



AuScope infrastructure  
providing a 'telescope' looking  
into the Australian continent.

Dr. Tim Rawling, CEO, AuScope



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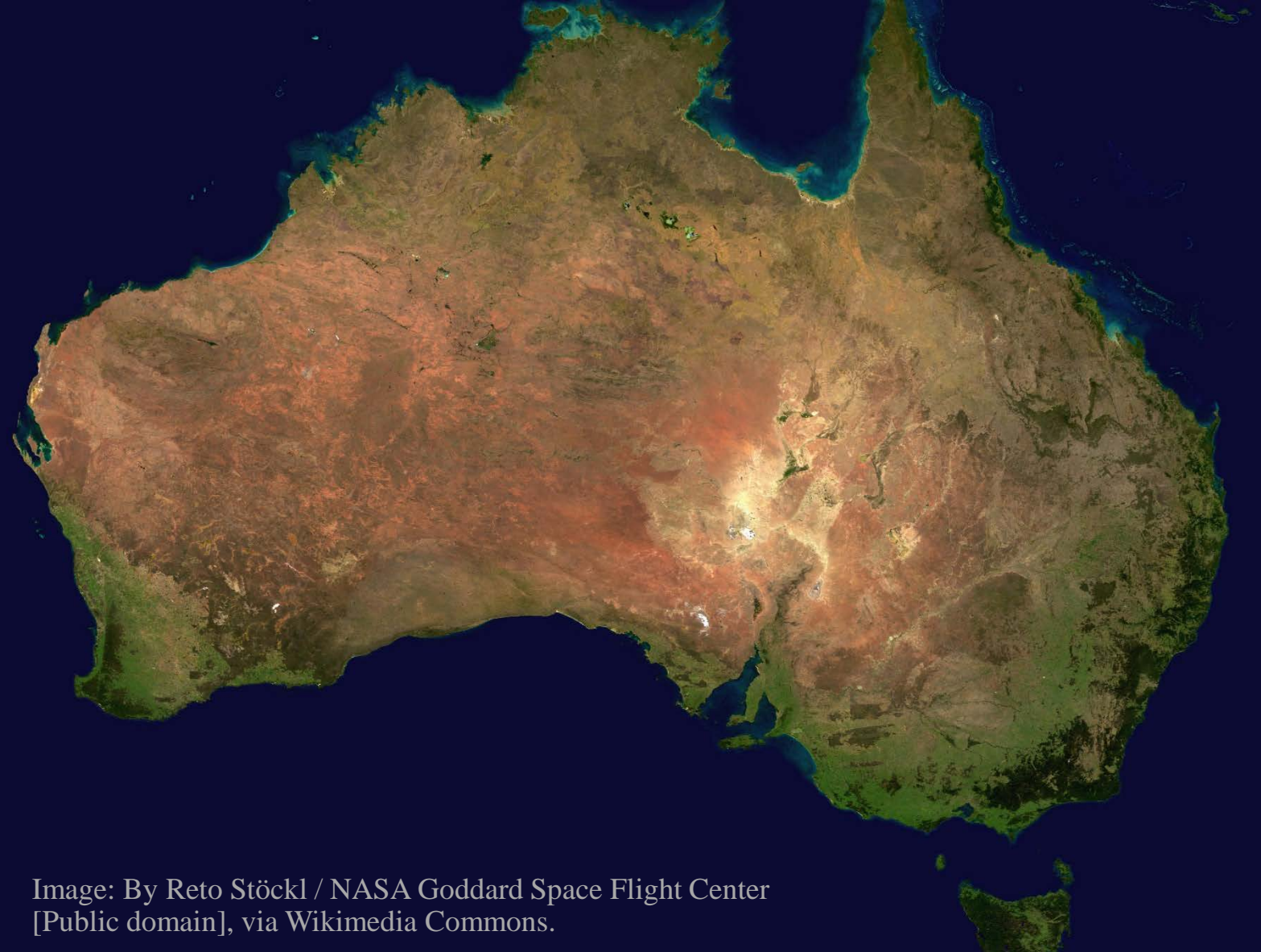
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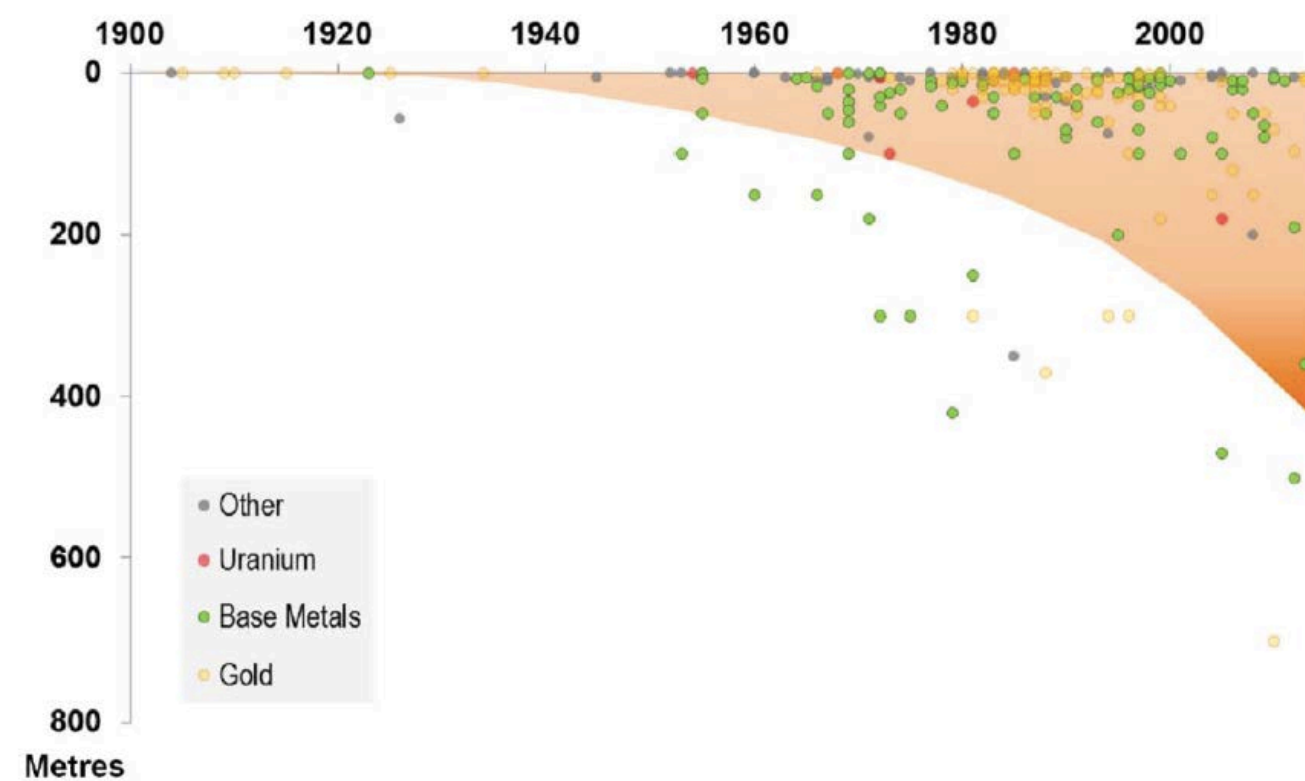
# What is AuScope?

Introduction

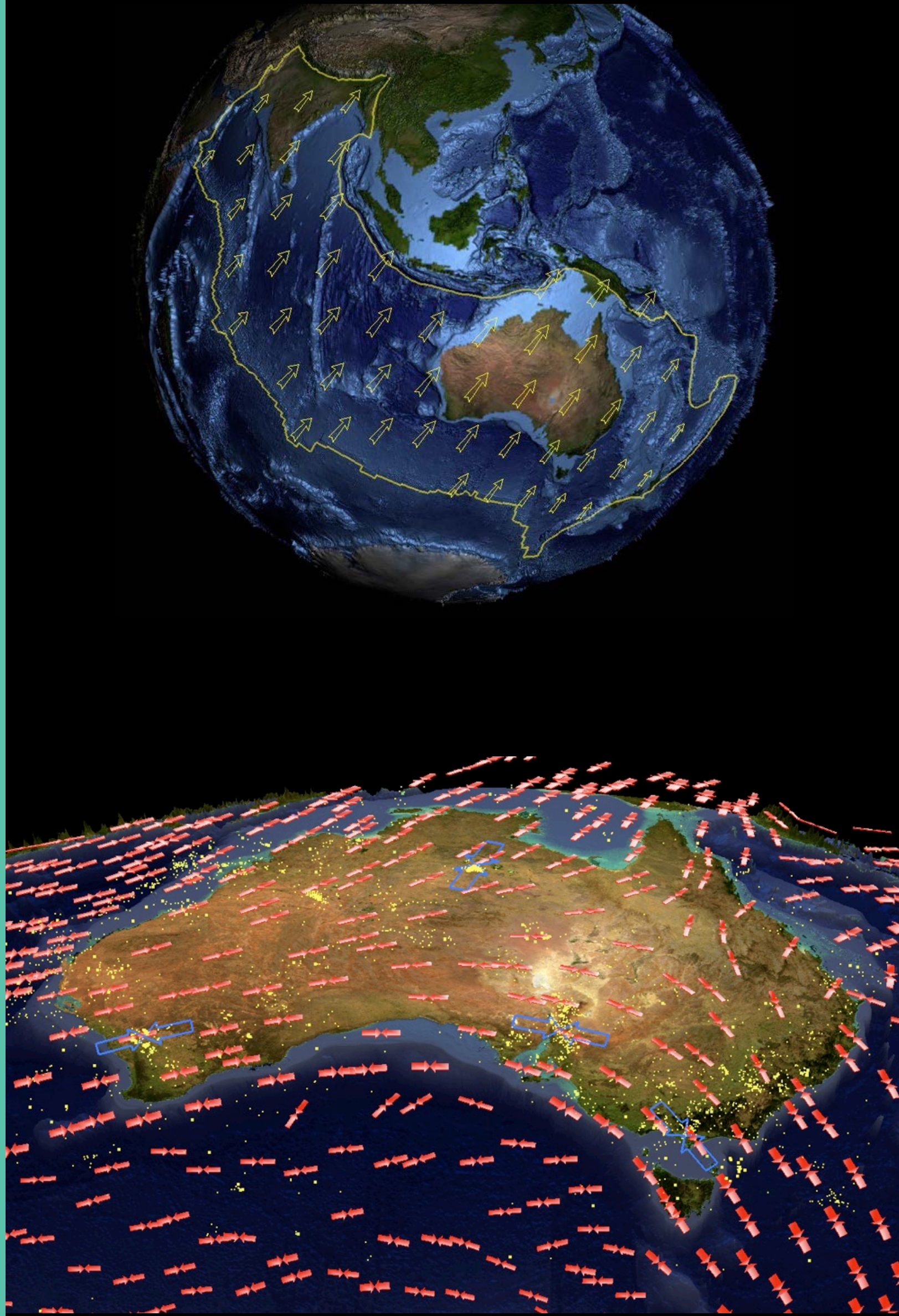


## Australian Context

- Australia is old, cold and cratonised.
- Minerals search space is maturing, and exploration is being forced deeper under transported cover.



• MinEx Consulting (Richard Schodde) 2015, "Exploration trends, inds and issues in Australia". Excludes satellite deposits in existing camps and bulk mineral discoveries.



## Australian Context

- Large, fast moving plate
- Complex active plate boundaries and geoid geometries
- Highly stressed crust – mostly in compression – and underestimated seismic hazard



## AuScope History

- Established in 2006 to implement an Earth and Geospatial Science Infrastructure program
- National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Program “*Structure and Evolution of the Australian Continent*”
- \$75M Commonwealth investment  
\$34M cash and \$128M in-kind co-investment from partners



## AuScope Purpose

To create universal access to earth and geospatial research infrastructure (equipment, data, analytics) to drive:

- Innovative Australian scientific research
- Support scientific investigations in government and industry

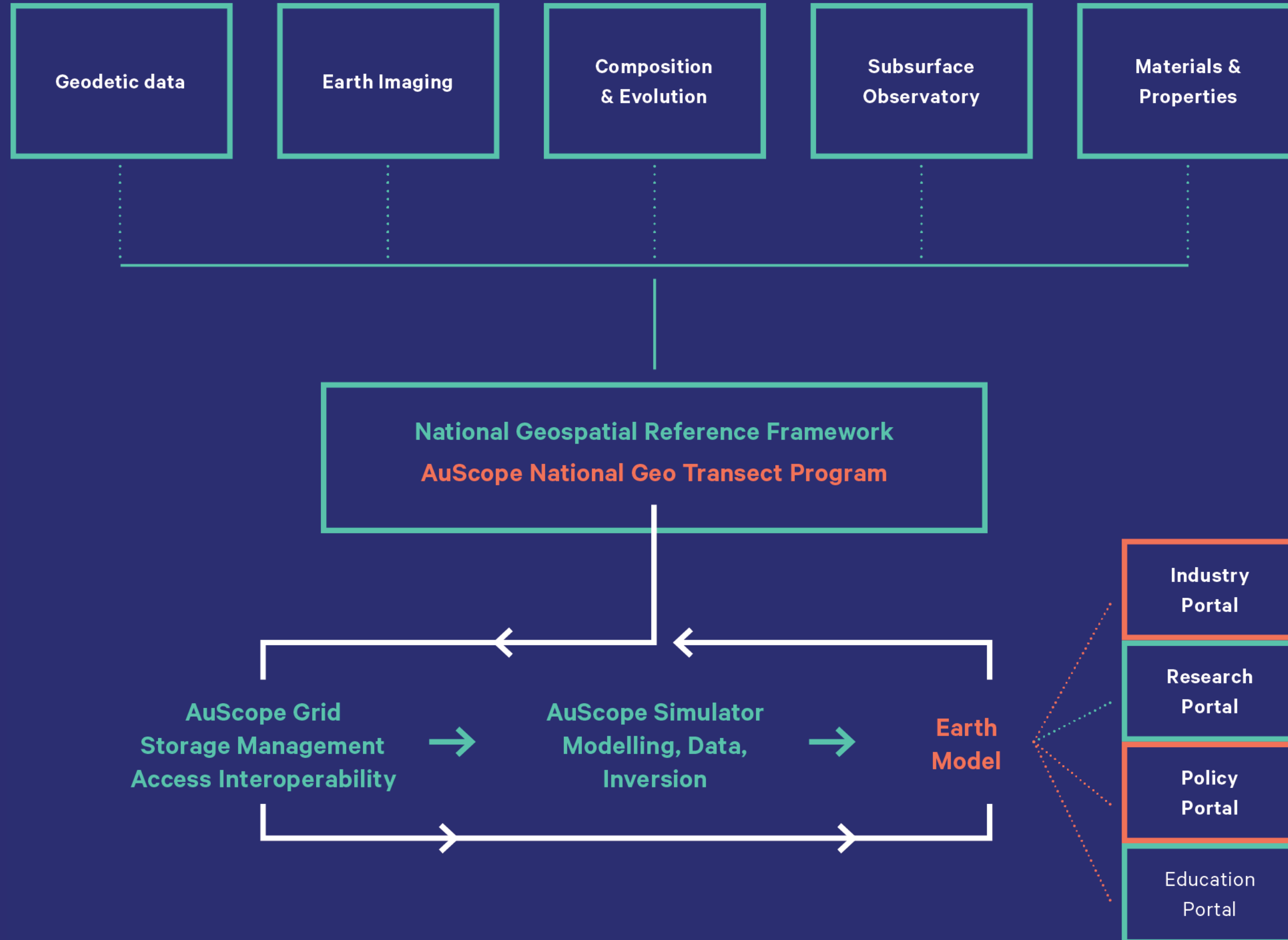


Introduction





# AuScope Model

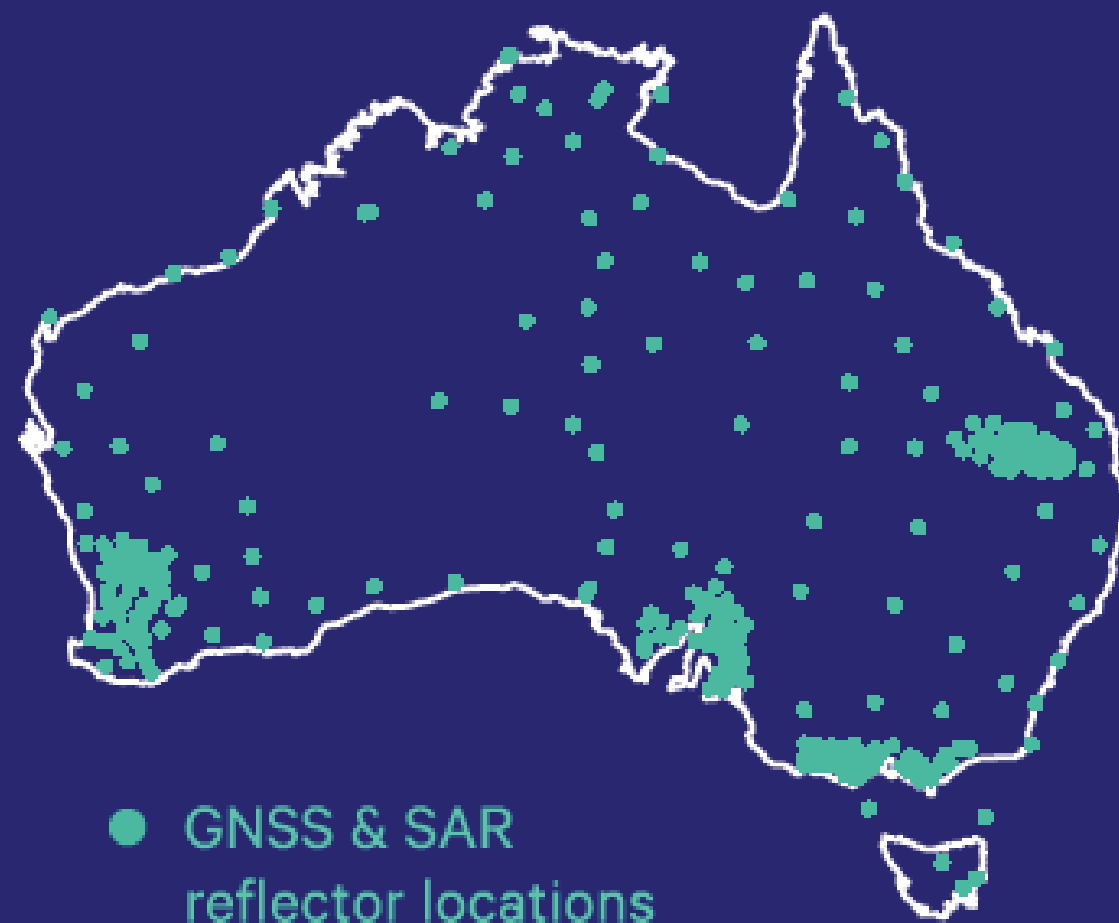


Introduction



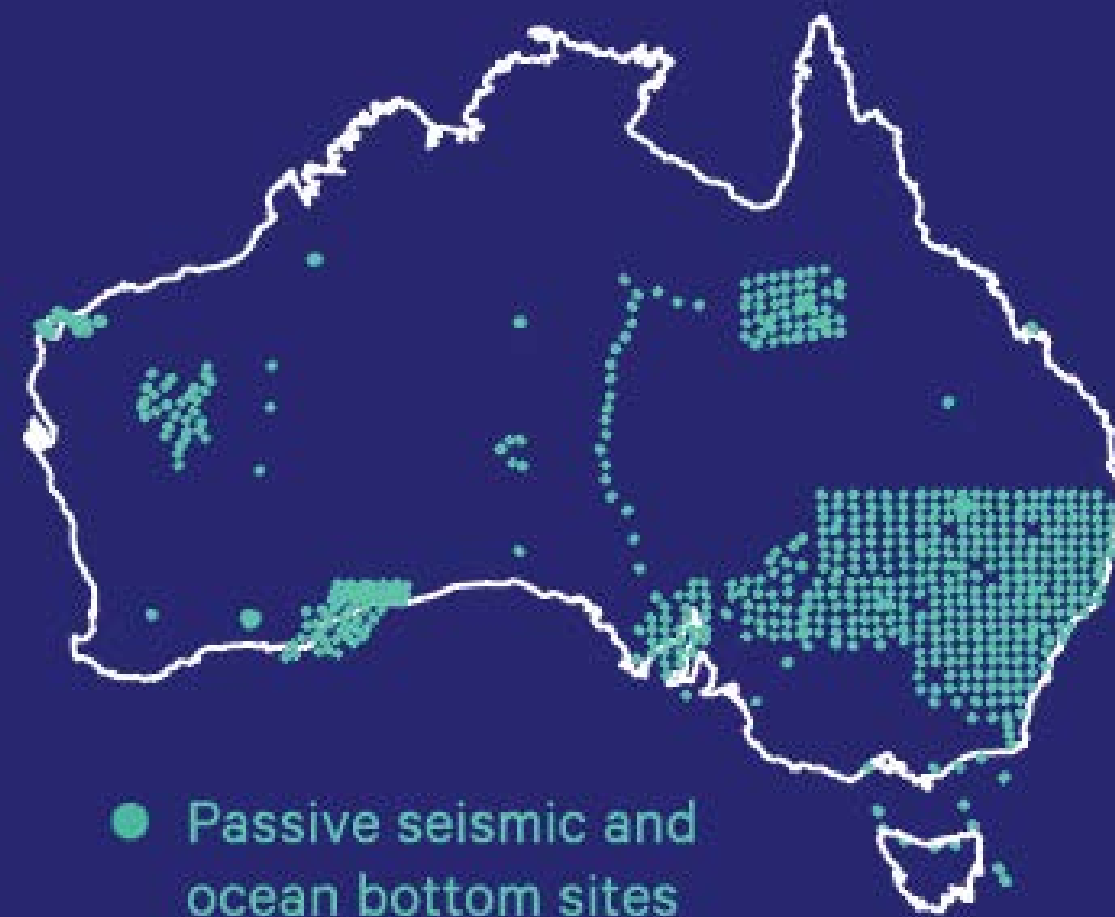
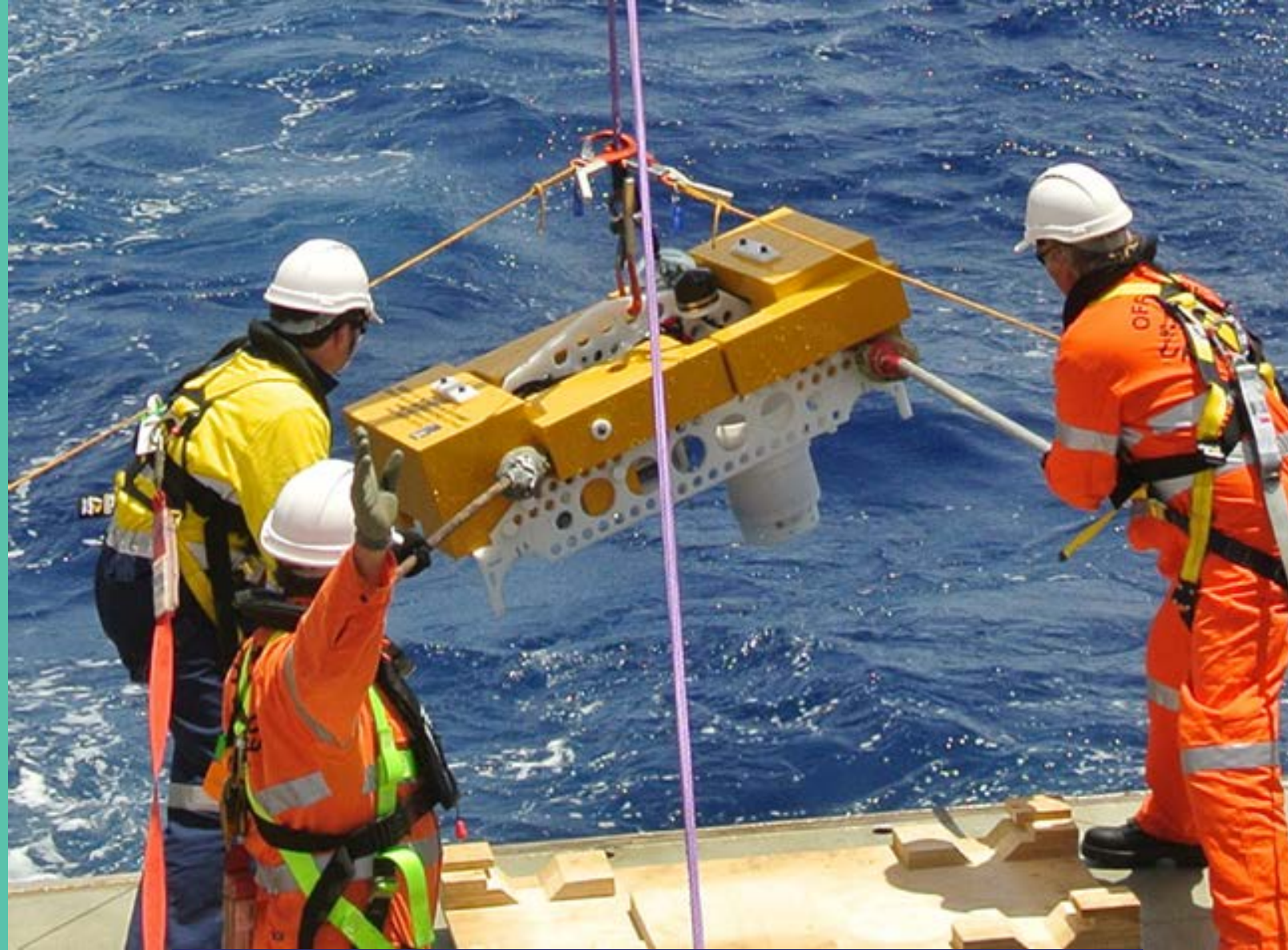
# Infrastructure Programs

Programs



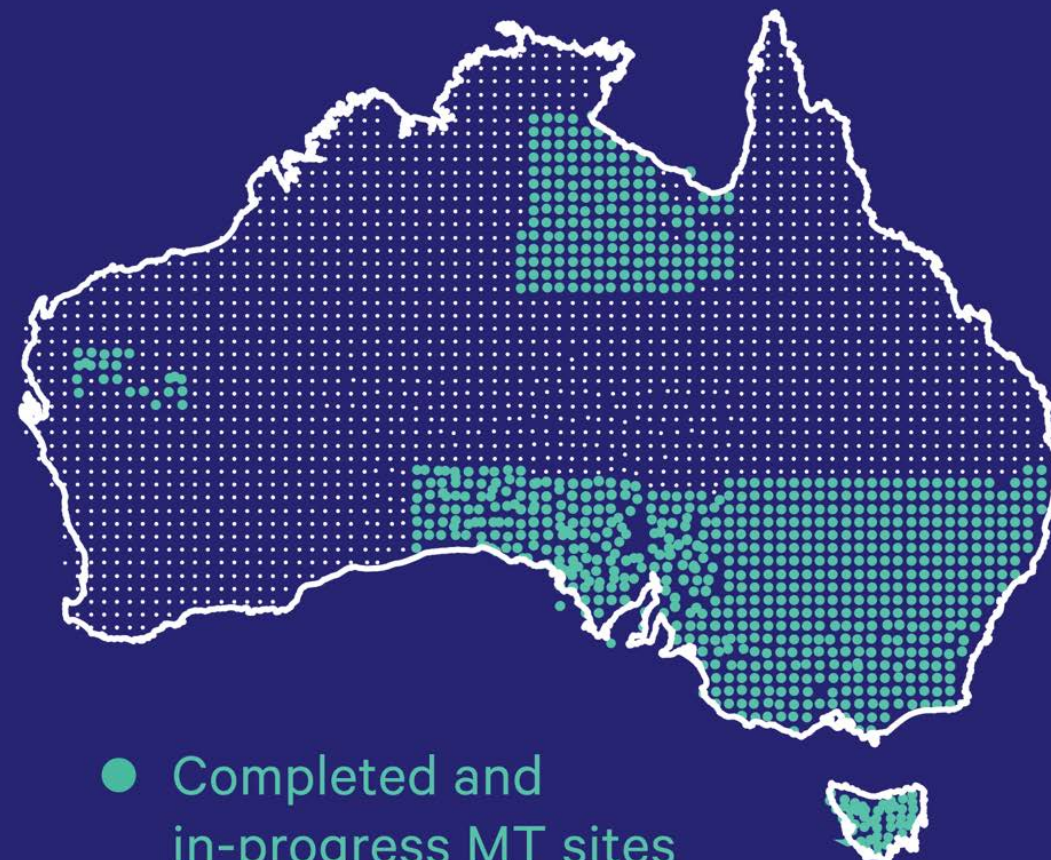
## Geospatial Program

- Responsible for acquisition and deployment of VLBI telescopes, GNSS sites, absolute gravity measurement, GPS calibration robots and satellite laser ranging sites throughout Australia
- Provides data that underpins Australia's dynamic geodetic framework: observing movement, change and deformation in the Australian plate



## Earth Imaging Program

- Works with GA and state GSO's to support deployment of AusArray Passive Seismic and AusLAMP MT Arrays
- Manages an OBS research fleet
- Supports the national reflection seismic transect program

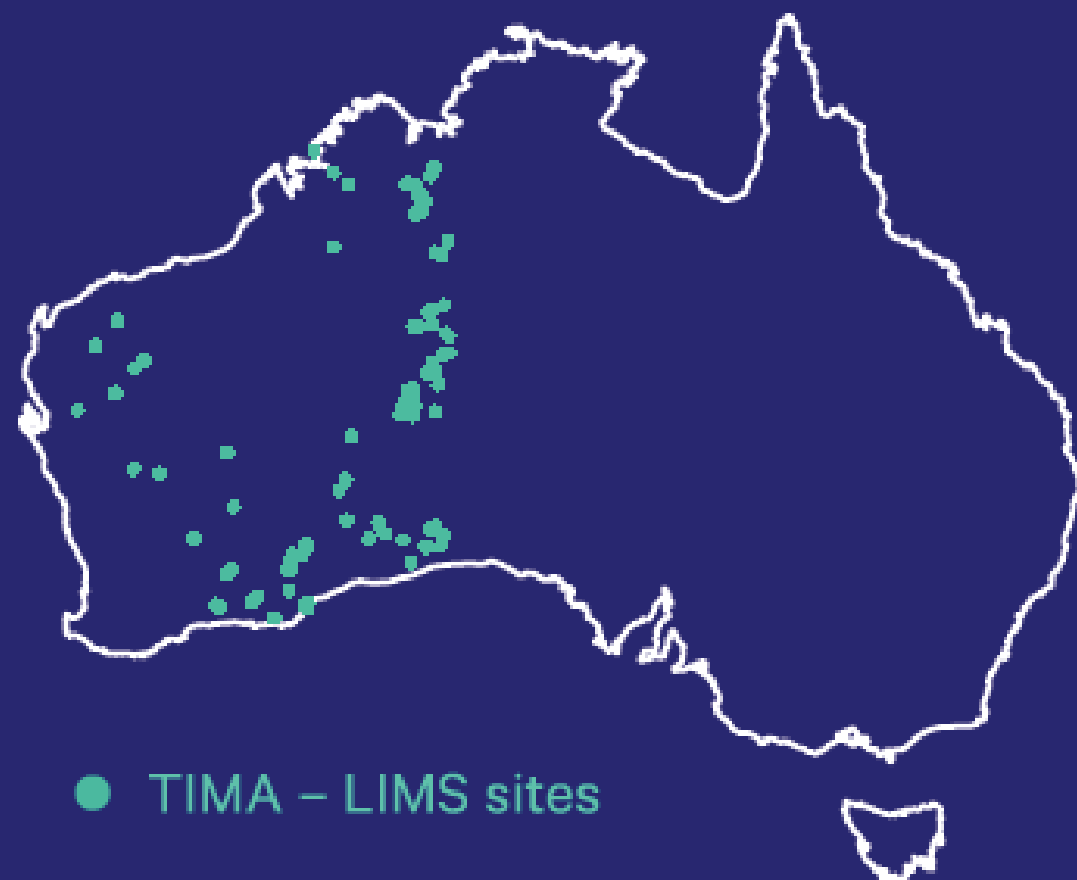
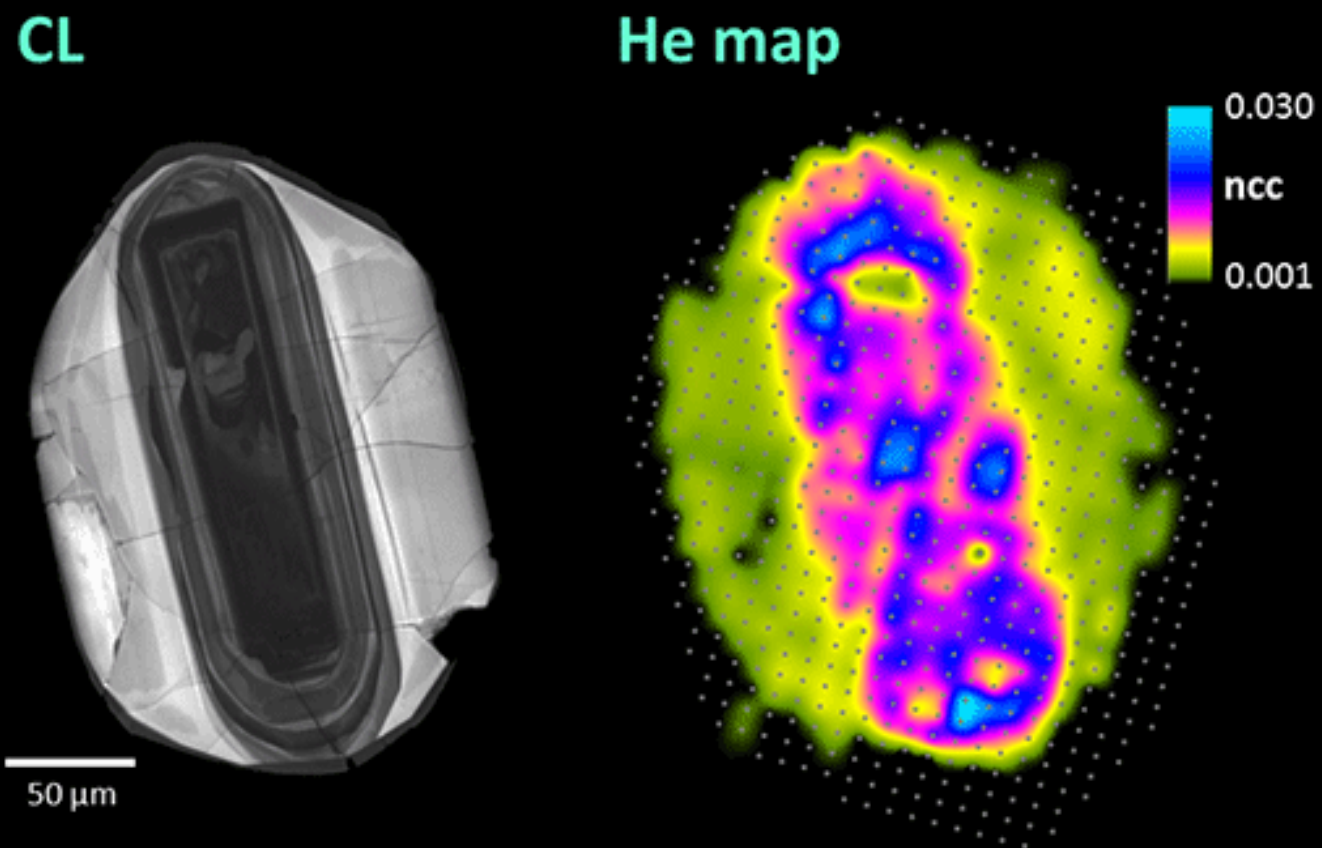


- Completed and in-progress MT sites
- Planned MT sites



## Earth Imaging Program: Magnetotellurics

- Australian Lithospheric Architecture Magnetotelluric Project (AusLAMP) program
- Collaboration with UA and GA
- National long-period MT data at approx. 2,800 sites across Australia to map electrical conductivity of the continent in three dimensions



## Earth Composition Program

- Provides operational support for a suite of world-class analytical infrastructure
- Infrastructure is located at Curtin University, University of Melbourne and Macquarie University and includes LIMS, SHRIMP, Fission Track and TerraneChron access.
- Provides researchers with geochronological and geochemical data necessary to understand the formation mechanisms and evolution of the Australian continent

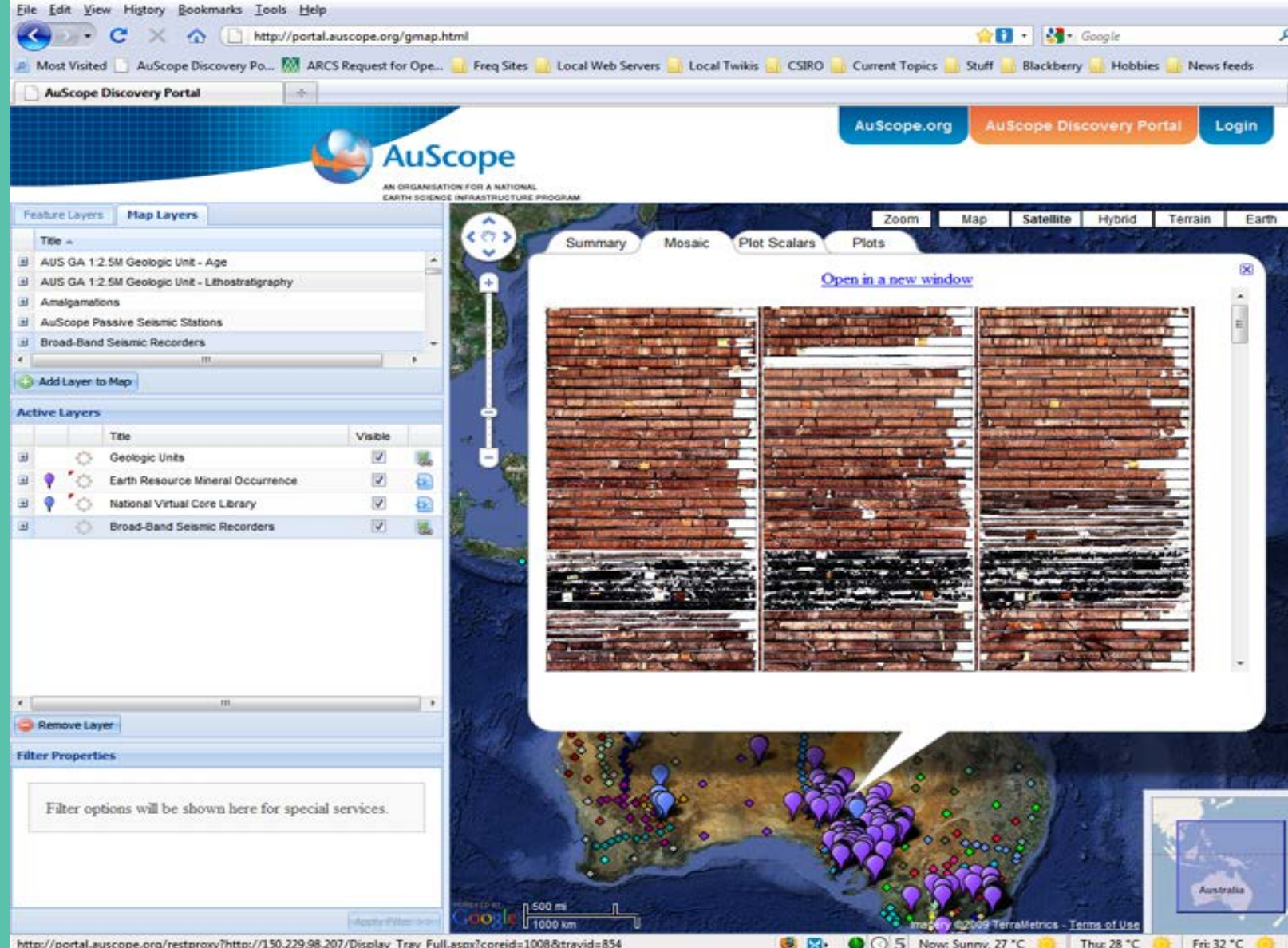




## Materials & Properties Program: National Virtual Core Library (NVCL)

- Annually, ~\$600M is spent on drilling in Australian, but too often core is only partially logged, and then discarded
- This program overcomes this massive underutilisation of core for research and thus, new mineral discoveries





## Materials & Properties Program: National Virtual Core Library (NVCL)

- Facilitates collection, storage and discovery of high quality, semi-quantitative hyperspectral mineralogical data from drill core
- Over 10,000 km of historical core logged from across Australia
- 10s of research papers produced in 2016 – 2017

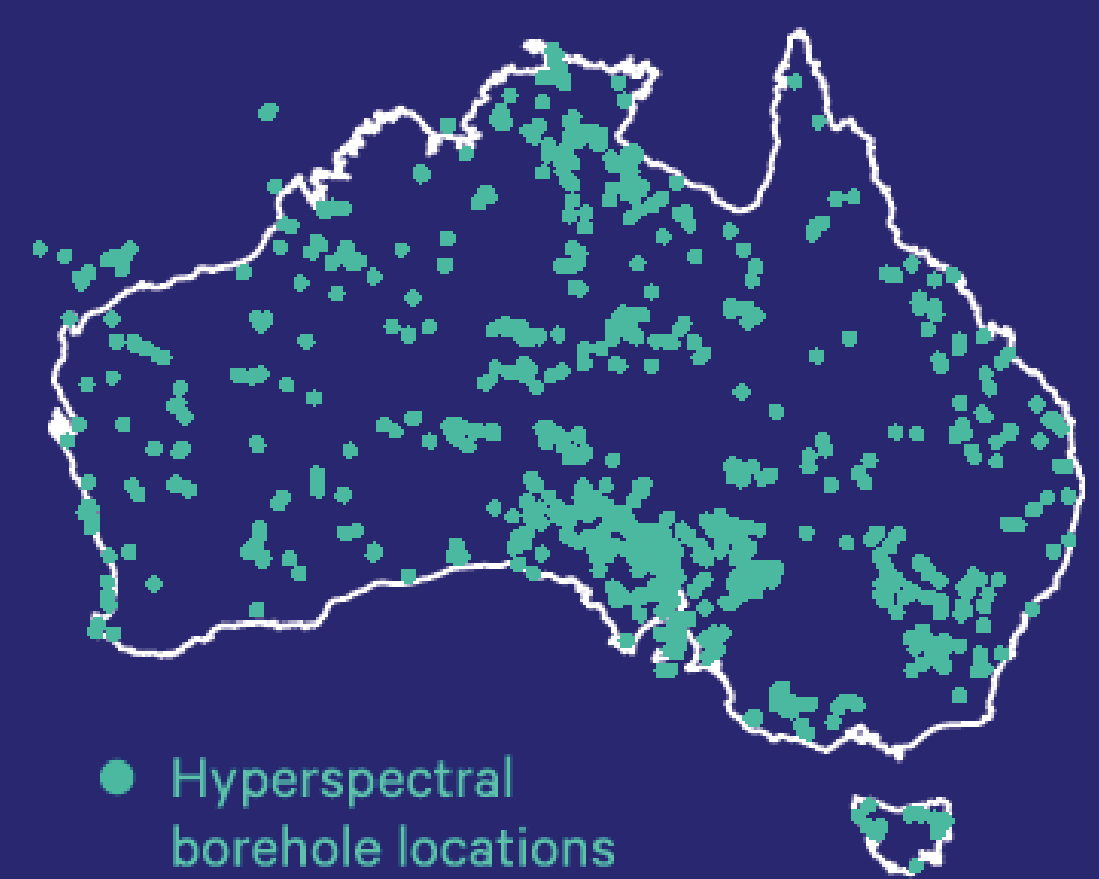
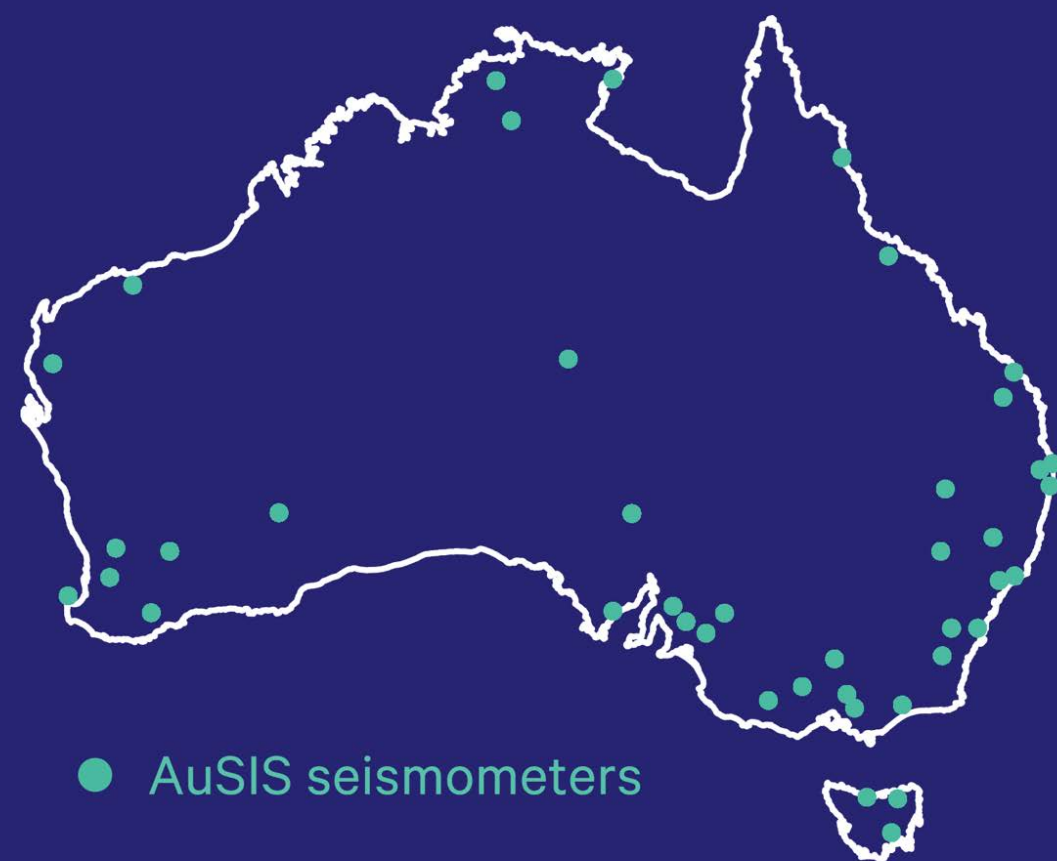




Image: Dr. Michelle Salmon, ANU



## Outreach: Seismometers in Schools (AuSIS)

- Deployment of research-quality instruments into Australian secondary schools
- Provides resources for student engagement in geoscience
- Simultaneously provides data to researchers about Australian crustal movements




# eResearch & Data Strategy




## IGSN and LIMS

- IGSN is a unique alphanumeric code assigned to specimens and related sampling features to ensure their unique identification
- GA, CSIRO and Curtn/AuScope

**IGSN: IECUR008F**



[IECUR008F.classification.png](#)  
(primary image)



IGSN: IECUR008F  
Sample Name: 143784M  
Other Name(s):  
Sample Type: Rock Powder  
Parent IGSN: IECUR001B

**Description**

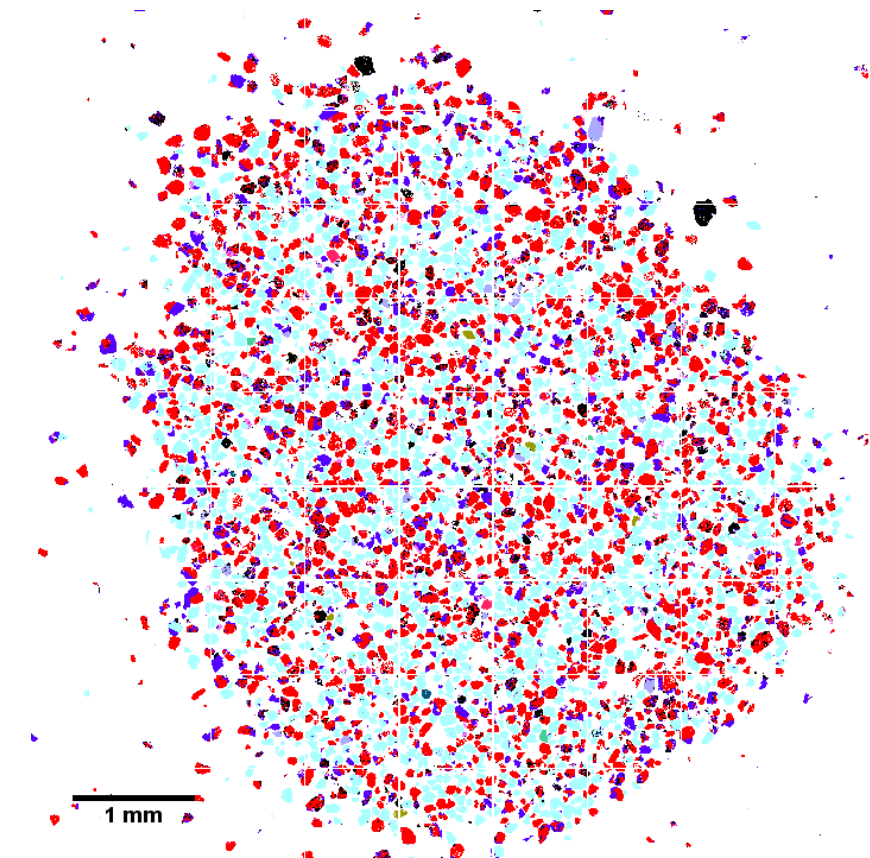
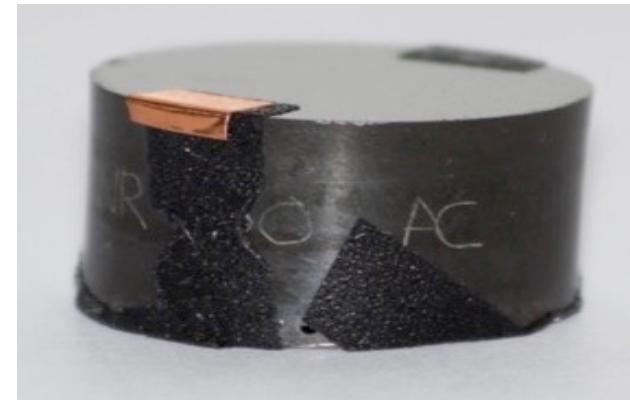
Material: Rock  
Classification: Sedimentary>Siliciclastic  
Field Name: Dovers Hills  
Description: The sample is the magnetic separa  
Age (min): Not Provided  
Age (max): 465 million years (Ma)  
Collection Method: surface collection  
Collection Method Description: Not Provided  
Size: Not Provided  
Geological Age: Permo-Carboniferous  
Geological Unit: Paterson Formation  
Comment: Not Provided  
Purpose: The maximum depositional age fo

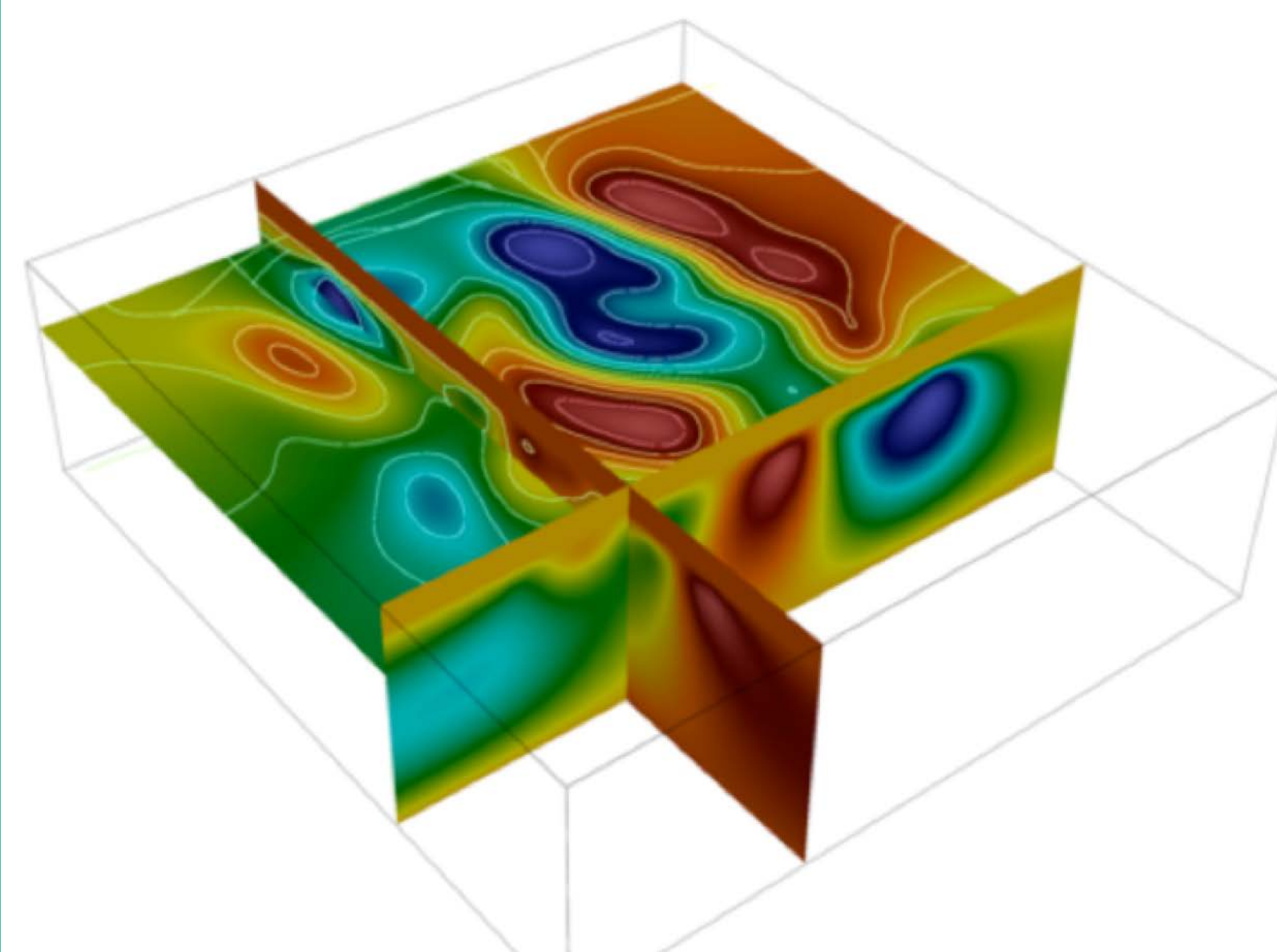
**Geolocation**

Latitude (WGS84): -23.11865  
Longitude (WGS84): 128.7915  
Northing (m) (UTM NAD83): 7443330  
Easting (m) (UTM NAD83): 478651  
Zone: 52K  
Vertical Datum: NAVD88  
Elevation: 456  
Nav Type: GPS  
Physiographic Feature: Hill  
Name Of Physiographic Feature: Dovers Hills  
Location Description: Gibson Desert North  
Locality: Dovers Hills  
Locality Description: This sample was collected from th  
Dovers Hills, and 1.7 km north of  
Country: Australia  
State/Province: Western Australia  
County: Gibson Desert North  
City: Gibson Desert North

**Collection**

Field Program/Cruise: Geological Survey of Western Aust  
Platform Type: Not Provided



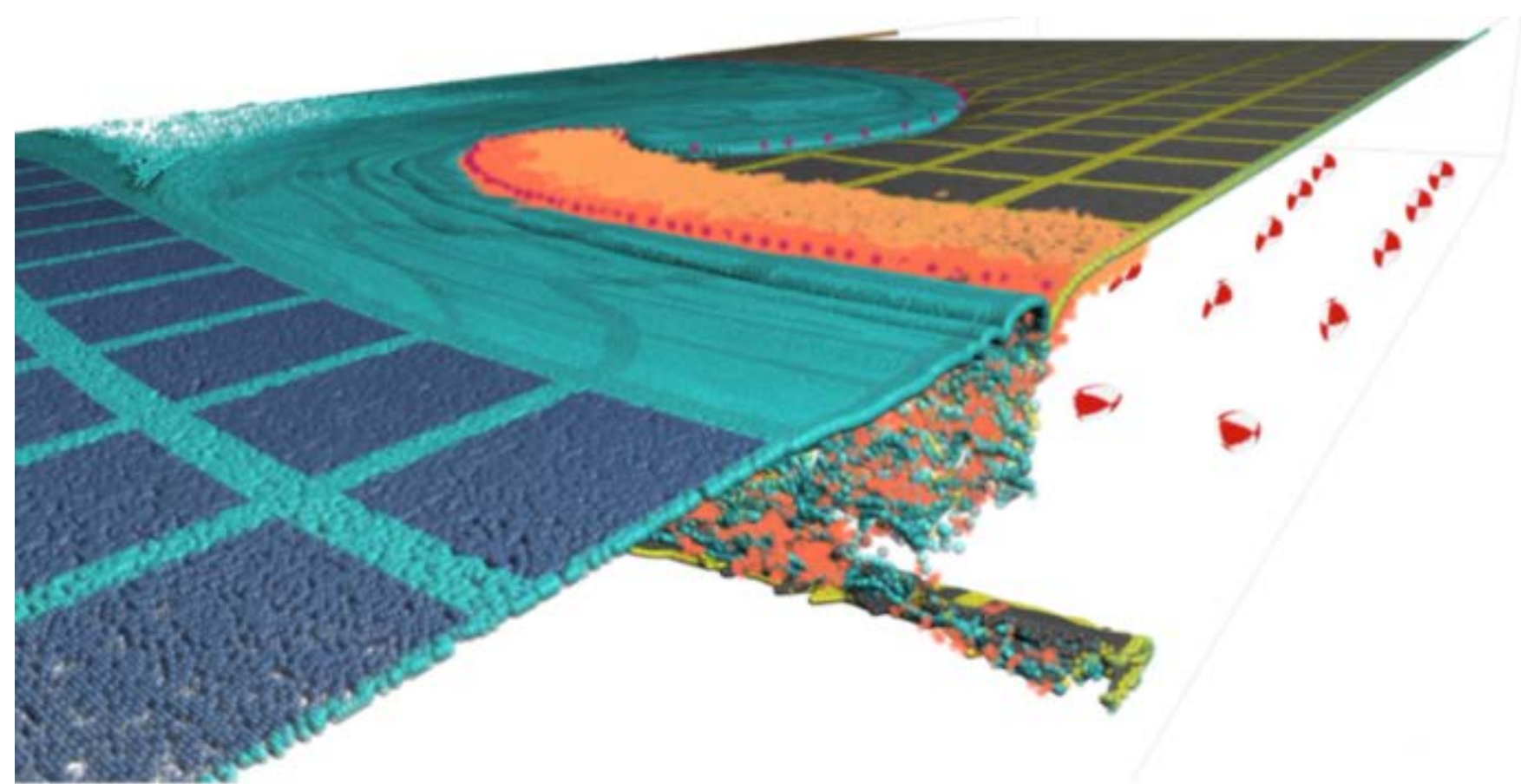
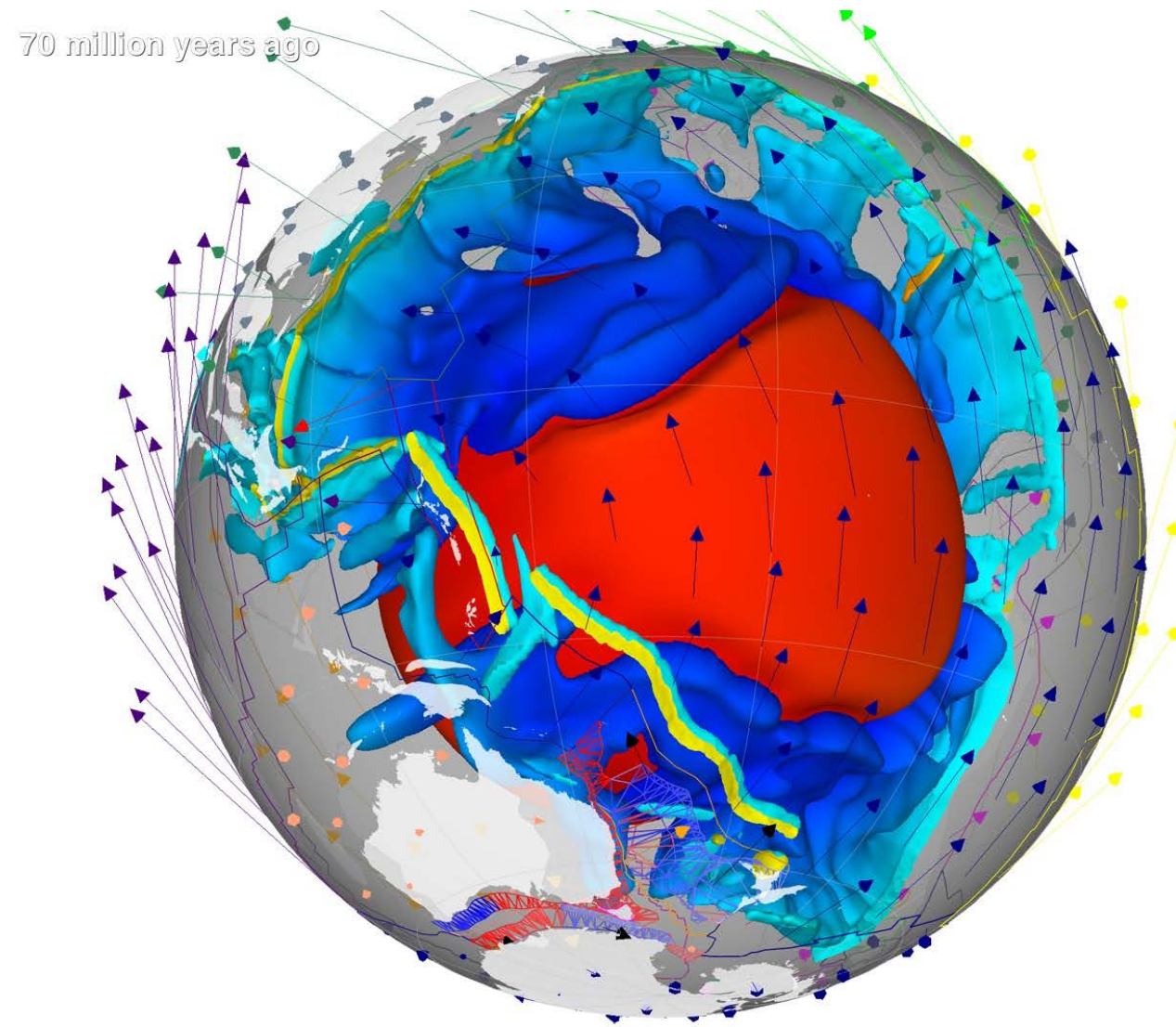


## Simulation, Analysis & Modelling (eResearch) Program

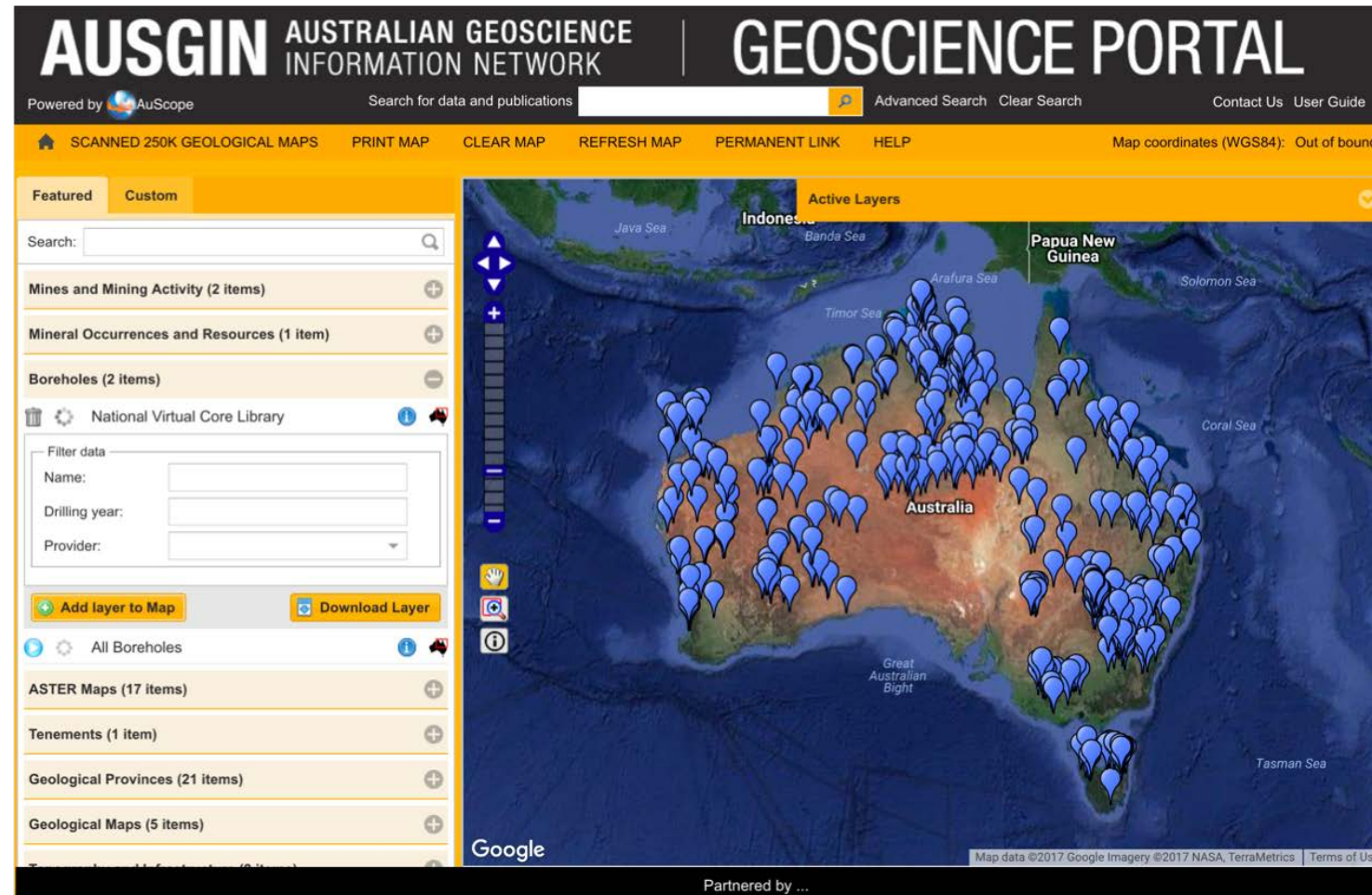
- A toolkit for 3D and 4D modelling, simulation analysis and data mining for geoscientists in Australia
- New data assimilation workflows ensure models are constrained by observational data collected with other AuScope infrastructure



Image: Tectonic plate subduction simulation at Monash University. Provided by Prof. Louis Moresi and Owen Kaluza.

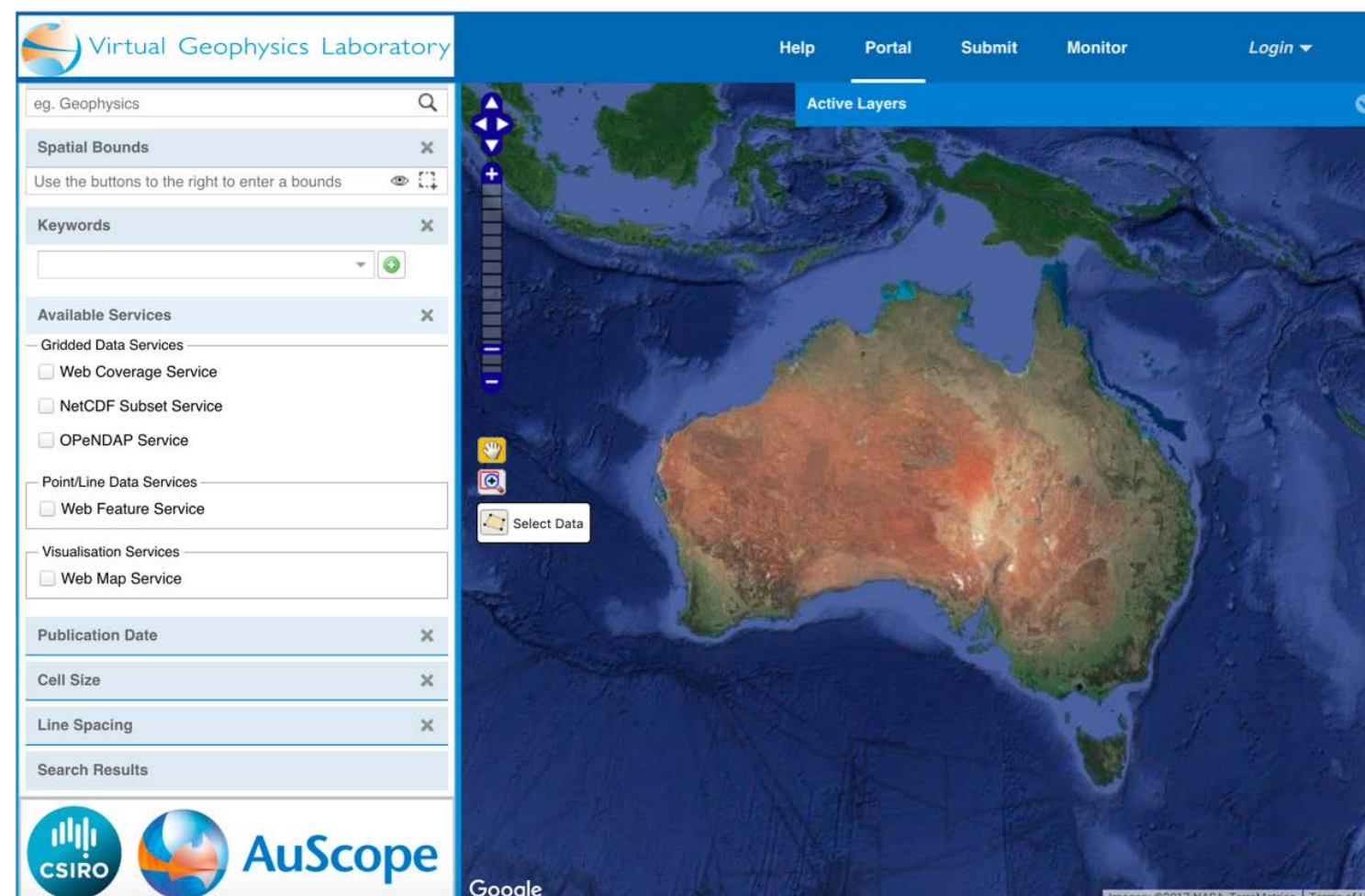


- Gplates and Underworld provide tools that allow geoscientists to explore the evolution of mineral and energy systems and their hosts through deep time



## AuScope Grid

- The **AuScope Portal**, the Virtual Geophysical Laboratory (**VGL**) and the Data Enhanced Virtual Laboratory (**DeVL**) provide access to data collected or generated by both AuScope and collaborating partners
- Data is freely accessible, findable and interoperable
- New development with DeVL will ensure data is FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable





The image displays two overlapping views of a computational environment. The background view is a Jupyter notebook titled 'Blankenbach Benchmark Case 2a' on the 'Underworld' platform. It contains Python code for setting up simulation parameters, creating a mesh, and plotting initial temperature. The foreground view is a mobile browser interface showing the 'Underworld' website, which includes a navigation menu, a list of information pages, and a list of examples.

## AuScope Grid & Research Codes

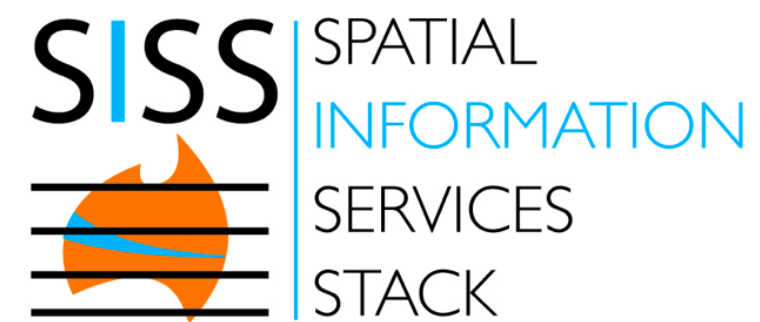
- Cloud enablement of research codes such as Underworld2, eScript and gPlates drives collaboration
- Also supports tertiary teaching and student use





## SISSVoc

- Provides semantic web-based vocabularies
- RESTful interface
- Allows humans and machine readable views
- Significant contribution to the domain
- Mostly through work led by Simon Cox with NeAT, then AuScope funding
- Used by Australian Government and other high profile groups



## SISSPid

- Persistent Identifier Service
- Used by CSIRO, BoM, GA and internationally
- Initially under NeAT but then furthered by AuScope Grid and ANDS ASRDC project

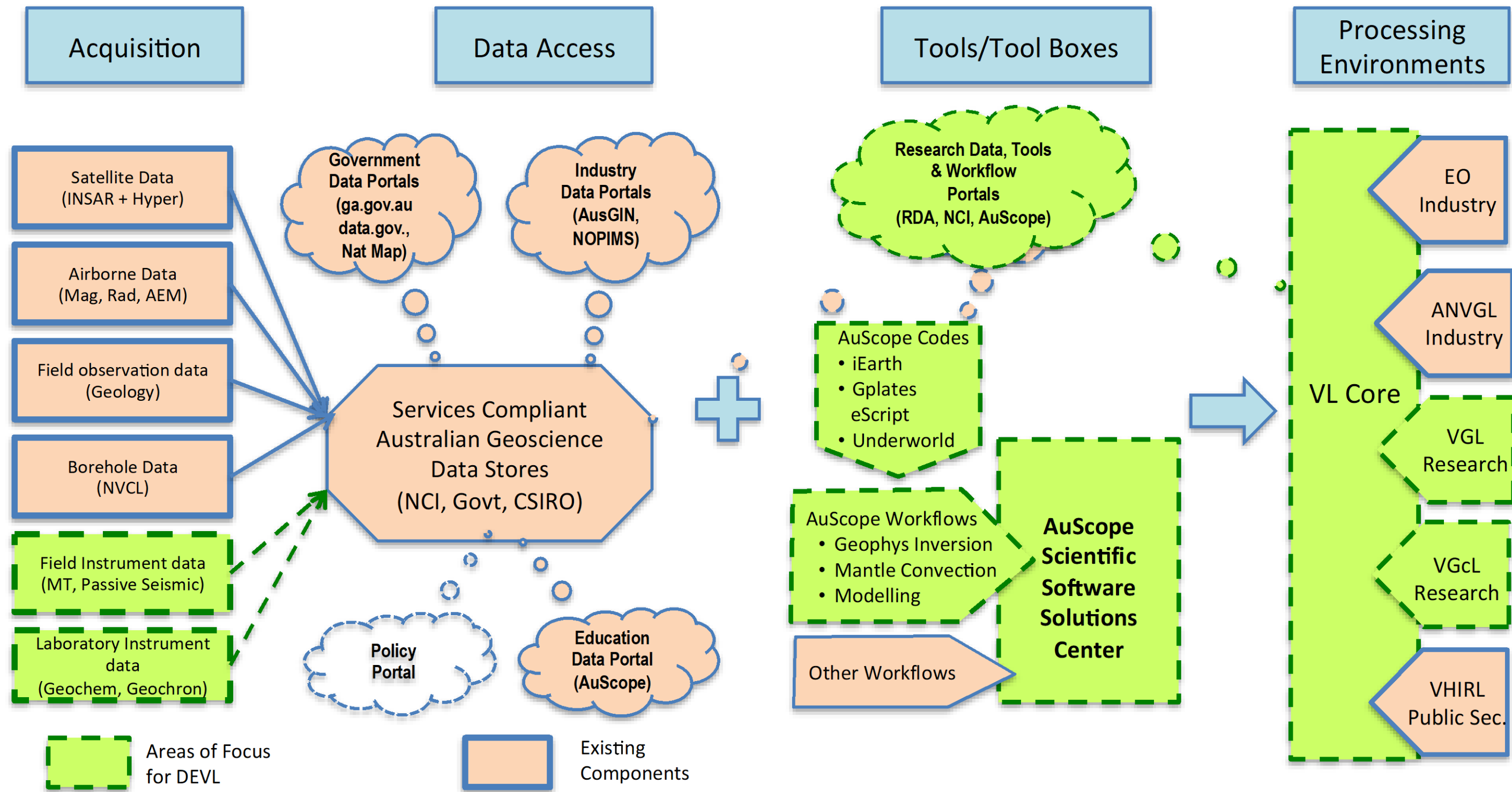


## Virtual Laboratories

- Initially linking data to computation
- VLs now instrumental in orchestrating workflows
- Scientific Software Solution Centre (SSSC) provides registry for workflows that can be human and machine discoverable – and executable on the fly
- Collaboration



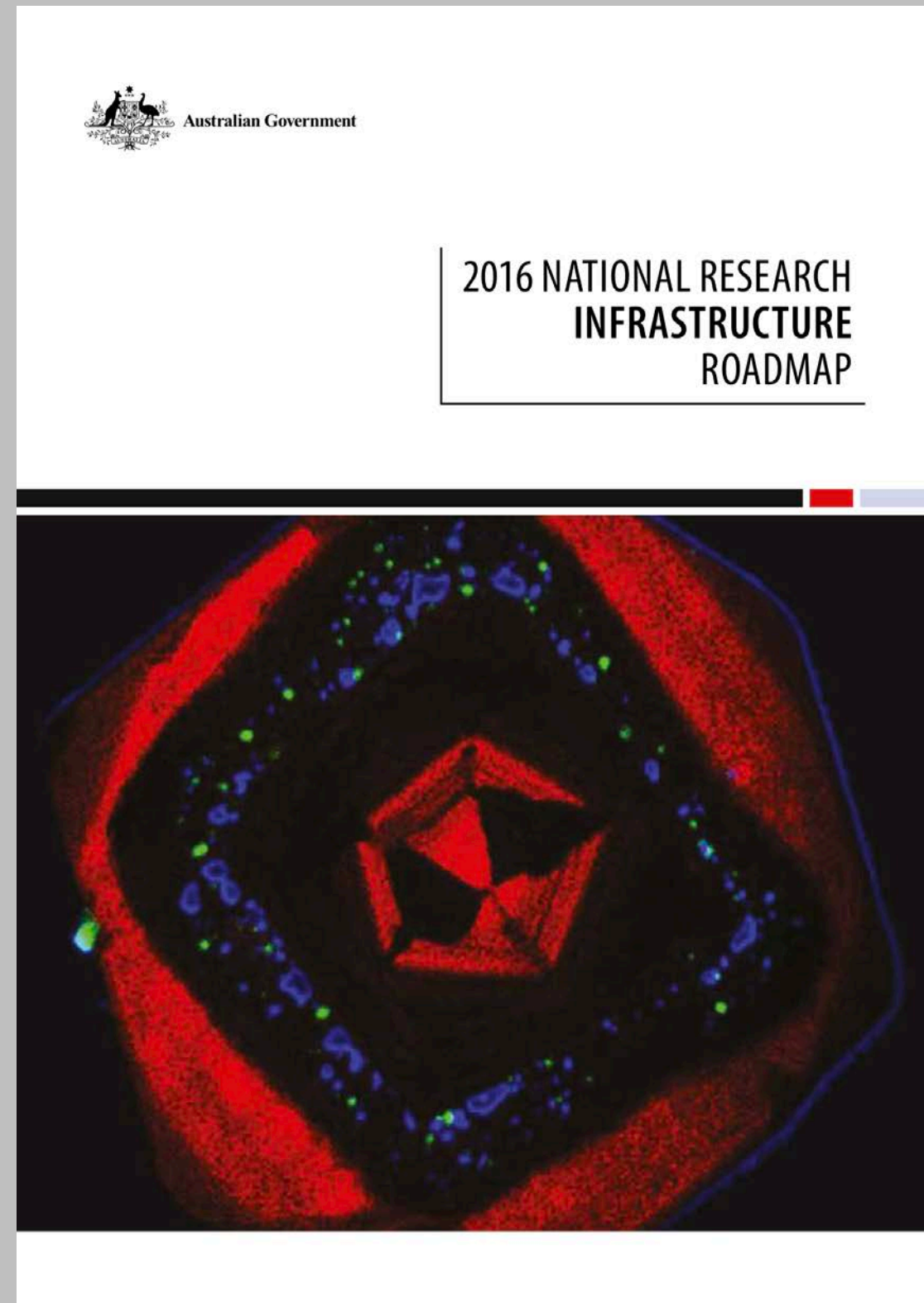
### AuScope Data Enhanced Virtual Research Environment





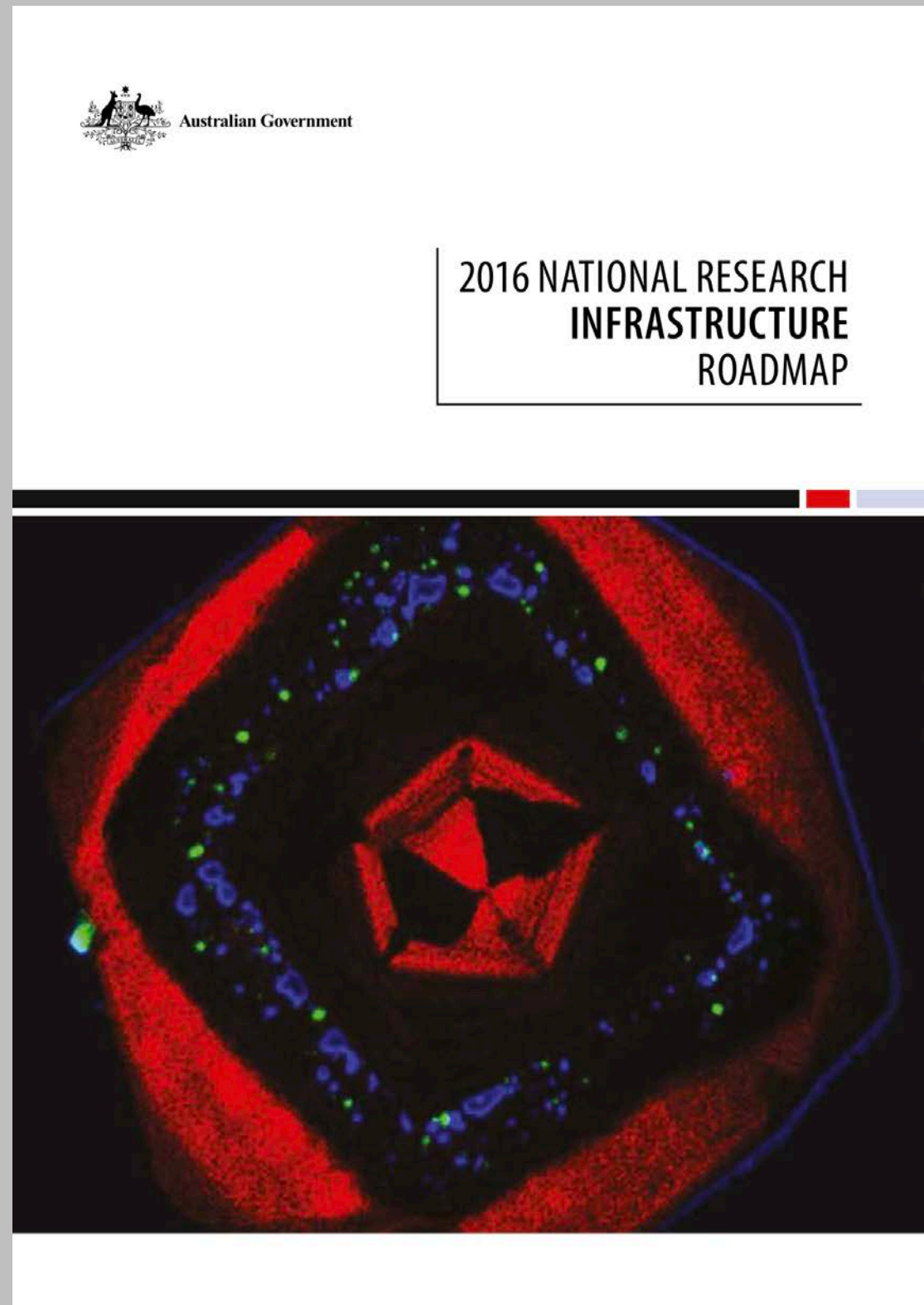
# Future Opportunities

Collaboration



## National Innovation & Science Agenda

- \$1.5B commitment over 10 years
- Highlighted 9 x research infrastructure areas that will transform Australian research and deliver returns for community and industry partners
- Inward focussed Earth monitoring and exploration, potential development of inward-looking 'telescopes'



## National Innovation & Science Agenda

- Enhanced capability for AuScope to include new Earth monitoring data, and utilise new remotely sensed data and visualise data
- Key requirement for *generational shift in technology resources and interconnectivity of all facilities*
- Including establishing a virtual laboratory network to enable large data share (incl. digitised collections) and improve real-time communication



## Future Focus

NISA and the NRIR provides an enormous opportunity for AuScope and the geoscience community as a whole

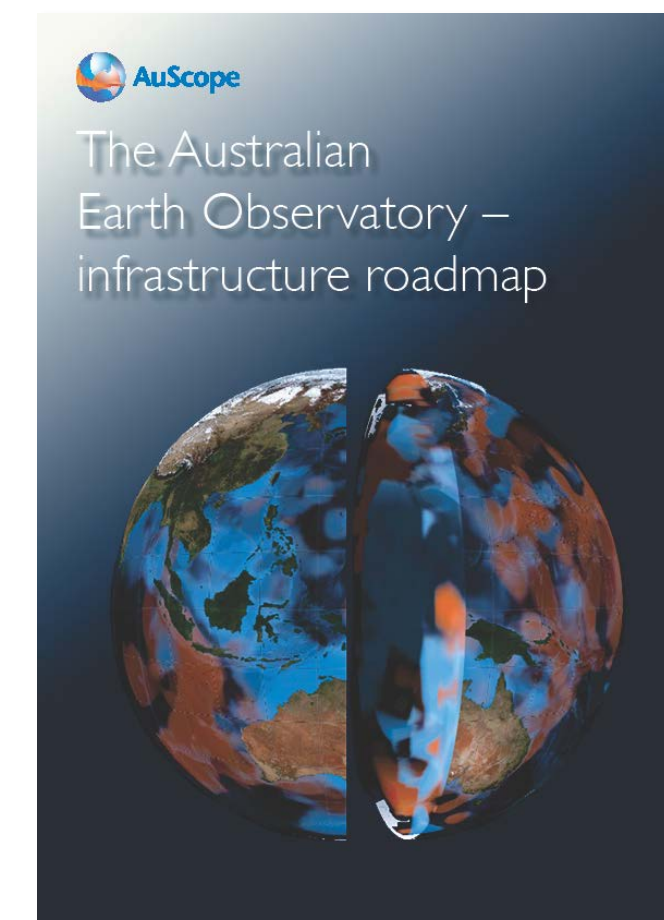
Possibility for significant new investment in national programs in support of research initiatives such as UNCOVER

Building a *Downward looking earth telescope*

AuScope has developed two investment roadmaps over the last 5 years (available from our website)

AuScope is seeking community feedback regarding investment priorities over the coming decade

We will be hosting a workshop immediately after the AGCC conference in Adelaide in October and we welcome your input at this event







# Thank you

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