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Petroleum Systems Modelling for Petroleum Prospectivity Analysis in the Cooper Basin, Australia

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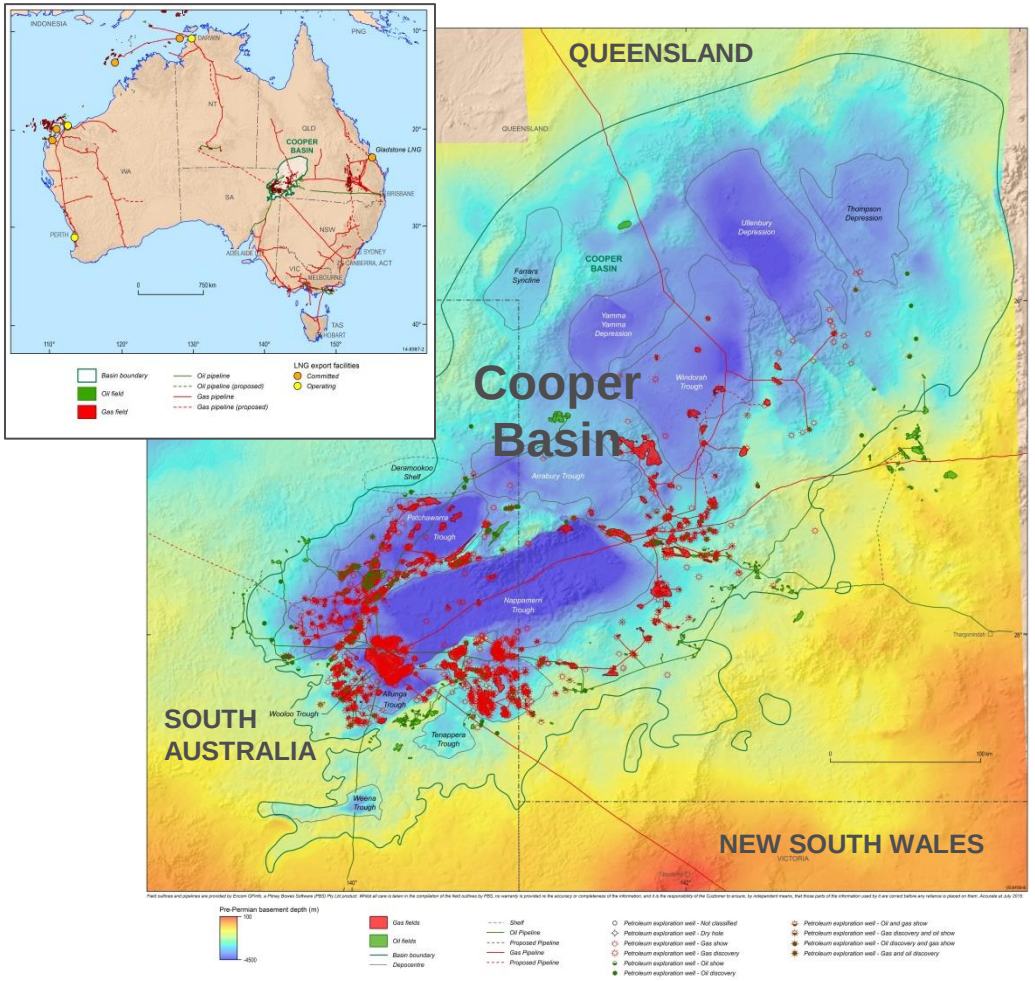
Government of South Australia
Department of State Development

Queensland Government
Department of Natural Resources and Mines

Cooper Basin

- Australia's largest onshore conventional gas and oil producer
- Unconventional exploration targets: shale gas, basin centred gas, deep coal seam gas plays
- Principal source rocks: Permian coals and coaly shales of the Gidgealpa Group
- Mapping the petroleum generation potential of these source rocks, together with describing the resulting fluid composition, is critical for understanding the hydrocarbon prospectivity of the basin



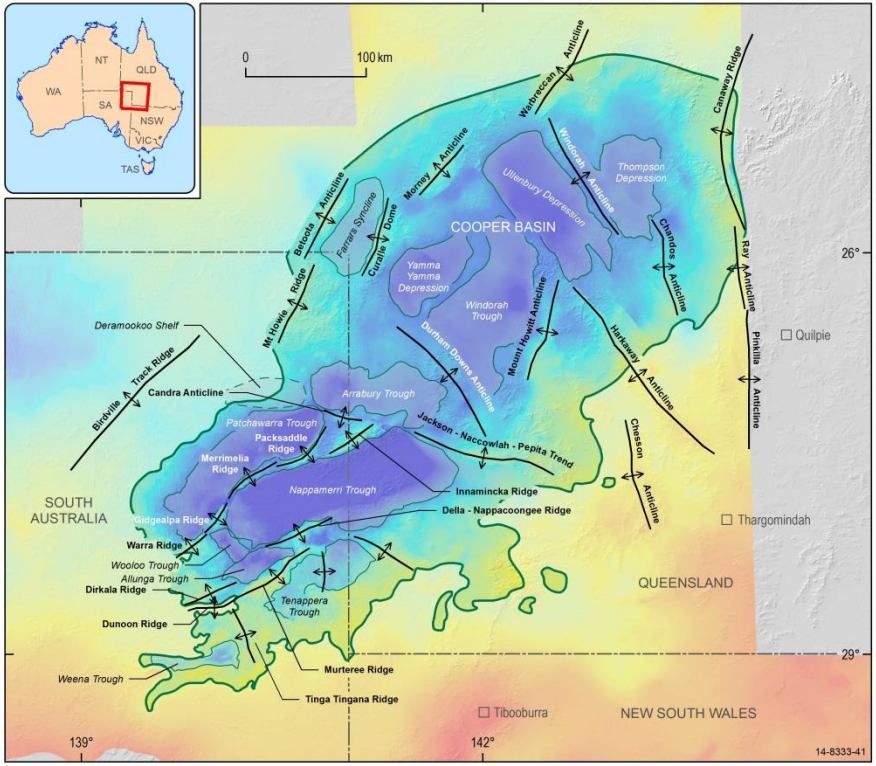
Project Aims

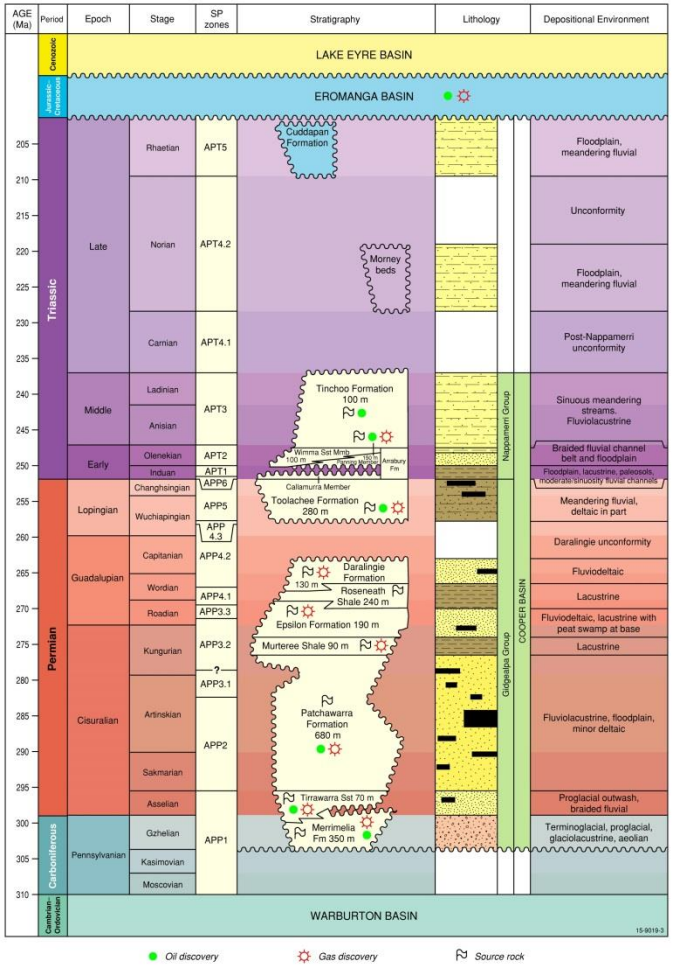
- To use basin and petroleum systems modelling as a tool to investigate the petroleum prospectively of Permian source rocks in the Cooper Basin.
- Workflow:
  - Basin architecture and evolution:
    - 3D regional basin model (structure surfaces, isopachs, lithofacies)
  - Source rock geochemistry:
    - Source distribution, thickness, type, quality, kinetics
  - Integrated basin and petroleum systems modelling:
    - Maturity maps, source rock yield, oil and gas generation potential

➢ **Improve understanding of basin scale hydrocabon prospectivity**

➢ **Underpin future resource assessment studies**

Structural Elements & Tectono-stratigraphy

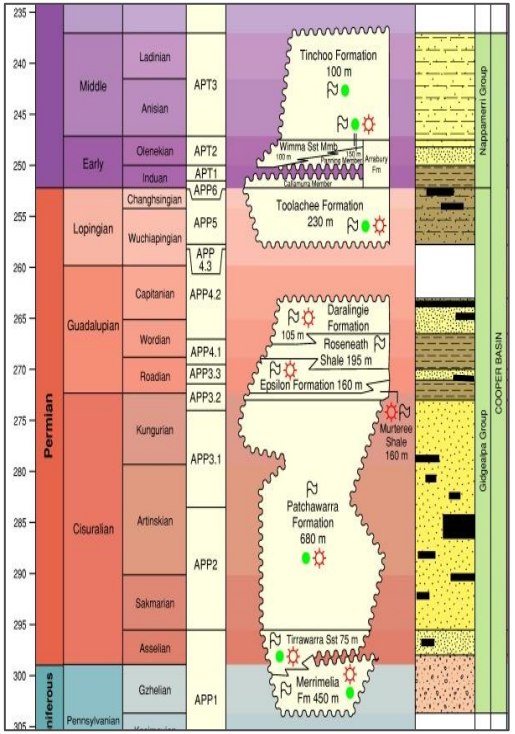


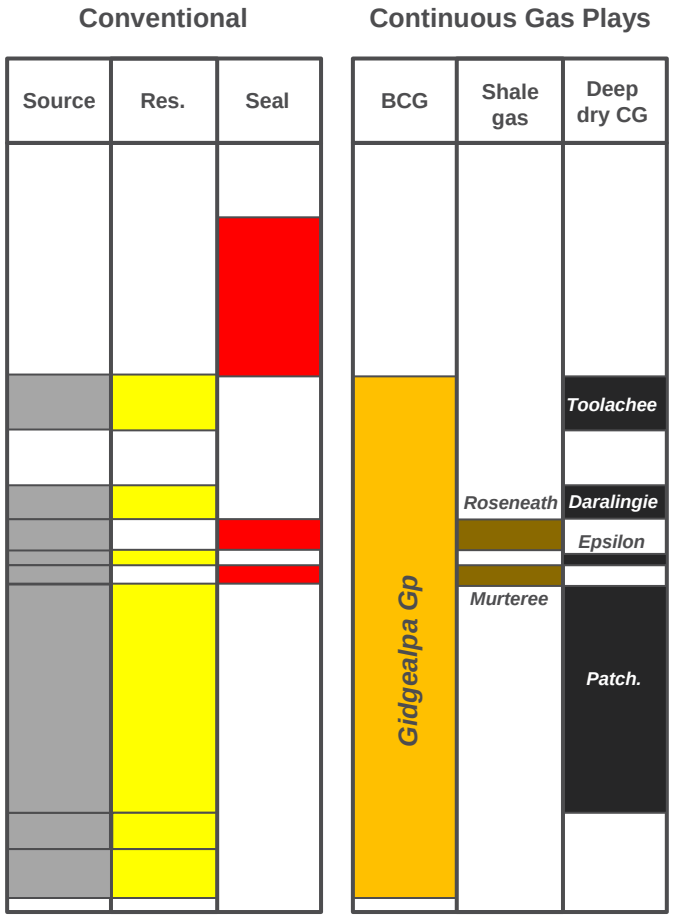


Cooper Basin Source Rocks

10 key Permian source rocks:

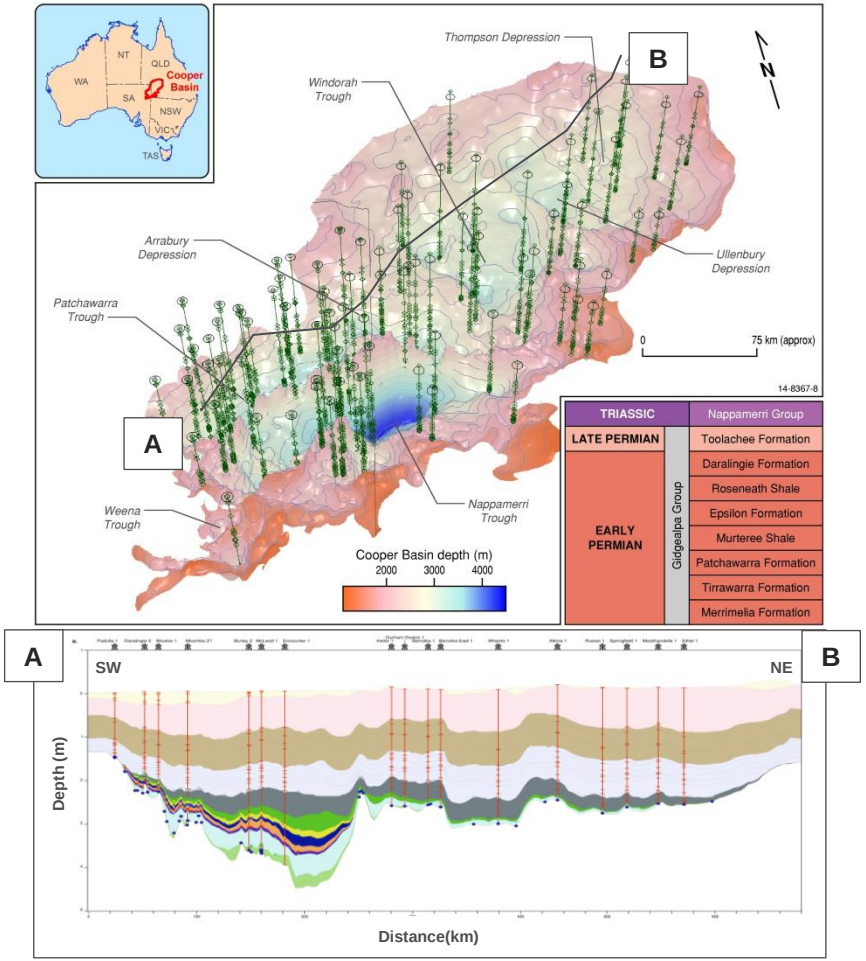
- Toolachee Fm coal
- Toolachee Fm coaly shale
- Daralingie Fm coal
- Daralingie Fm coaly shale
- Roseneath Shale
- Epsilon Fm coal
- Epsilon Fm coaly shale
- Murteree Shale
- Patchawarra Fm coal
- Patchawarra Fm coaly shale





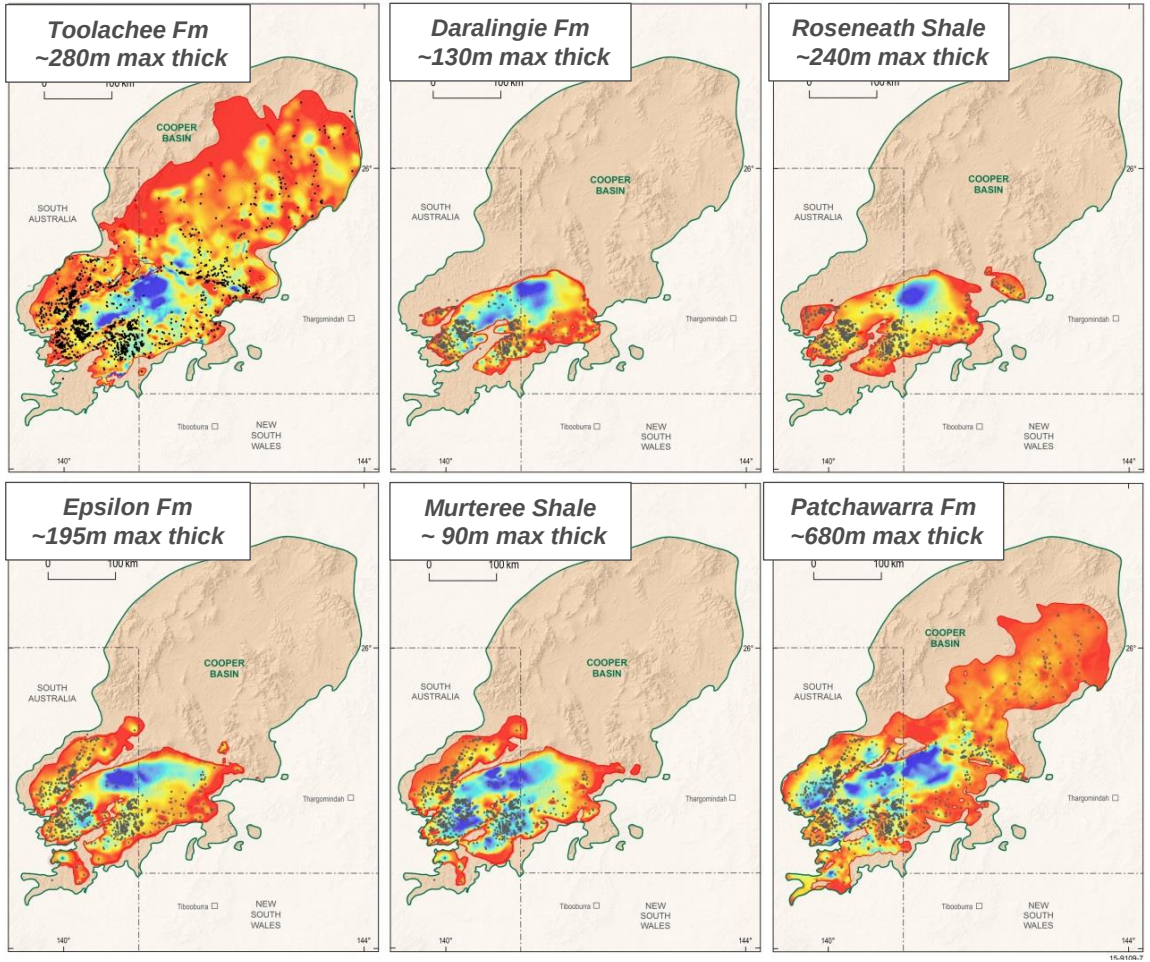
Regional 3D Basin Model

- Cooper Basin structure surfaces and isopachs:
  - Better integration of datasets across the state border
  - Incorporation of new open file well picks and seismic interpretation
- Eromanga and Lake Eyre Basin surfaces:
  - Modeled from existing seismic interpretation and well picks
- Unconformities (with uplift and erosion)
  - Based on existing studies; consistent with regional tectonic evolution
- Stratigraphic ages:
  - Updated to GTS 2012, inclusion of revised spore pollen zone ages



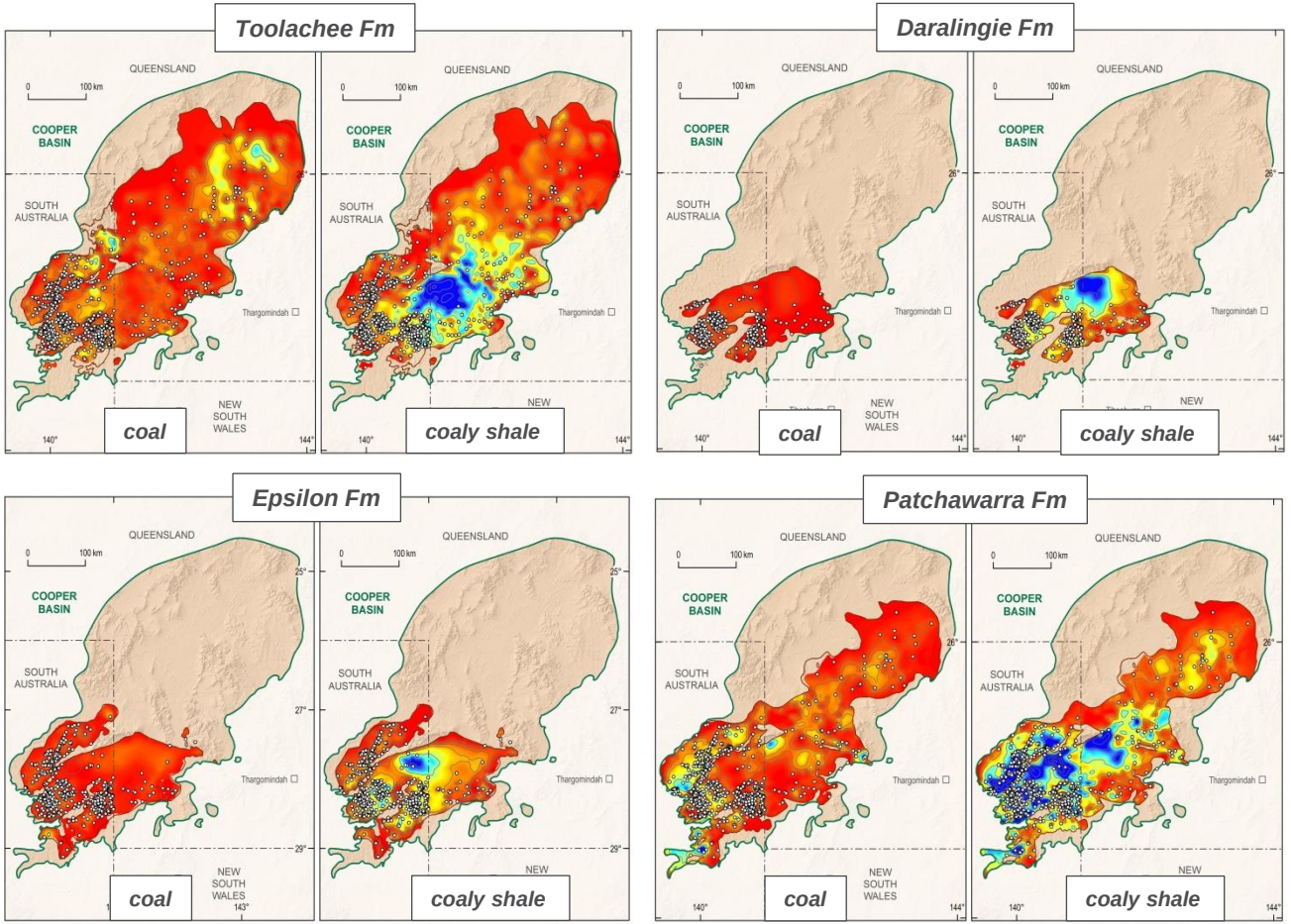
Source Rock Distribution

- Source rock extent and gross formation thickness from 3D model.
- Toolachee/ Patchawarra Fms thickest and most extensive units.
- Daralinige, Roseneath, Epislon and Murteree restricted to the southern part of the basin



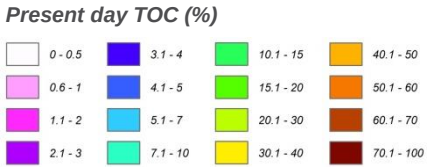
Source Rock Net Thickness

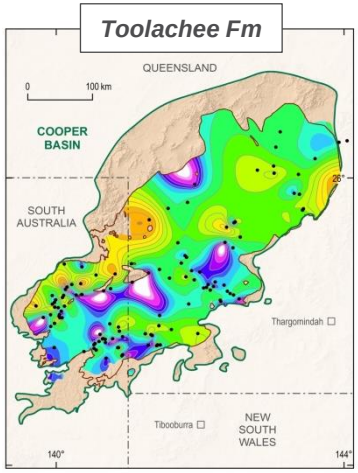
- Toolachee, Daralingie, Epsilon and Patchawarra Formations mixed lithology
- SA: Sun and Camac (2004) electrofacies mapping, with updated coal thicknesses
- QLD: new electrofacies maps consistent SA methodology

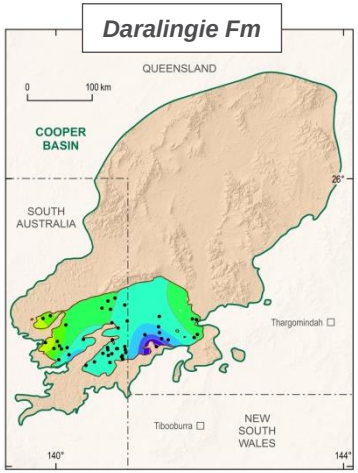


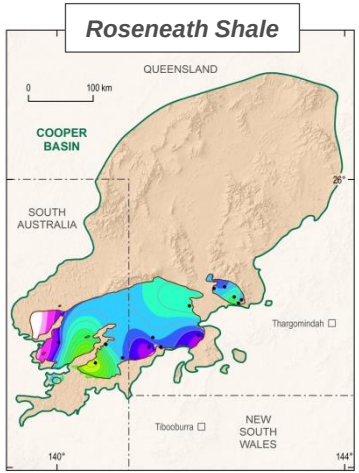
Source Richness

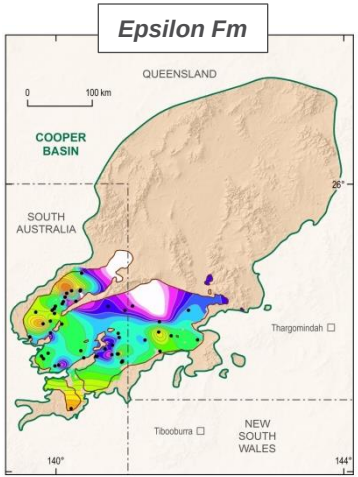
- Present day TOC maps by lithology:
  - Coal: average TOC ~ 70%
  - Shales and coaly shales: TOC maps formation.
- Good – excellent source potential across all formations (TOC> 2%)
- Highest TOCs associated with the Toolachee and Patchawarra coaly shales
- Original HI and TOC maps also generated for input into the petroleum systems modelling

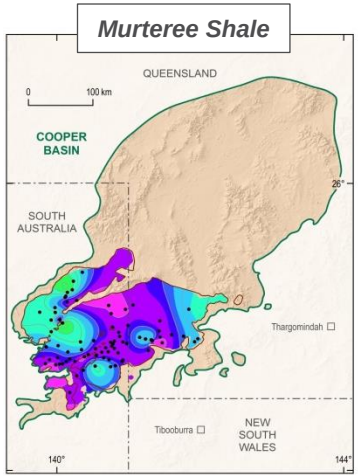


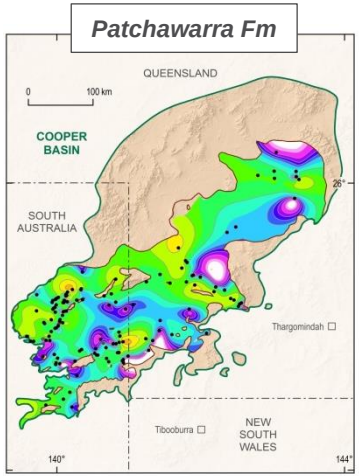






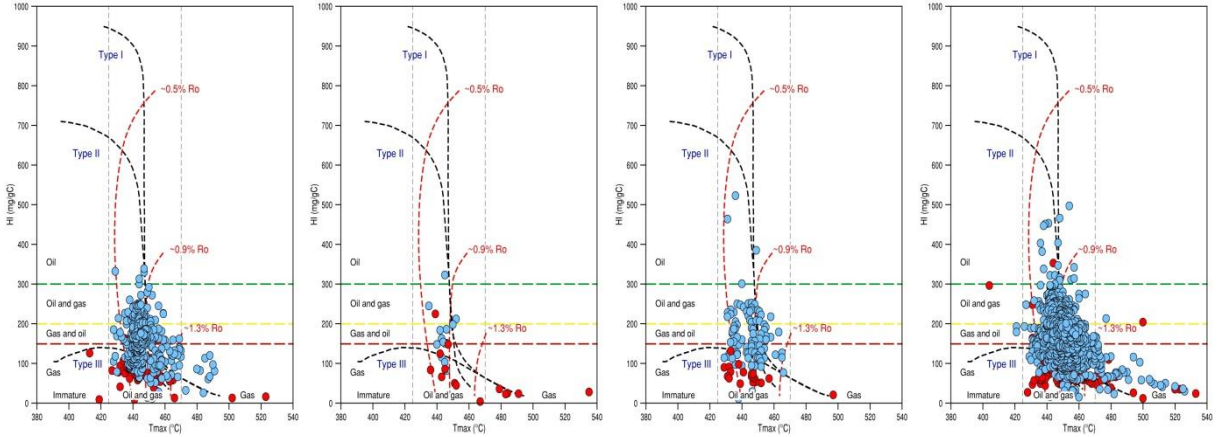




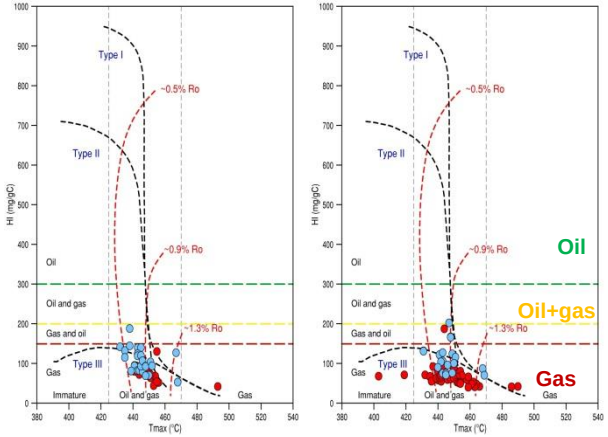


Source Characterisation

Toolachee Fm | Daralingie Fm | Epsilon Fm | Patchawarra Fm



Roseneath Shale | Murteree Shale



- Coals/ coaly shales. TOCs: 2 – 80%; (coals > 50%)
- HI > 250 mg/gC (little variation by lithology – highest HI values found in coals)
- Kerogen type II/III (non-marine) - Good gas to oil + gas source potential.
- **Toolachee, Daralingie, Epsilon and Patchawarra formations show similar source characteristics**

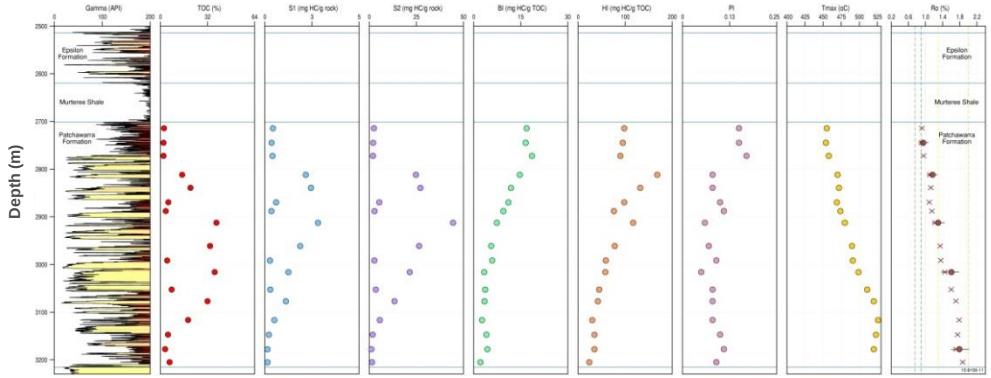
- "Shales". TOC: 2 - 12 %;
- HI's < 200 mg/gC
- Kerogen type III/IV (non-marine) - Gas prone
- **No "sweet" lacustrine shales observed**

Source Rock Kinetics

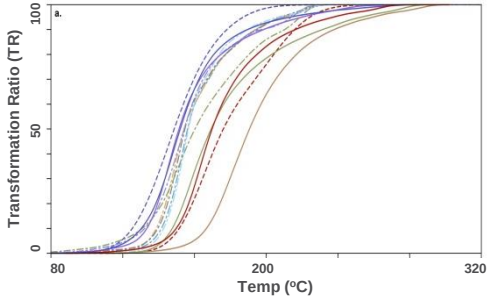
- Cooper basin kinetics (Malhstedt et al., 2015).
  - Consistent with Pepper and Corvi DE – F (Type II/III – IV; non-marine)
  - Potential for late primary gas generation
- Calibration with natural maturity sequence from new sampling

Malhstedt et al. (2015) GA Record
Download from www.ga.gov.au

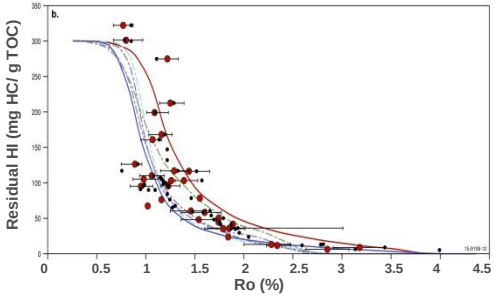
Down well geochemical and maturity profile: new sampling in Allunga Trough -1, SA



Bulk kinetics



Natural maturity sequence (HI vs Ro)



Malhstedt et al. (2015)
- *Toolachee Formation (Vintage Crop 1)*
- *Roseneath Shale (Battunga 1)*
- *Murteree Shale (Wancoocha 1)*
- *Patchawarra Formation (Forge 1)*
- *Patchawarra Formation (Gidgealpa 6)*

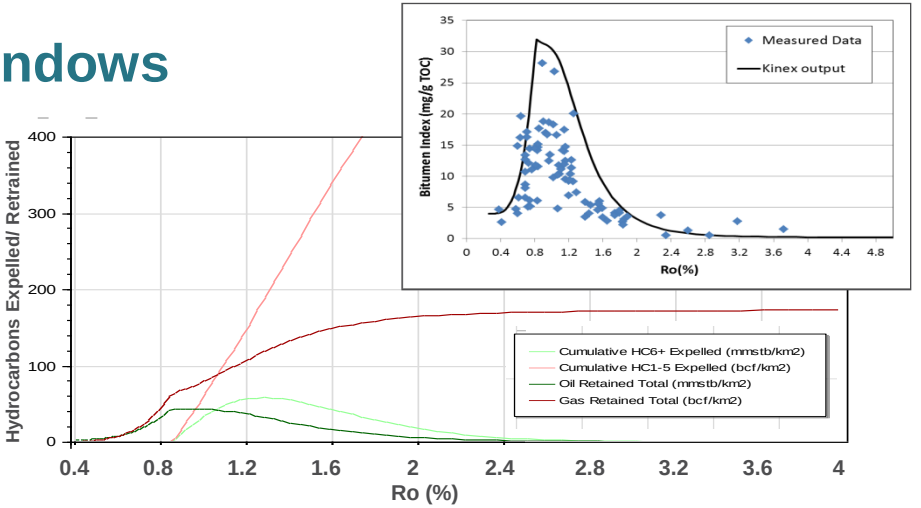
Deighton et al. (2003)
- *Toolachee Formation (Jackson 1C)*
- *Murteree Shale (Murteree 1C)*
- *Patchawarra Formation coal (Gidgealpa 6)*
- *Patchawarra Formation shale (Gidgealpa 6)*
- *Patchawarra Formation coal (Tinga Tingana 1)*
- *Patchawarra Formation shale (Tinga Tingana 1)*

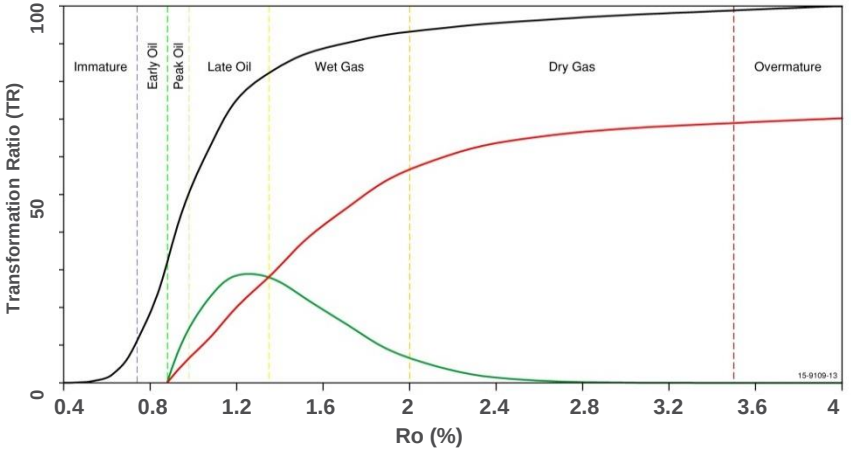
Pepper and Corvi (1995)
- *Organofacies DE*
- *Organofacies F*

- *Natural maturity sequence - measured Ro (%)*
- *Natural maturity sequence - calculated Ro (%) from Tmax*

Expulsion/ Retention & Oil/ Gas Windows

- Petroleum retained: free + adsorbed
  - Arco model (includes saturation of organic and inorganic porosity)
  - Calibration with observed data (BI vs Ro)
  - Need to better understand adsorption in coals
- Cooper specific maturity windows

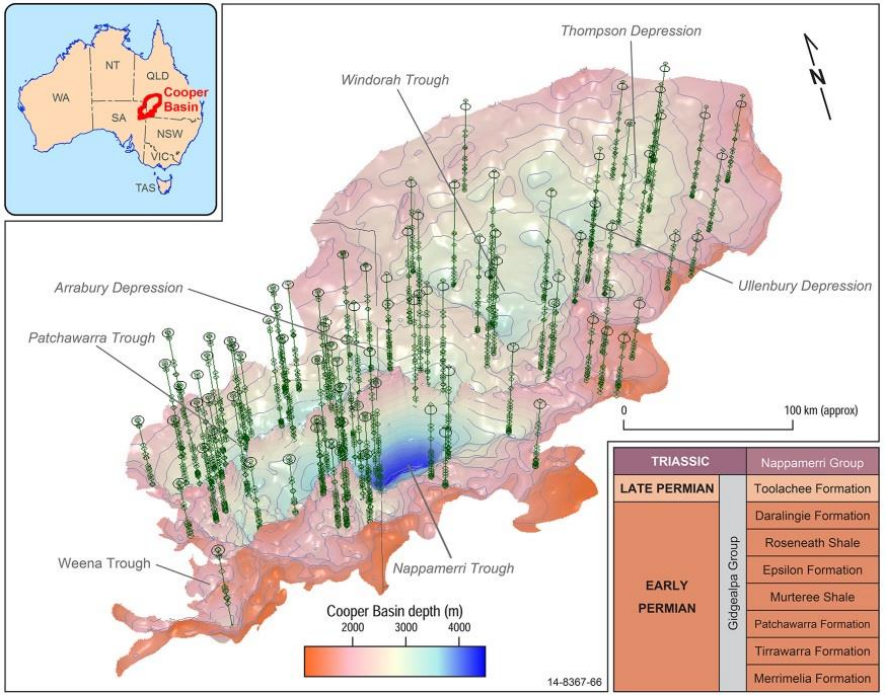




	Cooper Basin	
	Ro (%)	Tmax (°C)
Early oil	0.75 - 0.9	435 - 445
Peak oil	0.9 - 1	445 - 455
Late oil	1 – 1.3	455 - 475
Wet gas	1.3 - 2	475 - 530
Dry gas	2 – 3.5	530 - 650
Over-mature	> 3.5	> 650

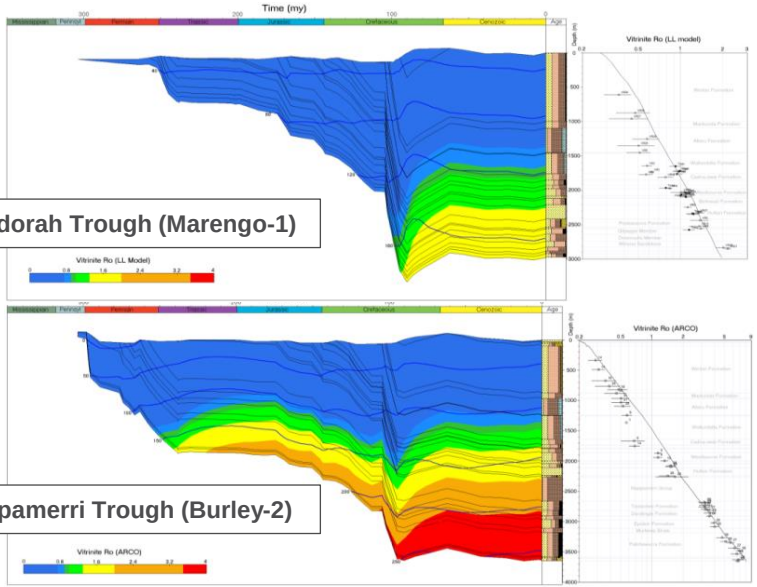
Burial and Thermal History Modelling Set Up

- 1D models for > 90 wells
- Model setup:
  - Thermal boundary conditions: transient heat-flow from base lithosphere.
  - Crustal thickness and radiogenic heat production properties from published studies
- Model calibration:
  - Present day corrected temp. and maturity indicators (Ro, Tmax) (all wells).
  - Lithology calibration: velocity, density, thermal conductivity (key wells)
- Integration with 3D basin model to generate maturity maps



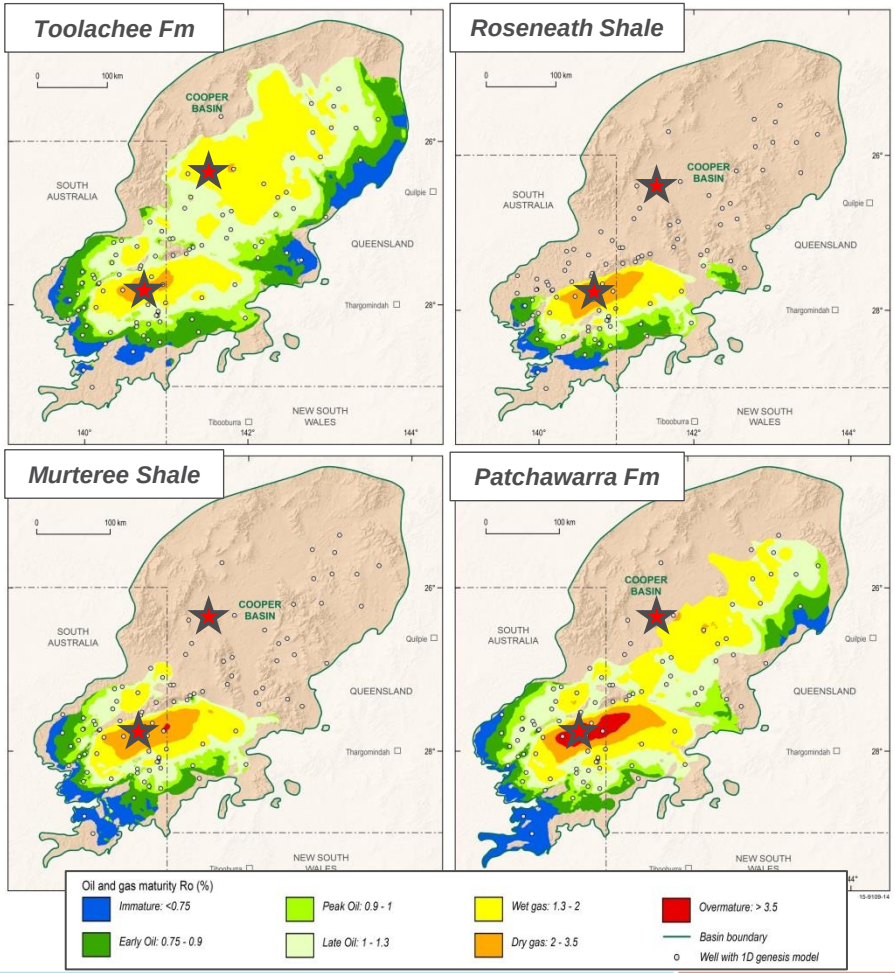
Maturity Modelling Results

- Major variation in thermal history between depocentres.
- Key influences: Big Lake Suite Granodiorites, Late Cretaceous uplift and erosion, thermal blanketing effect of thick Permian coals.



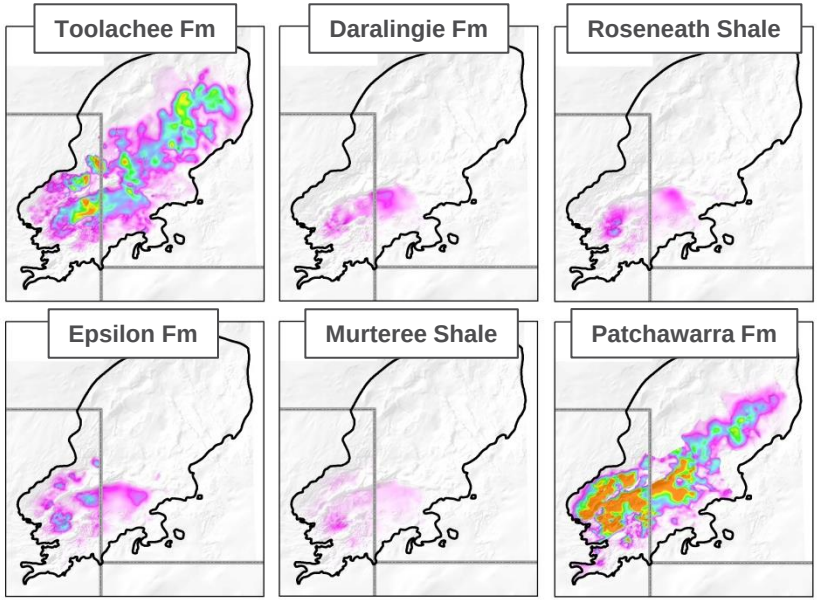
Windorah Trough (Marengo-1)

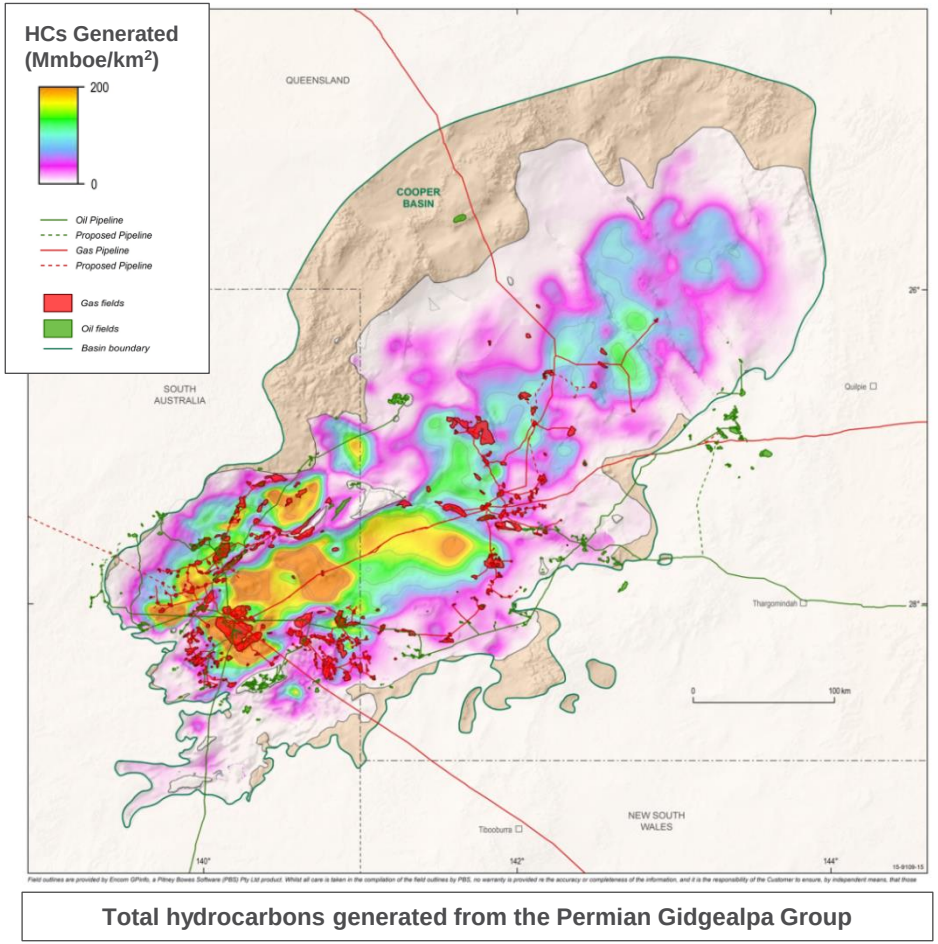
Nappamerri Trough (Burley-2)



Hydrocarbon Generation

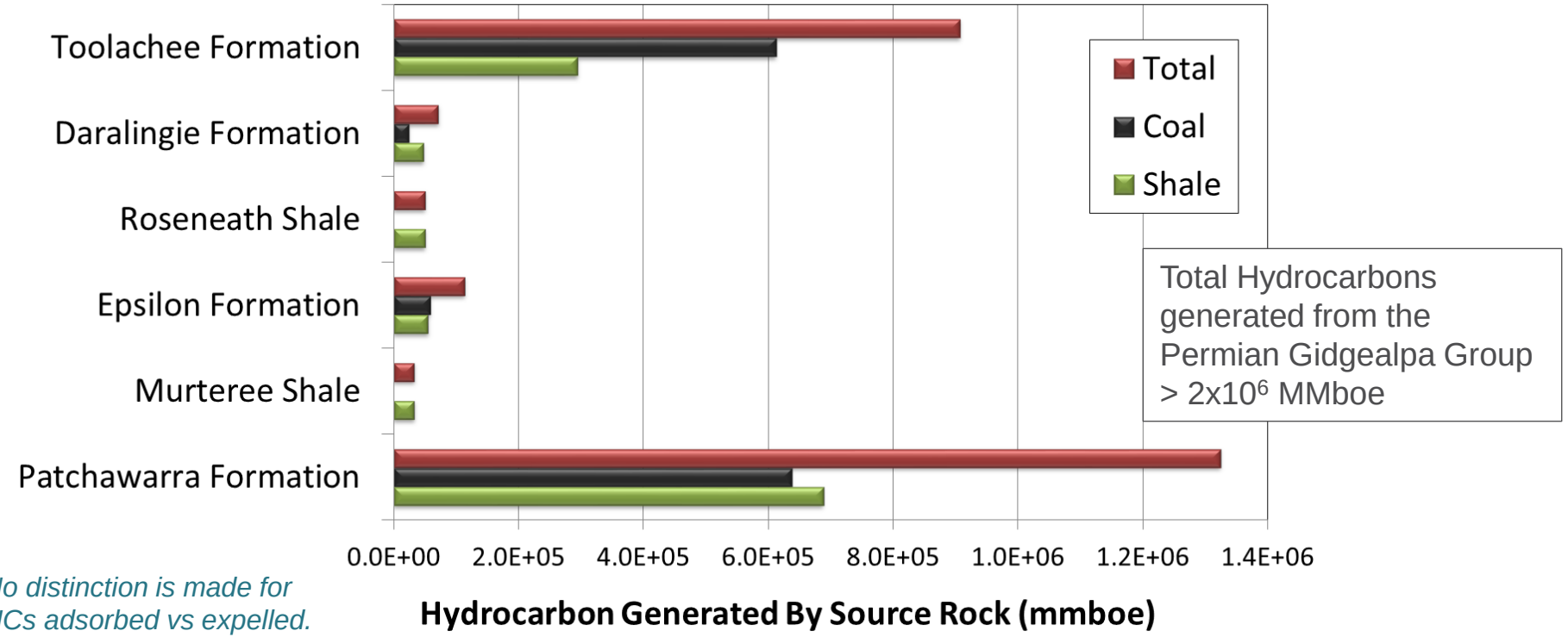
- Integration with source rock properties and 2-component kinetics => hydrocarbons generated





Total hydrocarbons generated from the Permian Gidgealpa Group

Hydrocarbons Generated by Source Rock

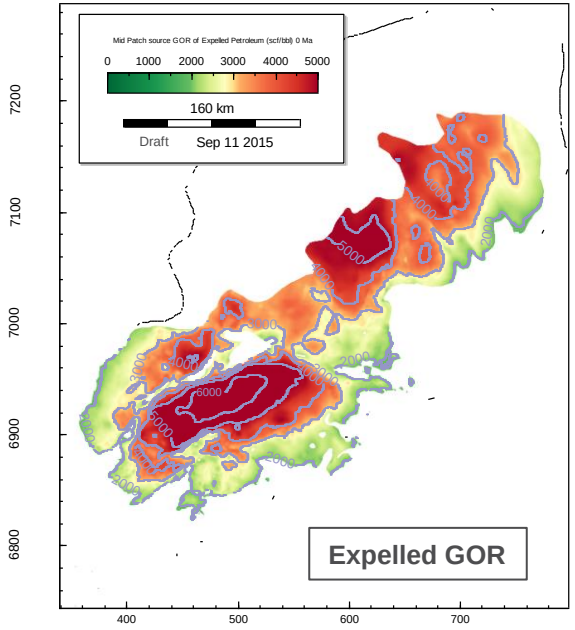


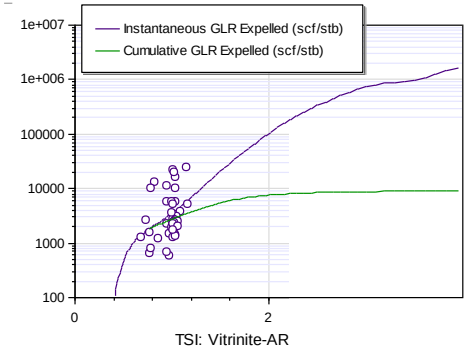
Total Hydrocarbons generated from the Permian Gidgealpa Group > $2x10^6$ MMboe

No distinction is made for HCs adsorbed vs expelled.

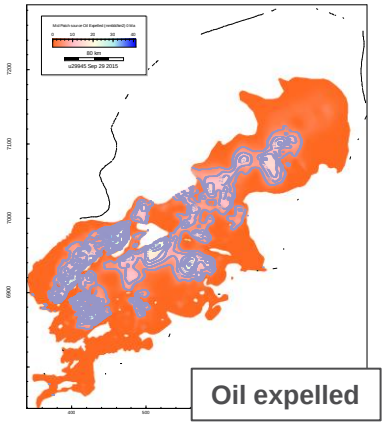
Fluids Expelled/ Retained & GOR

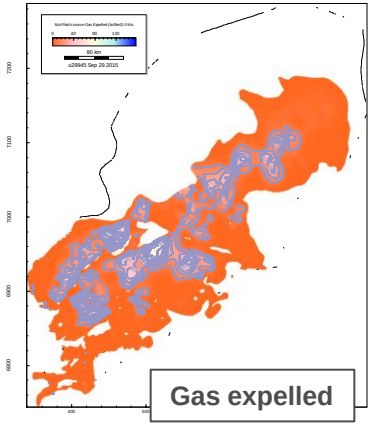
- Test case: Patchawarra Formation coals
- GOR: instantaneous/ in situ fluid vs cumulative expelled
- Need to calibrate with observed data

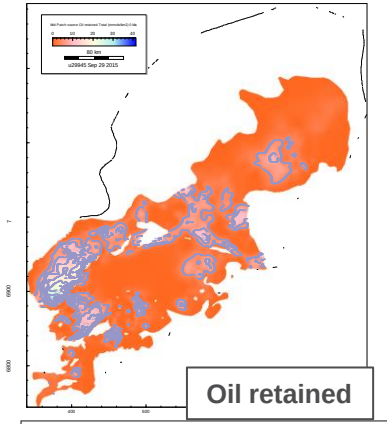


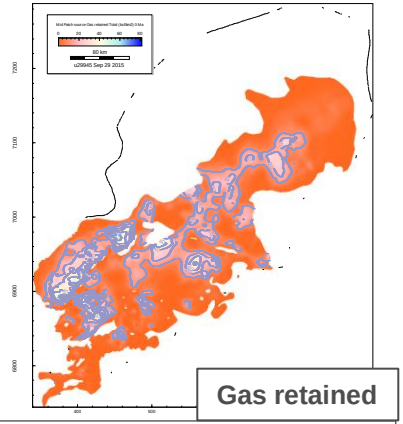


Outputs modified depending on the play type being assessed





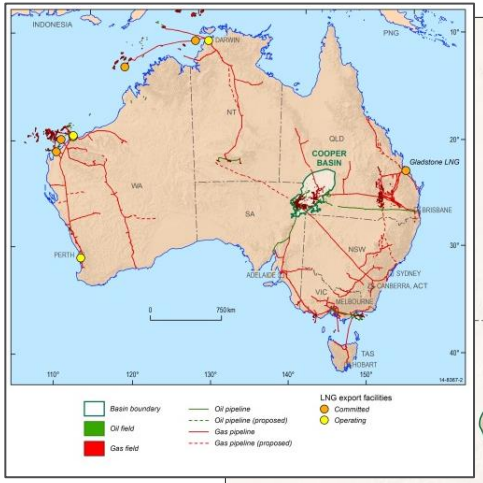




Work in progress – Patchawarra coal

Conclusions

- Map of cumulative hydrocarbons generated from all Gidgealpa Gp source rocks highlights the broad extent of the source kitchen
- Largest contribution from Toolachee and Patchawarra coals and coaly shales.
- Results show the importance of BPSM as a predictive tool for understanding the regional petroleum resource potential.
- Work in progress:
  - improve expulsion models to map hydrocarbons expelled and retained, along with fluid composition
  - application of Monte Carlo simulations to capture model uncertainty



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