

# **Open File Envelope**

## **No. 2234**

**EPP 5, EPP 6, EPP 7, EPP 10 AND EPP 11**

**EUCLA BASIN, BIGHT BASIN AND DUNTROON BASIN**

**1971 SHELL R 6 MARINE SEISMIC SURVEY**

**INTERPRETATIVE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL  
TO JUNE 1973**

Submitted by

Shell Development (Australia) Pty Ltd  
1973

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**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES  
AND RESOURCES SA**

## ENVELOPE 2234

**TENEMENT:** EPPs 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11; Eucla, Bight and Duntroon Basins

**TENEMENT HOLDER:** Shell Development (Aust.) Pty Ltd (operator)

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# OPEN FILE

EVALUATION REPORT

ON

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

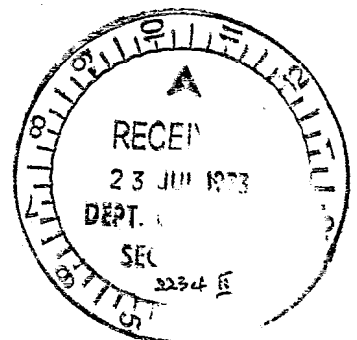
PERMITS SA-6 AND SA-7

BY

SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

MELBOURNE

JUNE 1973



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APPENDICES

1. Geochemical Evaluation Well Platypus-1,  
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K. Reiman and J.E.A.M. Dielwart.
2. Geochemical Evaluation Well Echidna-1,  
Duntroon Basin, Offshore South Australia,  
K. Reiman and J.E.A.M. Dielwart.

## I INTRODUCTION

Shell Development (Australia) Pty. Ltd. was engaged in the following activities in the offshore permits SA-6 and SA-7 during the period October 1971-1972.

- (1) a marine seismic survey of 1375 kms (SA-6 700 kms; SA-7 675 kms) during October/November 1971. (RG)
- (2) two wells drilled in the first half of 1972.

Echidna-1 (SA-7; TD. 12,572') and Platypus-1 (SA-6; TD. 12,772').

These data have been incorporated, integrated and evaluated during the second half of 1972 - first half 1973. A review of the activities and the results of the evaluation study are presented below.

Previous activities in the permit areas SA-6 and SA-7 were reported on in "Exploration in the Great Australian Bight : Results of the 1970-71 Marine Geophysical Survey" lodged with the Designated Authority on 25th January, 1972.

## II EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES - MID 1971 - MID 1972

### 1. Seismic Data Acquisition and Processing 1971 Survey

#### (a) General

The 1971 seismic survey in permits SA-6 and SA-7 was contracted out to Geophysical Service International (G.S.I.). The positioning control was subcontracted to Offshore Navigation Incorporated.

The survey started on 29th October 1971 and the last line of the SA-6, SA-7 (1375 kms) programme was recorded on 12th November 1971.

Seismic Data Processing was handled by G.S.I.

All relevant data on the marine seismic survey i.e. Operations Report, Processing Report, Positioning Report (ONI), Shot Point Location Maps and all final seismic sections have been submitted to the Designated Authority (16th November 1972).

#### (b) Positioning

A Shoran XR radiopositioning system was employed to provide horizontal control for the survey. The system was supplied and operated by Offshore Navigation Inc. (ONI).

Four onshore base station sites were occupied during the operations i.e. Cape Du Couedic, Point Avoid, Streaky Bay and Wedge Island.

(c) Seismic Recording

The survey of 1375 kms was conducted by Geophysical Service International's (G.S.I.) M.V. 'R.C. Dunlap'.

The energy source for the survey consisted of a tuned airgun array of 1300 cubic inch total capacity.

A 2400 metre, 48 trace acceleration noise cancelling cable was used. Subsurface coverage was 24 fold.

The digital recording instrument was a Texas Instrument DPS III system.

(d) Magnetometer Recording

No magnetometer data was recorded with this survey.

Consequently the magnetic data as presented with our previous report on the permits SA-6 and SA-7 (25th January, 1972, encls. 18 and 19, page 1 and appendix 3) still serve as reference.

(e) Seismic Processing

Processing was carried out by Geophysical Service International in their Sydney Centre.

The basic processing sequence was as follows : True Amplitude Recovery, Time Variant Deconvolution before stack (one area only) velocity analysis and corrections, stack, Time Variant Deconvolution after stack, Time Variant Filtering.

Experimental processing had indicated that deconvolution before stack did not significantly improve the data quality. Only in one small area where improvement was obtained this process was applied.

Velocity information obtained during the extensive 1969/70 seismic survey supplemented by Constant Velocity Gathers on the new data at interval of 2 miles was used for velocity corrections.

Final results were presented as variable area sections on a horizontal scale of 24 traces/inch and a vertical scale of 5 cm. per second.

2. Drilling

(a) General

Two wells Echidna-1 (permit SA-7) and Platypus-1 (permit SA6) were drilled in the first half of 1972. The semi-submersible rig 'Ocean Digger' under contract from ODECO was used.

Echidna-1 was spudded on 16th January 1972 and abandoned as a dry hole on 16th March 1972. Platypus-1 was spudded on 21st March and abandoned as a dry hole on 30th April, 1972.

A comprehensive evaluation of the well data was given in the well completion reports which have been submitted to the Designated Authority (Echidna-1, 7th July 1972; Platypus-1, 26th October 1972).

A summary of the well information is given below.



- (b) Echidna-1 (TD 12,572') was planned to test a large domal shaped closure for hydrocarbons in postulated Jurassic sandstones. The mapped closure was characterized by a relatively strong reflection culminating in Echidna at - 2.4 secs.

The well drilled through a Miocene-Upper Eocene carbonate sequence with minor clastics in the lower part. The base of the carbonates corresponding to the seismic 'A' horizon (encl. 4) was found at 3,965 feet. Below this unconformity 300 feet sandstones of Middle-Upper Eocene age unconformably overlie a Lower Cretaceous sequence almost exclusively composed of silty clays and shales.

The well bottomed at 12,572' in shales of Neocomian age. The mapped seismic reflection was reached at 11,490'. It appeared to be due to a pronounced velocity/density contrast at the base of a shale zone with an anomalous high water content and a different mineralogy from the underlying shales.

Platypus-1 (TD 12,772') was located on a structural plateau and was planned to test the Upper Cretaceous clastics. The base of the Miocene-Upper Eocene carbonates (seismic 'A' horizon, encl. 4) was found at 5,340'. It overlies 215 feet Middle Eocene Glauconite sands and some 920 feet sandstones and interbedded clays of Lower Eocene and Middle Campanian age. The boundary Tertiary-Cretaceous is found within this sequence and is placed at 6,202'.

A 3000 feet clay sequence was drilled before the objective, was reached at 9,492'. It consists of 2,800' alternating sandstones, shales and coals. Porosity of the sandstones varies from 10-24%. The Upper-Lower Cretaceous boundary falls in a zone between 11,077-11,600'. From thereon down to TD Lower Cretaceous silty shales were drilled.

### III EVALUATION OF THE DATA

#### 1. General

The newly acquired data has been incorporated and integrated during the period mid 1972-mid 1973.

A playmap showing the structural and stratigraphical setting is presented on encl. 1. The results of the seismic review are shown on encls 4 and 5. Encl. 4 represents a time contour map on the seismic 'A' horizon corresponding to the base of the Tertiary Carbonates. Encl. 5 represents a time contour map on an Intra Cretaceous event corresponding in the Platypus area to the top of a 3,000' thick sandstone section. Due to areas of poor seismic data quality and to the large number of faults the map is in places conjectural.

The review is based on the seismic grid shown on encl. 2. An updated waterdepth map is included (encl. 3).

## 2. Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy within the permits SA-6 and SA-7 is based on the results of the two wells drilled in the area i.e. Echidna-1 and Platypus-1.

The uppermost sedimentary section, from seafloor down to the strong seismic 'A' reflector consists of Tertiary carbonates of Miocene-Upper Eocene. The carbonate section is thickest in the Echidna/Platypus area and thins to the SW and NE.

The seismic 'A' reflection is related to the velocity reversal at the interface between the high velocity/high density carbonates and the lower velocity/lower density underlying clastic sequence.

It is disconformably underlain by clastics of Eocene age.

An unconformity, in places clearly angular, separates the Tertiary clastics from the Upper Cretaceous section. The degree of erosion of the latter section depends on the deformation that took place at the end of the Cretaceous. Upper Cretaceous is completely missing on the anticlinal structures in the inner shelf area, but rather complete on the down-faulted blocks in the outer shelf area. The top of the prospective Upper Cretaceous reservoir section found in Platypus-1 and our main objective in the area is represented by a fair seismic reflection event (encl. 5).

The Upper Cretaceous is disconformably underlain by Lower Cretaceous silty clays and shales. The Lower Cretaceous sequence is characterized by a near-absence of reflections on the seismic sections. If this correlation can be extrapolated to undrilled areas and undrilled depths this Lower Cretaceous section may reach in places a thickness of over ten thousand feet. No older sedimentary sequences than Lower Cretaceous have been penetrated in the permit areas SA-6 and SA-7.

An extension of the Gawler Shield probably consisting of Pre-Cambrian metamorphics and covered by a thin Tertiary section appears to form the shallow basement in the NE part of the permit areas. The edge of the Shield is marked by a series of south-hading basement block-faults which bring basement rapidly down to great depths.

## 3. Source Rocks and Maturity

Analysis of samples from Platypus-1 indicate source rocks for gas and oil interbedded in the intra Upper Cretaceous reservoir section and the Lower Cretaceous sequence immediately below (Appendix 1). The samples of Platypus-1 show that maturity is only just reached at total depth of the well.

Analysis of samples from Echidna-1 indicate a post-maturity level for the lower part of the Lower Cretaceous shale section (Appendix 2).

#### 4. Reservoir Rocks

The 3000' thick clastic Upper Cretaceous sequence drilled in Platypus-1 between 9,400 - T.D. is the main proven potential reservoir section. This zone with the associated source rocks is the primary objective for our future hydrocarbon search especially in areas where it can be expected at a maturity level favourable for generation of oil or gas. Individual sandstone beds in the Platypus section are up to 90' thick. Porosities range from 15-24%.

Highly porous Tertiary - uppermost Cretaceous sandstones, beneath the 'A' reflector constitute a secondary objective.

There is no evidence for the existence of older reservoirs which would be below the thick lower Cretaceous shales and therefore at excessive depth.

#### 5. Structural Framework

Based on the results of the re-interpretation incorporating all newly acquired well and seismic information, the permit areas are now subdivided into 4 structural zones (encl. 1).

- (i) Monoclinial Zone.
- (ii) Folded Zone.
- (iii) Step faulted Zone.
- (iv) Synsedimentary faulted Zone.

The first three coincide with the shelf area, the fourth covers the deeper water parts. The boundary, can be conveniently taken at the 600' water depth contour.

In the monoclinial zone the structural configuration is a result of basement topography whereas the other zones the structures are mainly related to a late Cretaceous phase of deformation.

In the folded zone an alternation of synclines and anticlines occurs. On all the anticlinal structures the Upper Cretaceous sandstone reservoir complex is partly or wholly eroded.

The step faulted zone is divided into a number of fault blocks by two series of faults, one trending NW-SE and the second E-W. These faults do not show any associated roll-over structures and are considered to reflect deepseated basement movement.

The synsedimentary faulted zone is characterized by a series of NW-SE trending synsedimentary faults showing a varying degree of growth. The zone forms structurally and stratigraphically part of the deep water acreage covered by SA-10 and SA-11 (refer "Evaluation Report on S.A. Deep Water Acreage SA-10 and SA-11", sent to the Designated Authority 26th April 1973). The zone occupies the deep water part of SA-6 and SA-7 with water depths ranging from 600-10,000 feet.

## 6. Prospects

At present five prospects are recognized, namely Wallaroo, Bandicoot, Jerboa, Cuscus and Koala (encl. 1).

The first two are located in the stepfaulted zone. This is the most prospective zone because the Upper Cretaceous sandstone reservoirs occur at generally drillable depth while the associated source rocks are expected to lie in the mature zone. Wallaroo would test a fault closure in this zone.

In Bandicoot, located on the southern edge of the zone, the depth to these sandstones falls however below drilling depths, but here a younger Upper Cretaceous section, eroded in Platypus-1, would constitute the postulated reservoir objective. This prospect has the additional advantage of having dipclosure.

Areal closure of both prospects is small and probably at the limit of economical exploitation.

Jerboa is situated on the southern edge of the monoclinal zone where a shallow basement high is intersected by a Cretaceous anticline. Upfolding brought the basement probably very close to the Tertiary unconformity. It is impossible to predict which part of the Mesozoic if any, has been preserved, and thus although the Jerboa prospect is a pronounced high it has considerable stratigraphic risks.

The prospects Cuscus and Koala are located in the folded zone and would have to rely on possible dip reversals along the plunging axis of the anticlines mapped in this zone. In addition only a relatively thin reservoir section of sandstones is expected to be preserved below the base-Tertiary unconformity.

Sizeable leads can be recognized in the synsedimentary faulted zone. Further seismic would be required to mature these leads into prospects. Waterdepth of the leads ranges from 4,000-10,000'. To further detail these prospects and to cover some other potential prospect areas a marine seismic survey of 900 miles approximately was programmed for 1973.

This survey has just been conducted by Geophysical Service International (G.S.I.) during the period 1st-25th April, 1973.

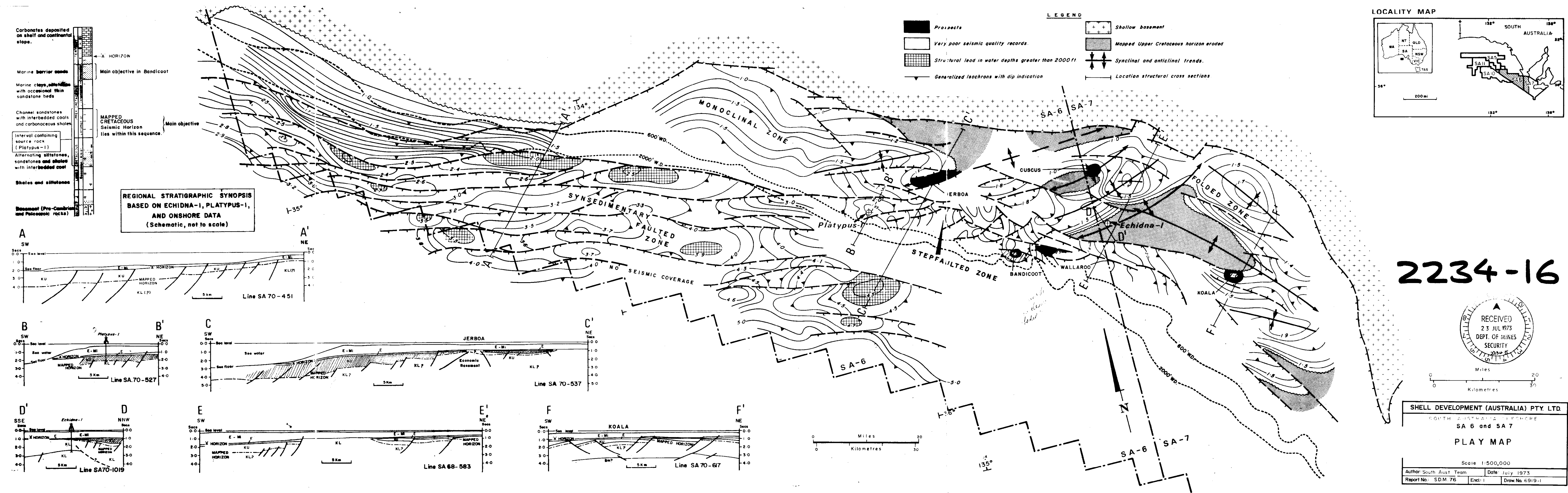
The data are presently in G.S.I.'s Sydney processing centre. Processing is expected to be completed by the second half of July 1973.

## IV CONCLUSIONS

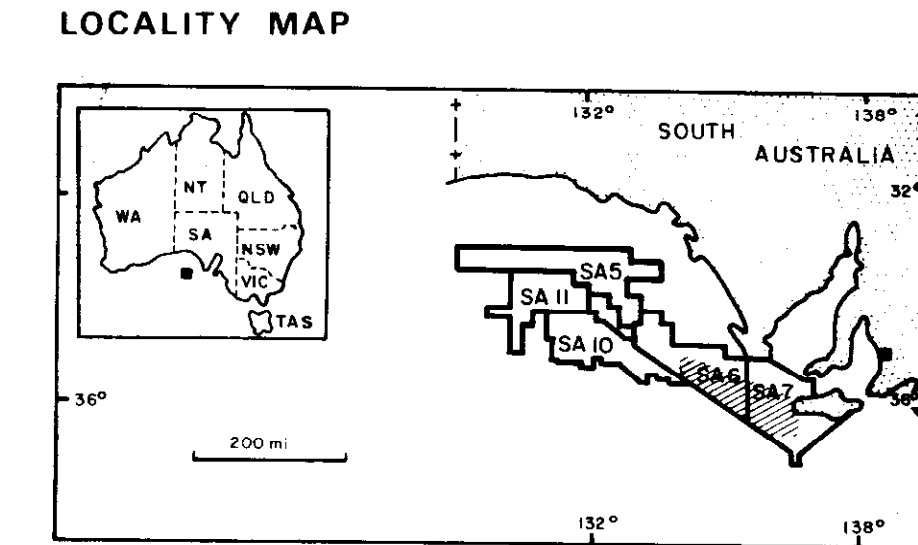
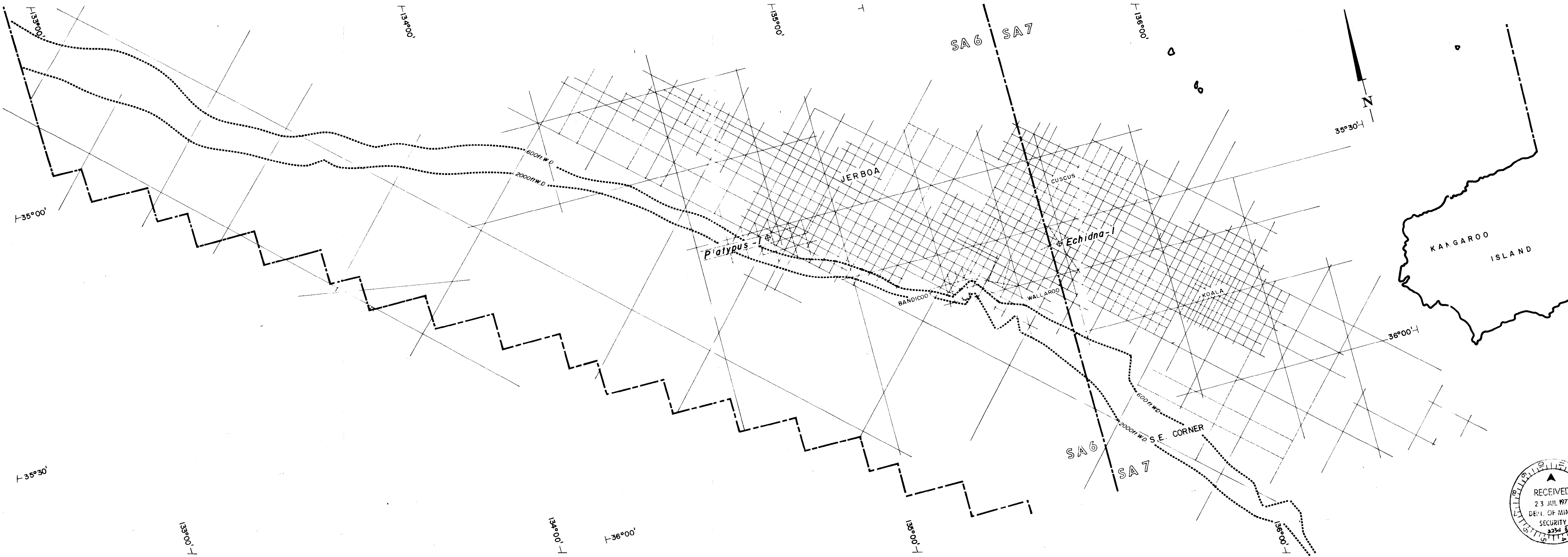
In the Shelf area of the permits SA-6 and SA-7 the results of the 1971 seismic survey and the 1972 Platypus-1 and Echidna-1 provided the tools for more detailed and integrated mapping, and a better assessment of the available prospects. A further seismic effort of 932 miles (approx.) required to firm up drilling locations has been meanwhile completed (April 1973).

Based on the present knowledge the step faulted zone seems to be the most prospective as it can be expected that the source rocks associated with the objective reservoir sequence encountered in Platypus will be found here at a maturity level favourable for the generation of hydrocarbons. Structurally however the prospects present in the shelf area are small with a limited amount of vertical closure.

In the Deep Water area, with depths between 4000 and 10,000 feet, promising leads can be recognized. Further seismic detail work will be required to confirm these prospects. The rapid technical advance in deep water drilling techniques may enable a drill test in these waterdepths within the next five years.

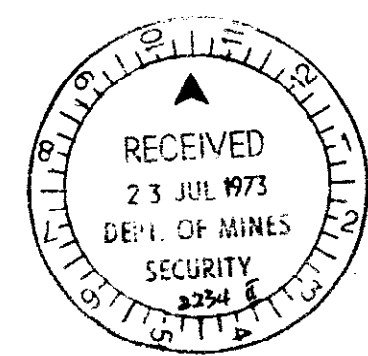
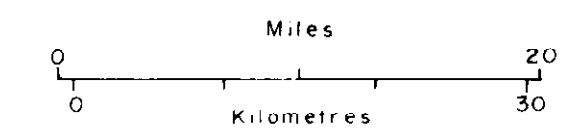






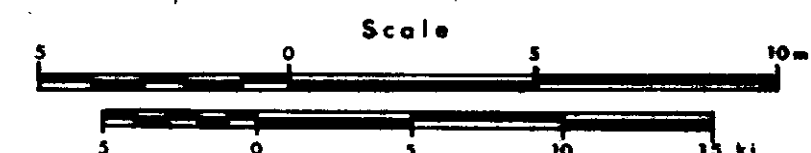
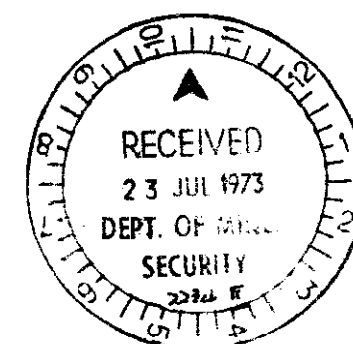
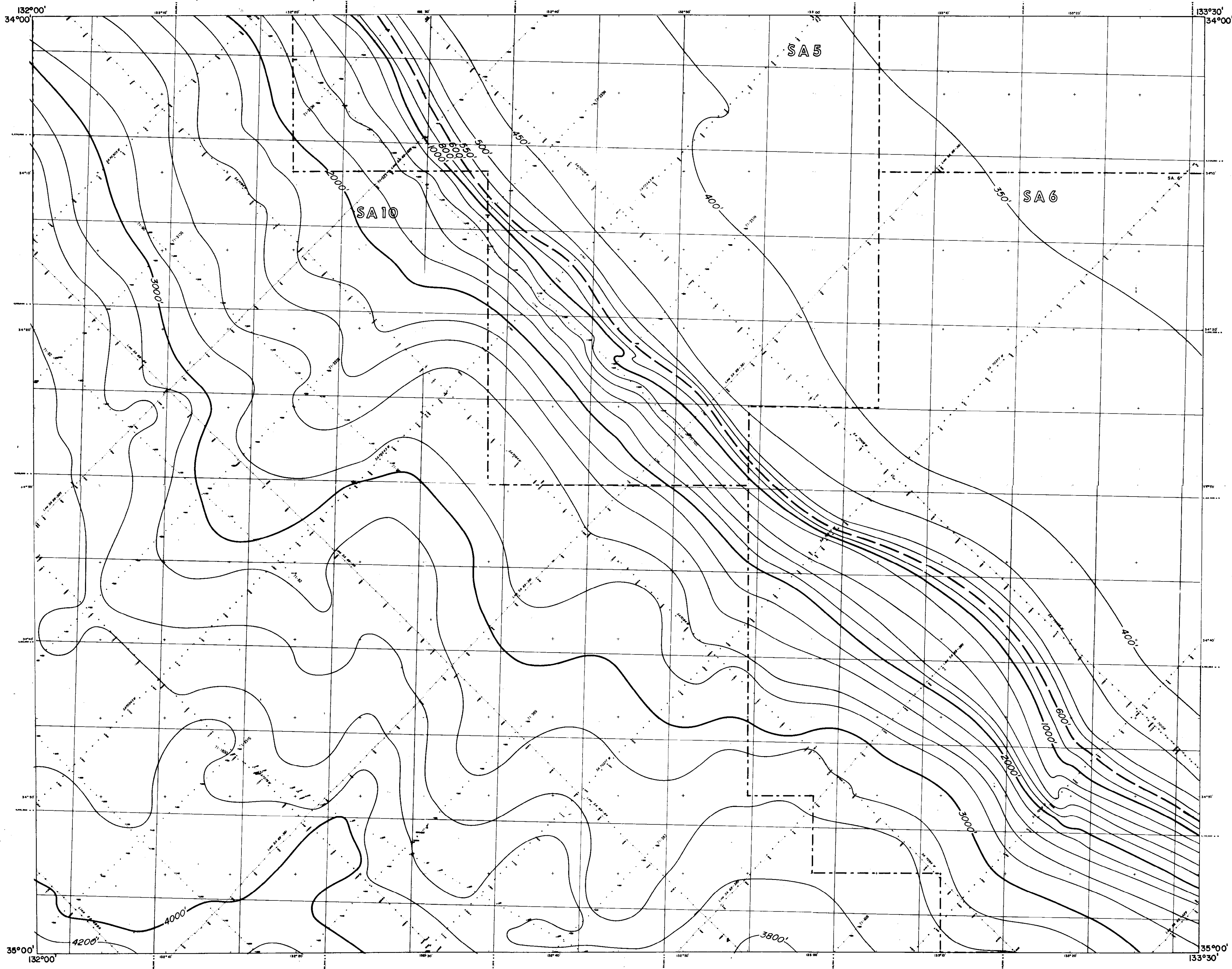
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  - - - 1971 seismic survey

**2234-17**



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| SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.   |                 |                  |
| SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE<br>SA 6 and SA 7 |                 |                  |
| EXPLORATION DENSITY                       |                 |                  |
| Scale 1:500,000                           |                 |                  |
| Author: South Aust. Team                  | Date: July 1973 |                  |
| Report No: S.D.M.76                       | Encl: 2         | Draw. No. 6920-1 |





Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

**SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**

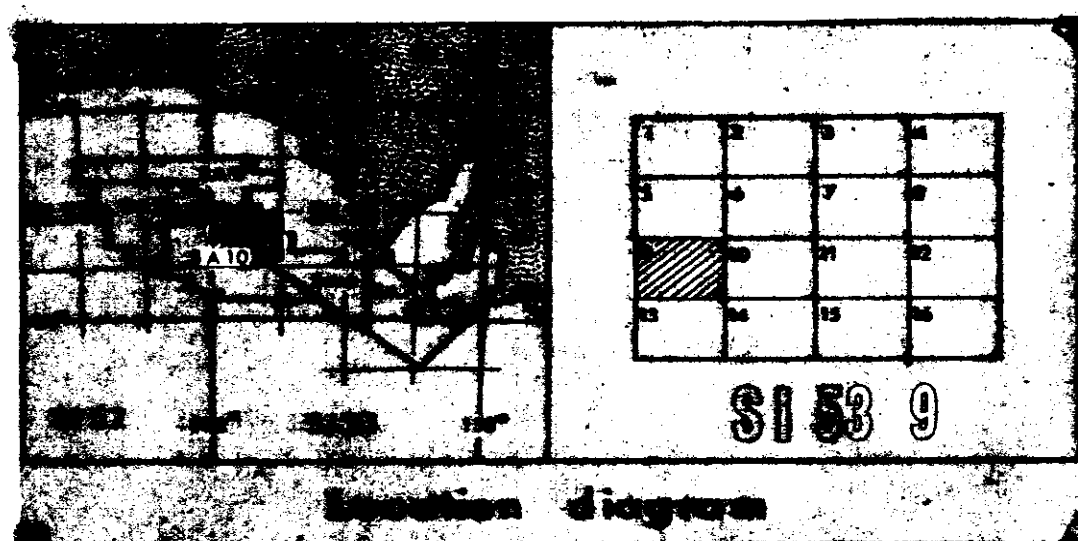
SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

**BATHYMETRY**

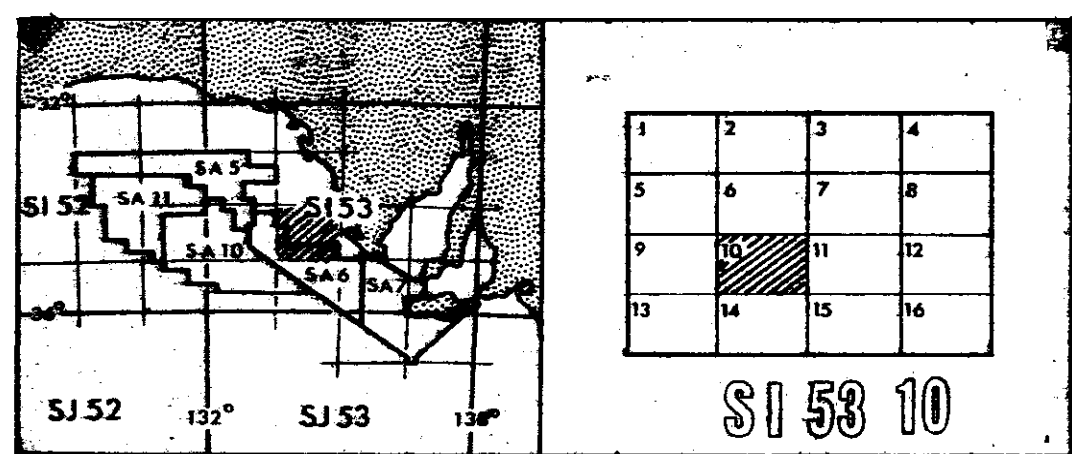
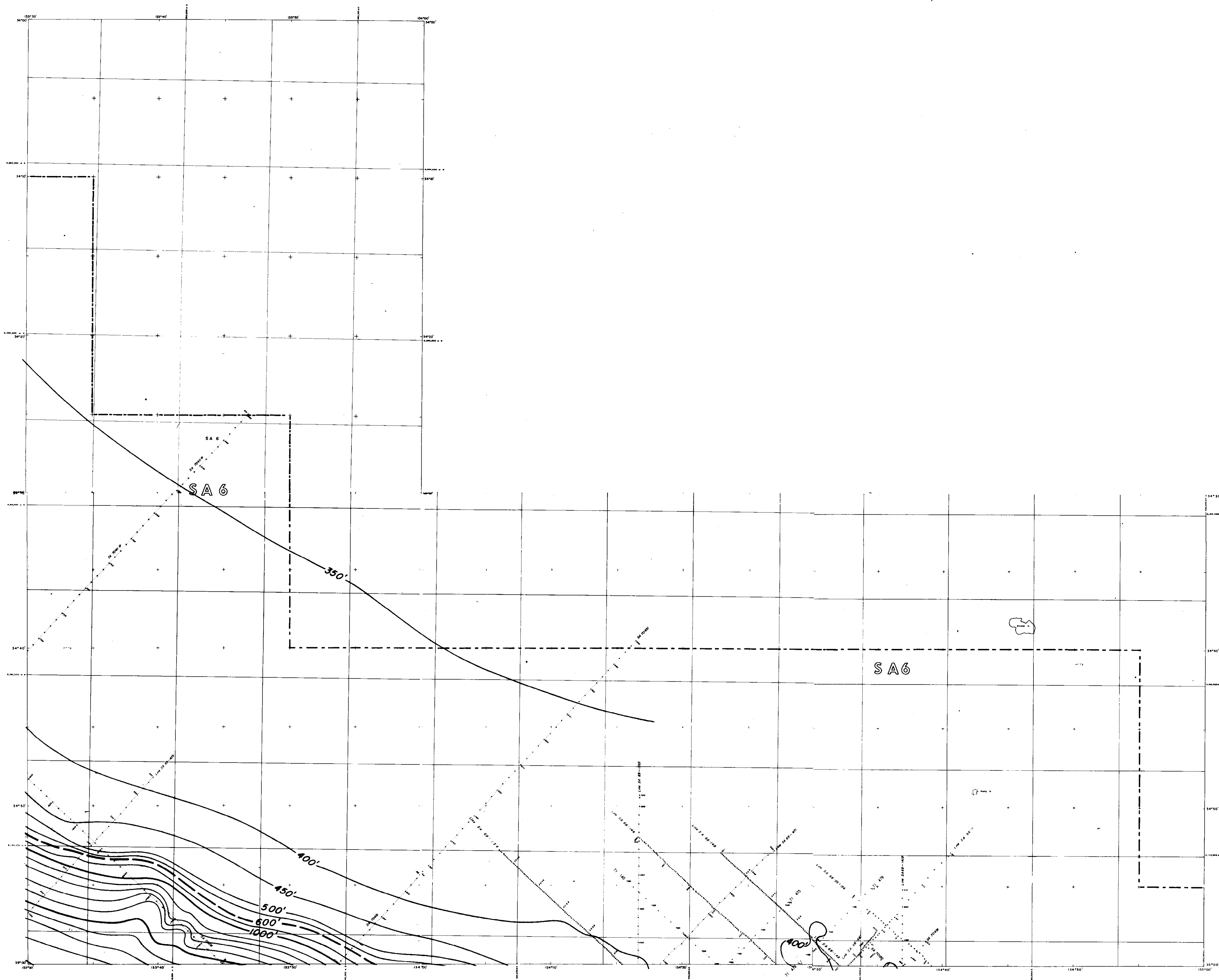
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| Author: South Aust. Team | Date: July 1973          | Sheet No. |
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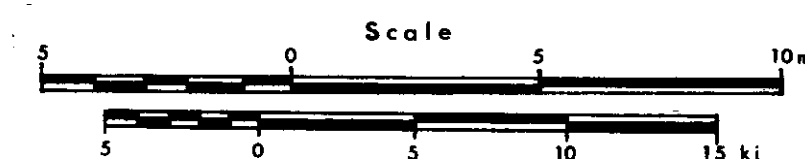
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Location diagram



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

**SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

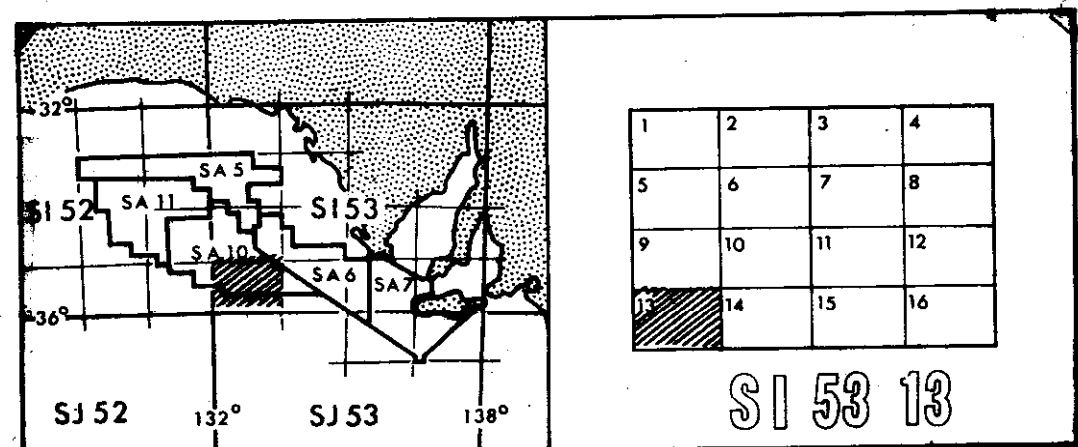
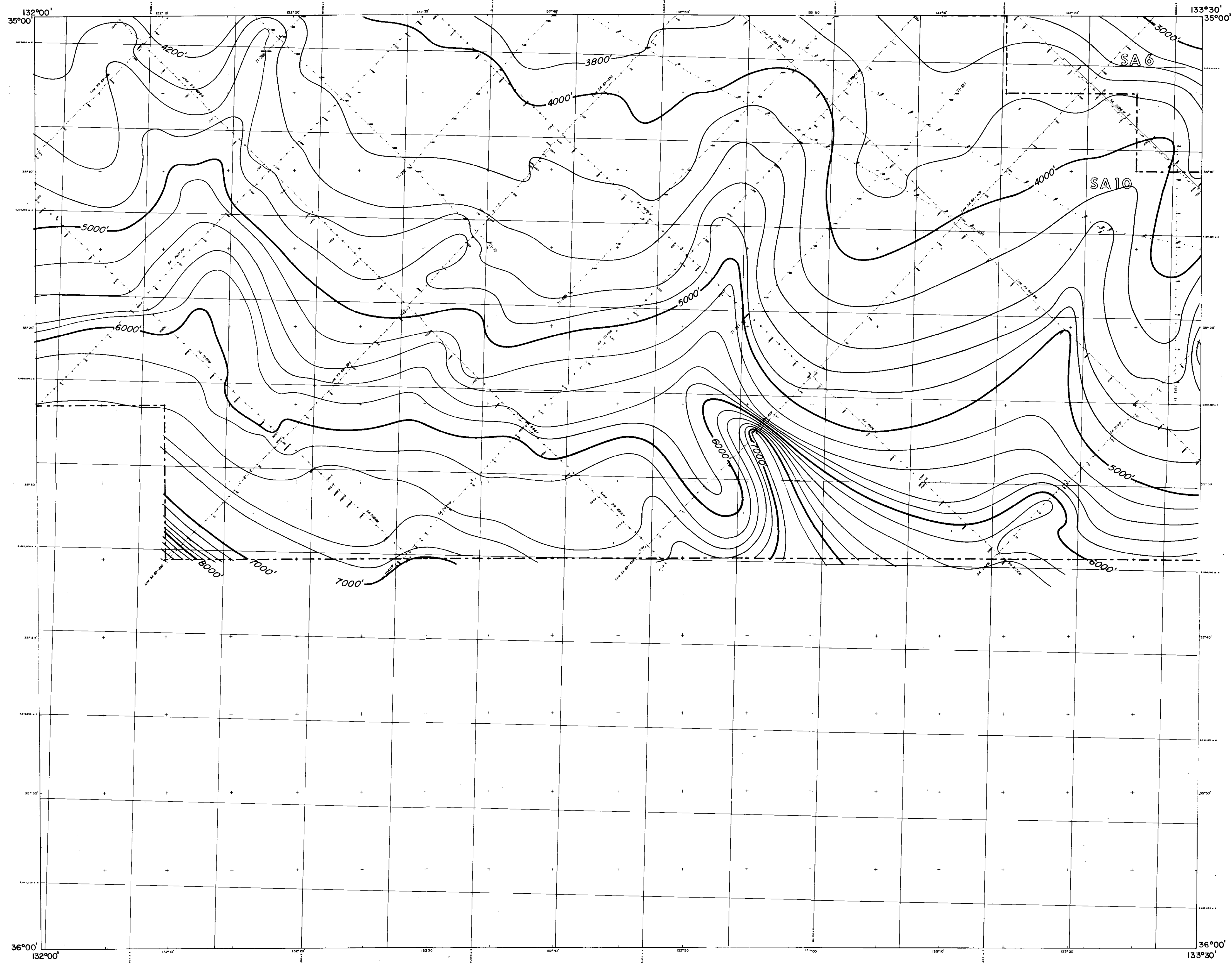
**BATHYMETRY**

Scale 1:250,000

|                          |                 |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Author: South Aust. Team | Date: July 1973 | Sheet No.        |
| Report: S.D.M. 76        | Encl: 38        | Drawing No. 7047 |
|                          |                 | SI 53-10         |

2234-19





Location diagram



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

BATHYMETRY

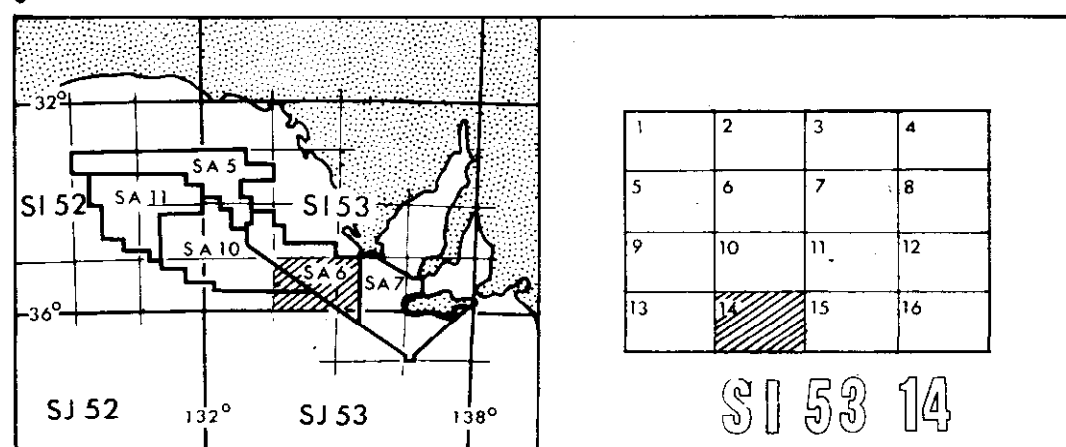
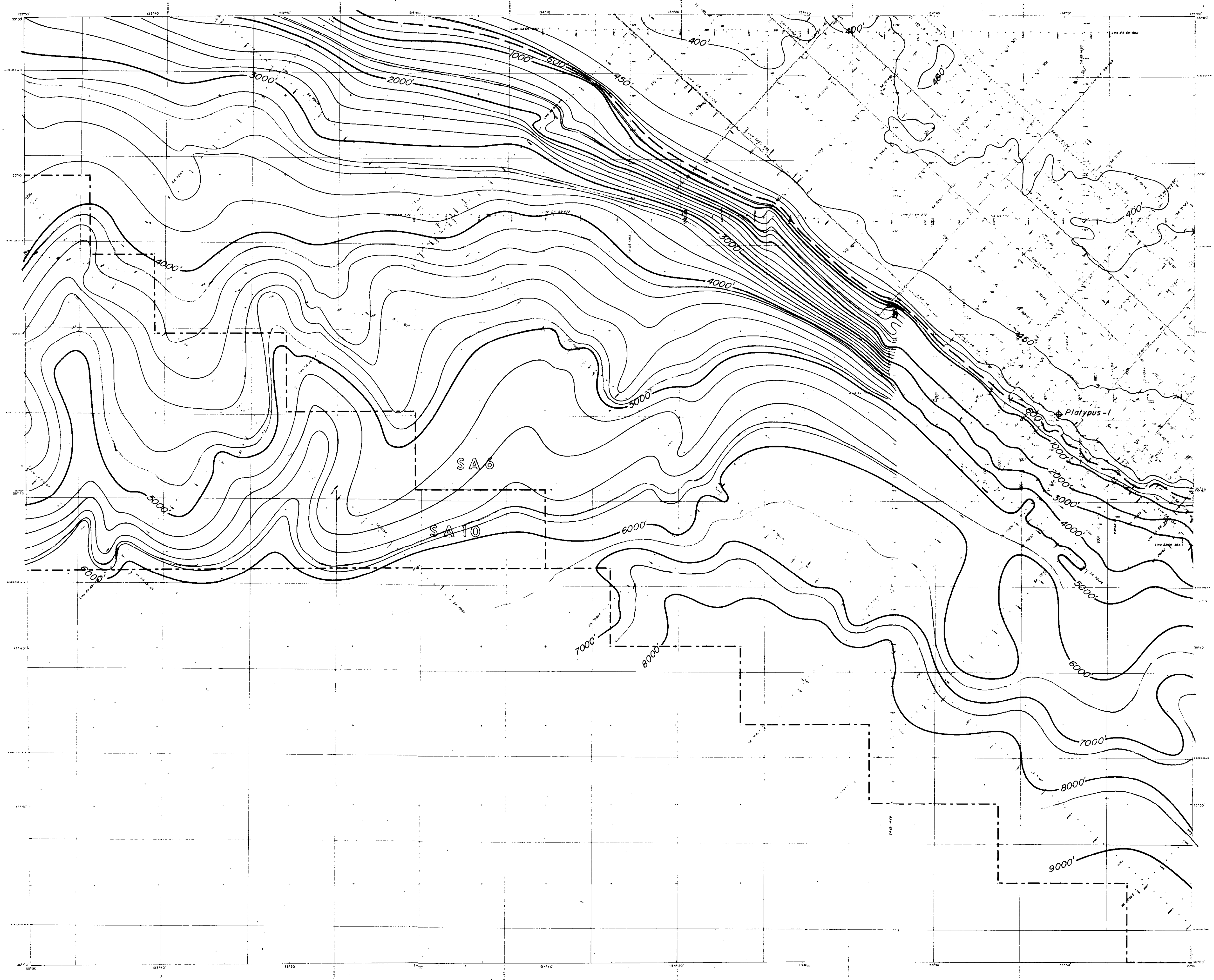
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Author: South Aust. Team Date: July 1973 Sheet No.

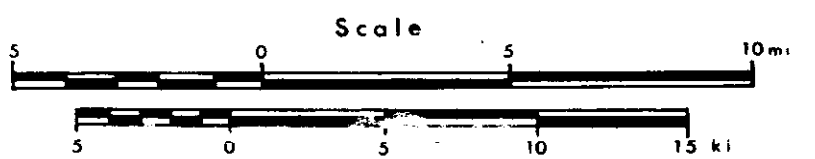
S.P. March, 1972 Report: S.D.M. 76 Encl: 3C Drawing No. 7049 SI 53-13

2234-20





Location diagram



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

BATHYMETRY

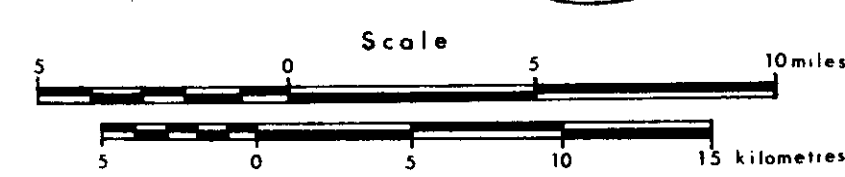
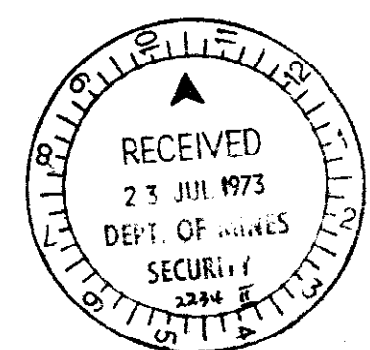
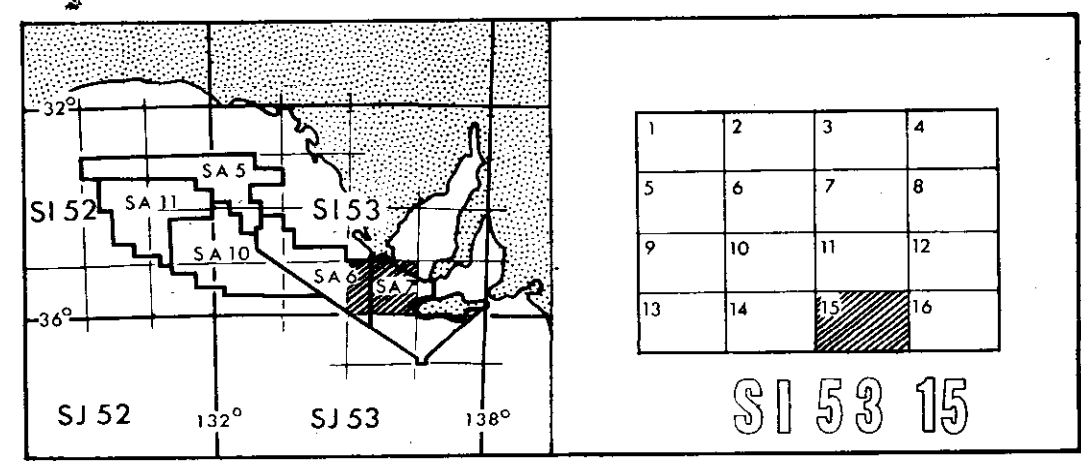
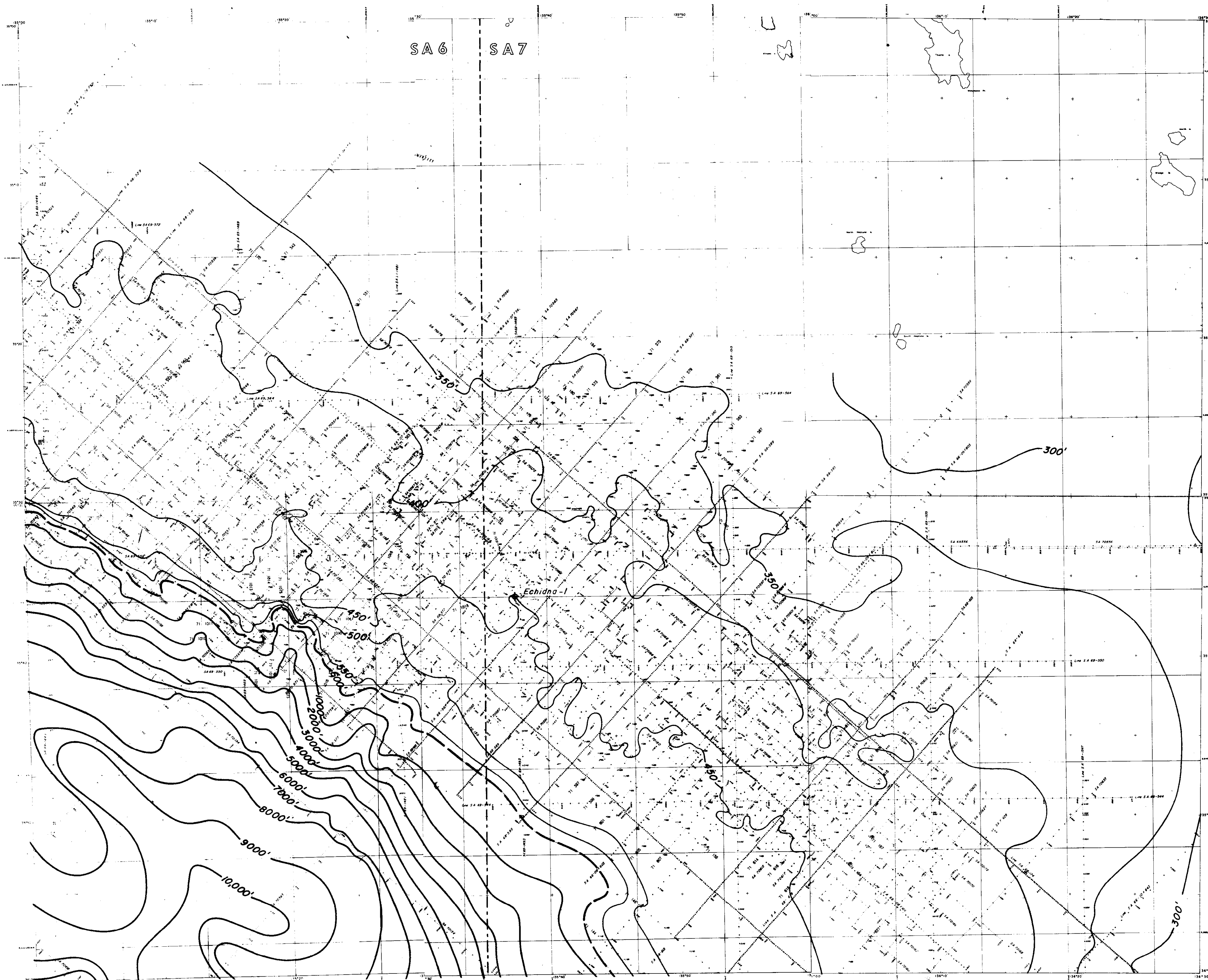
Scale 1:250,000

|                          |                           |           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Author: South Aust. Team | Date: July 1973           | Sheet No. |
| Report: S. D. M. 76      | Encl: 3D Drawing No. 7050 | SI 53-14  |

S.P. March 1972

2234-21





Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

**SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

**BATHYMETRY**

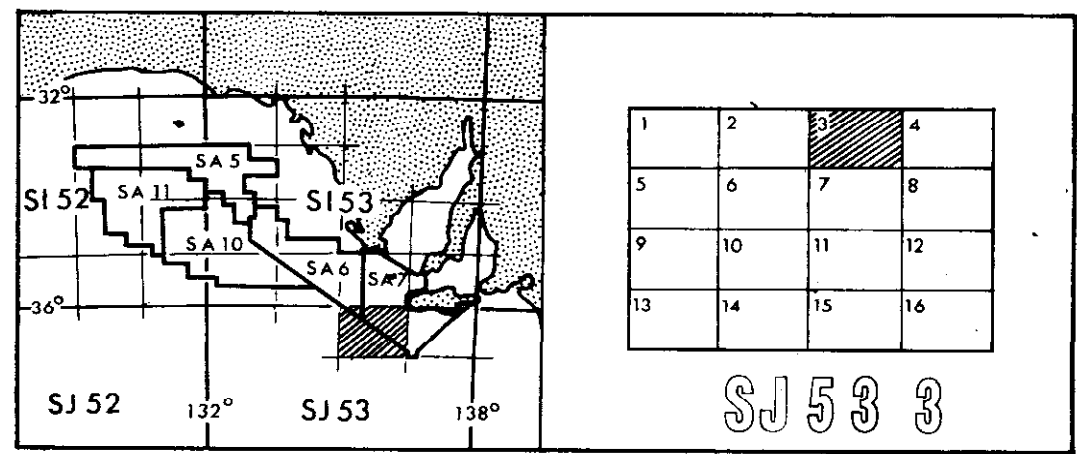
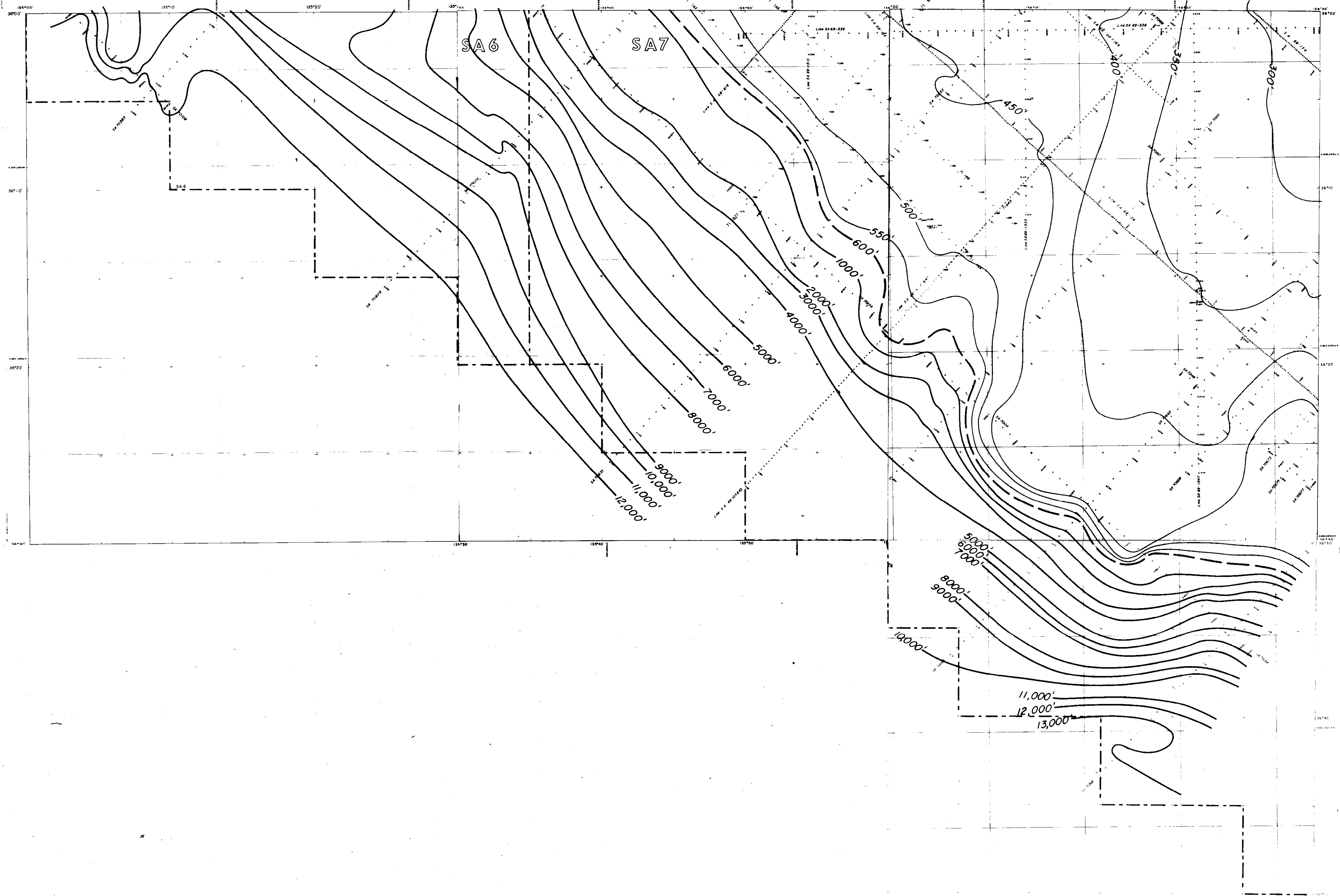
Scale 1:250,000

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|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Author: South Aust. Team | Date: July 1973 | Sheet No.        |
| Report: S.D.M. 76        | Encl: 3E        | Drawing No. 7051 |

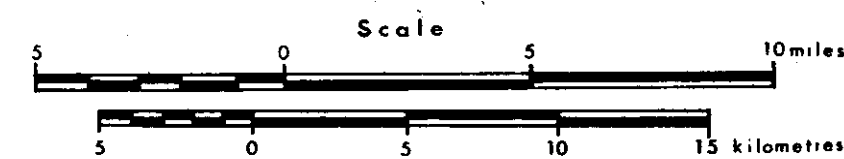
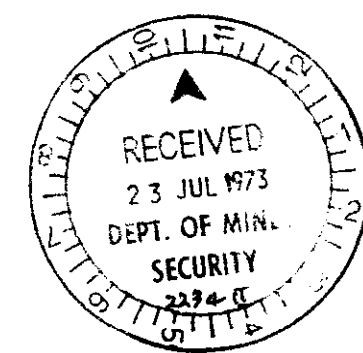
SI 53-15

**2234-22**





Location diagram



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

**SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

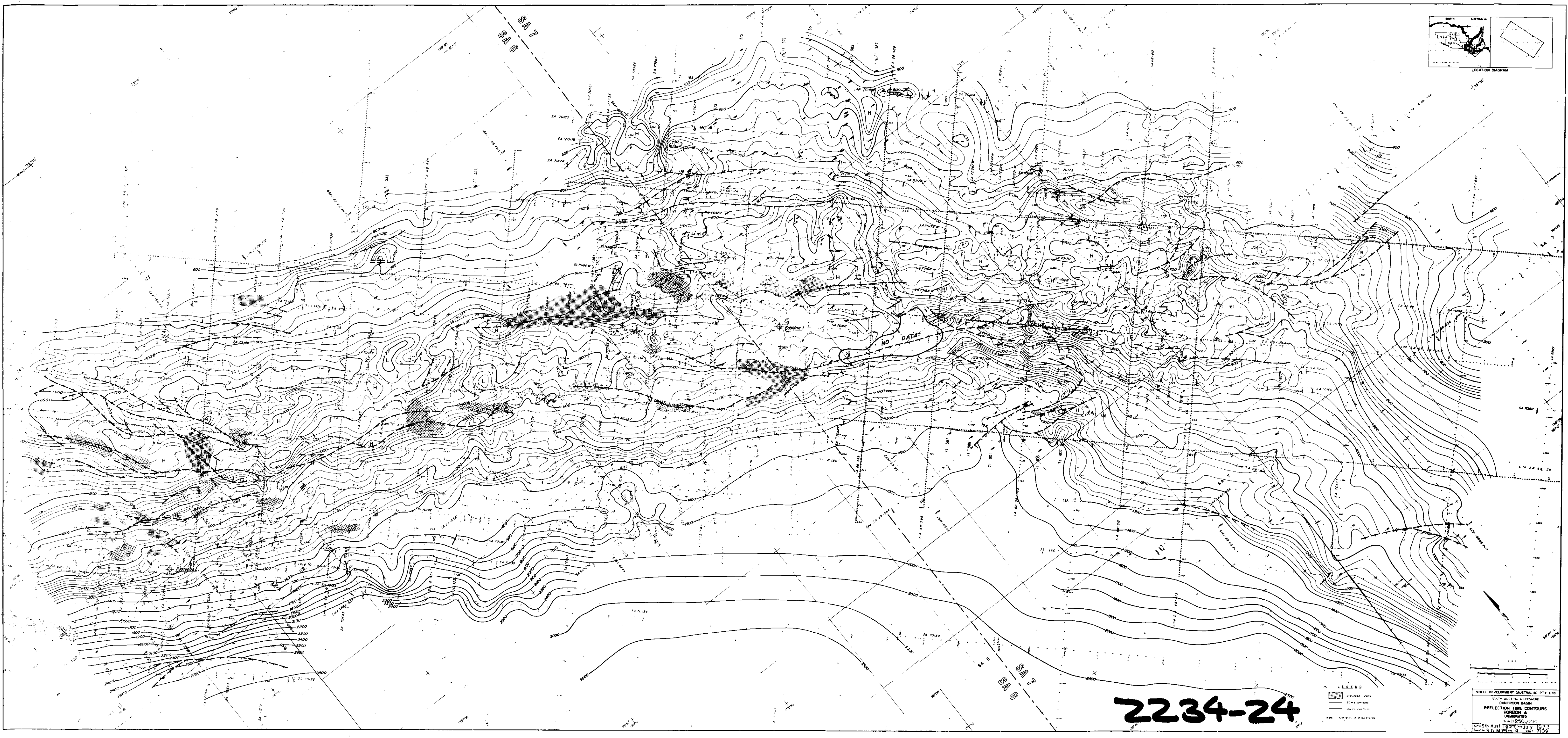
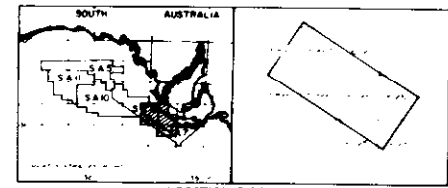
**BATHYMETRY**

Scale 1: 250,000

|                          |                 |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Author: South Aust. Team | Date: July 1973 | Sheet No.        |
| Report: S.D.M. 76        | Encl: 3F        | Drawing No. 7054 |
|                          |                 | SJ 53-3          |

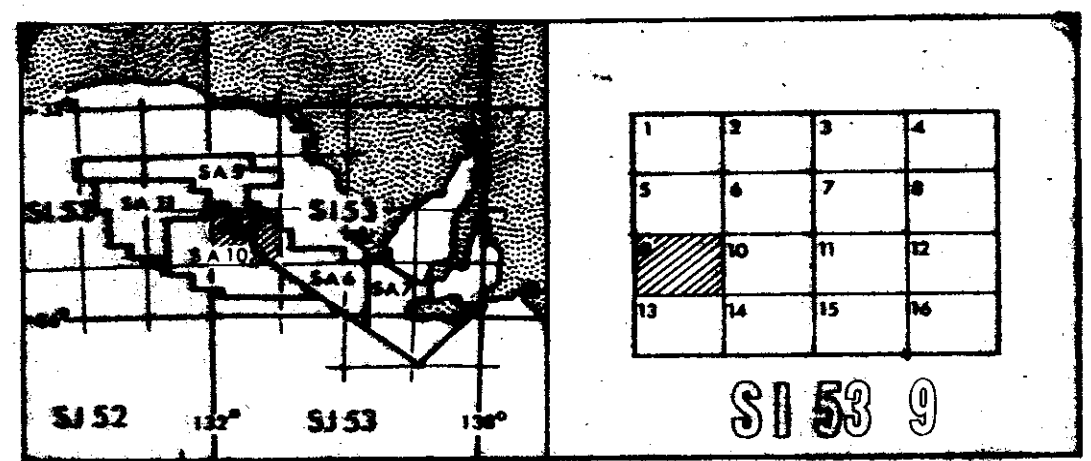
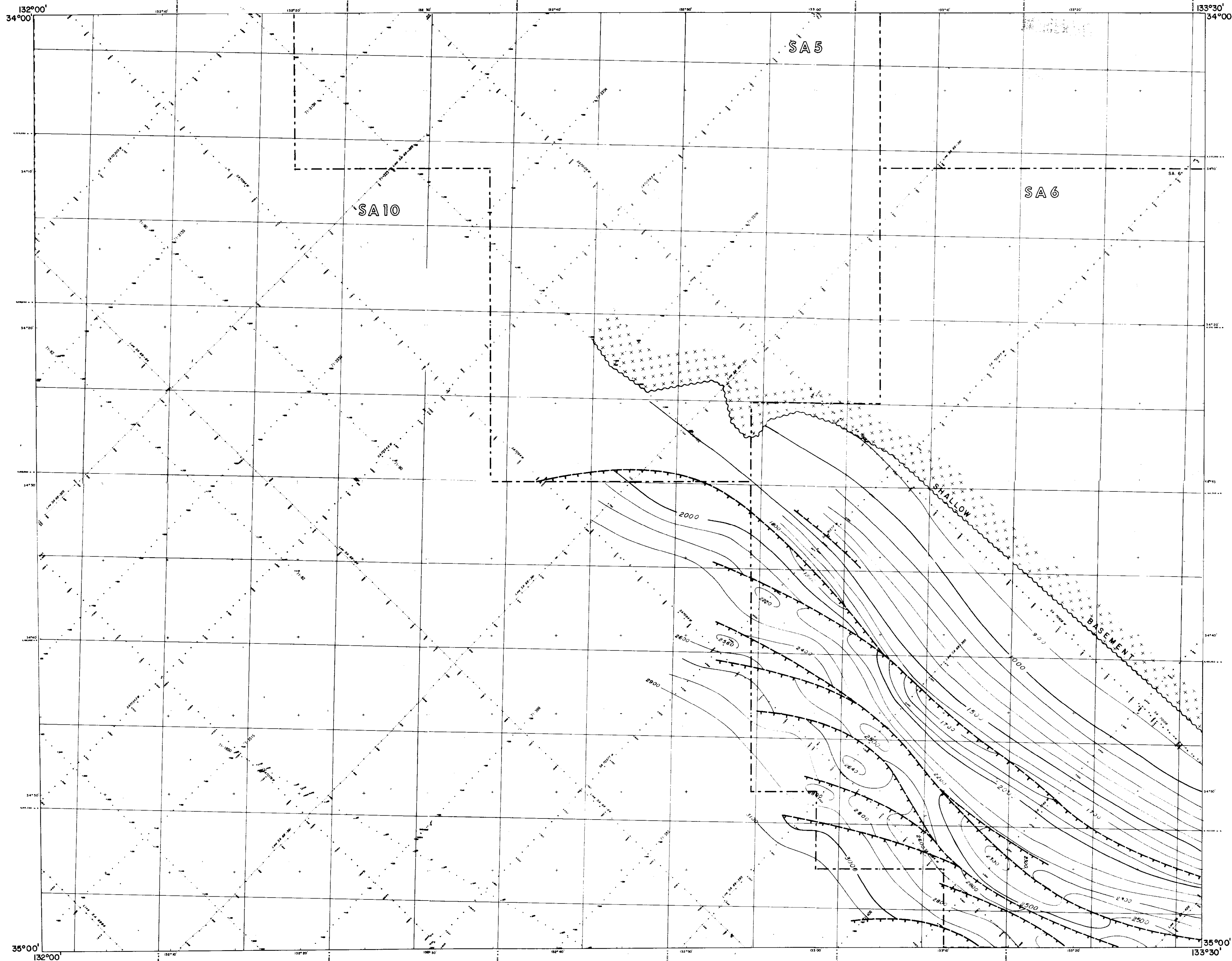
2234-23





LEGEND  
Dashed line  
Solid line  
Contour lines  
Note: Contour interval 100m

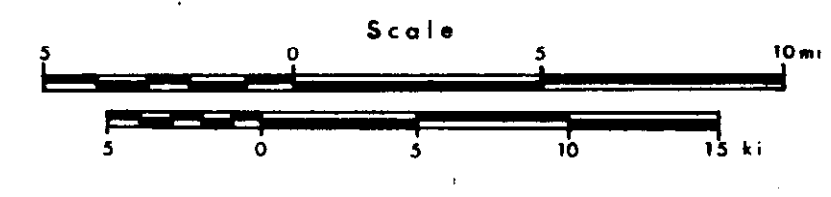
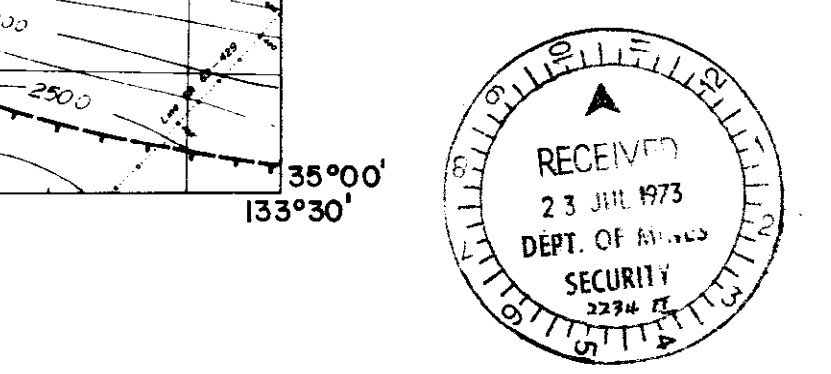
SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD  
DUNTRON BASIN  
REFLECTION TIME CONTOURS  
HORIZON A  
UNIMODIFIED  
Scale 1:250,000  
5th Aust Geom July 1973  
S.D.M. 4 103



**CONTOUR RELIABILITY**  
Based on data quality, grid density, and complexity of tectonic style.

GOOD FAIR POOR CONJECTURAL

Contour interval 100 m secs.



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

**SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE  
S.A. 6 and 7  
**REFLECTION TIME CONTOURS**  
INTRA-CRETACEOUS

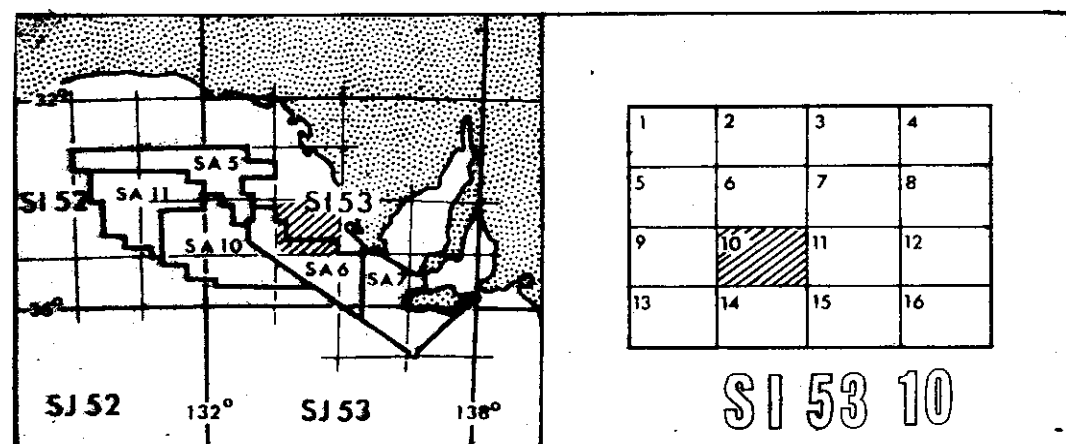
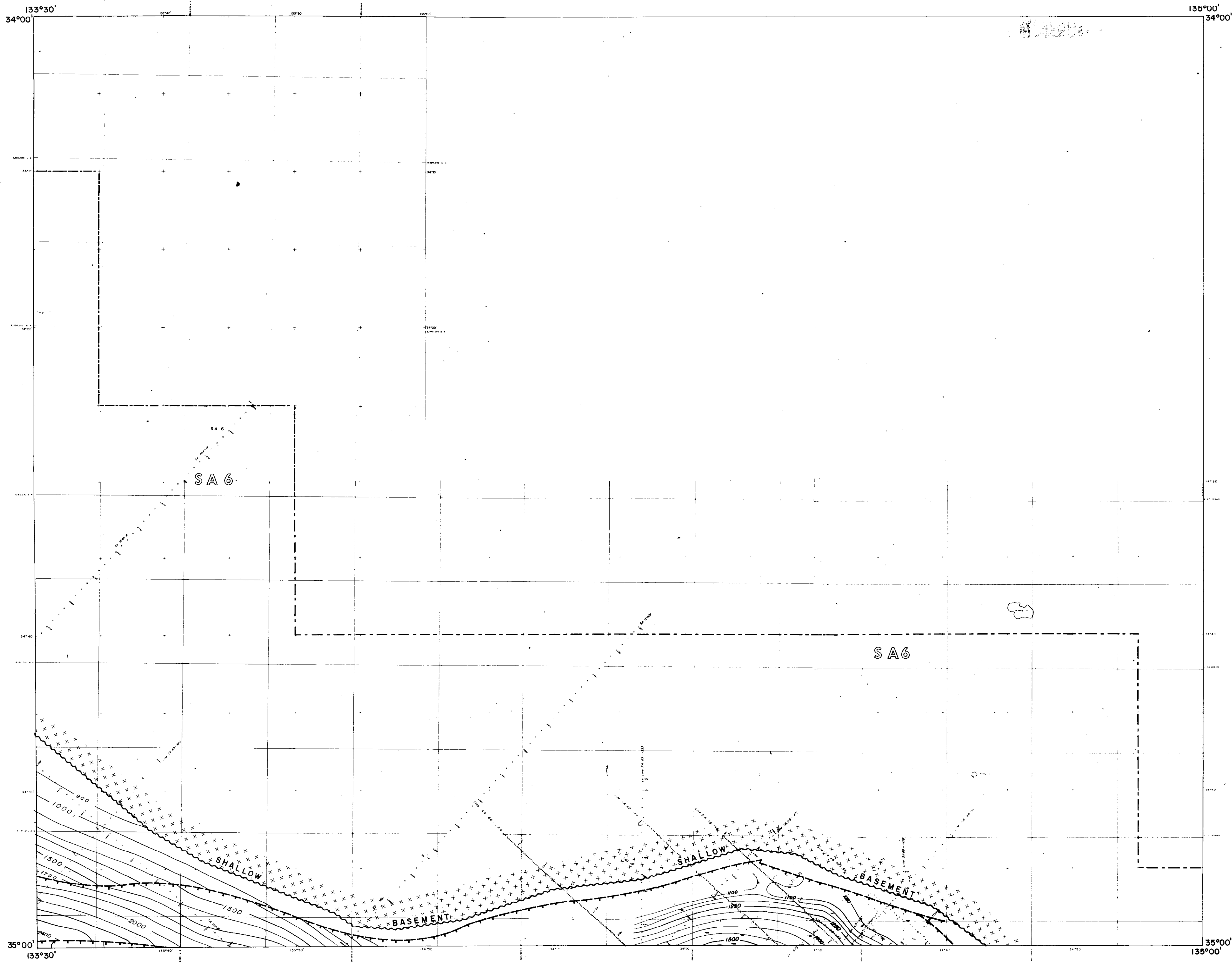
Scale 1:250,000

Author: South Aust. Team Date: June 1973 Sheet No.  
Report: S.D.M. 76 Encl: SA Drawing No. 7110 SI 53-9

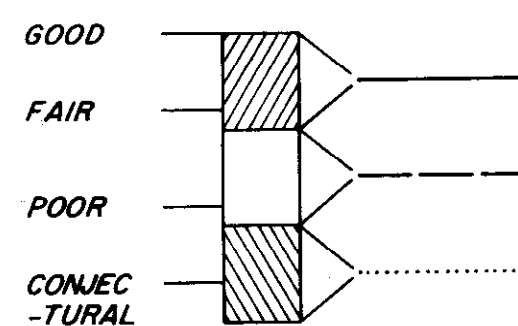
**2234-25**

S.P. March, 1972

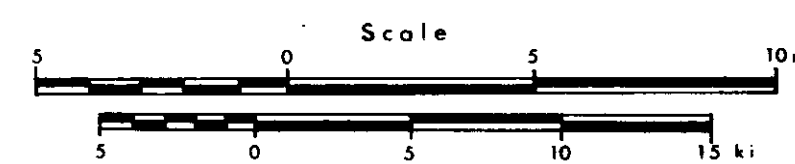
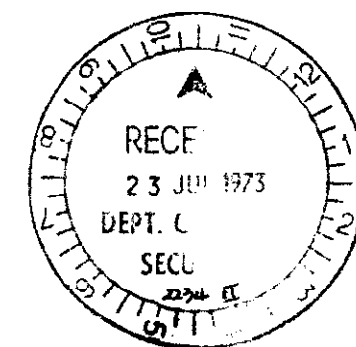




**CONTOUR RELIABILITY**  
Based on data quality, grid density, and complexity of tectonic style.



Contour interval 50 msecs and 100 msecs.



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

S.A. 6 and 7

REFLECTION TIME CONTOURS

INTRA-CRETACEOUS

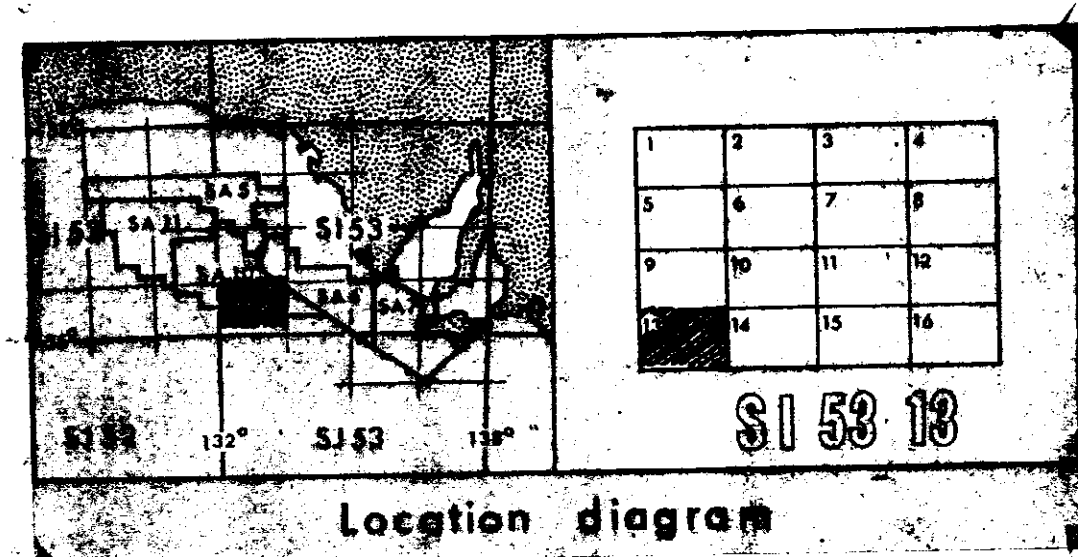
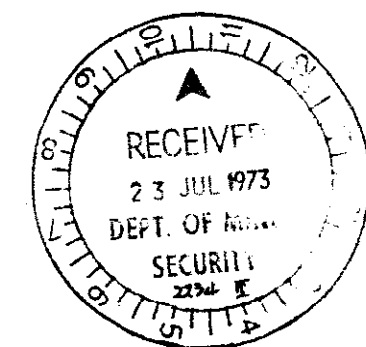
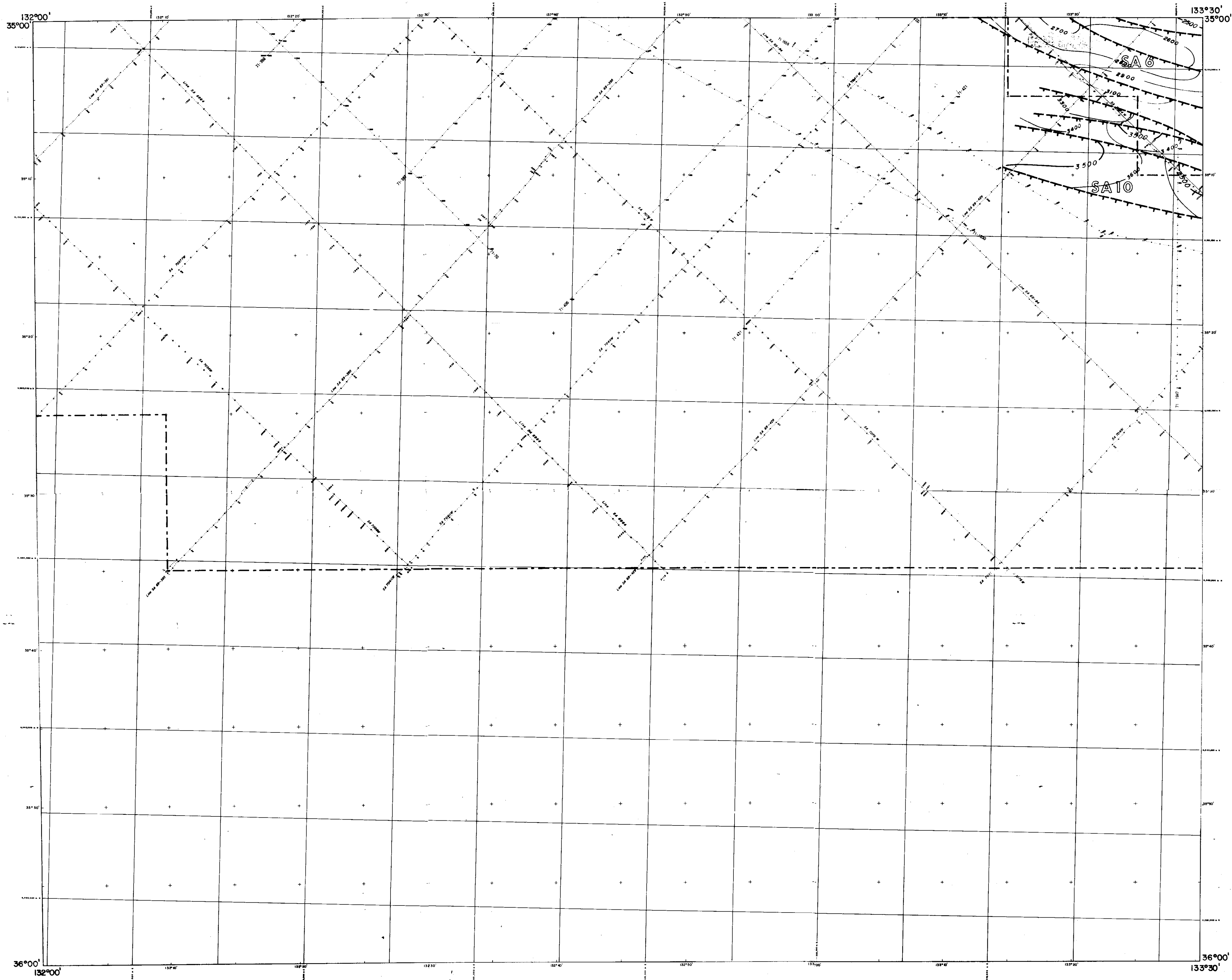
Scale 1:250,000

Author: South Aust. Team Date: July 1973 Sheet No. S153-10  
Report: S.D.M. 76 Encl: 5 B Drawing No. 7111

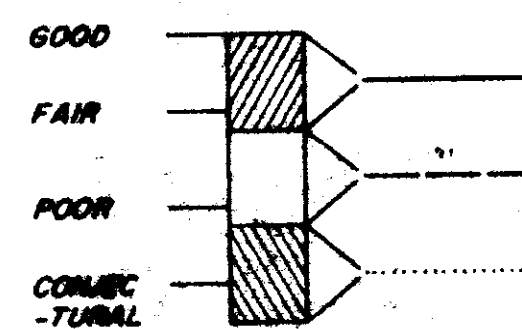
S.P. March, 1972

2234-26

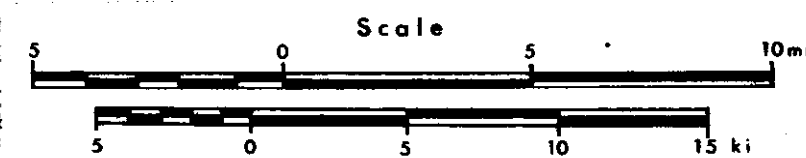




**CONTOUR RELIABILITY**  
Based on data quality, grid density, and complexity of tectonic style.



Contour interval 100 m secs.



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

S.A. 6 and 7

REFLECTION TIME CONTOURS

INTRA-CRETACEOUS

Scale 1:250,000

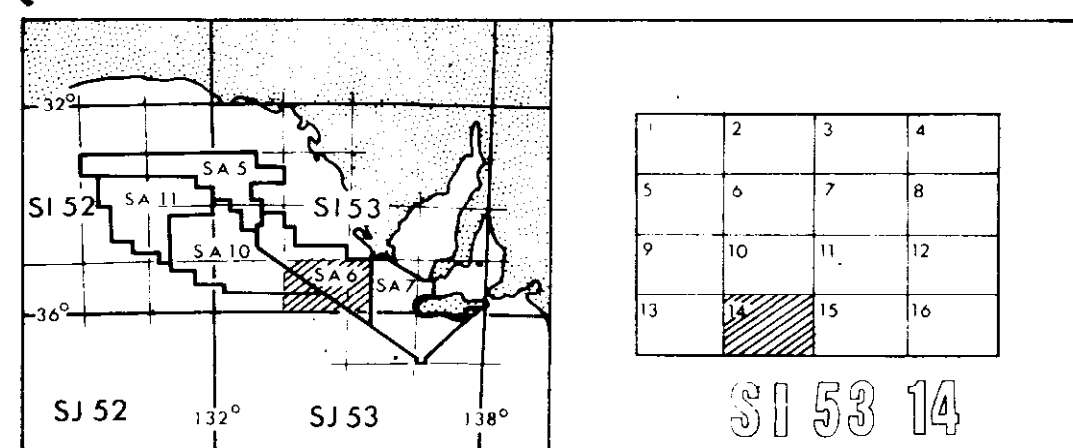
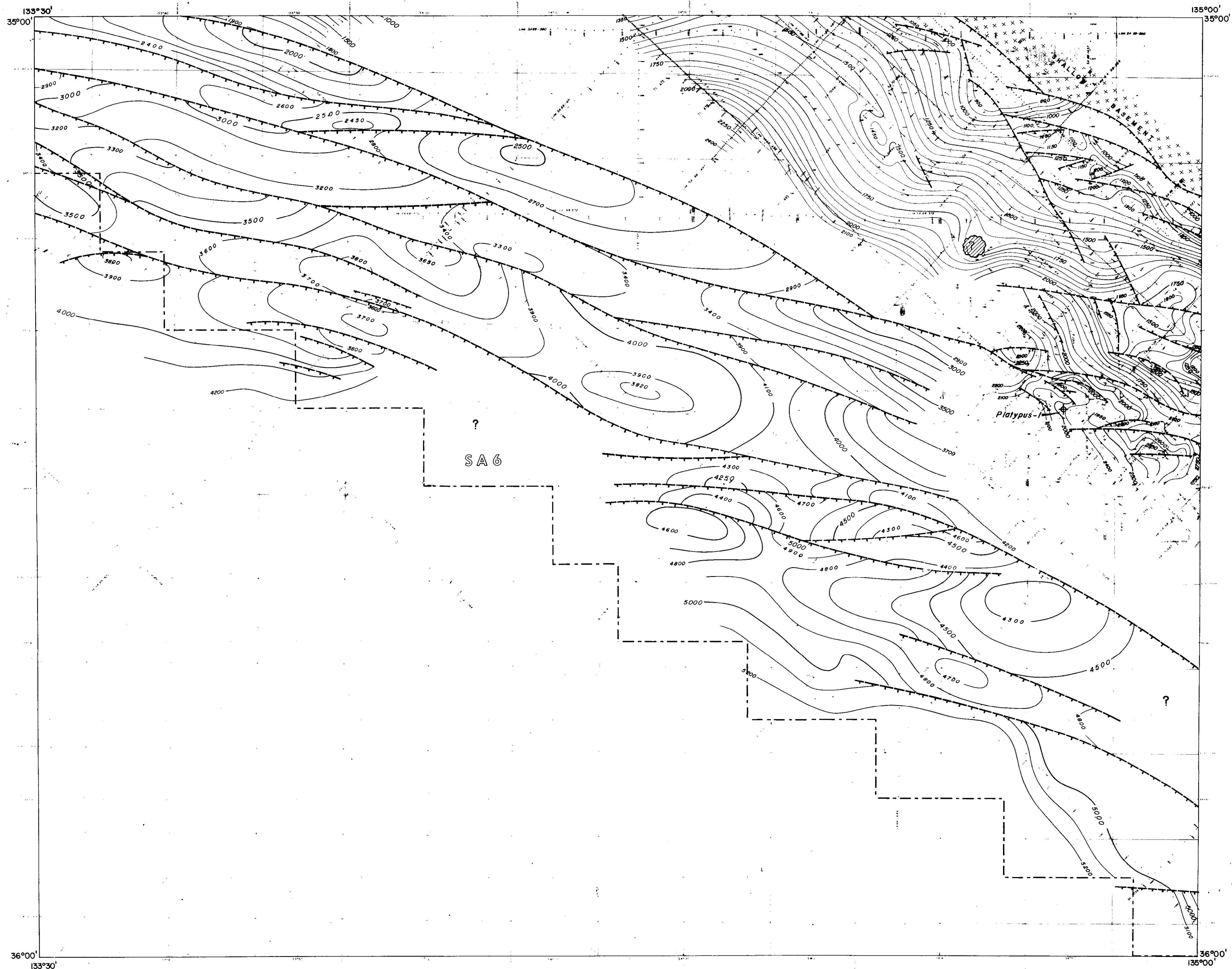
Author: South Aust. Team Date: July 1973 Sheet No.

Report: S.D.M. 76 Encl: 5C Drawing No. 7112 SI 53-13

S.P. March, 1972

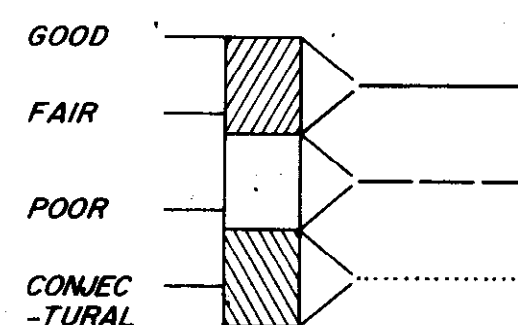
2234-27



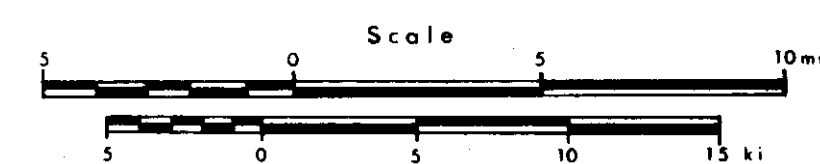
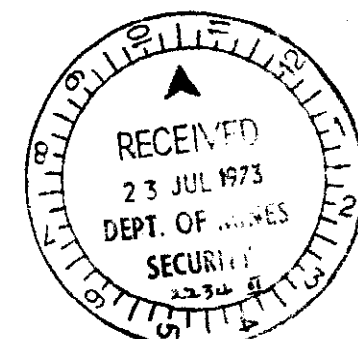


Location diagram

**CONTOUR RELIABILITY**  
Based on data quality, grid density, and complexity of tectonic style.



Contour interval 50 msec and 100 msec.  
Note: Datum change possible across some faults.



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE  
S.A. 6 and 7

REFLECTION TIME CONTOURS  
INTRA-CRETACEOUS

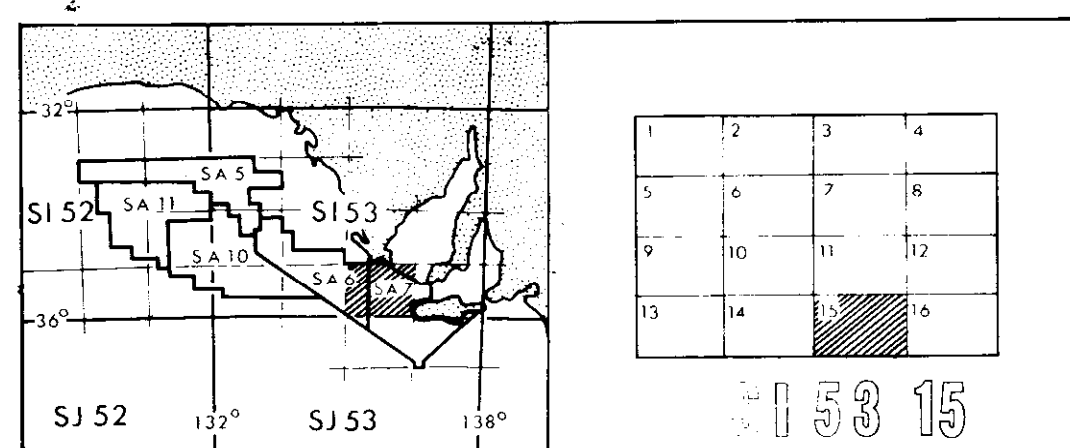
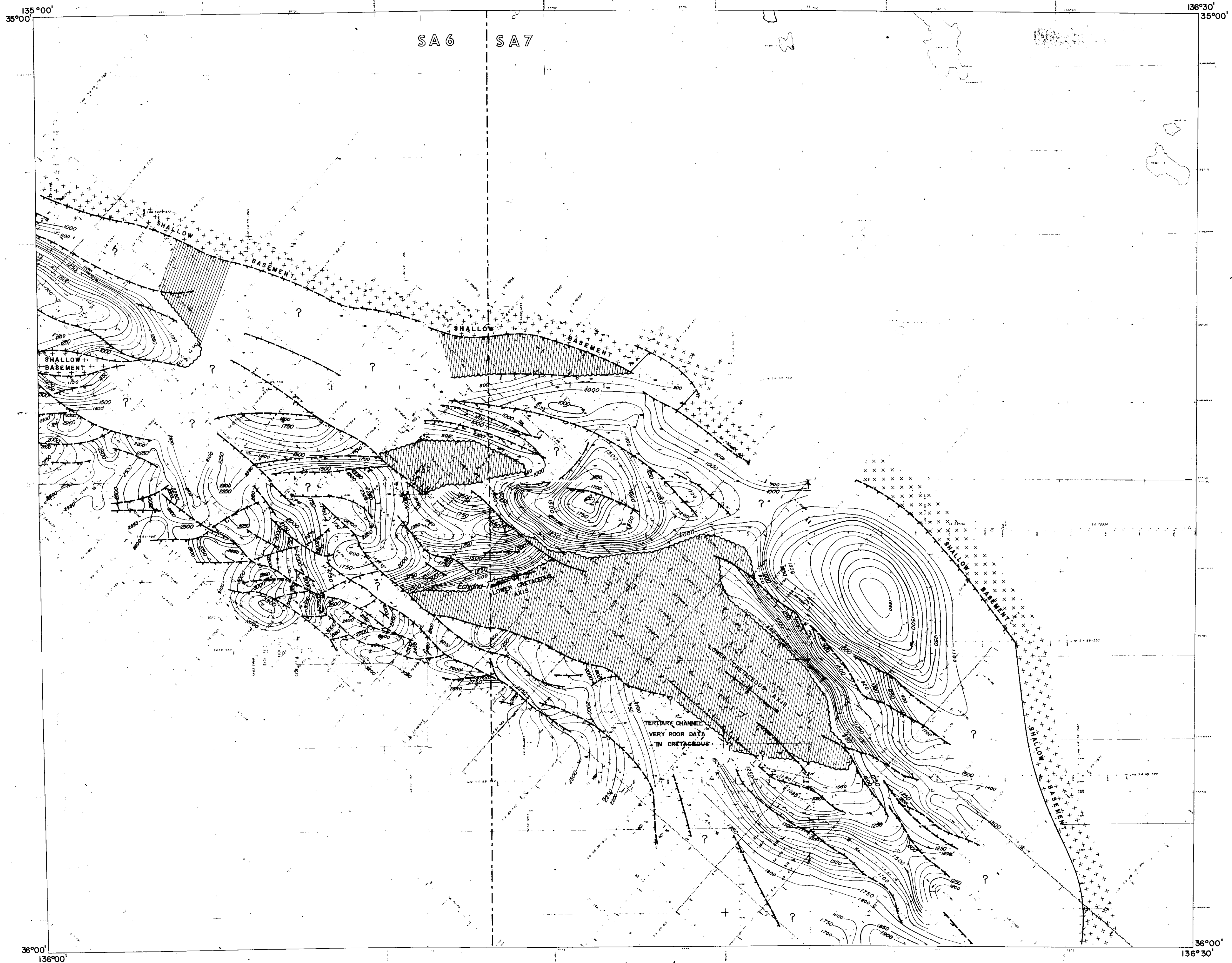
Scale 1:250,000

Author: South Aust. Team Date: July 1973 Sheet No.  
Report: S.D.M. 76 Encl: 5D Drawing No. 7113 SI53-14

S.P. March 1972

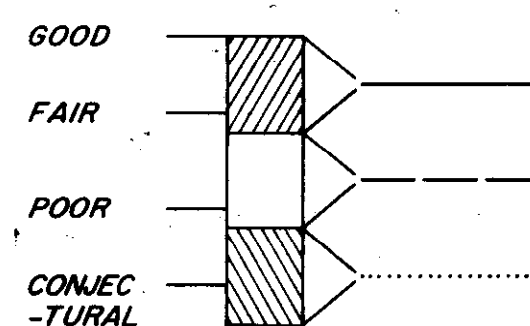
2234-28



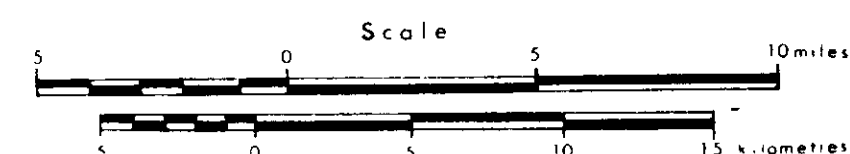
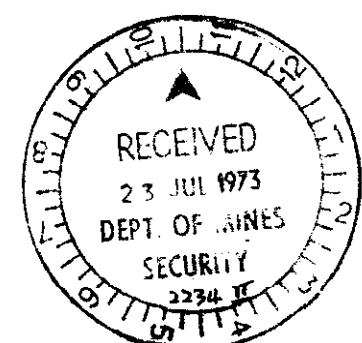


Location diagram

**CONTOUR RELIABILITY**  
Based on data quality, grid density, and complexity of tectonic style.



Contour interval 50 msecs.  
Note: Datum change possible across some faults.



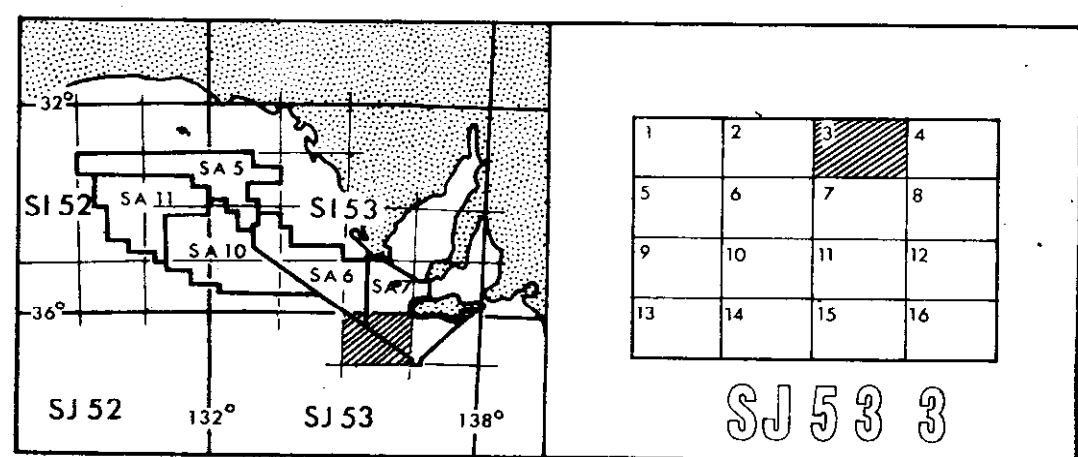
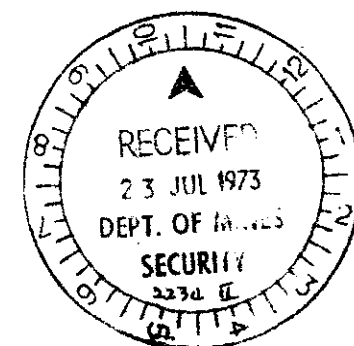
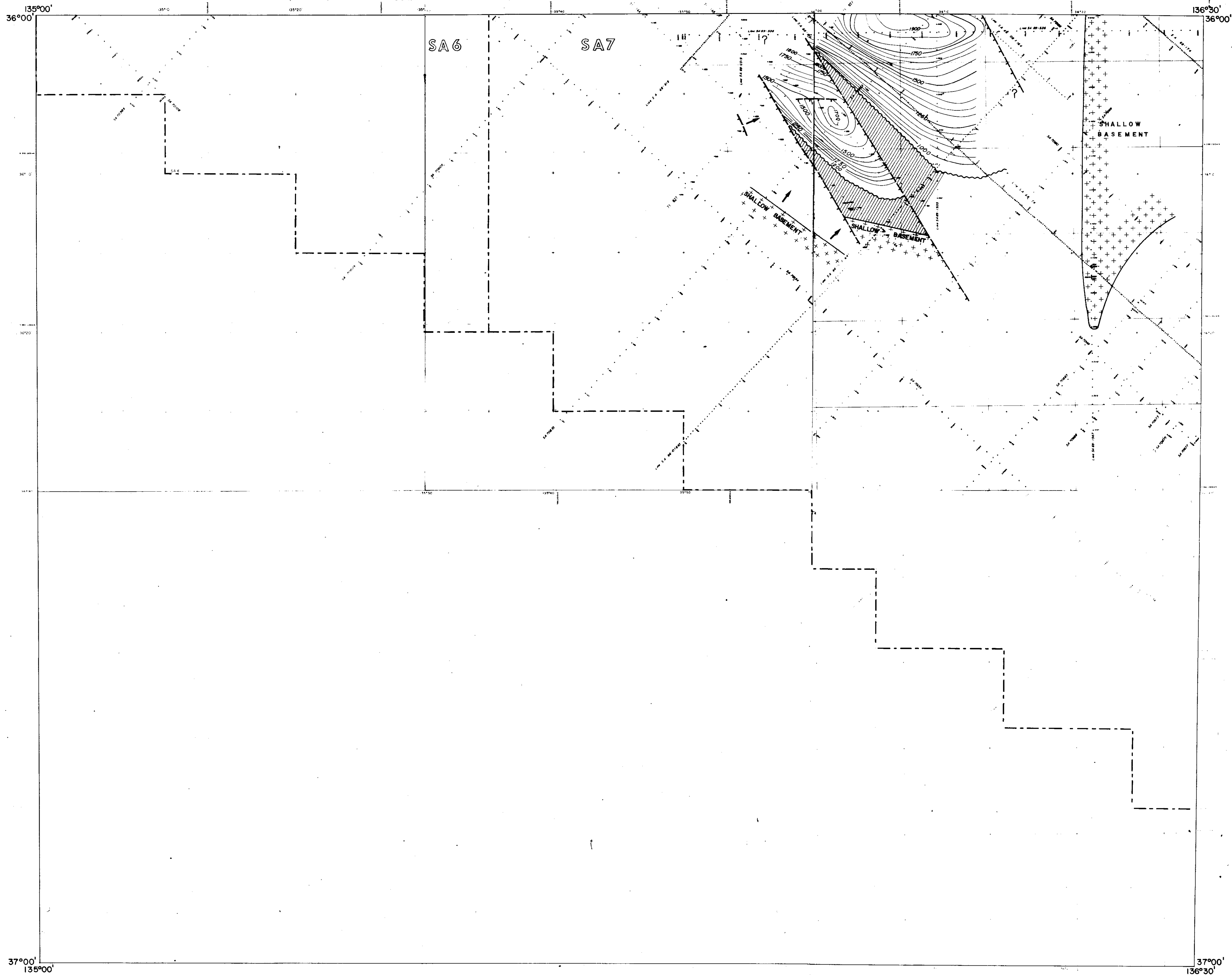
Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

|                                         |                 |                  |        |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------|
| SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD. |                 |                  |        |
| SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE                |                 |                  |        |
| S.A. 6 and 7                            |                 |                  |        |
| REFLECTION TIME CONTOURS                |                 |                  |        |
| INTRA-CRETACEOUS                        |                 |                  |        |
| Scale 1:250,000                         |                 |                  |        |
| Author: South Aust. Team                | Date: July 1973 | Sheet No.        |        |
| Report: S.D.M. 76                       | Encl: 5E        | Drawing No. 7114 | SI5315 |

2234-29

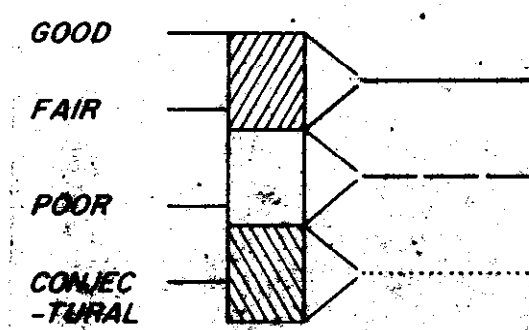
S.P. March, 1972



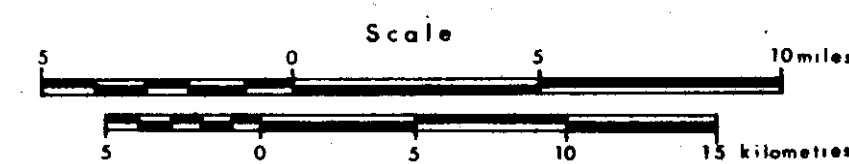


Location diagram

**CONTOUR RELIABILITY**  
Based on data quality, grid density, and complexity of tectonic style.



Contour interval 50 m secs.



Universal Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1858)

**SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFSHORE

**S.A. 6 and 7**

**REFLECTION TIME CONTOURS**

**INTRA-CRETACEOUS**

Scale 1:250,000

|                          |                 |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Author: South Aust. Team | Date: July 1973 | Sheet No.        |
| Report: S.D.M. 76        | Encl: 5F        | Drawing No. 7114 |
| S.P. March 1972          |                 | SJ 53-3          |

**2234-30**