

With the current high cost of petroleum, steaming coal has become increasingly important as an alternative source of energy, and the measured Australian reserves of bituminous coal are roughly comparable in energy content to the proven oil reserves in Saudi Arabia.

Australia's coal development in the short and medium-terms is valued at some \$5 billion.

### STEAMING COAL

#### Blair Athol Thermal (Bowen Basin, Qld)

- CRA 62 per cent, Atlantic Richfield 38 per cent. 600 million-ton thermal coal deposit - one of best quality steaming coal deposits in world. Open-cut, for export using Hay Point up to five million TPY. Value \$400-500 million. Government rejected Japanese application to acquire 19 per cent share.

#### Drayton Steaming Coal (N.S.W.)

- Theiss 55.5 per cent, Shell 45.5 per cent. Open-cut steaming coal for export. 100 million tons reserves. Feasibility study completed but cannot proceed until markets are secured. Discussions being held with Japanese (Mitsui) and South Koreans for equity in exchange for markets. Value \$60 million.

#### Tarong Steaming Coal (N.S.W.)

- IOL/CRA 100 per cent. Open-cut steaming coal for Tarong Thermal Station to be located on site. Five million TPY. Construction to begin 1981-82, completion 1984-85. Value \$64 million.

#### Mount Arthur South Steaming Coal (N.S.W.)

- Electricity Commission of N.S.W. 50 per cent, Ampol Petroleum 20 per cent, Pioneer Concrete Services 20 per cent, Electrical Power Development Co. (Japan) 10 per cent. \$135 million. Reserves of not less than 200 million tons. Production level not yet decided. For export.

#### Mount Arthur North Steaming Coal (N.S.W.)

- Electricity Commission of N.S.W. 100 per cent; open-pit steaming (65 per cent) and coking (35 per cent) coal, the coking coal for export. Eventually up to 10 million TPY. To commence production of one million TPY in 1984-85.

#### Mt. Thorley Steaming Coal (N.S.W.)

- R.W. Miller, Pohang Iron & Steel (South Korea) 20 per cent. Open-cut beginning with 400,000 TPY to reach four million TPY. For export. Feasibility study in progress requires two-year lead time. Value \$70 million for first phase, reaching \$130 million for full production.