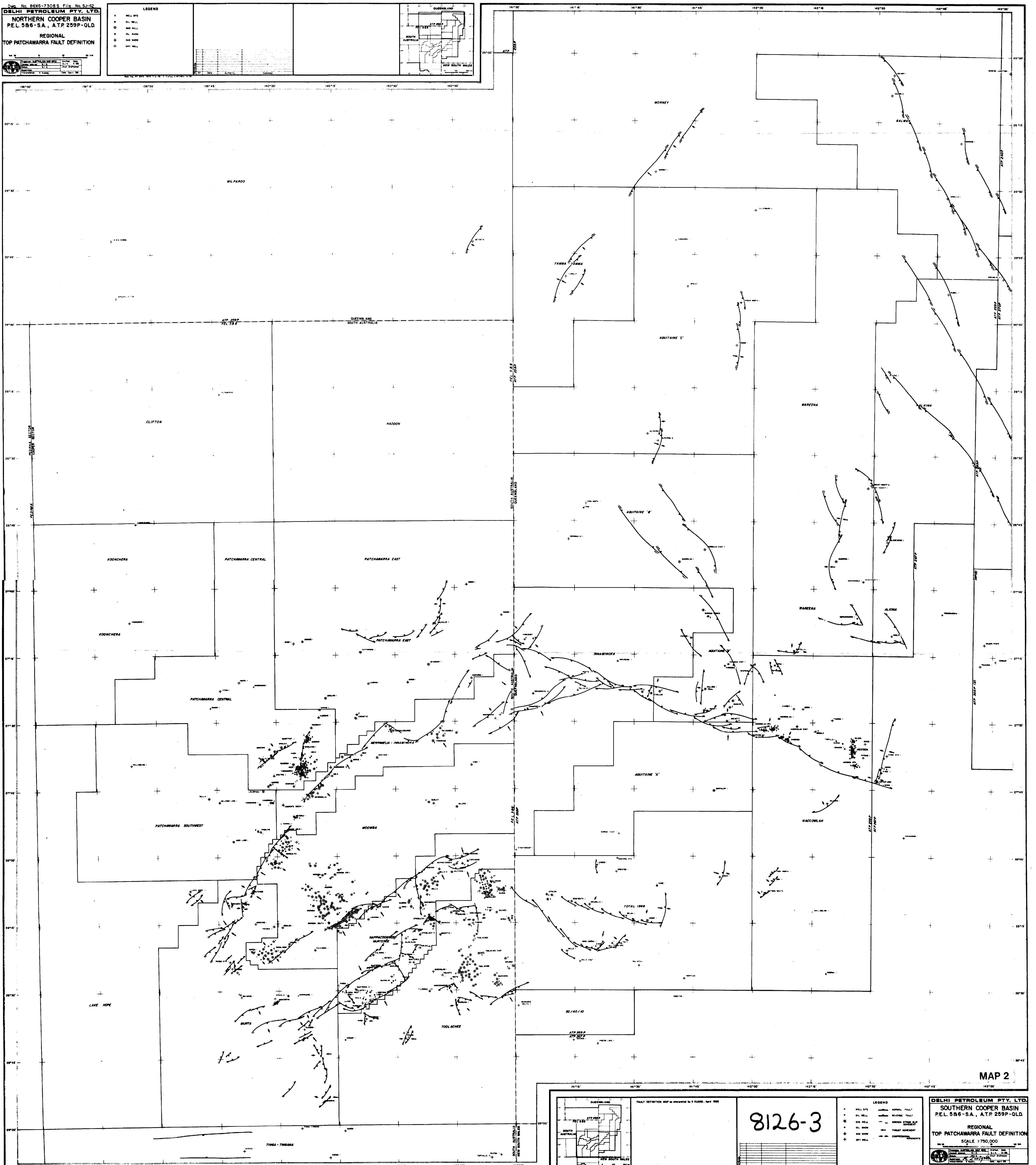
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- OIL WELL
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- GAS SHOW
- DRY WELL
- NORMAL FAULT
- REVERSE FAULT
- WEDGE STATE B.P. MOVEMENT
- THrust MOVEMENTS
- COMPRESSIVE MOVEMENTS

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REGIONAL
TOP TOOLACHEE FAULT DEFINITION
SCALE 1:750,000

LEGEND

- WELL SITE
- OIL WELL
- GAS WELL
- OIL SHOW
- GAS SHOW
- DRY WELL

QUEENSLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES



MAP 2

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SOUTHERN COOPER BASIN
PEL 586-S.A., ATP 259P-QLD
REGIONAL
TOP PATCHAWARRA FAULT DEFINITION
SCALE 1:750,000

LEGEND

- WELL SITE
- OIL WELL
- GAS WELL
- OIL SHOW
- GAS SHOW
- DRY WELL

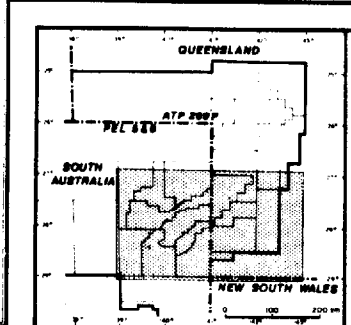
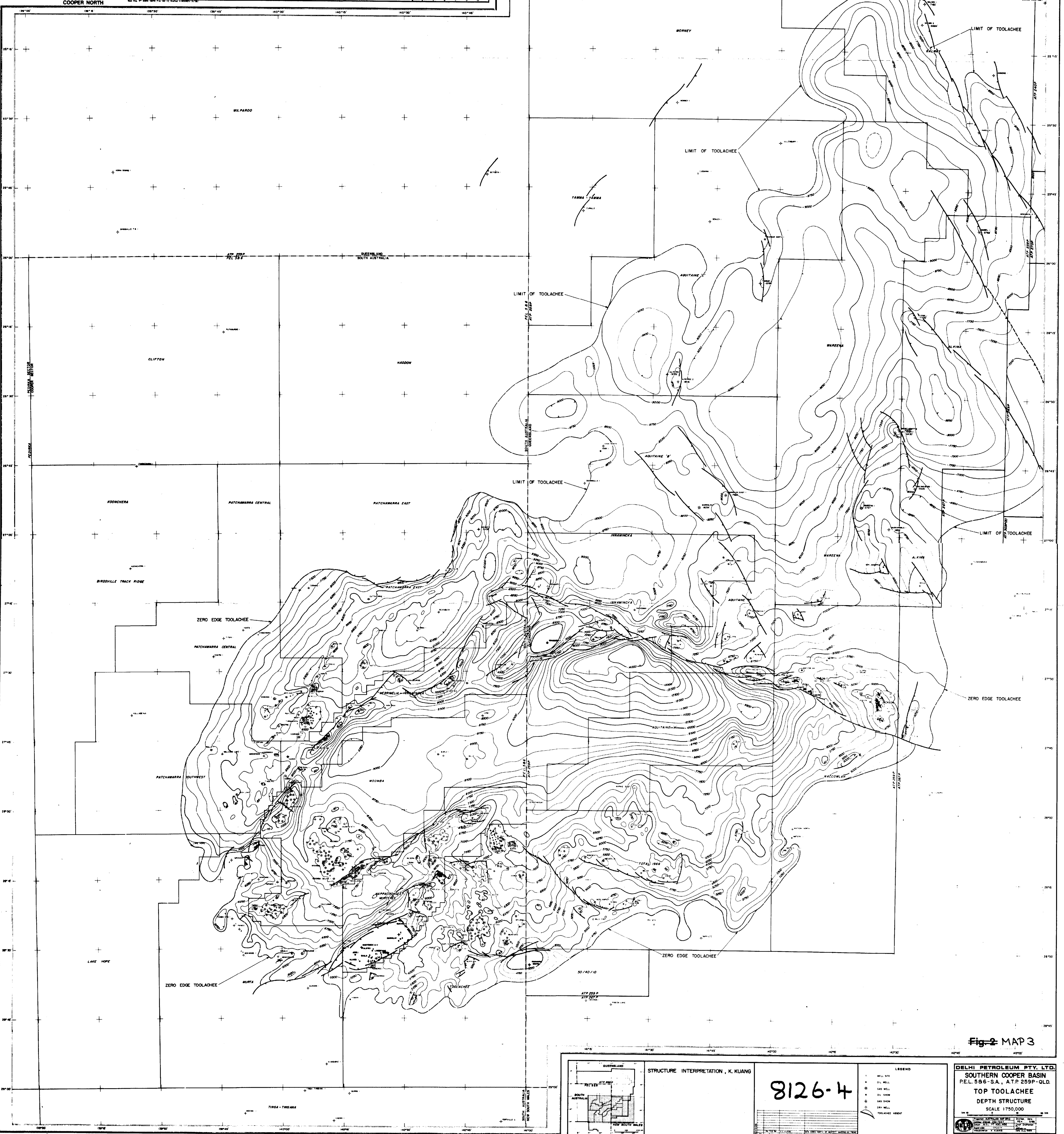
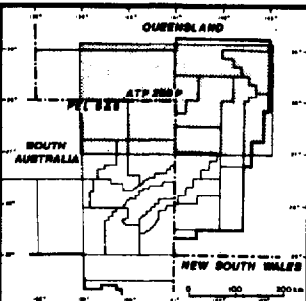
QUEENSLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES

8126-3

LEGEND

○	WELL SITE
●	OIL WELL
★	GAS WELL
✱	OIL SHOW
✱	GAS SHOW
✱	DRY WELL

STRUCTURE INTERPRETATION, K. KUANG



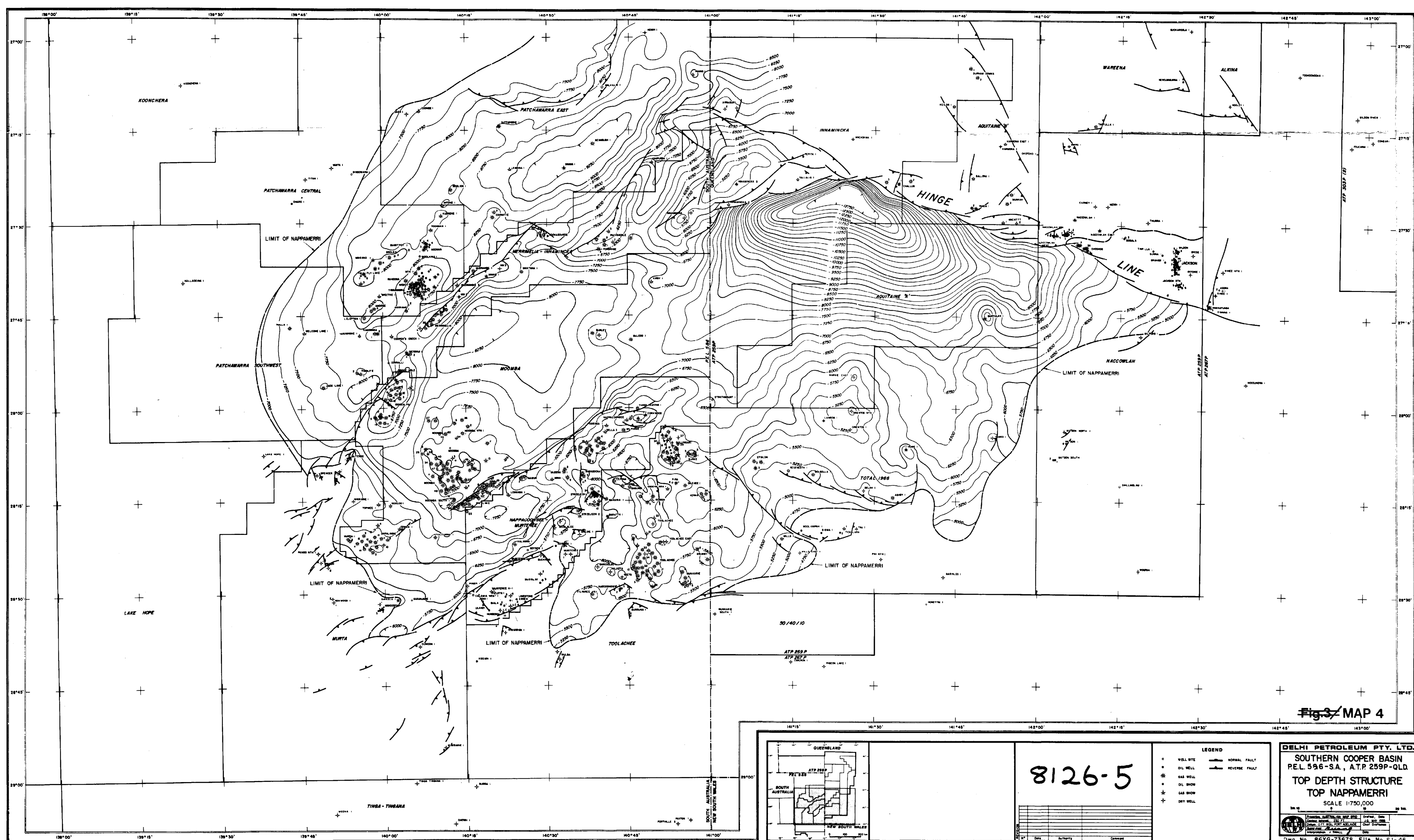
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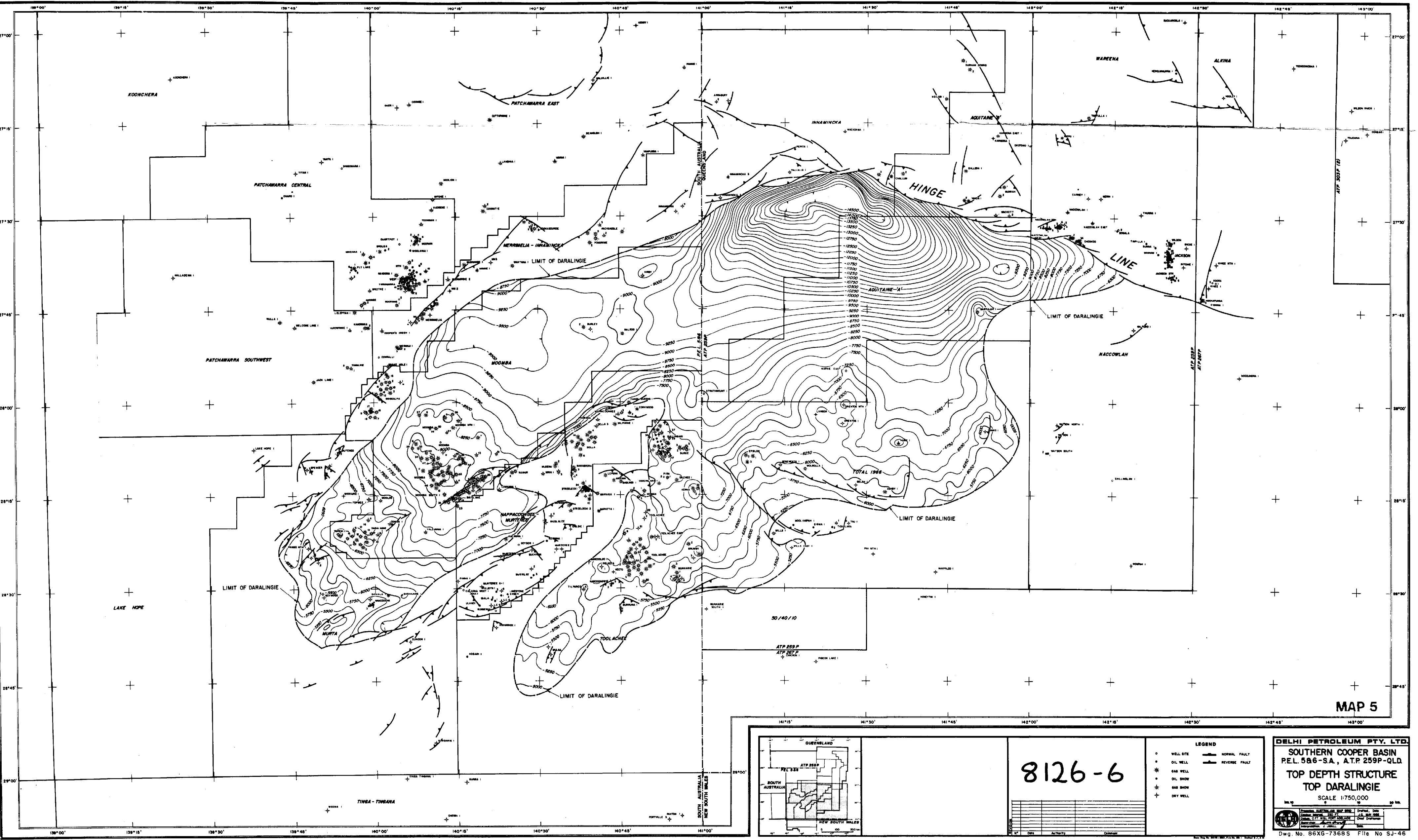
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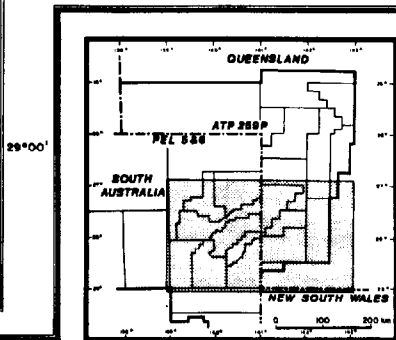
○	WELL SITE
●	OIL WELL
★	GAS WELL
✱	OIL SHOW
✱	GAS SHOW
✱	DRY WELL
○	TOOLACHEE ABOUT

Fig-2 MAP 3





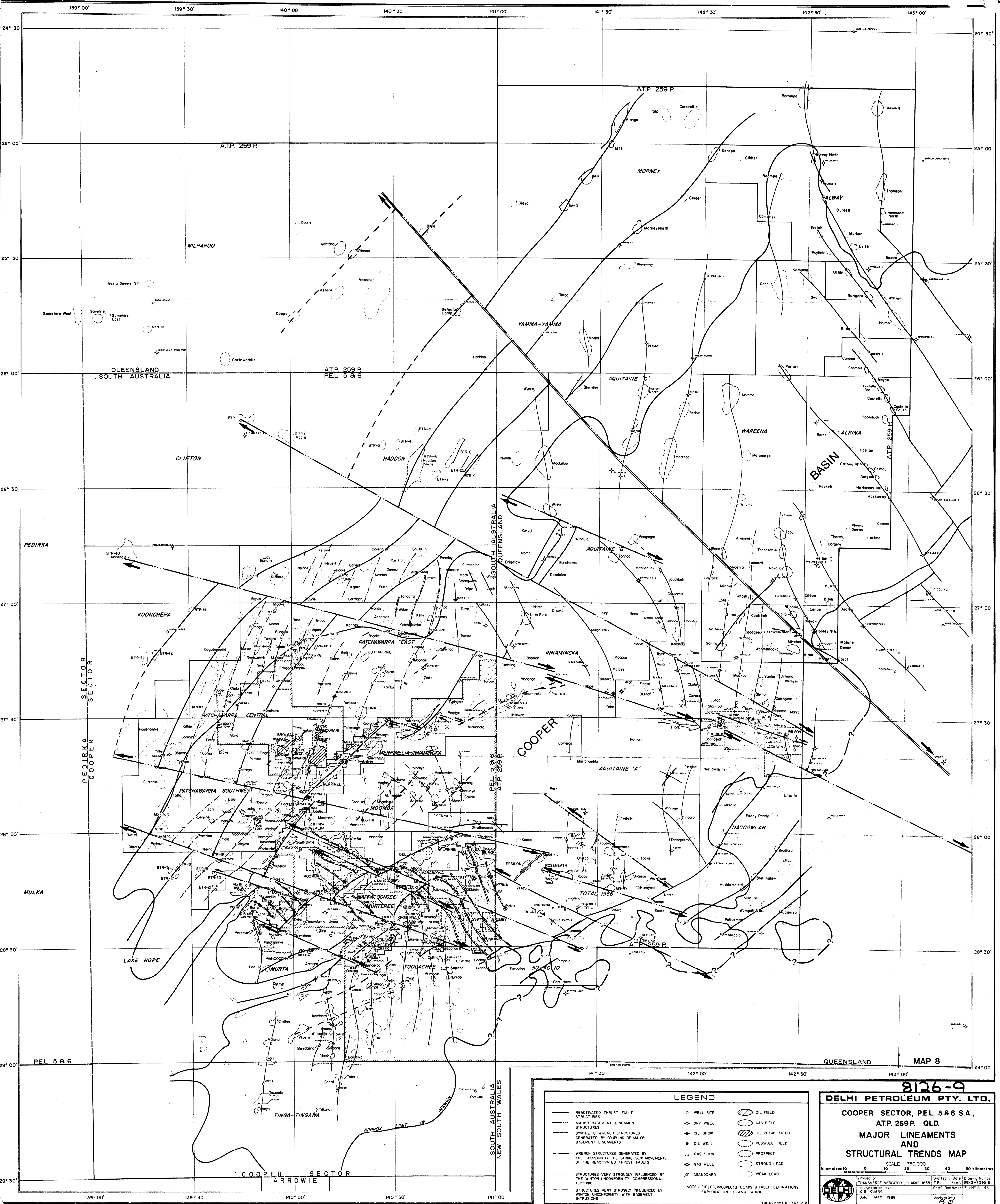
MAP 5



8126-6

- LEGEND
- WELL SITE
 - OIL WELL
 - * GAS WELL
 - OIL SHOW
 - * GAS SHOW
 - + DRY WELL
 - NORMAL FAULT
 - REVERSE FAULT

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SCALE 1:750,000
Dwg. No. 86XG-7368S File No SJ-46



LEGEND

— REACTIVATED THRUST FAULT	○ WELL SITE	▨ OIL FIELD
— MAJOR BASEMENT LINEAMENT	✦ DRY WELL	▨ GAS FIELD
— SYNTHETIC WRENCH STRUCTURES	● OIL SHOW	▨ OIL & GAS FIELD
— WRENCH STRUCTURES GENERATED BY THE COUPLING OF MAJOR BASEMENT LINEAMENTS	✦ OIL WELL	▨ POSSIBLE FIELD
— WRENCH STRUCTURES GENERATED BY THE COUPLING OF THE STRIKE SLIP MOVEMENTS OF THE REACTIVATED THRUST FAULTS	✦ GAS SHOW	▨ PROSPECT
— STRUCTURES VERY STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE WINTON UNCONFORMITY COMPRESSIONAL TECTONIC	✦ GAS WELL	▨ STRONG LEAD
— STRUCTURES VERY STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY WINTON UNCONFORMITY WITH BASEMENT INTRUSIONS	✦ ABANDONED	▨ WEAK LEAD

NOTE: FIELDS, PROSPECTS LEADS & FAULT DEFINITIONS EXPLORATION TEAMS WORK

8126-9
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COOPER SECTOR, P.E.L. 5 & 6 S.A., A.T.P. 259 P. QLD.
MAJOR LINEAMENTS AND STRUCTURAL TRENDS MAP

Scale 1:750,000
Scale bar: 0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometres

Projection: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, CLARKE 1858
Datum: 1956
Date: MAY 1986
Drawing Number: T.B. 4/86
Interpretation by: K.S. KUMAR
Chief Draftsman: J.E. 5/86
Supervisor: J.E.