



ISSUE 25, August 2015

## Introducing the Executive Director of Geological Survey of NSW

Dr Chris Yeats commenced as the Executive Director of the Geological Survey of NSW on 9 June 2015. Dr Yeats is an ore deposit geologist and geochemist with 25 years' experience in base and precious metal exploration and research in terrains ranging from the Archaean Pilbara and Yilgarn cratons, to modern seafloor hydrothermal systems. He worked with the CSIRO for 16 ½ years and held a range of leadership roles. Presently, Chris is a governing councillor and the National Treasurer of the [Geological Society of Australia](#); Chair of the [GSA Specialist Group in Economic Geology](#) and a governing councillor of the [Australia–New Zealand IODP Consortium](#).

[Read more about Dr Yeats](#) and [view an ABC Catalyst interview](#)

## New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling program grants — round 2

An Invitation to Apply for funds will be offered by the NSW government through the [New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling Program, round 2](#) which will open on 16 November 2015.

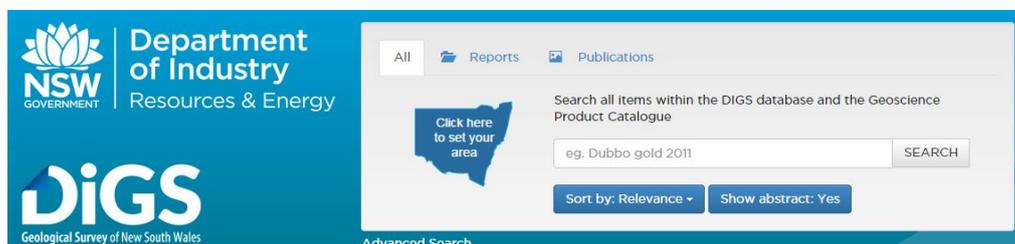
The NSW government initiative will provide grants to exploration companies to assist private exploration drilling programs for Group 1 minerals. This will encourage exploration and lead to new scientific and economic discoveries. The program will fund 50%, 75% or 100% of the per-metre drilling costs, depending on assessment, with a cap of \$200 000 per project.

[View further information, an indicative timeline](#) and [success stories](#).

Contact: [cooperative.drilling@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cooperative.drilling@trade.nsw.gov.au)

## New DIGS beta release

The [beta version of the new public DIGS search engine](#) is now available. DIGS is an archive that provides public access to non-confidential reports and documents held by Resources & Energy.



The records in new DIGS are sourced from databases for old [DIGS](#) and the [Geoscience Product Catalogue](#). They are presented as two unique collections: Reports (DIGS) and Publications (Geoscience Product Catalogue). Consequently, they have different categories of metadata for sorting and filtering. The collections can be searched together or separately.

Work and updating content is continuing on the beta version.

See <https://search.geoscience.nsw.gov.au>.

Special features are:

- Spatial search across both collections
- Simple text search using a single search box
- Advanced search for constructing complex search strings
- Result filters specific to the collection metadata
- Registered users can save their searches
- All users can share search results by email
- All users can export search results lists

Feedback is encouraged. Use: [digs.info@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digs.info@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Common Ground — community online title search

Resources & Energy has released [Common Ground](#), an online application that easily allows communities to search all coal, mineral and gas exploration or production titles in their region. Common Ground provides a single access point to data held in numerous government databases, as well as access to information on the NSW regulatory framework, resource types, project boundaries, permitted activities and conditions applied to explorers. It describes the roles of community and government in the decision making process for any proposed activity.

## 3D data package — Southern New England Orogen

[The data package](#) contains topographic surfaces, major faults and confidence attribution volumes. It is available in 3 formats: DXF, Gocad ts and a Leapfrog view file.

The [Southern New England Orogen 3D map](#) explores the complex regional scale structural and stratigraphic relationships of this area. Modelling is based on surface mapping, structural data, seismic lines, magnetic and gravity data or derivatives, as well as limited drillhole information and is largely constrained by the [NSW Seamless Geology for Zone 56](#) and the collated structural dataset. The model comprises:

- Tamworth Belt (North Murrurundi and Rouchel Block, Gresford Block, Myall Block, Hastings Block)
- Nambucca Block
- Coffs Harbour Block and Clarence–Moreton Basin basement
- Woolomin–Texas Block (or Central Block)

This is one of a [series of statewide 3D projects](#). The [Clarence–Moreton 3D stratigraphic model](#) is complete and 3D mapping for the [East Riverina Mapping Project](#) has started.

**Contact:** Jamie Robinson [jamie.robinson@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jamie.robinson@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6730

## Geoscientific Data Warehouse — new features

New features now available through <http://dwh.minerals.nsw.gov.au>

The [NSW Geology Phone Maps page](#) links to a new phone-friendly Drupal site which supports phone maps generally and the 'NSW Geology Maps' iPhone/iPad app specifically

- 'Soil & Landscape Grid of Australia' is a new top level layer in the GDW Google Earth system
- When clicking on the Gmaps link from a PHP report, a pop-up appears for the location of the field observation, drill hole, etc. over the 1:1.5M geological map. [See an example](#). Google Maps or Satellite imagery can still be used
- The Drillholes & Wells search page allows a search for drillholes held in GSNSW core libraries
- Searching tips have been added to the left pane in the GDW Google Earth data
- Links in Titles, Basins and Cratons have been updated

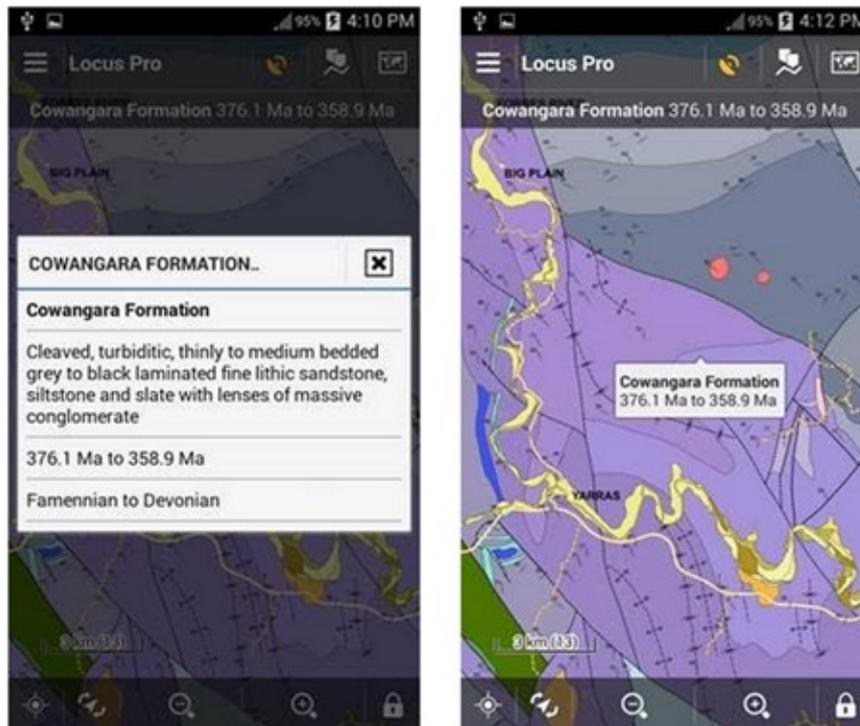
**Contact:** <http://dwh.minerals.nsw.gov.au/CI/warehouse/entry/feedback>

## Interactive NSW Seamless Geology Phone Map

The [NSW Seamless Geology for Zone 56](#) is available as a phone/tablet map. Once downloaded the map provides easy access to the best available mapping for NSW east of 150° longitude. The phone map system does not require mobile reception and is integrated with the phone's GPS so is suitable for fieldwork anywhere in NSW.

This new map integrates several data layers to display surface information from the NSW Seamless Geology dataset. This includes surface rock units, geological boundaries, structure points, folds and faults. Touching the phone's screen accesses attribute information such as rock unit name, description and age. Towns and roads are included for reference points.

Download this map to your phone or tablet at <http://www.geoscience.nsw.gov.au/phonemaps>



An onscreen of the NSW Seamless Geology Phone Map and a rock unit description pop-up box

## NSW Petroleum/energy projects & exploration highlights map

The [Petroleum/Energy Projects & Exploration Highlights map](#) was updated in May 2015 and is available as an online download.

## New land access guideline (petroleum exploration)

As part of the [Improved Management of Exploration Regulation \(IMER\)](#) project, the Division of Resources and Energy recently published [Exploration Guideline: Petroleum Land Access \(Land Access Guideline\)](#). For more information:

- Download [Exploration Guideline: Petroleum Land Access](#)
- Download an [Overview of petroleum exploration reforms](#)
- Read more about the [IMER project reforms](#)
- [Subscribe to DRE updates such as this one](#)

Contact: [imer.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:imer.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Improving mining regulation in NSW Stage 2

The Integrated Mining Policy is a whole-of-government project that aims to improve the regulation of major mining projects to improve outcomes and strengthen information available for communities affected by mining. [Stage two is now on exhibition until 7 September 2015.](#)

Feedback is welcome from local government, industry and the community.

## Reminder: exploration reporting guidelines and templates

Exploration reporting guidelines, templates and specifically the colour coded **data template** are at: <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/enforcement/exploration-reporting>

## Mines & Wines 2015

[Mines & Wines 2015](#) conference will be held at Queanbeyan on 2–4 September. The program includes two days of technical presentations and case histories from the Eastern Australian Tasmanides, field trips to Lake George mine at Captains Flat and the Dargues Reef Gold mine, and local winery tours. [Registrations are now open.](#)

## EITH2015 presentations online

GSNSW staff presented highlights of their recent work to an audience of over 140 coal and mineral explorers and miners at Exploration in the House 2015. [View the PowerPoint presentations online.](#)

## Construction of drillcore library extension progresses

[Construction work for the Londonderry drillcore library extension](#) started on 18 May 2015. Initial targets to clear the site, construct a new stormwater culvert, excavate the foundations and back fill the site have been completed. [The concrete foundation slab is underway: see Facebook photos.](#) Inside the existing building, a climate-controlled HyLogger room, the new fossil storage area and a conference room are under construction.

Visitors must contact the Core Library Manager 02 4777 0322 in advance to check if core is available in the required time frame. Some core may not be accessible until the completion of construction which is forecast to be mid-December 2015.

**Contact:** Project Director, Graham Butt, [graham.butt@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:graham.butt@trade.nsw.gov.au), 0408 703 713

## East Riverina Mapping Project update

[View the April-June update which includes:](#)

- Examination of several drillcores, in particular the intense alteration in volcanic/volcaniclastic rocks and Yiddah Formation metasedimentary rocks near porphyry intrusions in the Gidginbung–Temora–Yiddah area
- The three new Honours thesis projects and completion of the Honours research project investigating metamorphic pressure–temperature conditions associated with deformation and granite emplacement
- The final report on 'Hydrogeochemical Investigations in the Wagga Wagga Region' from CSIRO. See [DIGS GS2015/0219](#).

**Contact:** Phil Gilmore, [phil.gilmore@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.gilmore@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6533

## Southern Thomson Orogen project update

The second stage of the collaborative [Southern Thomson Orogen Project](#) includes plans for ground geophysical surveys in September. A University of Newcastle Honours research project on the relationships between volcanic units, black slates and mafic rocks in the Louth area has commenced.

**Contact:** Rosemary Hegarty, [rosemary.hegarty@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rosemary.hegarty@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6597

## Cooperative drilling program success attracts investment

Impact Minerals Ltd received a \$121,500 drilling grant under the first round of the NSW Government's [New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling Program](#) for its drilling program at Red Hill, near Broken Hill. The first drillhole intersected high grades of platinum and palladium. [Squadron Resources Pty Ltd has invested \\$7.3 million in the company](#) demonstrating the potential returns to NSW from the \$2 million Cooperative Drilling Program.

[Five other companies announced successes from drawdowns on their first round cooperative drilling program grants.](#)

- The GFM Resources 'Paupong' project in the southern highlands near Jindabyne has intersected a wide range of sulphide-rich mineralisation
- [The Sorpresa Project area at Fifield owned by Rimfire Pacific Mining NL](#) confirmed sub surface gold mineralisation at Carlisle and copper anomalism with gold present at Yoes and Eclipse Trend
- [White Rock Minerals confirmed extensive sulphide alteration at their Mt Carrington project](#)
- Peel Mining [intersected altered rocks with locally strong pyrrhotite-pyrite-galenasphalerite-chalcopyrite mineralisation at Sandy Creek](#)
- Argent Minerals Ltd, [intersected significant gold grades in Hole 1 at its Kempfield Polymetallic Project](#). The [Hole 2 results increases the potential size of Kempfield](#)

## Report on importance of junior exploration companies update

An updated and expanded version of the 2014 Schodde report on the importance of junior exploration companies to the NSW mining industry is available in [DIGS GS2015/0814](#). It provides background data on the relative importance of the junior sector on the future size of the mining industry in NSW and key findings.

## Geotourist field guide brochures

The following geotourism brochures are available through DIGS.

- [Geology of the Lower Hunter Valley](#)
- [Geology of the Newcastle Coastline](#)
- [Geology of the Broken Hill region](#)

**Contact:** Phil Gilmore, [phil.gilmore@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.gilmore@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6533

## Potential field techniques: a (re)introduction for geophysicists and geologists — one-day course

Dr Bob Musgrave is presenting one-day courses in state capitals as part of the Australian Specialist's Travelling Education Programme (OzSTEP) organised by the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

View [dates and places](#) and [course outline](#).

Dr Musgrave will run the one-day course **in regional NSW** in November 2015; possibly Orange, Cobar and Maitland, **depending on the level of interest**. Email your interest.

**Contact:** Dr Bob Musgrave, [robert.musgrave@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robert.musgrave@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6725

## Newcastle Time Walk, 23 August, Newcastle

GSNSW is contributing to National Science Week 2015 with a time walk along the Newcastle foreshore from Nobbys Head to the Bogey Hole from 9am to 12pm. Bookings are essential. See: [visitnsw.com/events/newcastle-time-walk](http://visitnsw.com/events/newcastle-time-walk) for more information and registration.

**Contact:** Simone Meakin, [simone.meakin@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:simone.meakin@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6720

## HEDG

Final dates for the Hunter Earth Science Discussion Group 2015 program:

- [18 August National Science Week presentation - 'Making waves - the science of light'](#)
- [23 August National Science Week field excursion - the Newcastle Time Walk](#). A public walk to explore the coastal geology from Nobbys Head to the Bogey Hole
- [13 October: Earth Science Week 2015 presentation - 'Visualising Earth systems'](#)
- 24 November: New earth sciences research from the University of Newcastle

HEDG meets at the McIntyre Theatre, Newcastle Museum for drinks and nibbles at 6.00pm with the presentation at 6.30pm.

**Contact:** Phil Gilmore, [phil.gilmore@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.gilmore@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6533

## GSNSW reaches out to scientific festivals

GSNSW is promoting earth sciences in the Hunter region by participating in a variety of outreach programs and scientific festivals. [View the 2015 program.](#)

## Upcoming conferences

[Mines & Wines, 2–4 September, Queanbeyan](#)

[Natural History of the Belubula Valley, 7–10 September Linnean Society NSW](#)

[China Mining 20–23 October 2015, Tianjin, China](#)

[Mines and Money Australia@IMARC 2015, 9–13 November, Melbourne](#)

[NSW Coastal Conference, 10–13 November, Forster](#)

## Staff movements

Phil Kennedy has retired from his position of Senior Technical Officer with Minerals and Land Use. Jodi Birch has accepted the position of Executive Assistant to the Director

## Products

[Geoscience Product Catalogue](#)

[Geophysical images and data](#)

[Online sales: www.shop.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shop.nsw.gov.au)

[Quarterly Notes](#)

## Enquiries

**Maps and data packages:** [geoscience.products@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:geoscience.products@trade.nsw.gov.au)

**Geophysical images and data:** [geophysics.products@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:geophysics.products@trade.nsw.gov.au): Tel: 02 4931 6717

**Counter sales:** [mineralpublication.orders@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mineralpublication.orders@trade.nsw.gov.au) Free call: 1300 736 122 Tel:

02 4931 6666

**General product enquiries:** Gavin Ayre, [gavin.ayre@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gavin.ayre@trade.nsw.gov.au), 02 4931 6426

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GSNSW: [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/geoscience-information](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/geoscience-information)

Newsletter compilation and OTO enquiries: Joan Henley, [joan.henley@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:joan.henley@trade.nsw.gov.au)

View previous issues: [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/geoscience-information/products-and-data/books-and-brochures/newsletter](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/geoscience-information/products-and-data/books-and-brochures/newsletter)

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ISSN 1835–2200

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