

PESA/SPE Technical Luncheon: Technology Will Drive South Australia's Energy Future



Panel discussion.



Post-luncheon buzz confirmed the success of the event.

The South Australian PESA and SPE branches held a joint technical luncheon in February featuring a panel of speakers to discuss the future of energy in Australia. This was the first get-together for the PESA SA membership in 2010 and was well attended with nearly 150 registrants, including over 25 SPE members. Panel members included: Mike Dodd, Cooper Eromanga Basins Coordinator for Beach Energy, Richard Hillis, CEO of the Deep Exploration Technologies Cooperative Research Centre, Peter Vincent, Manager Reservoir Studies at Santos, and Barry Goldstein, Director of the Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia.

Goldstein kicked off the proceedings with his obligatory joke before reporting on the SA Government's activity in promoting trusted land access and creating an inviting setting for investors. Dodd looked at the future of oil in SA, posing a question to the audience: should we consider the fact that the proved oil reserves base has not been growing with demand as a crisis or an opportunity? He

also highlighted the issues associated with oil discovery in the Cooper/Eromanga, Otway, Officer, Pedirka, Arckaringa and Bight basins, and proposed that solutions will need to come from those seated in the audience, with ideas and technologies needed to discover new oil and to optimise exploitation of new and existing discoveries.

Hillis began his presentation by talking about the current industry drivers shaping SA's energy future, stating increased energy demand is to be met with a lower carbon footprint in the face of continuing (increasing?) price volatility and supply shocks for oil. A portfolio of responses is required as a result including, but not limited, to:

- The increased role of gas in transport fuel and electricity generation: offshore, CSG and shale;
- Coal with carbon dioxide geosequestration;
- Growth in renewable (geothermal and integrated solar/geothermal); and
- A role for nuclear power at some timescale.

Looking at geothermal in particular, Hillis outlined the four main geothermal players in SA and the technical diversity of their projects. He also outlined the need for increased technological know-how to access lower quality resources.

The final presentation by Vincent focused on the future of gas in SA and the Cooper Basin in particular. Vincent drew parallels with North American unconventional gas, where stimulation technology has become increasingly important, and promoted infill drilling and unconventional reservoirs as the key to underpinning Cooper Basin gas production in the future.

The importance of new technologies to facilitate exploitation of oil, gas and unconventional resources was the clear message of the day, and many questions came from the floor, indicating the audience's strong interest in the topic. Post-luncheon buzz confirmed the success of the event and the short panel format, providing encouragement for PESA SA to organise similar future events. ■

South Australian Basin Symposium 2010

The inaugural South Australian Basin Symposium was held at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide, hosted by the PESA SA Branch. The event was organised to showcase the latest developments in conventional oil and gas, unconventional tight gas, shale gas, CBM, UCG and geothermal exploration across the state. The symposium was attended by over 150 petroleum and geothermal

professionals and managers, as well as resource analysts, investors, academia and the general public.

The program began with Elinor Alexander speaking on behalf of PIRSA, setting the scene for the day's presentations. Eleven speakers followed, presenting results and forward plans for their respective companies, included Adelaide Energy, Beach Energy, Cooper Energy,

Geodynamics, Linc Energy, Panax Geothermal, Petrathern, Santos, Strike Energy, Stuart Petroleum and Victoria Petroleum.

At the close of formal proceedings delegates proceeded to make the most of the setting, tasting some of the state's great wines. The success of this event highlights the activity and interest associated with SA basin energy resources. ■