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Australian Government

Geoscience Australia

Resourcing Australia's Prosperity

Revealing Australia's net zero potential

22 October 2024

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Branch Head, Advice, Investment Attraction & Analysis

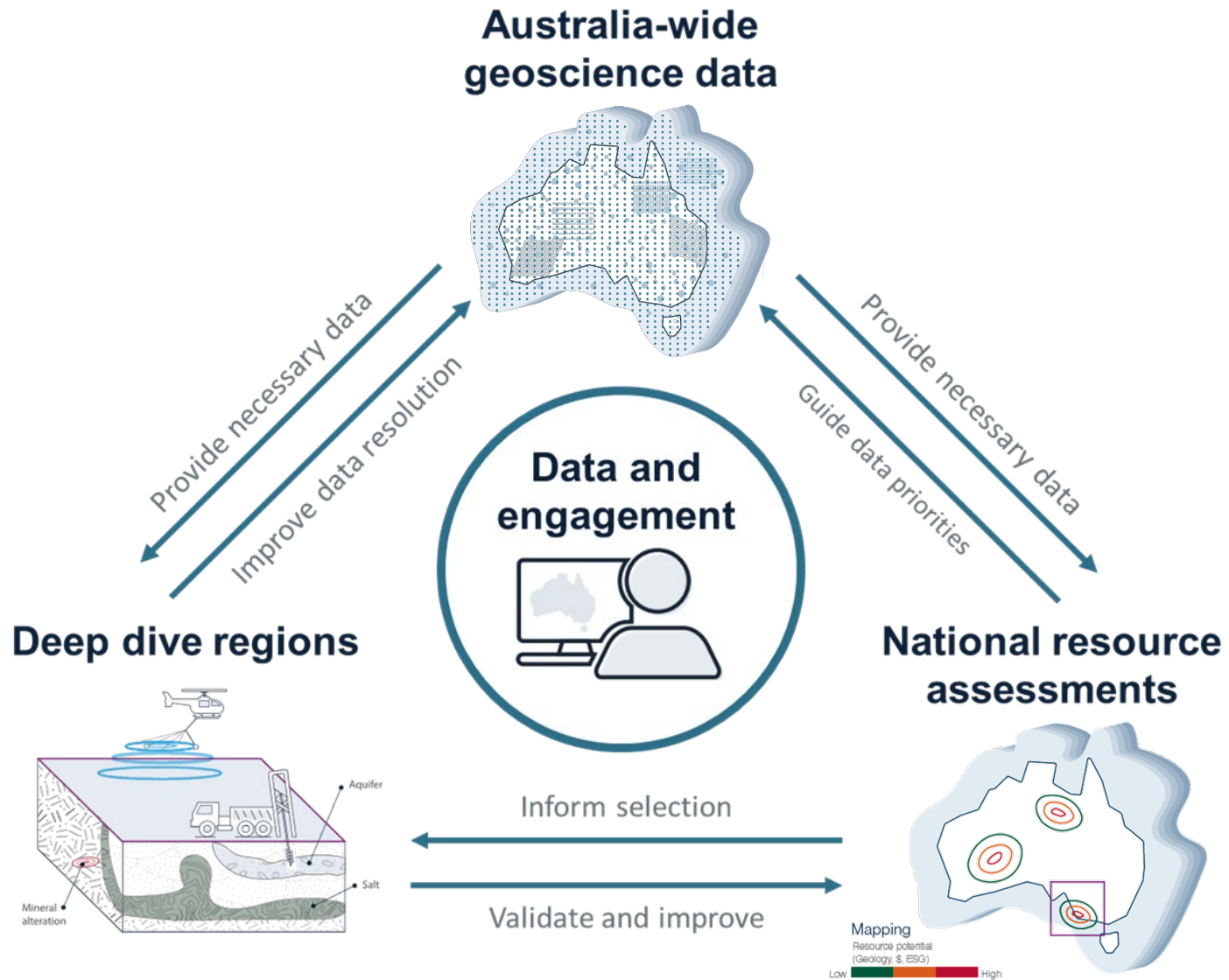
Minerals, Energy & Groundwater Division



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Earth sciences for Australia's future | ga.gov.au

What is Resourcing Australia's Prosperity?



Australia-wide geoscience data



What are Australia-wide geoscience data?

- The building blocks used to see and understand what lies below the land surface and seabed
- Includes new data collection, compilation, interpretation and integration of existing data and derived products
- Key inputs for national resource assessments
- Prioritising coverages over deep dive locations

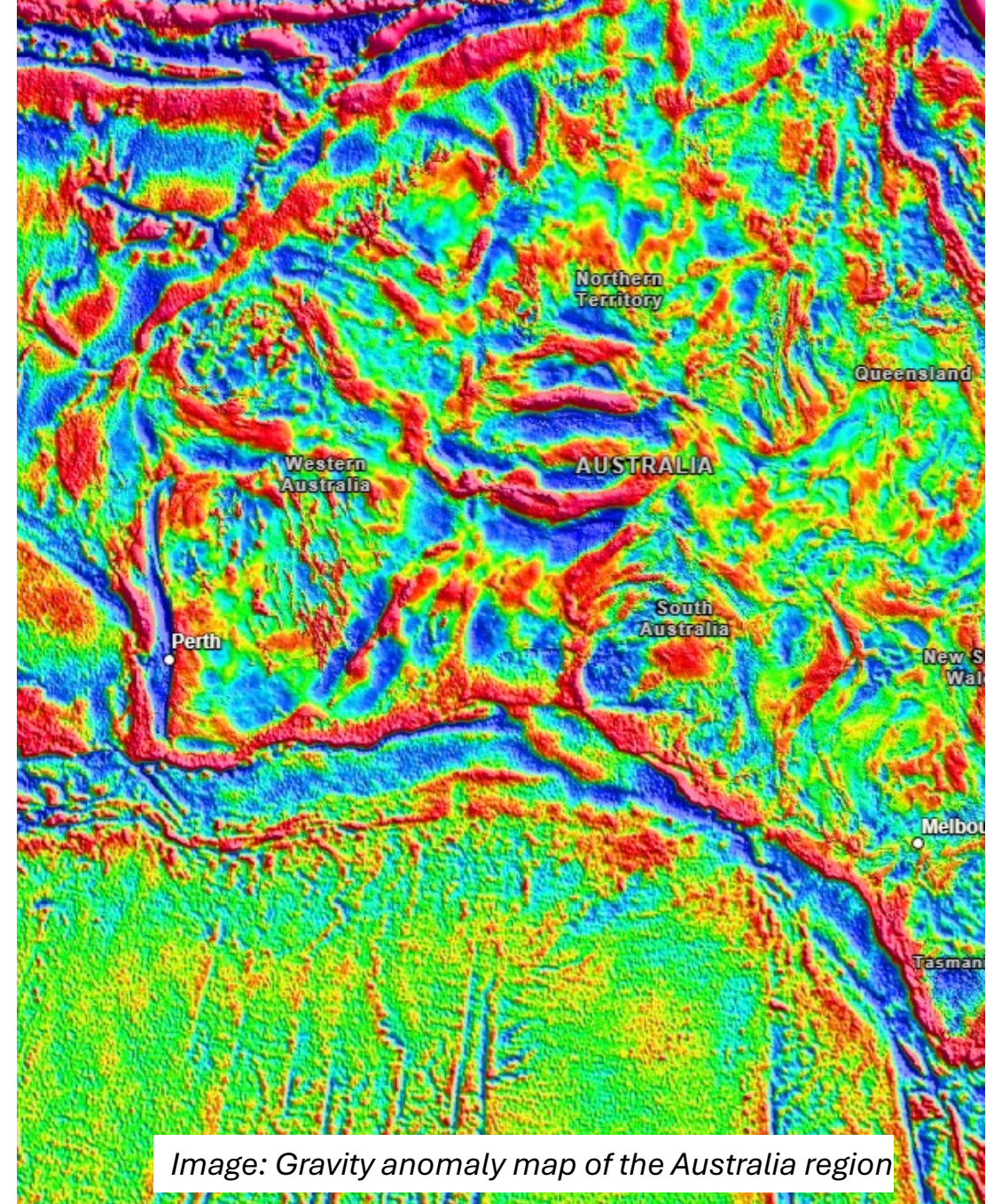
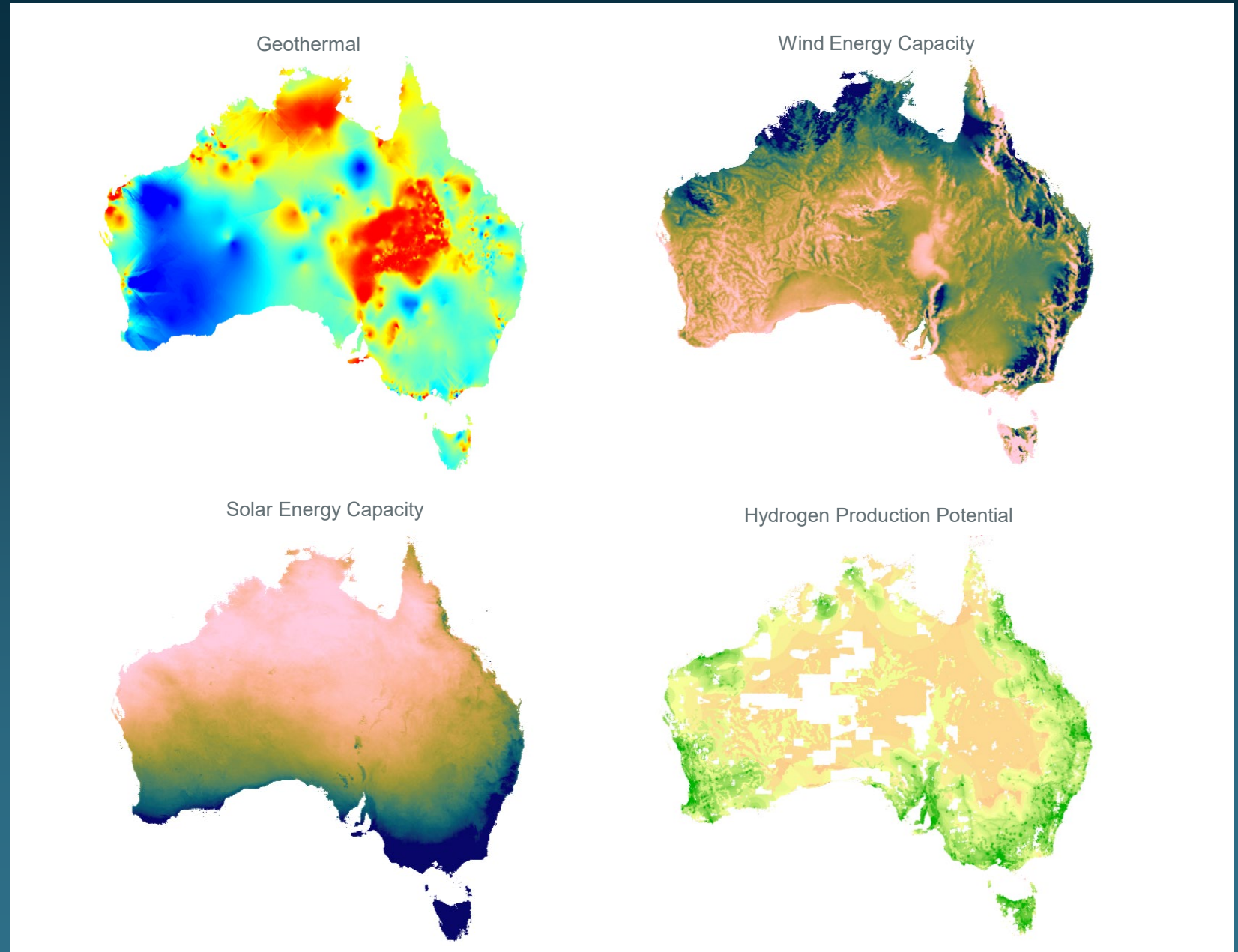


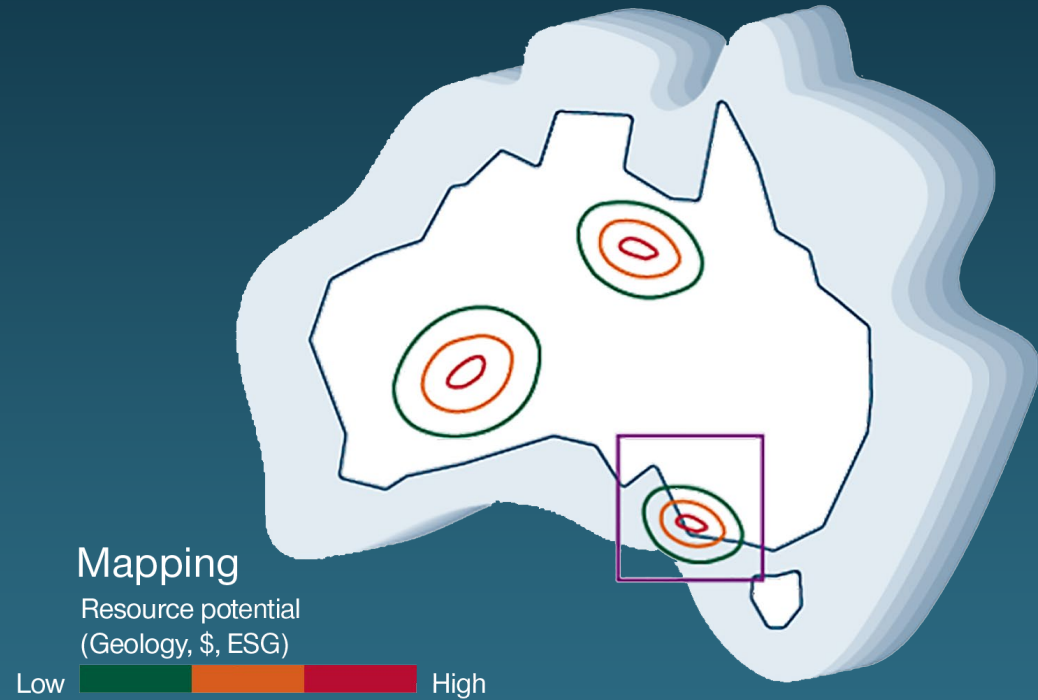
Image: Gravity anomaly map of the Australia region

Australia wide geoscience data

- Spans fields of geology, geochemistry and geophysics, resource agnostic
- Rapid collection of new national data coverages
- World-leading and freely available



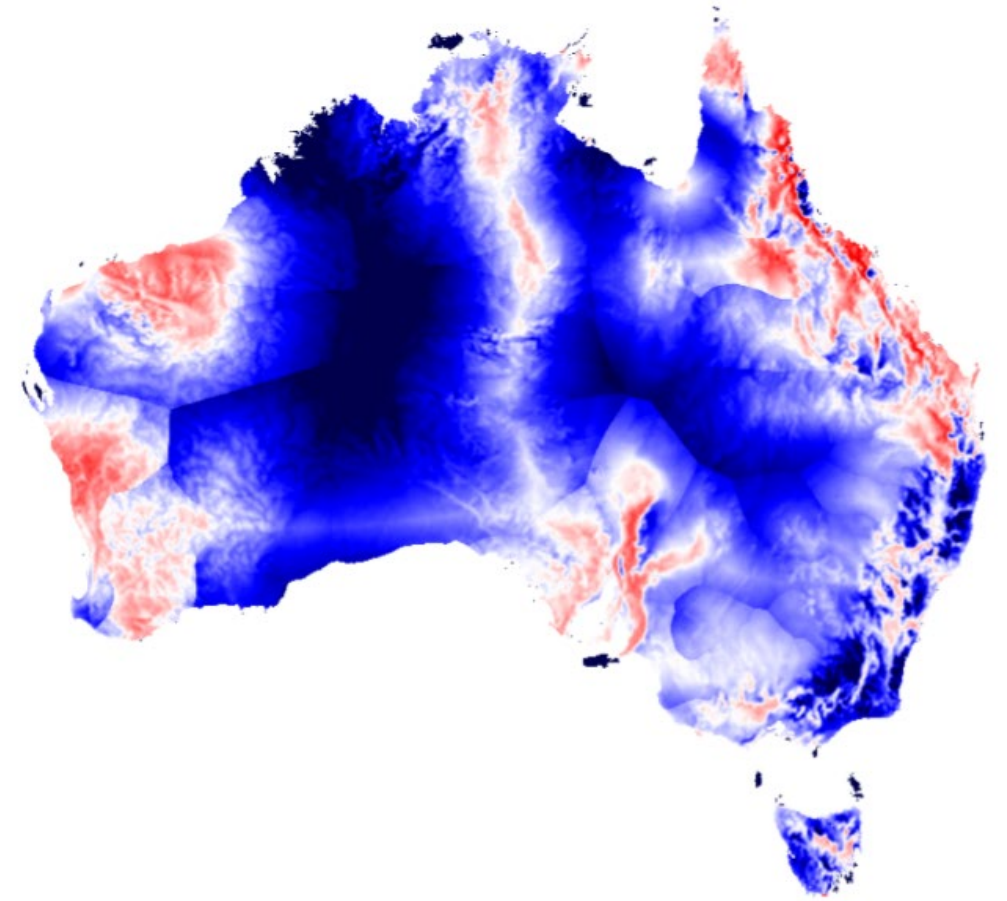
National resource assessments



What are national resource assessments?

- Derived by integrating many Australia-wide geoscience data and highlight areas with the greatest resource potential
- Focus on assessing resources needed to support the net zero transition
 - All 36 Critical Minerals and Strategic Materials
 - Hydrogen production and storage
 - Renewables
 - Carbon Capture and Storage
- Provides a first pass estimation of resource potential that can be used by industry and policy makers

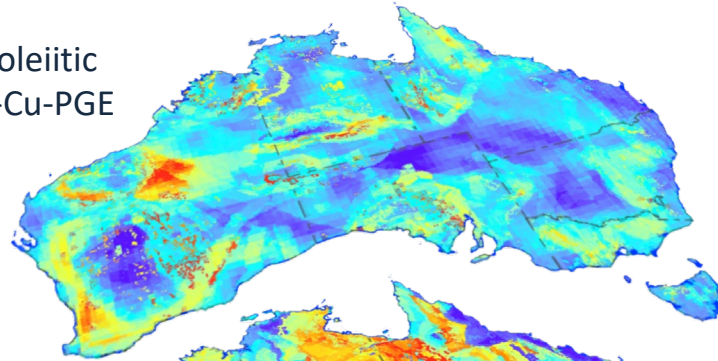
Hydrogen Economics (Hydrogen Economic Fairways Tool)



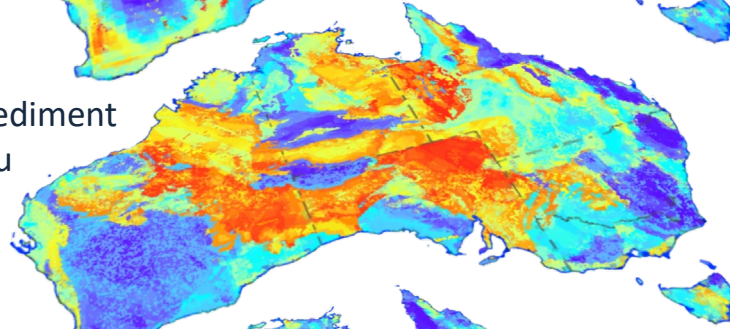
Beginning of a national inventory of resource potential

- New geological potential
- Mine tailings potential
- Economic potential
- Groundwater potential

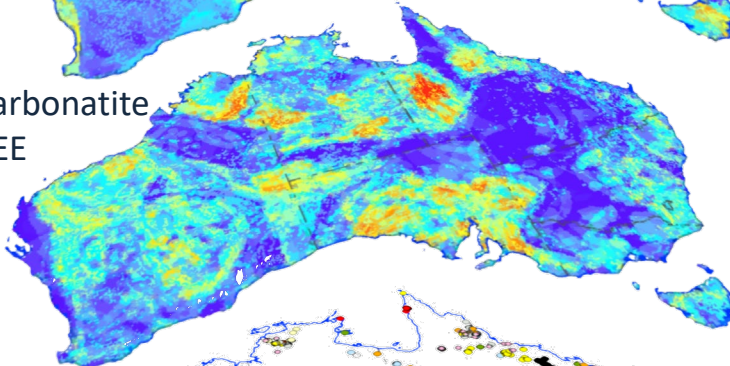
Tholeiitic
Ni-Cu-PGE



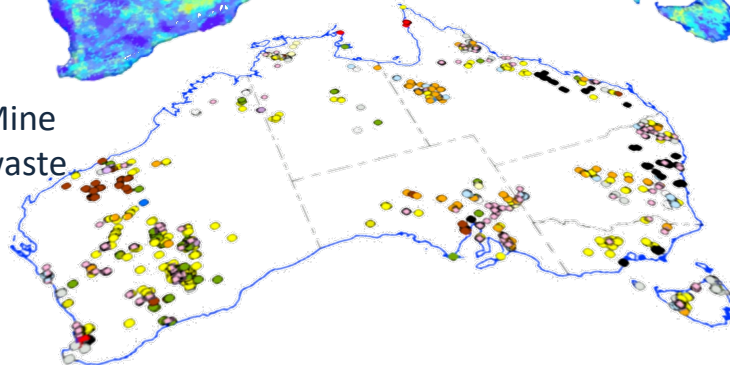
Sediment
Cu



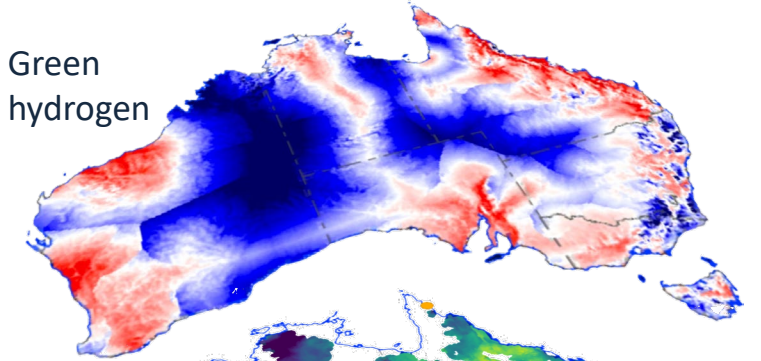
Carbonatite
REE



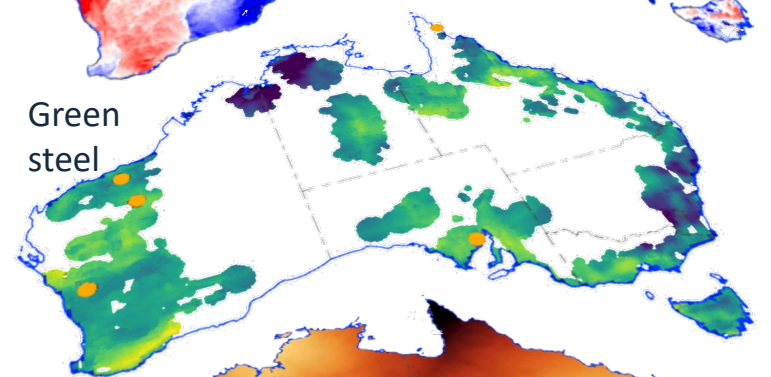
Mine
waste



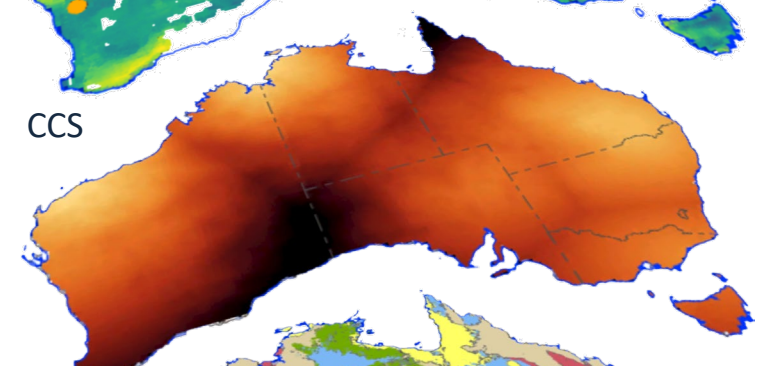
Green
hydrogen



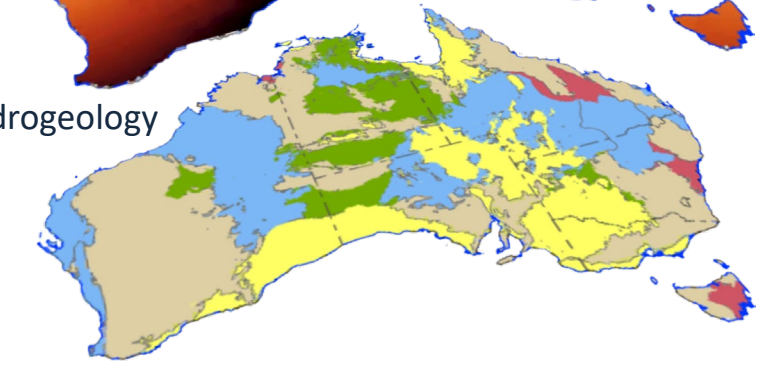
Green
steel



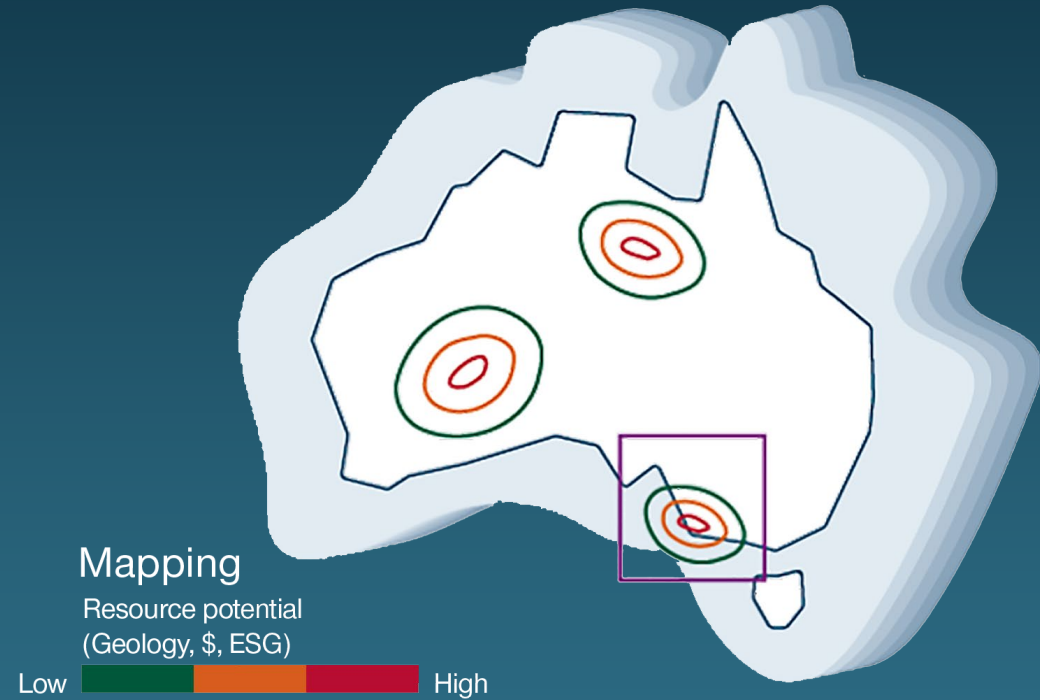
CCS



Hydrogeology

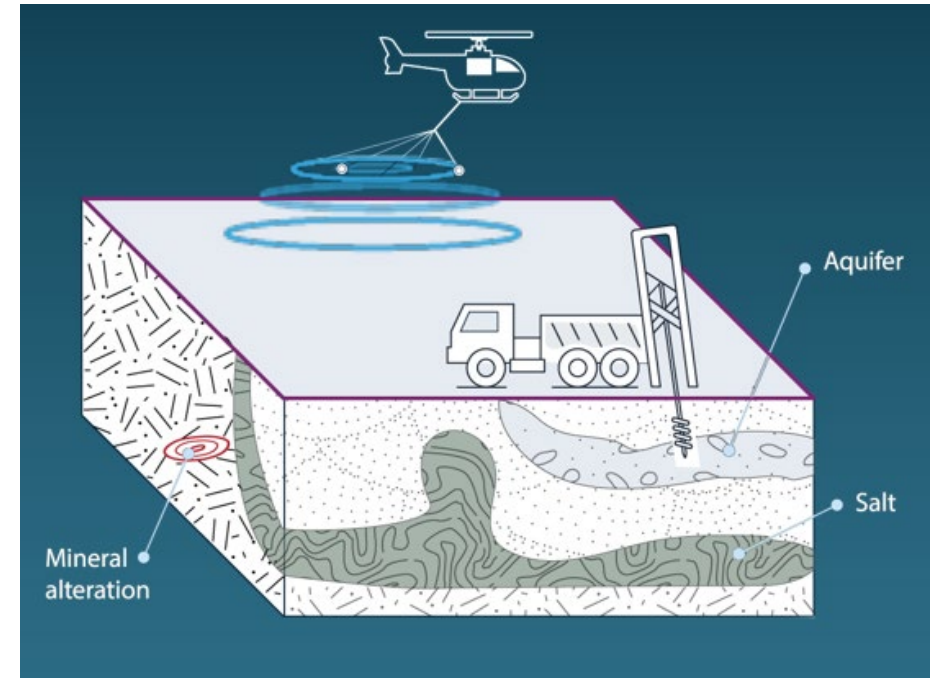
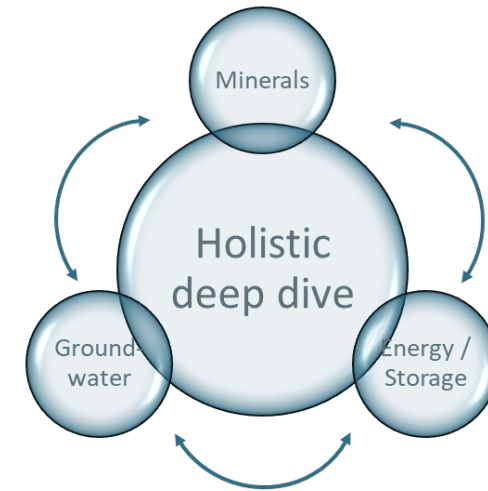


National resource assessments



What are deep dive regional studies?

- Will assess 12 onshore regions
- Multi-commodity assessments, integrated cross-discipline science (minerals, energy, groundwater, storage etc)
- Regional stakeholders will be engaged through deep dive reference groups (inc. industry, government, community and other key groups/stakeholders)

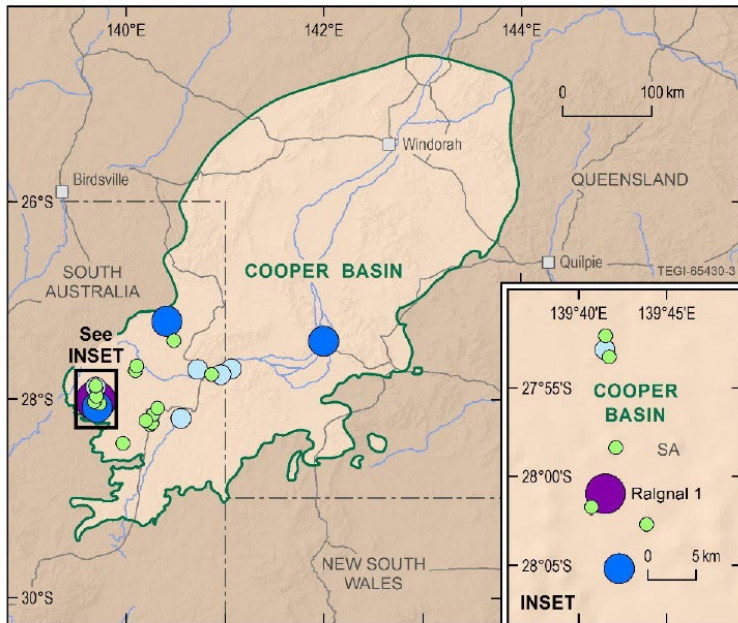


Cooper Basin Deep Dive

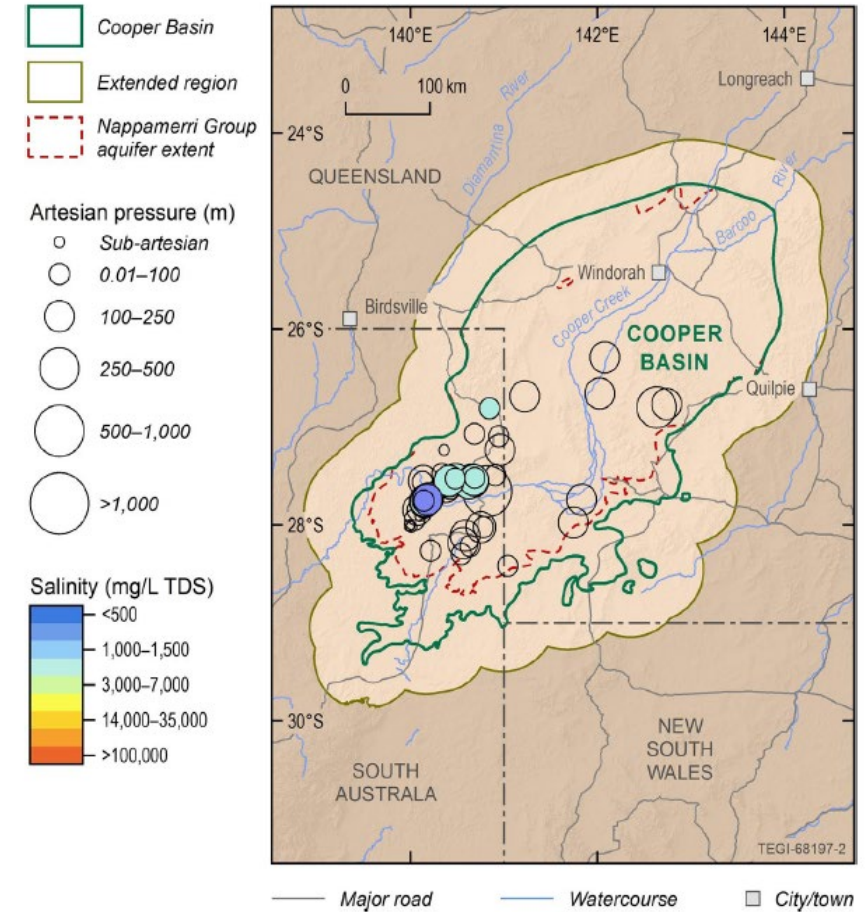
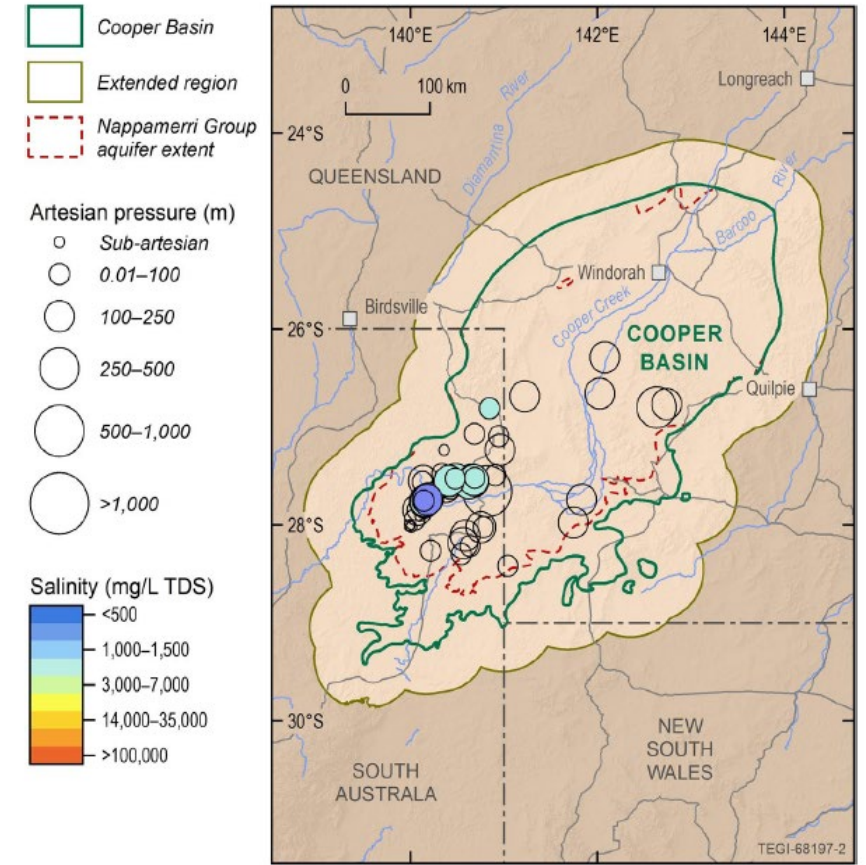
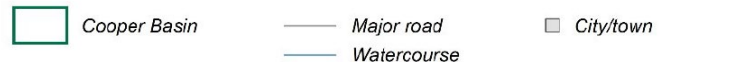
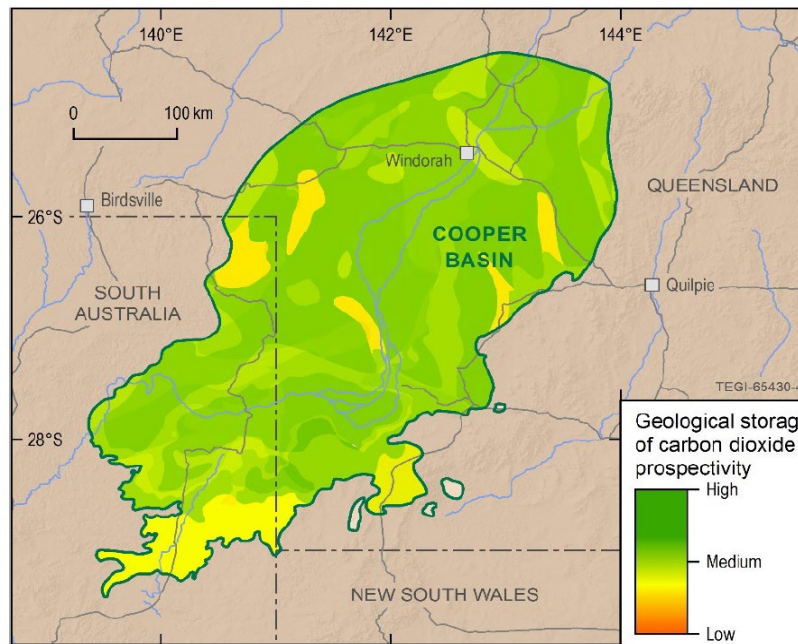
Trusted Environmental and Geological Information Program identified a number of important resources through the deep dive study

Aquifer Salinity and Pressure

Natural Hydrogen



CCS potential



Delivery, awareness raising and engagement





Outreach Leadership

Engaging and exchanging knowledge with First Nations Australians

- Recognition
- Engagement
- Empowerment
- Governance

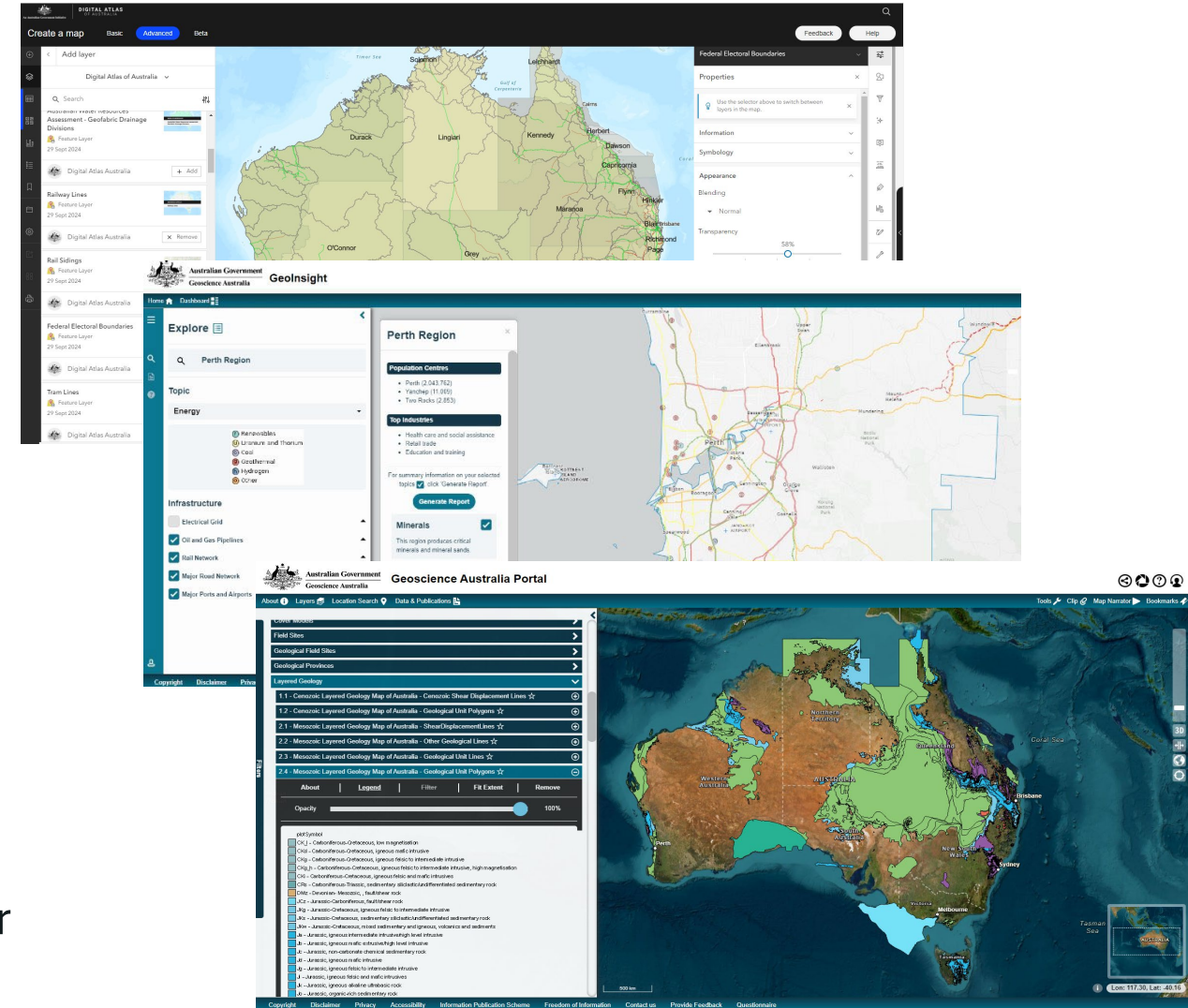
Product Delivery

Innovation

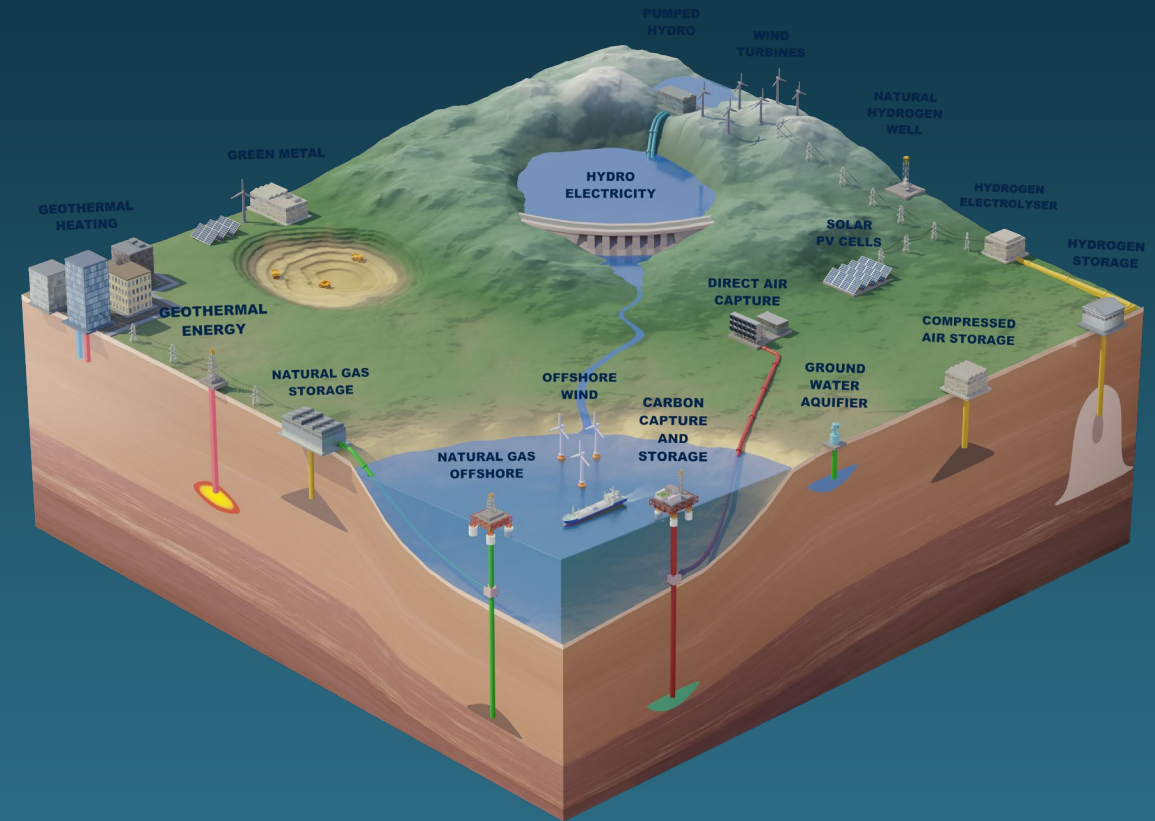
- Development of new modelling platforms for visualisation of potential resources (e.g. HEFT, Digital Atlas, Geoinsight Tool)
- The aim is 'To be AI ready' for an innovative and adaptable future

Service Experience

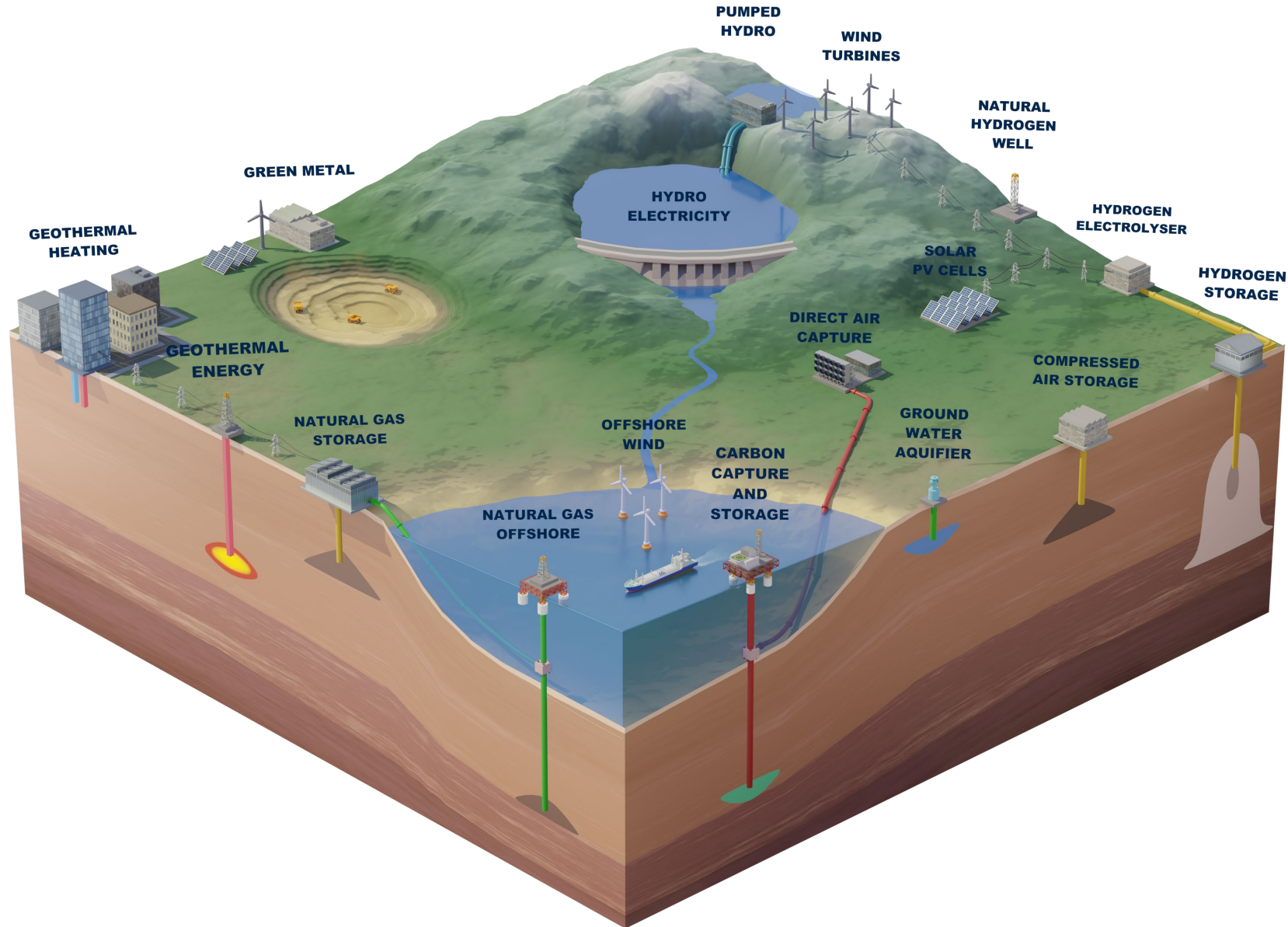
- Supporting diverse stakeholder needs and driving continuous improvement
- Opportunities to consistently apply human-centred design approaches (co-design) to our initiatives



Energy and decarbonisation



Geoscience and Net Zero



Proposed focus:

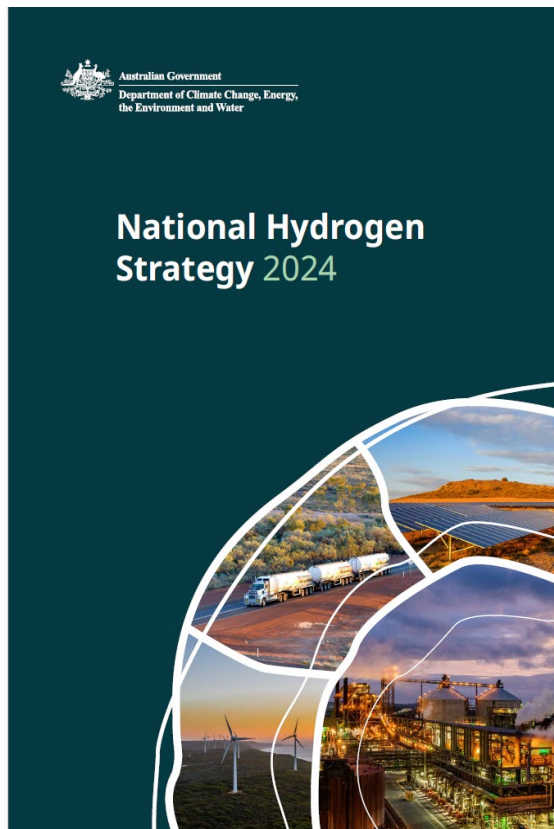
- Hydrogen
- CCS
- Offshore renewable energy
- Minerals and materials
- Groundwater

FUTURE MADE IN AUSTRALIA

policy drivers for decarbonisation

Action 7:

Support Geoscience Australia's precompetitive data program to identify suitable sites for hydrogen storage opportunities



"Unlock our vast potential as a major supplier of the critical minerals needed to decarbonise the global economy"



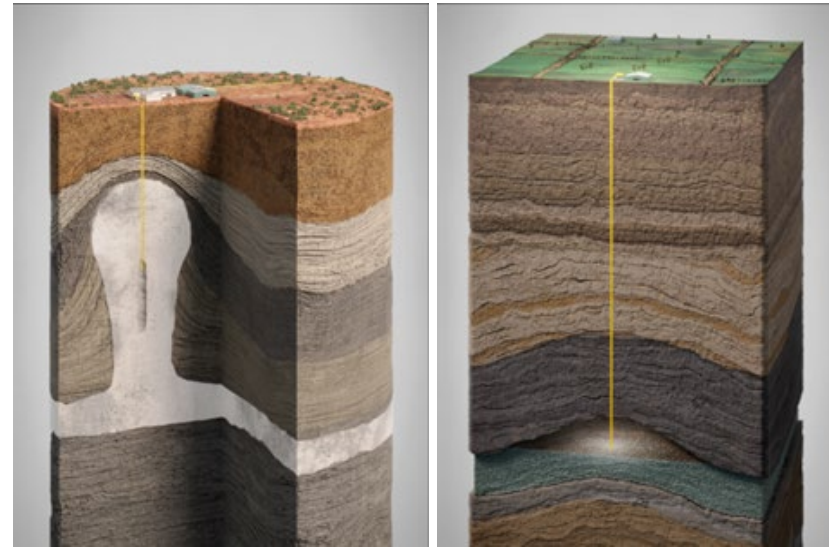
Action 5:

Promote geological storage of CO₂ and support our region's transition to net zero



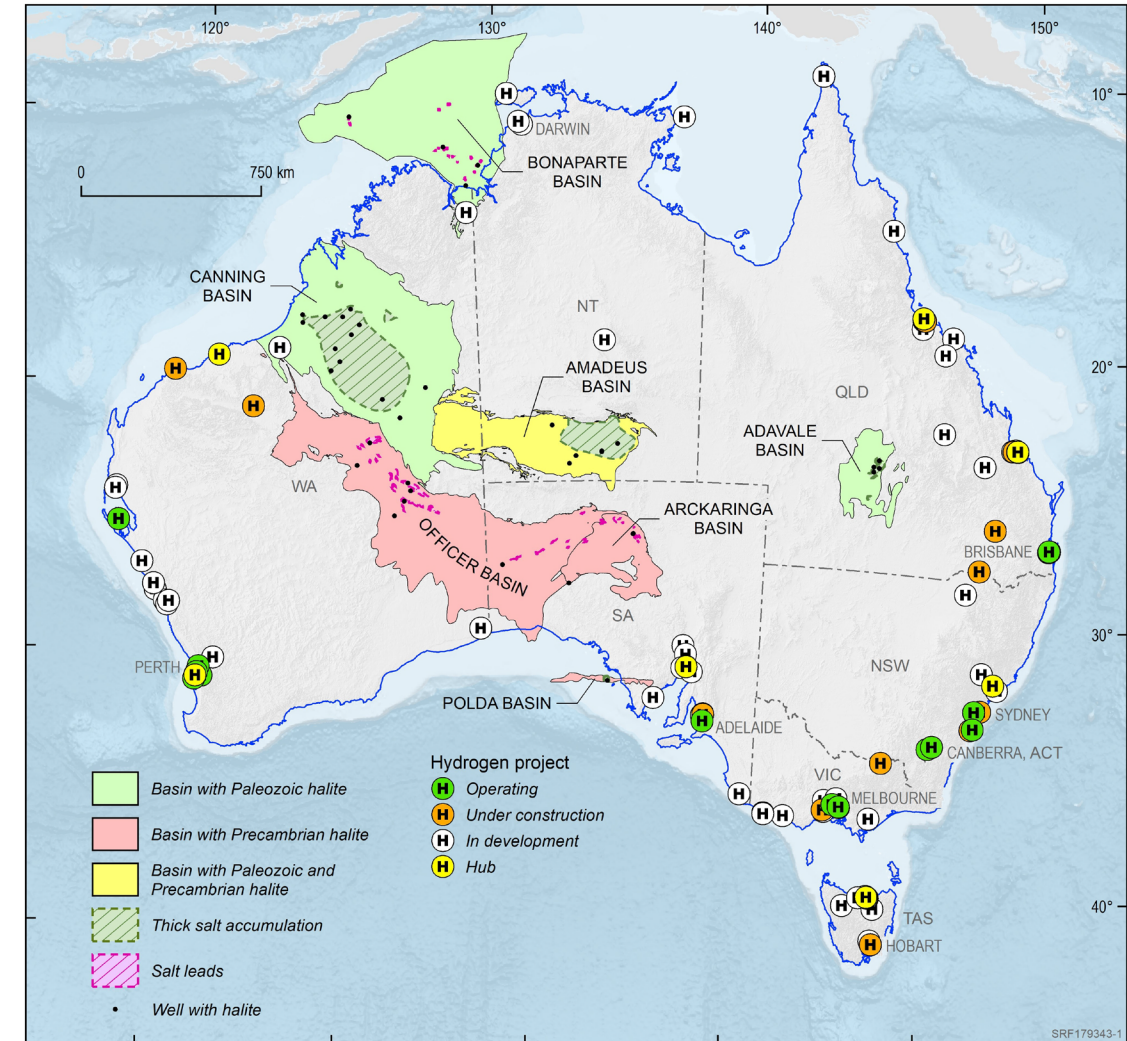
Hydrogen

- Identify underground hydrogen storage options for each regional hub
 - Salt, porous rock, hard rock caverns



Svartöberget, Sweden

- Explore for salt accumulations
 - Support Pilbara, Eyre Peninsula and Darwin
- Understand natural hydrogen resource potential
 - Where is hydrogen found? How much is there?



Hydrogen projects, hubs and salt accumulations

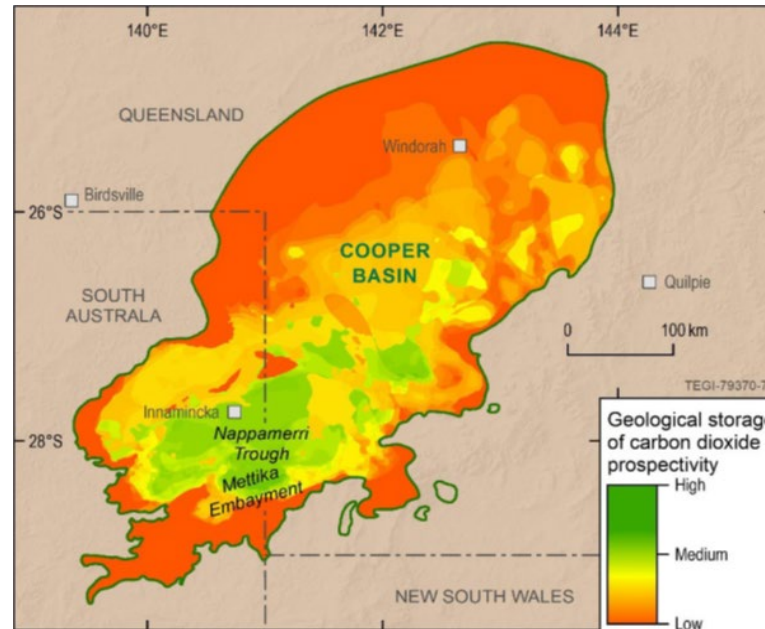
Carbon management

Onshore

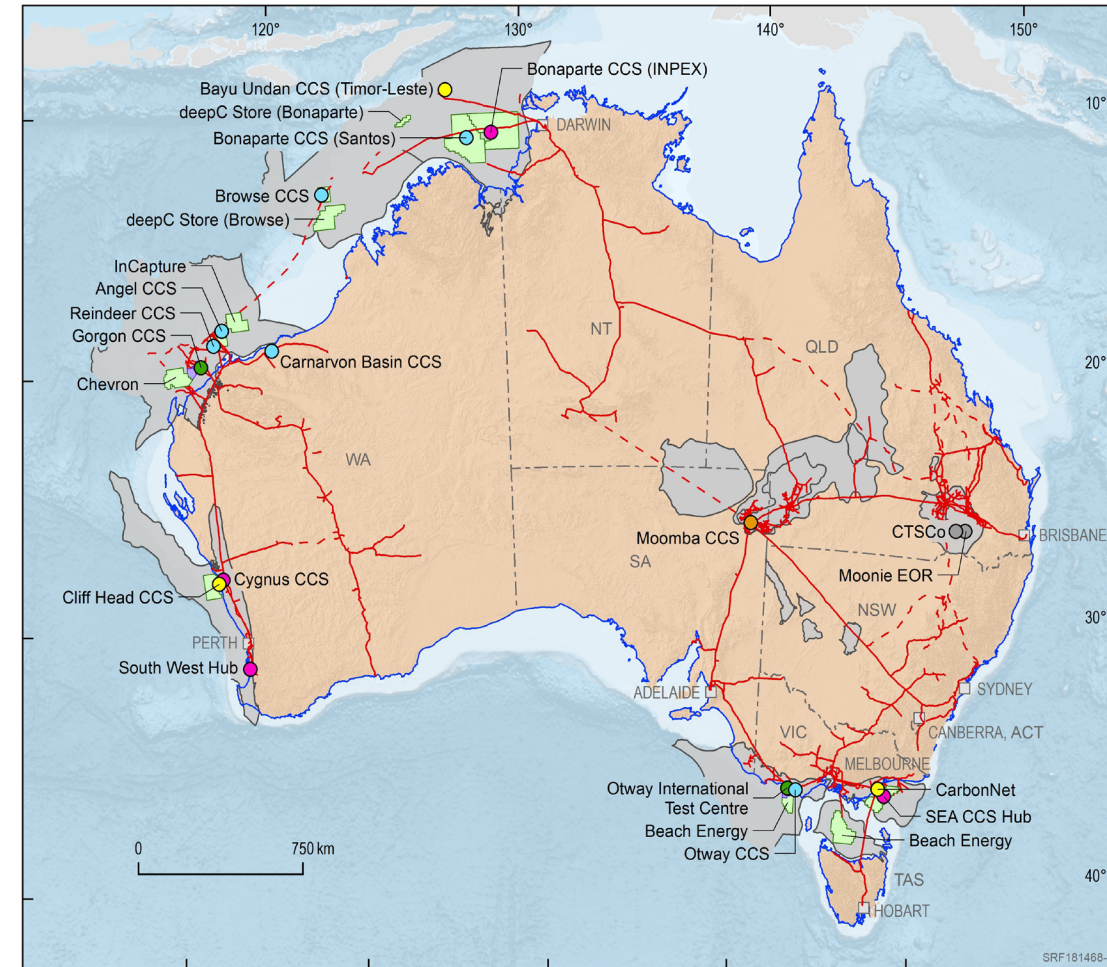
- Assess potential for geological storage of CO₂
- Carbon mineralisation (reactive rocks), carbon dioxide removal
- In-depth assessments through deep dives

Offshore geological sequestration of CO₂ prioritised by:

- Proximity to emissions
- Existing knowledge – depleted fields and saline aquifers



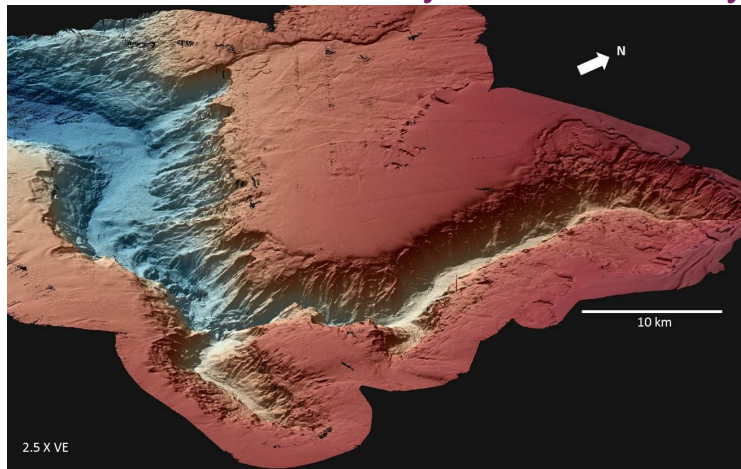
Example of much more detailed (play-based) assessment for CO₂ storage prospectivity (Toolachee Play, Cooper Basin <https://dx.doi.org/10.26186/147511>)



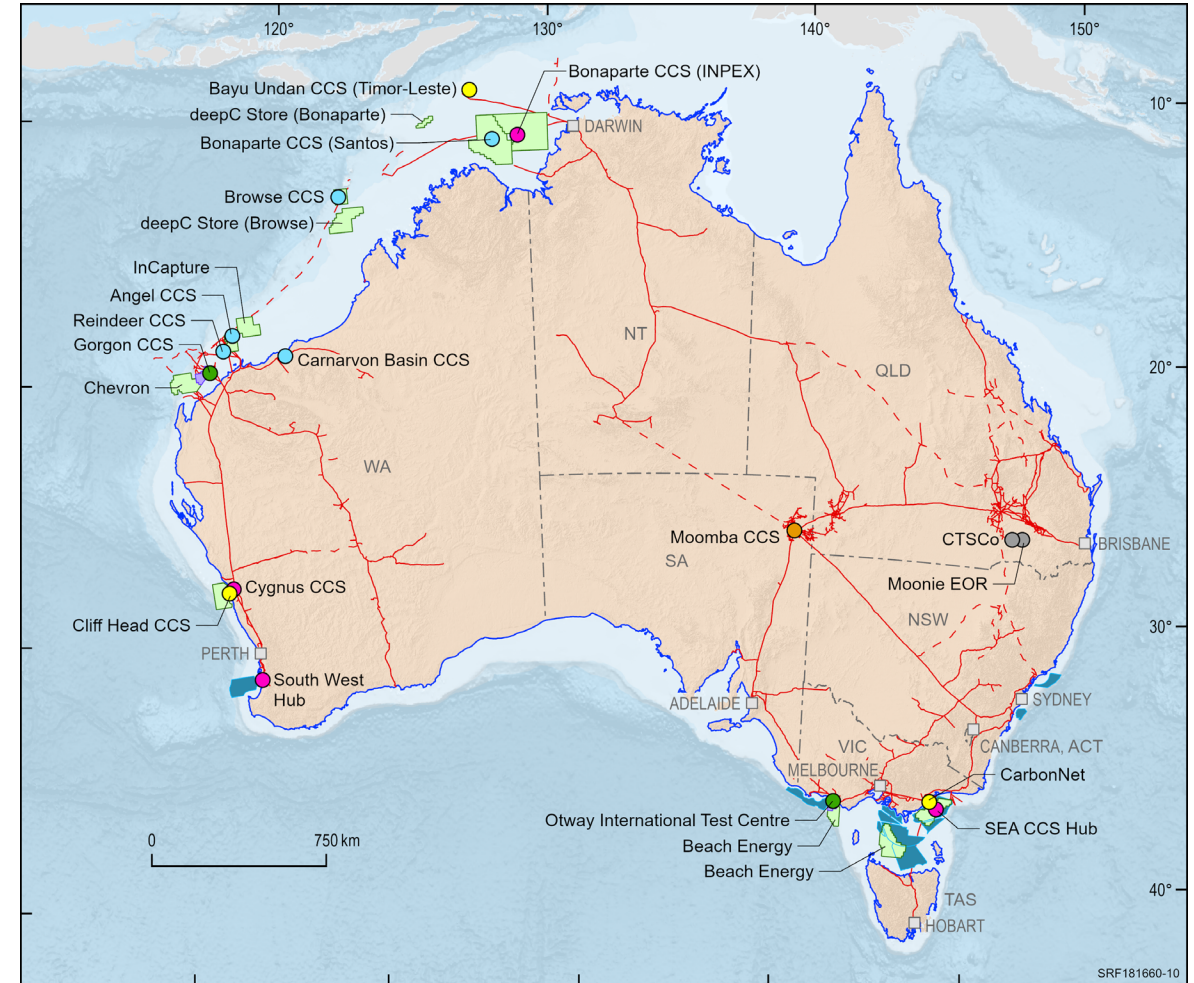
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Prospective CO ₂ storage regions | Operational |
| 2023 Greenhouse Gas Storage Release Area | Under construction |
| Greenhouse Gas Storage Assessment Permit | Advanced development |
| Gas pipeline | Early development |
| Gas pipeline (proposed) | Feasibility |
| | Suspended indefinitely |

Seabed mapping - supporting offshore energy assessments

- Characterisation of seabed features at a national scale
- Providing information to support decision-making for offshore energy developments
 - Stability assessments
 - Suitability assessments (incl. ESG considerations)
- Priority locations
 - Where seabed mapping can inform multiple applications (CCS + offshore renewables)
 - Reliant on Aust-wide seabed mapping datasets
 - Constrained by data availability



Bathymetry model - Perth Canyon

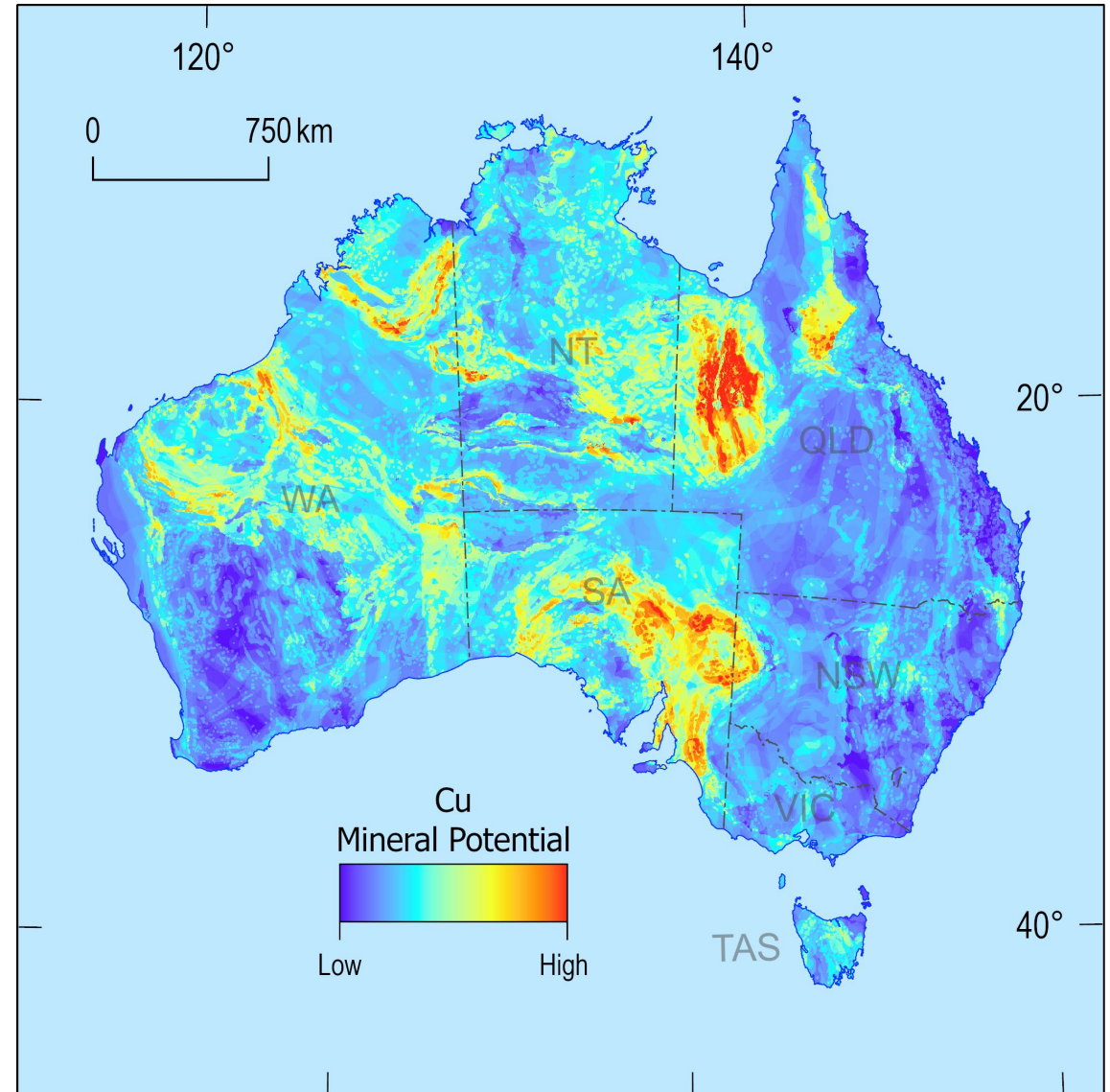


On 12 June 2024, the Queensland Government banned all greenhouse gas (GHG) storage and injection activities in Queensland's Great Artesian Basin (GAB). Pipeline routes from the GPlInfo petroleum database.

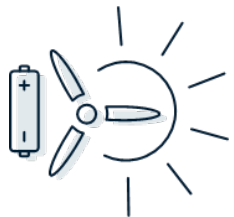
2023 Greenhouse Gas Storage Release Area	Offshore renewable zone	Operational	Early development
Greenhouse Gas Storage Assessment Permit	Gas pipeline	Under construction	Feasibility
	Gas pipeline (proposed)	Advanced development	Suspended indefinitely

Minerals for net-zero

- Deliver commodity-based mineral potential maps for all 36 critical minerals and strategic materials
- Characterise existing opportunities to make best use of existing resources (by-products, undeveloped deposits, mine waste, etc.)
- Commodities prioritised based on strategic/govt importance, economics, geology and ease
- Initial priorities - first 10 years (subject to change):
 1. Rare earth elements (primary commodity)
 2. Copper (primary commodity)
 3. Cobalt (by/co-product)



Minerals for the energy transition and beyond



RENEWABLE ENERGY



ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Electric vehicles



Global EV fleet size is projected to increase

30% a year to 2050

Battery

- lithium
- cobalt
- nickel
- graphite



Permanent magnets

- rare earth elements
- copper



Renewable energy generation

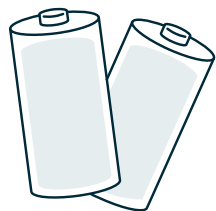


Global wind capacity is projected to increase

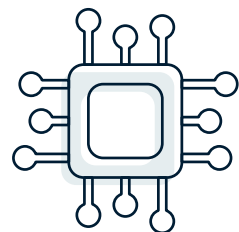
6% a year to 2050



Permanent magnets use neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium



BATTERIES & STORAGE



TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

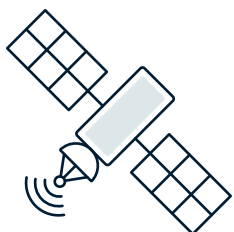


Energy storage

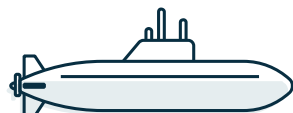


Global stationary battery storage projected to increase

8% a year to 2050



SPACE



DEFENCE



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Australian Government
Geoscience Australia

Resourcing Australia's Prosperity

A \$3.4 billion, 35-year investment
in precompetitive geoscience

Information and survey:
ga.gov.au/resourcing-australias-prosperity

Email: RAPinitiative@ga.gov.au

