



MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 18 JUN 2003

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3
Feature Article	7

TABLE

1 Private exploration, actual and expected expenditure	13
2 Mineral exploration, (other than for petroleum), expenditure and metres drilled	13
3 Mineral exploration, (other than for petroleum), expenditure by state and type of lease	14
4 Mineral exploration, (other than for petroleum), expenditure by state and territory	15
5 Mineral exploration, (other than for petroleum), expenditure by state and mineral sought	16
6 Petroleum exploration, expenditure by onshore and offshore	19
7 Petroleum exploration, expenditure by state and territory	20

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory notes	21
Glossary	24

NOTE!
Feature Article
"Expenditure on Land Access
for Mineral Exploration, 2001-02"
commencing page 7

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Didier Rivet on Sydney 02 9268 4357.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE (Quarter)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 2003	17 September 2003
September 2003	17 December 2003

.....

FEATURE ARTICLE

This issue includes a Feature Article "Expenditure on Land Access for Mineral Exploration, 2001-02", commencing on page 7.

CHANGES TO NEXT ISSUE

From next quarter's release, expectations data and consequent realisation ratios will be presented in their unadjusted forms. These data will be available for the full time series. Information on average realisation ratios will also be provided. The adjusted expectation series will be retained to assist users in making their assessments of the likely expenditure for the periods covered by the expectations data. See Appendix 1 of the December quarter 2002 issue for further information.

.....

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
GST	Goods and Services Tax
JPDA	Joint Petroleum Development Area
LPG	liquefied petroleum gas
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
WST	wholesale sales tax
ZOC	Zone of Cooperation

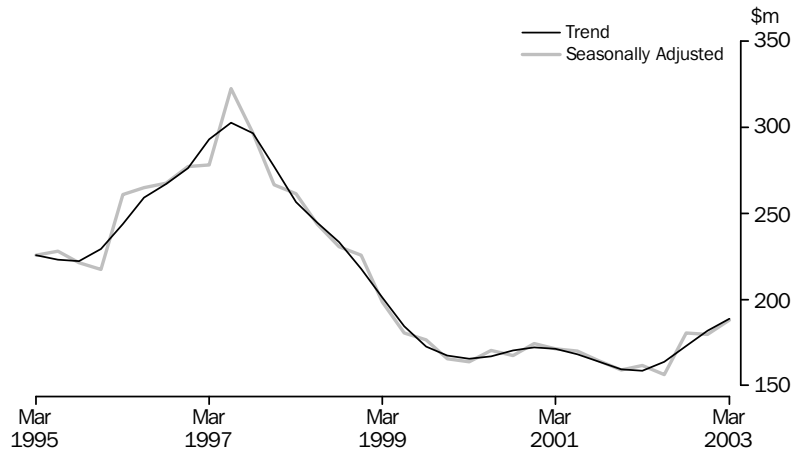
Barbara Dunlop
Acting Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)

TREND ESTIMATES

The trend estimate for total mineral exploration expenditure increased by 3.8% to \$188.7m in the March quarter 2003 following similar increases in the previous four quarters. The trend estimate is now 19.2% higher than in March quarter 2002.



Increased expenditure in Western Australia (up \$6.6m or 6.2%) was responsible for almost all of the Australian increase in the March quarter, with no significant changes recorded in the remaining states or territories.

The trend estimate for metres drilled increased for the fourth consecutive quarter, by 4.8%. The current estimate is 9.5% higher than the March quarter estimate for the previous year but is still 10.4% lower than the estimate for March quarter 2001.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)

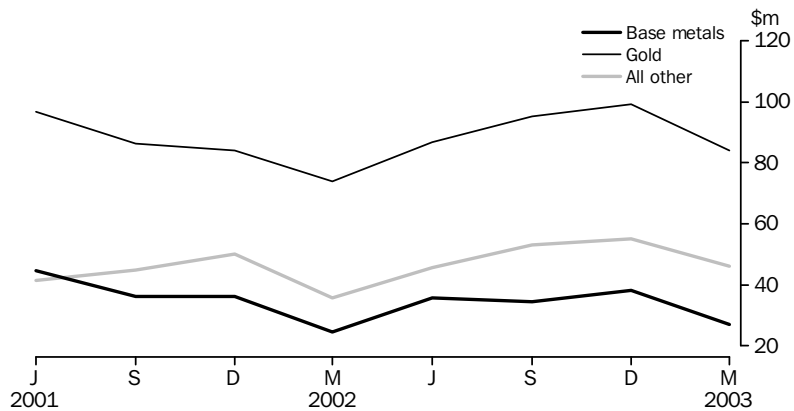
**EXPLORATION
EXPENDITURE**

In original terms, mineral exploration expenditure decreased by \$35.4m (18.4%) in the March quarter 2003 (up 4.6% in seasonally adjusted terms). Expenditure on production leases decreased by \$15.3m (32.8%) and expenditure on all other areas decreased by \$20m (13.7%).

All states contributed to the overall decrease in the March quarter 2003 except for Victoria (up \$3.2m or 36%) and Tasmania (up \$0.2m or 20%). The largest decrease was recorded by Western Australia (down \$15.8m or 14.2%), with exploration for Gold and the various base metals driving the fall. However, in seasonally adjusted terms expenditure in Western Australia was up 10.6%. Northern Territory (down \$9.6m or 59.3%) and Queensland (down \$8.9m or 27.9%) also fell, mainly driven by decreases in exploration for Gold and Coal, respectively.

In terms of minerals sought, all commodities recorded a decrease in the March quarter 2003, except for Iron Ore and Other which recorded small increases. The largest decreases came from Gold (down \$15.1m or 15.2%), Coal (down \$7.1m or 33.6%) and Nickel, Cobalt (down \$5.6m or 31.3%).

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original series



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

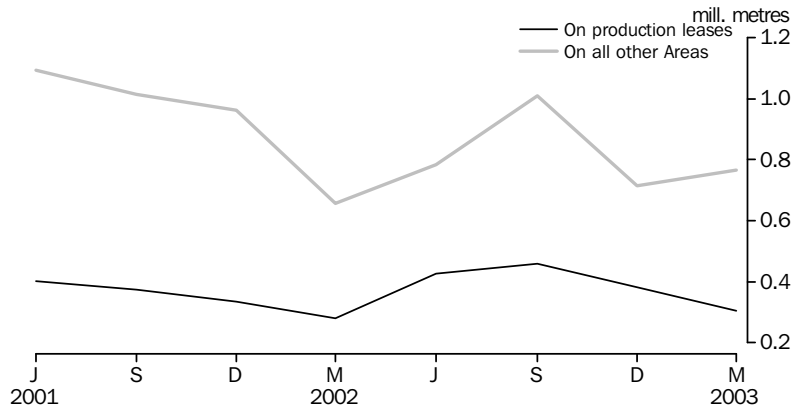
MINERAL EXPLORATION (OTHER THAN FOR PETROLEUM)

METRES DRILLED

In original terms, total metres drilled decreased slightly by 2.3% in the March quarter 2003 (up 24.3% in seasonally adjusted terms).

While metres drilled on Production Leases decreased (by 20.2%), metres drilled on All Other Areas increased (by 7.4%).

METRES DRILLED, Original series



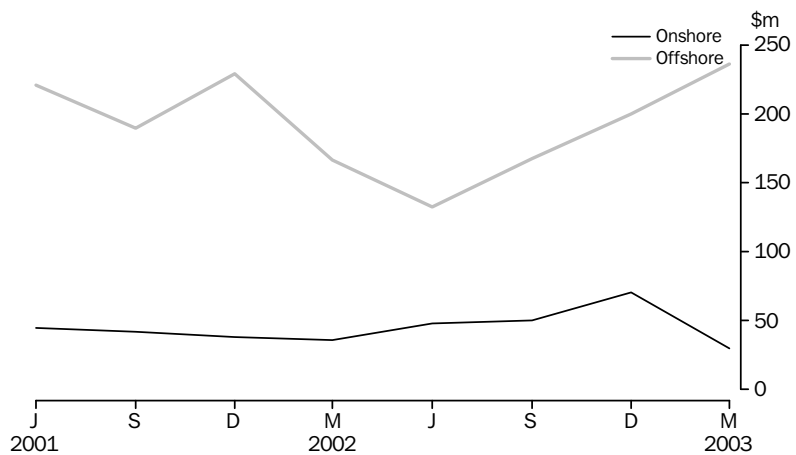
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

OVERVIEW

In the March quarter 2003, expenditure on petroleum exploration fell slightly (by \$3.9m or 1.4%) to \$266.5m, which is 31.3% higher than the March quarter in the previous year. There was a significant decrease in exploration on Production Leases (down \$25.5m or 71.6%) which was offset by an increase in exploration on All Other Areas (up \$21.7m or 9.2%).

While onshore exploration expenditure decreased significantly by \$40.4m (57.5%), offshore exploration increased by \$36.5m (18.2%), with drilling activity being the driver in each case.



REGIONAL DATA

In the March quarter 2003, Queensland and South Australia recorded decreases of \$27.3 (70.7%) and \$14.1m (60.3%), respectively. Victoria (up \$9.7m or 33.4%), Western Australia (up \$21.3m or 12.5%) and Northern Territory (up \$9.6m or 240%) all recorded increases from the previous quarter, mainly as a result of increases in offshore drilling by a small number of companies.

EXPENDITURE ON LAND ACCESS FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION 2001–02

INTRODUCTION

In recent years the level of mineral exploration in Australia has decreased significantly. A number of factors have been suggested for this, including increasing costs associated with access to land for exploration purposes. There are concerns that expenses associated with legislative requirements on native title, environment protection and cultural heritage are adding to the other costs of land access incurred in mineral exploration. For this reason, the issue of the costs of land access has been identified by government and the industry as being an important area for which statistical information is needed.

In 2002, the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources (MCMPR) through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR) commissioned the ABS to undertake a survey to collect land access expenditure for mineral exploration. The initiative was made possible by a DITR Regional Minerals Program (RMP) grant. The RMP sponsors projects that encourage a coordinated approach by industry and government to facilitate regional mining and mineral processing activities.

The survey was strongly supported by the industry through the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (Inc.) (AMEC).

Information gained from the survey, which was conducted in respect of 2001–02, will serve to inform the DITR Mineral Exploration Action Agenda process and could support a broader role for the MCMPR in addressing issues associated with land access for mineral exploration.

It should be noted, however, that the survey did not provide any information on how land access expenditure in 2001–02 compared to those in earlier years, so care should be used in relating the results from the survey to changes in total mineral exploration expenditure over time.

The survey was based on a feasibility study completed in October 2001 which investigated the types of land access expenditure that mineral explorers incurred in accessing land for exploration purposes. It also determined the availability of such information in the exploration industry.

In the 2001–02 land access expenditure survey, about 700 private sector businesses were approached with a mailed questionnaire. These businesses were predominantly sourced from the ABS quarterly Mineral Exploration Survey with supplementation from the MCA, AMEC, Geoscience Australia and the Australian Stock Exchange's new and recent listings. The land access expenditure survey was in effect a complete census of mineral exploration undertaken in Australia during 2001–02.

DEFINITION OF LAND
ACCESS EXPENDITURE

Land access expenditure includes all 2001–02 financial year expenses incurred in obtaining (or attempting to obtain) access to land for mineral exploration purposes. Expenses may include payments made at the commencement of the exploration cycle (such as exploration licence application fees) through to notification, negotiation, and other processes up to the point where access to land is obtained to physically commence the mineral exploration or attempts to access land have been abandoned. Land access expenditure also includes any on-going payments made in 2001–02 for land access (for mineral exploration purposes) for which an agreement had been made prior to 1 July 2001.

RELATIONSHIP WITH
MINERAL EXPLORATION
SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts a quarterly Survey of Mineral Exploration. Two of the items collected in this survey are mineral exploration expenditure undertaken on 'production leases' and on 'all other areas'. Production leases are areas where production is underway (mine sites) or where development is taking place. All other areas include exploration leases, and in this article they are referred to as 'non-production leases'. Land access expenditure was collected from the 2001–02 survey in respect of exploration in the areas under non-production leases. The comparisons below are therefore related to mineral exploration expenditure in non-production leases as reported in the quarterly Survey of Mineral Exploration.

When determining the contribution of exploration businesses by size, exploration expenditure collected in the Mineral Exploration Survey was used as a proxy measure of business size.

Exploration businesses in the survey were classified into three size groupings by their 2001–02 mineral exploration expenditure in non-production leases. These groupings are:

- large businesses with expenditure of \$5m and over
- medium size businesses with expenditure of \$1m to less than \$5m
- small businesses with expenditure of less than \$1m

KEY RESULTS

*Magnitude of land access
expenditure*

Mineral exploration land access expenditure amounted to \$38.1m in 2001–02. This represented 7.5% of the total mineral exploration expenditure on Australia's non-production leases in 2001–02. On a regional basis, land access expenditure as a proportion of mineral exploration expenditure was highest in Queensland at 9.9%, followed by Northern Territory (8.2%), Western Australia (7.8%), South Australia (7.2%), New South Wales and Tasmania (both with 4.3%) and Victoria (2.3%).

Magnitude of land access expenditure continued

LAND ACCESS AND MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE,
Non-production leases—2001–02

	Land access expenditure	Mineral exploration expenditure	Land access expenditure as a proportion of mineral exploration expenditure
	\$'000	\$'000	%
New South Wales	1 716	40 088	4.3
Victoria	602	26 328	2.3
Queensland	6 515	65 708	9.9
South Australia	2 157	29 943	7.2
Western Australia	23 771	305 233	7.8
Tasmania	120	2 770	4.3
Northern Territory	3 191	39 040	8.2
Australia	38 072	509 110	7.5

Western Australia contributed the largest share of Australia's land access expenditure at 62.4% (\$23.8m), followed by Queensland with 17.1% (\$6.5m). The shares contributed by the remaining states/territory were significantly lower: Northern Territory (8.4%), South Australia (5.7%), New South Wales (4.5%), Victoria (1.6%) and Tasmania (0.3%).

Types of land access expenditure

Mineral exploration businesses spent a third (\$12.6m) of their land access expenditure on native title requirements. Most of this (\$8.0m or 63.0%) was incurred on notification, consultation and negotiation expenses.

The second largest land access expense item was government charges (\$11.2m or 29.3%). Government charges include application fees, rents and rates incurred by explorers on mineral tenements where access to explore was being negotiated during the 2001–02 financial year.

Cultural heritage expenditure amounted to \$5.0m, which was 13.2% of total land access expenditure.

Mineral exploration businesses spent 26.6% of their land access expenditure on tasks outsourced to third parties (other businesses) during 2001–02. The largest expenditure on outsourced tasks was for native title requirements (\$4.0m), cultural heritage expenses (\$2.5m) and tenement management expenses (\$1.7m).

These three items were also significant in terms of expenditure undertaken by the exploration businesses themselves (internal to the business) with expenditure on native title requirements at \$8.6m, cultural heritage expenses (\$2.5m) and tenement management expenses (\$2.4m). However, these internal expenses were each less than expenses for government charges at \$10.8m.

LAND ACCESS EXPENDITURE, By nature of expenditure—2001–02

	<i>Internal to the business</i>		<i>Outsourced to a third party</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%
Native title requirements						
Notification, consultation and negotiation expenses	4 836	12.7	3 124	8.2	7 960	20.9
Compensation expenses	2 456	6.5	..	..	2 456	6.5
Community relations expenses	np	np	np	np	2 177	5.7
Other expenses	np	np	np	np	39	0.1
<i>Total</i>	8 647	22.7	3 985	10.5	12 632	33.2
Other land-holder consultation and negotiation expenses	1 310	3.4	326	0.9	1 636	4.3
Government charges for tenements where exploration access not yet obtained	10 816	28.4	357	0.9	11 173	29.3
Cultural heritage expenses	2 543	6.7	2 496	6.6	5 039	13.2
Tenement management expenses for tenements where exploration access not yet obtained	2 383	6.3	1 722	4.5	4 105	10.8
Environment and rehabilitation bonds expenses	1 460	3.8	861	2.3	2 321	6.1
Other land access expenses	782	2.1	384	1.0	1 166	3.1
Total	27 941	73.4	10 131	26.6	38 072	100.0

.. not applicable

np not available for publication but included in totals
where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

*Land access expenditure
by business size*

Large businesses contributed most (39.3%) of the land access expenditure, followed by small businesses (37.0%) and medium size businesses (23.8%).

In analysing the types of land access expenditure by size of business, the results indicate that the larger the business was, the more capable it appeared to be in pursuing land access without assistance from other businesses. Outsourcing accounted for 23.6% of land access expenditure for large businesses, 26.3% for medium size businesses and 30.1% for small businesses.

The data also suggest that larger businesses were more likely to access land subject to native title. For large businesses, expenditure on native title requirements was 47.3% of their total land access expenditure, while for medium size businesses the figure was 29.8% and for small businesses it was 20.3%. Similarly, cultural heritage expenses amounted to 19.7% of total land access expenditure for large businesses, 7.8% for medium size businesses and 9.8% for small businesses.

Government charges were a large proportion of total land access expenditure for small and medium size businesses (38.5% and 37.7% respectively) while for large businesses they represented 15.7% of total land access expenditure.

LAND ACCESS EXPENDITURE, By size of business and nature of expenditure—2001–02

	SMALL BUSINESSES(a)			MEDIUM SIZE BUSINESSES(b)		
	<i>Internal to the business</i>	<i>Outsourced to a third party</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Internal to the business</i>	<i>Outsourced to a third party</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Native title requirements						
Notification, consultation and negotiation expenses	1 145	1 114	2 259	845	970	1 815
Compensation expenses	481	. .	481	664	. .	664
Community relations expenses	np	np	98	np	np	np
Other expenses	np	np	25	np	np	np
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 740</i>	<i>1 123</i>	<i>2 863</i>	<i>1 698</i>	<i>1 002</i>	<i>2 700</i>
Other land-holder consultation and negotiation expenses	517	238	755	np	np	454
Government charges for tenements where exploration access not yet obtained	5 104	310	5 414	np	np	3 412
Cultural heritage expenses	464	920	1 384	251	454	705
Tenement management expenses for tenements where exploration access not yet obtained	1 324	1 137	2 461	469	482	951
Environment and rehabilitation bonds expenses	315	293	608	290	198	488
Other land access expenses	384	210	594	183	156	339
Total	9 848	4 231	14 079	6 669	2 380	9 049

	LARGE BUSINESSES(c)			ALL BUSINESSES		
	<i>Internal to the business</i>	<i>Outsourced to a third party</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Internal to the business</i>	<i>Outsourced to a third party</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Native title requirements						
Notification, consultation and negotiation expenses	2 846	1 040	3 886	4 836	3 124	7 960
Compensation expenses	1 311	. .	1 311	2 456	. .	2 456
Community relations expenses	np	np	np	np	np	2 177
Other expenses	np	np	np	np	np	39
<i>Total</i>	<i>5 209</i>	<i>1 860</i>	<i>7 069</i>	<i>8 647</i>	<i>3 985</i>	<i>12 632</i>
Other land-holder consultation and negotiation expenses	np	np	427	1 310	326	1 636
Government charges for tenements where exploration access not yet obtained	np	np	2 347	10 816	357	11 173
Cultural heritage expenses	1 828	1 122	2 950	2 543	2 496	5 039
Tenement management expenses for tenements where exploration access not yet obtained	590	103	693	2 383	1 722	4 105
Environment and rehabilitation bonds expenses	855	370	1 225	1 460	861	2 321
Other land access expenses	215	18	233	782	384	1 166
Total	11 424	3 520	14 944	27 941	10 131	38 072

. . not applicable

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Small businesses are those with exploration expenditure less than \$1m.

(b) Medium size businesses are those with exploration expenditure of \$1m but less than \$5m.

(c) Large businesses are those with exploration expenditure of \$5m or more.

Further information

In addition to the above statistical information, the ABS has derived statistics on land access expenditure by types of minerals sought for 2001-02. This information can be made available on request. For this information and any other information about expenditure on land access for mineral exploration 2001–02, contact Ashley Heddle on Canberra 02 6252 7808.

1

PRIVATE EXPLORATION, Actual and Expected Expenditure(a)

	MINERAL EXPLORATION			PETROLEUM ONSHORE			PETROLEUM OFFSHORE		
	Actual	Expected(b)	Actual as a proportion of expected	Actual	Expected(b)	Actual as a proportion of expected	Actual	Expected(b)	Actual as a proportion of expected
	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%	\$m	\$m	%
1999-2000	676.3	689.8	98.1	110.1	155.3	70.9	590.6	637.0	92.7
2000-01	683.3	667.3	102.4	176.9	174.4	101.4	847.8	934.5	90.7
2001-02	640.8	719.7	89.0	164.5	184.4	89.2	718.1	924.2	77.7
2001-02									
December half	338.1	423.0	79.9	80.3	86.8	92.5	418.8	551.9	75.9
June half	302.7	296.7	102.0	84.2	97.6	86.3	299.3	372.3	80.4
2002-03									
December half	375.7	414.7	90.6	120.7	88.7	136.1	367.7	292.5	125.7
June half	nya	331.7	nya	nya	111.7	nya	nya	400.5	nya

nya not yet available

(b) Refer to Explanatory Notes paragraphs 13-15.

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales taxes.

2

MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum) - Expenditure and metres drilled(a)

	EXPENDITURE					METRES DRILLED				
	On production leases	On all other areas(b)	Total	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	On production leases	On all other areas(b)	Total	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1999-2000	158.4	517.9	676.3	..	..	1 662	4 342	6 004	..	..
2000-01	157.0	526.2	683.3	..	..	1 611	4 211	5 822	..	..
2001-02	131.4	509.1	640.6	..	..	1 416	3 418	4 834	..	..
2000-01										
June	32.9	149.8	182.8	170.0	168.1	402	1 094	1 496	1 263	1 380
2001-02										
September	37.5	129.9	167.4	164.4	163.7	375	1 014	1 389	1 310	1 312
December	33.5	137.1	170.7	159.0	159.2	334	963	1 297	1 321	1 246
March	24.3	110.0	134.2	161.5	158.3	280	656	937	1 213	1 206
June	36.1	132.1	168.3	156.4	163.8	427	784	1 211	1 019	1 169
2002-03										
September	42.0	140.9	182.9	180.4	173.0	459	1 009	1 468	1 386	1 199
December	46.7	146.1	192.8	179.7	181.8	381	713	1 095	1 115	1 261
March	31.4	126.1	157.4	187.9	188.7	304	766	1 070	1 386	1 321

.. not applicable

(b) Refer to glossary for definitions.

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales taxes.

MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum) - Expenditure by type of lease(a)

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australia
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ON PRODUCTION LEASES								
1999-2000	9.9	6.3	18.2	np	114.7	np	8.7	158.4
2000-01	7.5	9.1	17.0	2.1	112.3	2.6	6.5	157.0
2001-02	8.2	7.6	27.0	2.1	75.8	1.3	9.4	131.4
2000-01								
June	1.7	1.9	3.3	np	23.5	np	1.2	32.9
2001-02								
September	1.2	1.9	6.4	np	22.9	np	4.2	37.5
December	3.4	1.6	7.3	np	17.7	np	2.6	33.5
March	1.7	np	4.6	0.2	14.6	0.3	np	24.3
June	1.9	np	8.7	np	20.6	0.3	np	36.1
2002-03								
September	2.9	np	9.3	1.1	26.1	np	np	42.0
December	2.2	np	9.1	0.5	31.7	np	1.6	46.7
March	1.4	np	7.0	np	18.4	np	np	31.4
ON ALL OTHER AREAS (b)								
1999-2000	46.2	27.5	64.3	np	300.4	np	48.8	517.9
2000-01	49.6	23.7	66.0	27.5	311.8	6.6	41.1	526.2
2001-02	40.1	26.3	65.7	29.9	305.2	2.8	39.0	509.1
2000-01								
June	13.3	6.5	19.5	np	87.4	np	9.7	149.8
2001-02								
September	11.4	5.3	15.2	np	80.4	np	10.8	129.9
December	9.3	5.5	17.7	np	85.8	np	10.6	137.1
March	8.8	np	12.7	7.1	67.9	0.7	np	110.0
June	10.6	np	20.0	np	71.1	0.6	np	132.1
2002-03								
September	12.4	np	13.9	8.6	84.0	np	np	140.9
December	11.5	np	22.7	9.4	79.5	np	14.6	146.1
March	11.9	np	16.0	np	76.9	np	np	126.1
TOTAL								
1999-2000	56.1	33.8	82.6	22.6	415.0	8.8	57.5	676.3
2000-01	57.2	32.7	83.1	29.6	424.1	9.2	47.5	683.3
2001-02	48.3	33.9	92.7	32.1	381.1	4.0	48.4	640.6
2000-01								
June	15.1	8.4	22.8	12.4	110.9	2.3	10.9	182.8
2001-02								
September	12.5	7.2	21.6	6.9	103.3	0.9	15.0	167.4
December	12.6	7.1	25.0	8.0	103.5	1.2	13.3	170.7
March	10.5	8.4	17.3	7.3	82.5	1.0	7.2	134.2
June	12.6	11.2	28.7	9.9	91.8	0.9	13.0	168.3
2002-03								
September	15.4	10.7	23.2	9.7	110.1	1.1	12.8	182.9
December	13.7	8.9	31.9	10.0	111.1	1.0	16.2	192.8
March	13.2	12.1	23.0	6.0	95.3	1.2	6.6	157.4

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales taxes.

(b) Refer to Glossary for definition.

MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum) - Expenditure by state and territory(a)

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australia
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL								
1999-2000	56.1	33.8	82.6	22.6	415.0	8.8	57.5	676.3
2000-01	57.2	32.7	83.1	29.6	424.1	9.2	47.5	683.3
2001-02	48.3	33.9	92.7	32.1	381.1	4.0	48.4	640.6
2000-01								
June	15.1	8.4	22.8	12.4	110.9	2.3	10.9	182.8
2001-02								
September	12.5	7.2	21.6	6.9	103.3	0.9	15.0	167.4
December	12.6	7.1	25.0	8.0	103.5	1.2	13.3	170.7
March	10.5	8.4	17.3	7.3	82.5	1.0	7.2	134.2
June	12.6	11.2	28.7	9.9	91.8	0.9	13.0	168.3
2002-03								
September	15.4	10.7	23.2	9.7	110.1	1.1	12.8	182.9
December	13.7	8.9	31.9	10.0	111.1	1.0	16.2	192.8
March	13.2	12.1	23.0	6.0	95.3	1.2	6.6	157.4
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2000-01								
June	14.2	8.3	20.4	9.7	104.5	2.4	10.5	170.0
2001-02								
September	13.2	7.3	21.7	7.5	101.5	1.0	12.2	164.4
December	11.8	7.2	23.5	7.6	95.8	1.2	11.9	159.0
March	11.5	8.3	21.1	9.8	98.2	0.9	11.7	161.5
June	11.8	11.0	25.8	7.7	86.6	1.0	12.5	156.4
2002-03								
September	16.1	10.8	23.2	10.6	108.1	1.2	10.4	180.4
December	12.9	9.1	30.0	9.5	102.7	1.0	14.5	179.7
March	14.6	11.9	27.9	8.1	113.6	1.1	10.7	187.9
TREND ESTIMATES								
2000-01								
June	13.8	7.8	21.0	7.3	104.8	2.0	11.4	168.1
2001-02								
September	13.0	7.4	21.6	7.6	101.3	1.4	11.4	163.7
December	11.9	7.6	22.4	7.6	96.7	1.0	12.0	159.2
March	11.8	8.8	22.8	7.9	94.2	0.9	11.9	158.3
June	12.8	10.0	23.9	8.8	95.4	1.0	11.9	163.8
2002-03								
September	13.9	10.4	25.7	9.4	100.4	1.1	12.1	173.0
December	14.3	10.6	27.6	9.4	106.6	1.1	12.2	181.8
March	14.3	10.8	28.5	8.9	113.2	1.0	12.0	188.7

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales taxes.

MINERAL EXPLORATION, (Other than for petroleum) - Expenditure by mineral sought(a)

	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Selected base metals total(b)	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Uranium	Coal	Diamonds	Other(c)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
NEW SOUTH WALES												
1999-2000	2.8	8.5	8.8	20.1	14.3	—	4.7	—	14.7	0.1	2.2	56.1
2000-01	3.3	8.0	6.9	18.2	16.3	—	8.3	—	11.3	0.3	2.8	57.2
2001-02	2.5	2.7	np	np	15.7	—	np	—	np	0.1	0.9	48.3
2000-01												
June	0.9	2.6	0.6	4.1	4.6	—	2.4	—	3.3	—	0.6	15.1
2001-02												
September	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.8	4.6	—	2.8	—	3.0	—	0.3	12.5
December	0.6	0.5	np	np	3.4	—	3.1	—	4.4	—	np	12.6
March	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.8	3.9	—	1.6	—	np	—	np	10.5
June	0.8	0.8	0.1	1.7	3.9	—	np	—	3.6	—	np	12.6
2002-03												
September	0.7	1.3	np	np	4.1	—	3.3	—	4.1	np	0.8	15.4
December	np	1.8	np	2.8	4.5	—	1.9	—	4.0	np	0.6	13.7
March	np	2.2	np	3.0	5.3	—	1.7	—	2.9	np	0.3	13.2
VICTORIA												
1999-2000	1.0	1.4	0.3	2.7	25.9	—	4.8	—	0.2	0.1	1.2	33.8
2000-01	0.9	0.9	—	1.8	25.6	—	4.9	—	—	0.1	0.3	32.7
2001-02	0.3	0.3	—	0.7	24.2	np	7.8	—	—	np	1.2	33.9
2000-01												
June	np	np	—	np	5.7	—	1.3	—	—	np	0.2	8.4
2001-02												
September	np	np	—	np	4.7	—	1.7	—	—	—	np	7.2
December	np	np	—	np	4.4	—	2.4	—	—	—	np	7.1
March	—	—	—	np	6.6	—	1.6	—	—	—	np	8.4
June	np	np	—	np	8.5	np	2.0	—	—	np	np	11.2
2002-03												
September	np	np	—	np	8.8	—	np	—	—	np	np	10.7
December	np	np	—	0.2	7.7	—	0.4	—	—	—	np	8.9
March	np	np	—	np	10.4	—	0.4	—	np	np	np	12.1
QUEENSLAND												
1999-2000	14.8	14.3	0.7	29.8	28.2	—	np	np	20.1	np	np	82.6
2000-01	16.2	18.6	1.3	36.1	21.0	—	np	np	23.4	np	np	83.1
2001-02	18.5	np	0.5	np	21.7	—	np	np	34.1	np	np	92.7
2000-01												
June	6.2	np	np	10.6	4.6	—	np	—	6.9	—	np	22.8
2001-02												
September	4.6	3.0	0.2	7.8	4.3	—	np	—	8.7	—	np	21.6
December	4.6	np	np	8.6	6.4	—	np	—	9.2	—	np	25.0
March	2.9	2.2	—	5.1	4.8	—	np	—	6.7	—	np	17.3
June	6.4	5.8	np	np	6.3	—	np	np	9.5	np	0.2	28.7
2002-03												
September	5.2	np	np	7.6	4.8	—	np	np	9.5	np	0.5	23.2
December	4.9	1.8	np	np	6.5	—	np	np	16.9	np	np	31.9
March	4.1	1.0	0.1	5.1	5.8	—	np	np	10.3	np	0.7	23.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales tax.

(b) Selected base metal total is copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel, cobalt.

(c) From September quarter 2000 this category includes tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram and construction materials.

continued

	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Selected base metals total(b)	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Uranium	Coal	Diamonds	Other(c)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
SOUTH AUSTRALIA												
1999-2000	3.4	4.2	0.2	7.9	10.9	0.1	np	0.4	np	0.2	0.8	22.6
2000-01	6.3	6.7	0.1	13.2	6.8	0.1	np	1.4	np	0.3	0.7	29.6
2001-02	13.6	np	1.5	np	np	np	np	1.6	np	np	np	32.1
2000-01												
June	2.8	np	np	4.7	np	—	np	np	np	—	0.1	12.4
2001-02												
September	2.5	np	np	5.2	np	—	np	0.3	np	—	—	6.9
December	np	1.3	np	4.5	1.5	—	np	np	np	—	0.1	8.0
March	np	0.9	np	4.9	0.8	—	np	np	np	np	—	7.3
June	4.7	0.6	np	np	1.4	np	np	0.6	np	0.4	np	9.9
2002-03												
September	4.1	np	np	5.2	2.1	np	np	np	np	np	np	9.7
December	3.1	1.2	np	np	2.8	np	np	np	np	np	np	10.0
March	2.3	0.6	0.6	3.6	1.2	—	np	np	np	np	0.1	6.0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA												
1999-2000	4.9	22.7	60.7	88.3	253.1	29.5	9.1	np	np	24.8	9.0	415.0
2000-01	2.7	19.3	60.5	82.5	271.9	23.2	7.4	np	np	26.3	11.1	424.1
2001-02	4.4	10.5	47.1	62.1	238.1	25.2	np	np	np	np	17.5	381.1
2000-01												
June	1.0	3.9	15.4	20.3	73.7	5.3	2.0	—	np	5.6	np	110.9
2001-02												
September	1.4	3.4	13.3	18.1	64.8	4.4	2.0	—	np	np	5.9	103.3
December	1.4	2.6	14.7	18.8	60.4	6.9	np	—	np	9.8	6.0	103.5
March	0.6	2.1	8.5	11.2	53.5	7.4	2.4	—	—	4.3	3.7	82.5
June	1.1	2.3	10.6	14.0	59.4	6.5	2.3	np	np	7.1	1.9	91.8
2002-03												
September	0.6	2.9	12.5	16.0	70.1	np	1.9	np	np	7.3	4.2	110.1
December	1.1	4.4	13.8	19.2	69.8	np	1.8	np	np	3.9	2.6	111.1
March	1.0	2.2	10.1	13.3	58.2	np	1.8	np	np	2.8	3.0	95.3
TASMANIA												
1999-2000	—	np	np	3.9	2.4	—	—	—	—	—	2.5	8.8
2000-01	—	np	np	5.7	1.9	np	—	—	—	—	np	9.2
2001-02	np	np	np	np	np	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	4.0
2000-01												
June	—	np	np	np	np	—	—	—	—	—	0.6	2.3
2001-02												
September	—	np	np	np	np	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.9
December	—	np	np	0.5	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.2
March	np	np	np	0.5	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.0
June	np	np	np	0.5	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.9
2002-03												
September	—	np	np	np	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	np	1.1
December	np	np	np	0.7	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	np	1.0
March	np	np	np	0.9	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.2

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales tax.

(b) Selected base metal total is copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel, cobalt.

(c) From September quarter 2000 this category includes tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram and construction materials.

continued

	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Selected base metals total(b)	Gold	Iron ore	Mineral sands	Uranium	Coal	Diamonds	Other(c)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
NORTHERN TERRITORY												
1999-2000	1.4	2.1	0.7	4.1	40.0	—	—	8.2	—	4.3	0.8	57.5
2000-01	3.3	3.8	0.7	7.9	26.7	—	—	6.7	—	4.7	1.6	47.5
2001-02	np	2.6	np	7.3	25.4	—	0.8	7.1	—	5.2	2.7	48.4
2000-01												
June	np	np	np	2.6	5.5	—	—	np	—	np	0.6	10.9
2001-02												
September	np	1.2	np	2.5	7.1	—	—	2.7	—	np	np	15.0
December	1.0	np	np	2.2	7.4	—	np	np	—	0.8	0.7	13.3
March	0.3	np	0.4	np	4.0	—	np	np	—	np	0.2	7.2
June	0.1	0.3	np	np	6.8	—	np	np	—	1.9	np	13.0
2002-03												
September	0.5	1.0	0.9	2.3	5.0	—	np	np	—	2.3	np	12.8
December	np	np	2.2	3.2	7.7	—	np	np	—	2.1	1.2	16.2
March	—	0.2	0.9	1.2	3.0	np	np	np	—	1.1	0.6	6.6
AUSTRALIA												
1999-2000	28.4	55.4	73.0	156.8	374.8	29.7	21.5	11.7	35.4	29.8	16.7	676.3
2000-01	32.8	59.8	72.8	165.4	370.2	23.4	23.6	np	41.3	31.8	np	683.3
2001-02	41.6	37.6	53.7	132.9	331.3	25.2	33.2	8.8	50.3	35.4	23.4	640.6
2000-01												
June	12.3	15.5	16.9	44.7	96.8	5.4	6.8	np	15.1	6.7	np	182.8
2001-02												
September	10.0	11.4	14.9	36.3	86.4	4.4	7.8	3.0	11.9	9.4	8.2	167.4
December	10.3	9.3	16.7	36.3	84.2	6.9	8.7	2.1	14.4	10.7	7.3	170.7
March	8.1	6.7	9.8	24.6	73.9	7.4	7.0	0.9	10.2	5.7	4.6	134.2
June	13.1	10.3	12.3	35.6	86.8	6.5	9.7	2.7	13.9	9.6	3.4	168.3
2002-03												
September	11.1	8.8	14.7	34.5	95.2	9.0	8.3	2.5	16.0	10.4	7.0	182.9
December	10.1	10.3	17.9	38.3	99.3	14.1	5.7	2.0	21.1	6.9	5.4	192.8
March	8.1	6.7	12.3	27.1	84.2	16.0	5.3	0.7	14.0	4.6	5.5	157.4

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales tax.

(b) Selected base metal total is copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel, cobalt.

(c) From September quarter 2000 this category includes tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram and construction materials.

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE (a)

Period	ONSHORE			OFFSHORE			TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
	Drilling	Other	Total	Drilling	Other	Total	On production leases	On all other areas (b)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1999-2000	53.8	56.3	110.1	372.6	217.9	590.6	117.1	583.5	700.7
2000-01	98.4	78.5	176.9	525.2	322.7	847.8	212.5	812.2	1 024.7
2001-02	98.2	66.3	164.5	456.8	261.2	718.1	111.0	771.5	882.6
2000-01									
June	26.1	18.7	44.8	151.8	69.3	221.2	50.5	215.4	266.0
2001-02									
September	28.8	13.3	42.1	137.3	52.3	189.6	40.5	191.2	231.7
December	23.2	15.0	38.3	152.3	76.9	229.2	23.1	244.3	267.4
March	16.7	19.4	36.1	94.6	72.3	166.9	21.8	181.2	203.0
June	29.6	18.6	48.1	72.6	59.8	132.4	25.7	154.8	180.5
2002-03									
September	31.6	18.8	50.4	122.0	45.6	167.6	35.5	182.5	218.0
December	41.6	28.7	70.3	129.2	70.9	200.1	35.6	234.8	270.4
March	9.1	20.8	29.9	185.1	51.5	236.6	10.1	256.5	266.5

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales taxes.

(b) Refer to Glossary for definition.

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, By state and territory(a)

	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory(b)</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1999–2000	np	63.2	50.6	np	444.1	np	111.0	700.7
2000–01	np	74.4	84.8	66.8	687.5	np	82.5	1 024.7
2001–02	np	85.1	73.4	35.8	479.8	np	169.9	882.6
2000–01								
June	1.1	44.0	16.1	25.0	156.0	np	np	266.0
2001–02								
September	2.7	np	19.4	12.1	136.3	np	np	231.7
December	np	np	14.0	np	141.7	np	78.6	267.4
March	np	21.7	13.3	np	119.7	—	40.5	203.0
June	0.8	13.8	26.7	9.7	82.0	np	np	180.5
2002–03								
September	np	54.0	27.2	11.9	85.3	1.2	np	218.0
December	4.5	29.0	38.6	23.4	170.2	0.6	4.0	270.4
March	1.8	38.7	11.3	9.3	191.5	0.4	13.6	266.5

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains wholesale sales taxes.
 (b) Also contains some additional areas. See paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The private sector exploration statistics appearing in this publication have been collected and compiled from the Mineral Exploration and Petroleum Exploration quarterly censuses conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This publication contains actual and expected exploration expenditure.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 The Mineral Exploration and Petroleum Exploration censuses cover private enterprises known to be engaged in exploration in Australia, in Australian waters including the area formerly known as ZOCC, and in the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) formerly known as ZOCA, regardless of the main activity of the explorer.

3 The Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) is an area in the Timor Sea, about 500 km north west of Darwin. The JPDA consists of the area previously referred to as Area A of the Zone of Cooperation (ZOC). A treaty was signed with Indonesia in 1989 to enable exploration for and development of petroleum resources in this area. Following East Timor's separation from Indonesia, arrangements have continued on a transitional basis between Australia and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on behalf of East Timor. On 20 May 2002, the newly independent East Timor and Australia accepted arrangements as proposed in the new Timor Sea Treaty (based on an 'Exchange of Notes' between the two countries). A new Treaty, which was ratified in March 2003, provides the necessary framework arrangements for companies to exploit resources in the JPDA.

4 The areas formerly known as Areas B and C of the Zone of Cooperation will no longer exist under this arrangement. Since 20 May 2002, ZOCC is simply a part of Australia's waters, and ZOCC a part of East Timor's.

5 Exploration in the JPDA is included in estimates for the Northern Territory. Further, as a reflection of the joint Australia/East Timor jurisdiction in the JPDA, a proportion of exploration expenditure in the JPDA is excluded from the estimates.

6 The tenements in the Ashmore and Cartier Islands are administered by the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy. Therefore all petroleum exploration expenditure in this area has been included with the Northern Territory data.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

7 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular series.

8 These irregular influences that are volatile or unsystematic can make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation. This means that quarter-to-quarter movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

9 Seasonal factors are reviewed and revised annually to take account of each additional year's original data. The nature of the seasonal adjustment process is such that the magnitude of some revisions resulting from the re-analysis may be quite significant, especially for data for more recent quarters.

TREND ESTIMATES

10 The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates reduces the impact of the irregular component of the seasonally adjusted series.

11 The trend estimates are derived by applying a 7-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. The 7-term Henderson average is symmetric but, as the end of a time series is approached, asymmetric forms of the average are applied. Unlike the weights of the standard 7-term Henderson moving average, the weights employed here have been tailored to suit particular characteristics of the individual series. While the asymmetric weights enable trend estimates for recent quarters to be produced, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent three quarters as additional

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

TREND ESTIMATES *continued*

observations become available. There may also be revisions because of changes in the original data and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors.

12 *Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series, Monitoring Trends, an Overview* (cat. no. 1348.0), can be obtained by contacting Time Series Analysis Canberra on (02) 6252 6345 or e-mail timeseries@abs.gov.au.

EXPECTED EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

13 Expected expenditure is collected in June and December quarter each year. Businesses are asked to report their expected expenditure for the next six months.

14 From the June quarter 2000 publication, the basis for the Expected Mineral Exploration Expenditure series changed. Prior to June 2000, the expected estimates released were simple aggregates of data compiled through the quarterly Mineral Exploration collection. However, these aggregates underestimated actual expenditure to a fairly consistent degree. The consistency with which the published data underestimated actual expenditure suggested that adjustments to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the estimates of expected expenditure would be possible.

15 In the period since June 2000, such adjustments have been made to reported expected exploration data resulting in estimates which better predict actual expenditure for the same period. For more information regarding the adjustments made to the Expected Mineral Exploration Expenditure series, see the feature article in *Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Australia June quarter 2000* (cat. no. 8412.0).

TAX REFORM

16 The Goods and Services Tax (GST) which came into effect on 1 July 2000 is not included in the value of exploration expenditure. Enterprises in the censuses are asked to report actual expenditure based on the expected net cost to them under the New Tax System. That is, the Wholesale Sales Tax no longer applies and the exploration expenditure estimates should exclude the 10% GST where this amount can be returned to the business as a tax credit. The GST replaced the wholesale sales tax (WST) which was included in the value of exploration expenditure estimates for periods up to June quarter 2000.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

17 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, government and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is appreciated: without it a wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

18 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are for sale and available on request:

- *Australian Business Expectations* (cat. no. 5250.0)
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 5625.0)
- *Australian Mining Industry* (cat. no. 8414.0)
- *Mining Operations* (cat. no. 8415.0)

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

19 This publication and other downloadable products can be purchased online using a credit card. They can be downloaded (with no credit card needed) by AusStats and ABS@ subscribers, Australian universities and at some public libraries.

20 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS Office or on the ABS' web site www.abs.gov.au.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

ABS DATA AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY *continued*

21 Publications showing the details of wells and metres drilled in petroleum exploration are available from the Petroleum Resources Program of Geoscience Australia.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

22 Where figures have been rounded discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and their totals.

GLOSSARY

Development	Phase usually following exploration where a prospective discovery (e.g. proven oil or gas field or concentrate of ore) is brought into production or for extending the life of a current mine or well. Activities may include preparing the ground by the removal of overburden, constructing shafts, drives and winzes; or by drilling and completing wells. All activities are for the purposes of commencing extraction/mining or extending production.
Exploration	Activity involves searching for concentrations of naturally occurring solid, liquid or gaseous materials and includes new field wildcat and stratigraphical and extension/appraisal wells and mineral appraisals intended to delineate or greatly extend the limits of known deposits by geological, geophysical, geochemical, drilling or other methods. This includes drilling of boreholes, construction of shafts and adits primarily for exploration purposes but excludes activity of a developmental or production nature. Exploration for water is excluded.
Exploration expenditure	Covers all expenditure (capitalised and non-capitalised) during the exploratory or evaluation stages in Australia, Australian waters, JPDA and Areas B and C of the original ZOC. Costs include cost of exploration, determination of recoverable reserves, engineering and economic feasibility studies, procurement of finance, gaining access to reserves, construction of pilot plants and all technical and administrative overheads directly associated with these functions. Examples are costs of satellite imagery, airborne and seismic surveys, use of geophysical and other instruments, geochemical surveys and map preparation; licence fees, land access and legal costs; geologist inspections, chemical analysis and payments to employees and contractors. Cash bids for offshore petroleum exploration permits are also included.
Exploration licence/permit	Is designed to cover the exploration phase of a project and confers exclusive rights to the exploration for and recovery of samples from the area designated. These rights are granted by relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory Governments.
Minerals	Are a naturally occurring inorganic element or compound having an orderly internal structure and characteristic chemical composition, crystal form, and physical properties. These, for example, comprise of metallic minerals, such as copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel, cobalt, gold, iron ore, mineral sands, uranium and non-metallic minerals such as coal, diamonds and other precious and semi-precious stones and construction materials (e.g. gravel and sand).
Mining licence/lease	Covers the commercial mining phase of a project for the licenced area. This licence authorises both full recovery and further exploration to occur.
Offshore	Commences from the low water mark to three nautical miles out (referred to as coastal waters) under State and Northern Territory legislation and extends to those areas beyond coastal waters governed by the Commonwealth under the <i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967</i> .
Onshore	Includes all Australian territorial lands to the low water mark.
Petroleum	Is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon or mixture of hydrocarbons. As oil or gas in solution (e.g. LPG), it is widespread in Australian sedimentary rocks.
Retention licence	Is an intermediate form of tenure between the exploration licence and mining licence allowing the holder of the exploration licence to retain title to the area for a limited time. It is designed to ensure the retention of rights pending the transition of a project from the exploration phase to the commercial mining phase.
Selected base metals	Are made up of the following minerals: copper, silver, lead-zinc, nickel and cobalt.
Type of expenditure	Classification used:

GLOSSARY *continued*

Type of expenditure *continued*

Drilling expenditure — includes wages and salaries paid to employees; purchase, rental, hiring as well as operation and maintenance of drilling equipment together with activities associated with accessing the areas where drilling is to occur (e.g. road creation, vessel/transport hiring, site preparation and restoration). Also includes expenditure on drilling done by contractors.

Other expenditure — includes all other exploration costs, other than those associated with drilling expenditure. This expenditure includes purchase of capital and non-capital items, rental or hiring fees, service fees relating to surveying and analysis, administrative and legal fees associated with obtaining licences/permits, land access, map preparation, feasibility studies, environmental impacts studies and restoration costs.

Type of lease

Classifications used:

Production lease — is an area on which development to extract coal, minerals, liquids or gaseous materials is underway or where extraction/mining of these substances is already occurring. See also mining licence/lease.

All other areas — are those areas outside the Production lease. These include areas under exploration licence/permit or retention licence, as well as non-licenced areas being assessed for exploration, e.g. through airborne surveys.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

INFORMATION SERVICE

Data already published that can be provided within five minutes will be free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

- PHONE* 1300 135 070
- EMAIL* client.services@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 1300 135 211
- POST* Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

ABS subscription services provide regular, convenient and prompt deliveries of ABS publications and products as they are released. Email delivery of monthly and quarterly publications is available.

- PHONE* 1300 366 323
- EMAIL* subscriptions@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 03 9615 7848
- POST* Subscription Services, ABS, GPO Box 2796Y, Melbourne Vic 3001



2841200003037

ISSN 1442 7508

RRP \$19.00