



Tectonics and structural geology are not synonymous (cf. Scheibner, 1972). Rickard and Scheibner (1976) suggest recognition of three categories: *stratotectonic*, *tectogenic* (structural), and *morphogenic*. Stratotectonic terms like "geosyncline", marginal mobile zone, orogen, etc., should appear on palaeotectonic, palinspastic and similar maps and tectogenic (structural) terms like orogenic belt, fold belt, etc., on tectonic maps. The only exception would be currently active stratotectonic zones.

The term *Lachlan Fold Belt* or more precisely *Lachlan Orogenic Belt* (L.O.B.) denotes a tectogenic or structural feature. The L.O.B. is part of the composite *Tasman Fold Belt System* or *Orogenic Belt System*, briefly *Tasman Orogenic Belt* (Fig. 1).

The L.O.B. crops out in central, western and southern New South Wales. The eastern margin is not easy to define because it is covered by the Sydney-Bowen Basin, although in subsurface the L.O.B. can be extended to the Hunter-Mooki-Goondiwindi Thrust System. On the west the Murray Basin is the boundary on the surface, while in the subsurface the boundary remains uncertain. The northern boundary of the L.O.B. is taken as the Darling River lineament, and the extension of the Tasman Orogenic Belt north from this lineament is known as the Thomson Fold Belt (Kirkegaard, 1974). The southern boundary is taken as the Gambier Fracture Zone which separates the L.O.B. from the Tas-

manian segment of the Tasman Orogenic Belt. With this definition, the L.O.B. has a strike length of 900 km and an average width of about 450 km.

The L.O.B. is composed of Cambrian to Early Carboniferous complexes, with some Precambrian basement complexes west of the longitude of Cobar. The bulk of the L.O.B. developed during the Middle Palaeozoic from a stratotectonic feature named the *Lachlan Orogen* or *Marginal Mobile Zone*. The L.O.B. is internally composed of lower category tectogenic or structural units which are more fully outlined elsewhere (Scheibner, 1974a).

1. REGIONAL SETTING OF LACHLAN FOLD BELT

DEFINITION OF THE LACHLAN FOLD BELT OR OROGENIC BELT

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