

## **OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE OFFSHORE KIMBERLEY REGION**

On 5 July 2006, Bill Tinapple, Director of Petroleum and Royalties at the Department of Industry and Resources, spoke on the oil and gas outlook for the Browse Basin offshore from the Kimberley. He reviewed the petroleum exploration history which had resulted in two major gas and condensate resources, which are world class in size. Condensate is the liquid petroleum recovered when gas is produced.

Bill also spoke about the outlook for further future discoveries in the Browse and how the area is one of Australia's most prospective areas. He then reviewed the outlook for oil and gas in Australia and discussed how important these resources will be for the national economy.

Our arrangements for providing a summary of Bill's talk unfortunately struck a snag. The map below, published courtesy the Department of Industry and Resources (Western Australia) from *Western Australian Mineral and Petroleum Statistics Digest 2005–06*, shows Australia's Gas Resources (with trillion cubic feet measurements) at the end of 2005. The graph, which also comes from the *Digest*, shows the speed at which the quantity of Western Australia's crude oil and condensate resources came to match, and then overtake, the quantity found elsewhere in Australia.



