

# Exploring for the Future – a new phase of resource investment in northern Australia

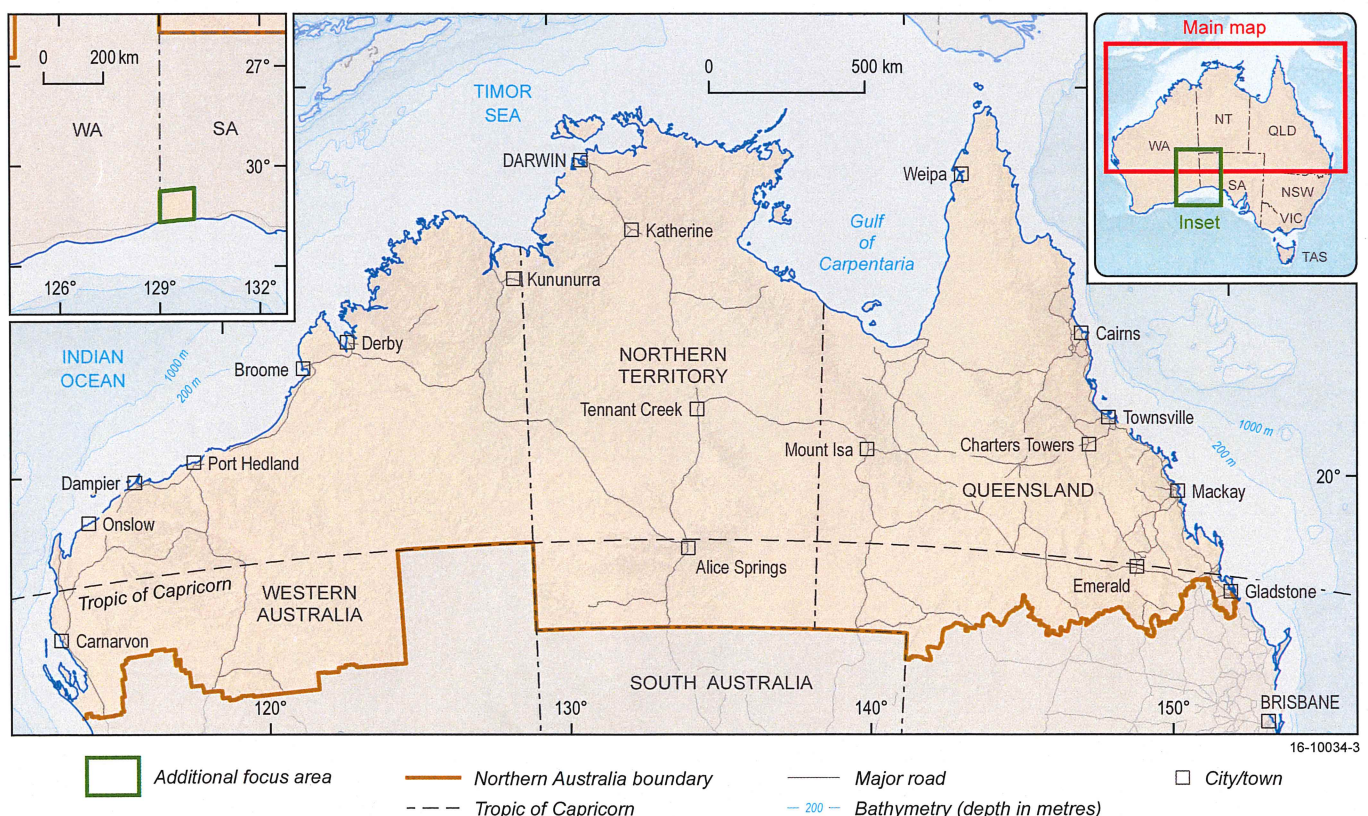
**Exploring for the Future is playing an important role in securing an ongoing pipeline of mineral, energy and groundwater resources to safeguard Australia's future economic prosperity.**

Exploring for the Future is a new \$100.5 million initiative by the Australian Government that aims to boost Australia's attractiveness as a destination for investment in resource exploration.

Australia is fortunate to be rich in natural resources, including minerals, energy and groundwater. These resources are essential for life and the sustainable development of our society. They are also a foundation for the economic successes that our country has enjoyed for decades. It is therefore vital that we encourage and support commercial exploration activities to maintain a healthy supply of mineral, energy and groundwater resources into the future. **Exploring for the Future** seeks to do that.

## The new frontier

This four-year programme focuses predominantly on northern Australia. As highlighted in the Australian Government's *White Paper on Developing Northern Australia*, this under-explored region offers enormous potential for industry development and is advantageously close to major global markets. A range of activities are underway to support this development, including building new roads and infrastructure to improve access to, and living in, remote locations.



Northern Australia comprises approximately 50 per cent of the country. The programme also investigates a small area in South Australia.

## Three interrelated components

Geoscience Australia's leading researchers will use innovative techniques to gather new pre-competitive data and information, on an unprecedented scale, about the potential mineral, energy and groundwater resources concealed beneath the surface. Importantly, this work will be undertaken in greenfield areas where this potential is unknown or poorly known and thus the programme will have the greatest impact.

### Minerals

The minerals component focuses on understanding the geological evolution of northern Australia and through that, identifying which geological terrains have greater potential for various mineral deposit types. The activities are aligned with the UNCOVER priority areas identified in the AMIRA Roadmap for Exploration Under Cover.

### Energy

The energy component focuses on exploring sedimentary basins to better understand the location and scale of potential oil and gas resources.

### Groundwater

The groundwater component focuses on assessing the location, quantity and quality of groundwater, and rates of use or depletion, to identify potential opportunities for irrigated agriculture, mineral and energy development, and community water supply.

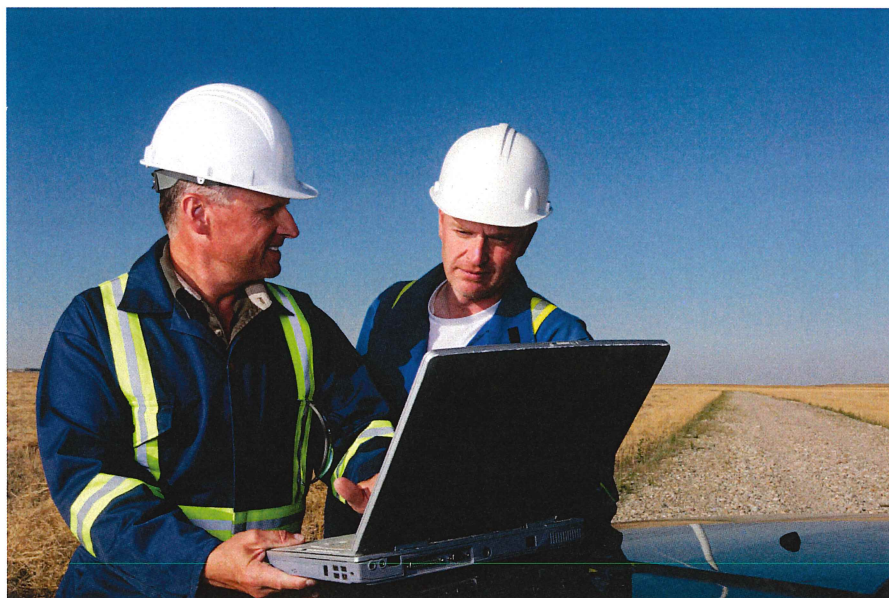
## Ongoing data and information releases

Geoscience Australia is releasing the pre-competitive data and information on an ongoing basis over the four years to support and de-risk resource decision making and investment. As all the data and information will be publicly available on Geoscience Australia's website, all parts of the resources sector, as well as the broader research and development community, will have an opportunity to benefit from **Exploring for the Future**.

## Partnering with government and industry

Geoscience Australia is partnering with the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australian, and Western Australian governments to augment and facilitate the delivery of the programme.

The Mining Equipment, Technology and Services sector is also being contracted to undertake some of the fieldwork, providing new jobs in regional areas.



A wide range of data and information will be collected over four years.

### For Further Information:

**Geoscience Australia**  
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Department of Water  
Department of Mines and Petroleum  
Department of Agriculture and Food



Government of South Australia  
Department of State Development

