



GeoEnergy research and teaching

Roundtable for Energy Resources
October 2023



We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gather on.

We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Kaurna people to country and we respect and value their past, present and ongoing connection to the land and cultural beliefs.

GeoEnergy Resources Expertise at The University of Adelaide

#7 in the world, Petroleum Engineering (QS2023)

Top 100 for Geosciences, and Energy and Fuels (USNews2023; QS2023; Shanghai2023)

Then: Geology and Geophysics, to NCPGG and SPE, to ASP then ASPER

Now:

- Engineering School of Chemical Engineering,
 Discipline of Mining and Petroleum Engineering
- Geoscience School of Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Discipline of Earth Sciences

Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Resources

The University of Adelaide is committed to providing sustainable and socially responsible solutions that benefit our ecosystems, governments, industries and communities.

Director of ISER and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Energy Futures): Professor Michael Goodsite

Degree programs

- B.Eng (Hons)(Petroleum Engineering)
- Master of Petroleum Engineering (conversion Masters)
- BSc (Majors in Geology, Geophysics, Palaeontology, Earth Resources)
- BSc (Hons) Energy Geoscience
 - Structure now aligned with other Earth Sciences Hons programs, opportunity for sponsored projects and internships remains.

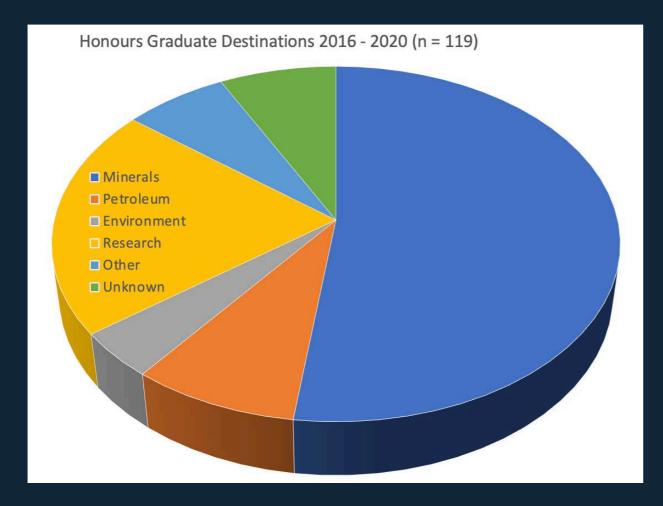
New undergraduate courses 2022-2023

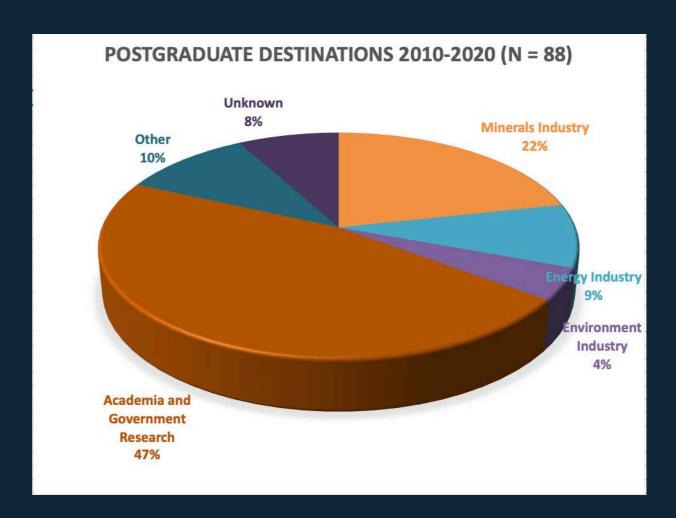
- In the B.Eng(PetroEng) Carbon Capture and Storage
- In the BSc(Geology) Energy Resources
- New Major in Earth Resources for the BSc





Earth Sciences Graduate Destinations





More than 40 major companies, government and research institutes

2023:

6 Hons GeoEnergy projects 2023 across engineering and earth sciences ~15 GeoEnergy PhD students across engineering and earth sciences at present

New GeoEnergy & Storage Laboratory Facilities

CCS coreflooding system

Funded by Chevron \$2.5M for facility and staff

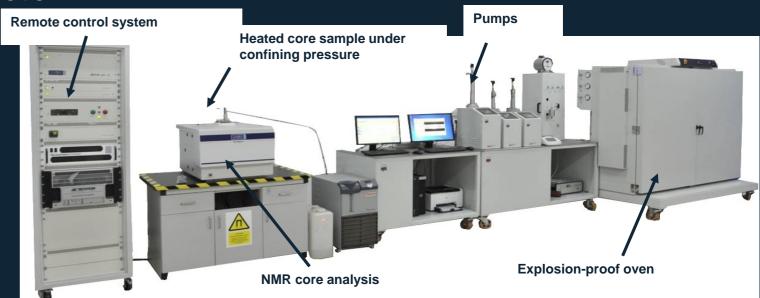
- 10,000 psi , 150 C
- 1m long core
- Linear X-ray scanner
- Acoustic separator
- SS and USS tests



Integrated facility for UHS

Funded through ARC LIEF grant, with partners including DEM, Beach Energy and partner Universities \$2.9M

- Hydrogen safe laboratory
- Hydrogen-compatible coreflood (H2, CO2, oil, natural gas)
 - NMR core analyser with 3D capabilities
 - 5000 psi pressure, 150C temperature
- High-pressure contact angle measurement
- Batch reactor



ARC Linkage Project 2021-2024 \$536,198

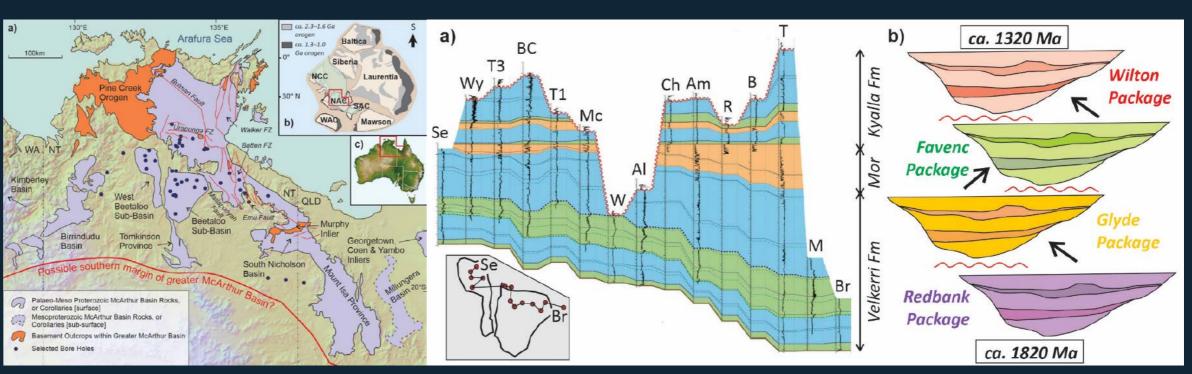
Reconstructing the Beetaloo/Greater McArthur Basin System

Partners: NTGS, CSIRO, Santos, Empire Energy, Teck, BHP, University of Copenhagen

Prof. Alan Collins; Prof. Simon Holford; Dr Juraj Farkas; Dr Claudio Delle Piane; A/Prof.

Carl Spandler; Dr Vincent Crombez; A/Prof. Rosalind King; Dr Amber Jarrett; Prof.

Robert Frei



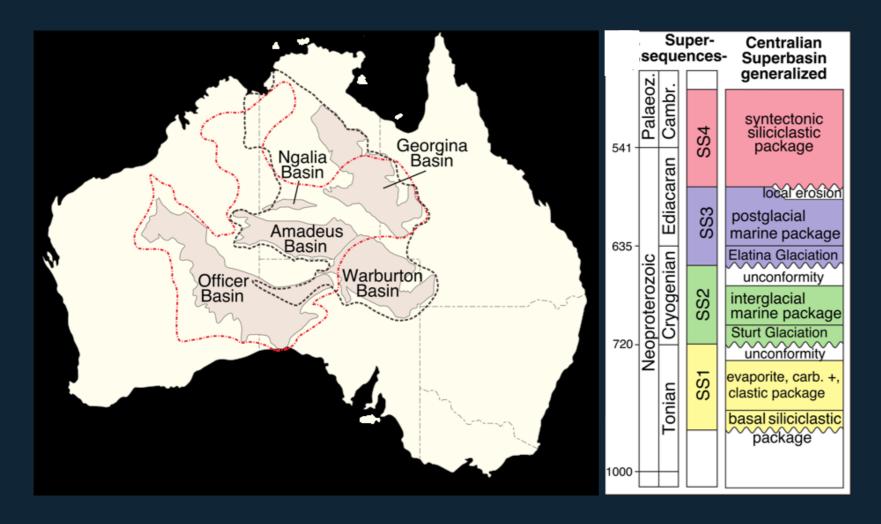
A stratigraphic and water chemistry framework for the greater McArthur Basin for researchers and explorers - lithostratigraphic, chronostratigraphic and chemostratigraphic.

ARC Linkage Project 2022-2024 \$405,000

Novel isotope techniques to explore the Centralian Superbasin.

Partners: NTGS, GSWA, DEM, Agilent Technologies, IsotopX

Investigators: Dr Juraj Farkas; Prof. Alan Collins; A/Prof. Stijn Glorie; Dr Sarah Gilbert; Dr Morgan Blades; Dr Peter Haines



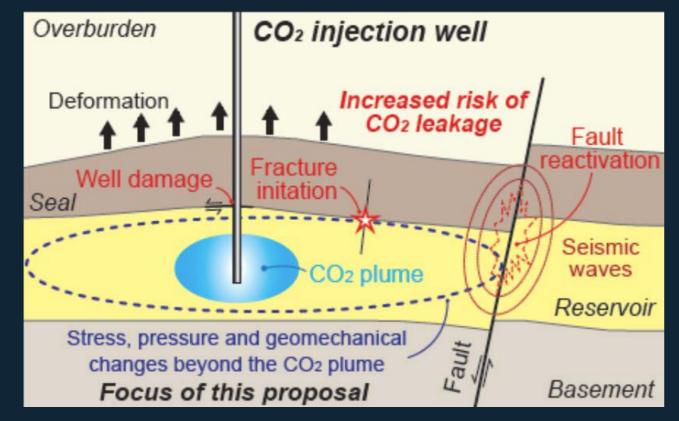
De-risking exploration of the Centralian Superbasin by constraining absolute ages and depositional setting of sedimentary sequences using novel geochronological and isotopic tools developed by the Cls.

ARC Linkage Project 2024-2026 \$506,554

Multiscale geomechanical modelling of basin-scale CO₂ storage.

Partners: Department for Energy and Mining, Tech Limit, Beach Energy, Santos, Geoscience Australia, University of Queensland

Investigators: Prof. Simon Holford; Dr Mojtaba Rajabi; A/Prof. Rosalind King; Adj/Prof. Ken McClay; Dr Khalid Amrouch; Dr Alireza Salmachi; Dr Mark Bunch; Dr Scott Mildren; Dr Betina Bendall; Ms Carrie Trembath



Enabling rapid assessments of potential for reservoir deformation due to CO2 injection in data-poor basins

CRC-P Round 14 \$863,000

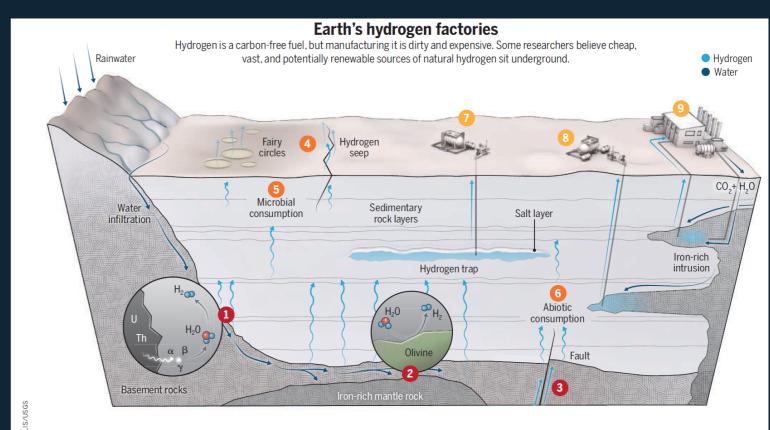
Accelerating exploration & extraction of renewable natural hydrogen.

Awarded to **H2EX Pty Ltd**,

Partners: Black & Veatch Australia Pty Ltd, University of Adelaide, ANU

UoA Investigators: Prof. Graham Heinson, Prof. Simon Holford, A/Prof. Rosalind King

Developing a new framework for geophysical and geological exploration, and establishing a new protocol for potential production



Generation

1 Radiolysis

Trace radioactive elements in rocks emit radiation that can split water. The process is slow, so ancient rocks are most likely to generate hydrogen.

2 Serpentinization

At high temperatures, water reacts with iron-rich rocks to make hydrogen. The fast and renewable reactions, called serpentinization, may drive most production.

3 Deep-seated

Streams of hydrogen from Earth's core or mantle may rise along tectonic plate boundaries and faults. But the theory of these vast, deep stores is controversial.

Loss mechanisms

Seeps

Hydrogen travels quickly through faults and fractures. It can also diffuse through rocks. Weak seeps might explain shallow depressions sometimes called fairy circles.

Microhes

In shallower layers of soil and rock, microbes consume hydrogen for energy, often producing methane.

6 Abjetie reaction

At deeper levels, hydrogen reacts with rocks and gases to form water, methane, and mineral compounds.

Extraction

7 Traps

Hydrogen might be tapped like oil and gas—by drilling into reservoirs trapped in porous rocks below salt deposits or other impermeable rock layers.

8 Direct

It might also be possible to tap the iron-rich source rocks directly, if they're shallow and fractured enough to allow hydrogen to be collected.

9 Enhanced

Hydrogen production might be stimulated by pumping water into iron-rich rocks. Adding carbon dioxide would sequester it from the atmosphere, slowing climate change.

https://www.science.org/content/article/hidden-hydrogen-earth-may-hold-vast-stores-renewable-carbon-free-fuel

Petronas

Wellbore modelling for CO₂ injection.

A/Prof. Abbas Zeinijahromi, Prof. Pavel Bedrikovetsky, Dr Thomas Russell

Laboratory-based predictive mathematical modelling of fines migration for optimisation of CO2 injection.

Shell

Joule-Thomson cooling causing geomechanical reservoir change & hydrate formation.

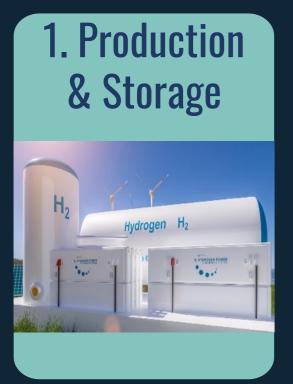
Prof. Pavel Bedrikovetsky, A/Prof. Abbas Zeinijahromi

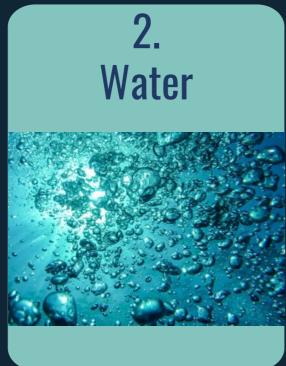
Predicting seal-capactity breach and near-well microfracturing due to Joule-Thomson cooling and rock strength decrease. Deriving model for well skin factor during hydrate formation and icing.

 H_2

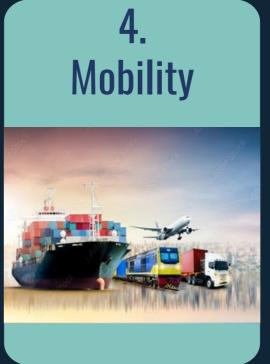
- University of Adelaide is leading the bid.
- Aims to become the largest single initiative in the country focused on supporting the scaling up of the green hydrogen sector. 97 partners across Australia.
- Professor Christian Doonan is the Research Director.
- \$200M over 10 years cash and in-kind.

https://hydrogencrc.com.au/











ARENA full proposal, awaiting outcome:

 Safe and Optimised Underground Hydrogen Storage and Monitoring Project Plan

UNSW, UoA, QUT, CO2CRC, inGauge Energy, Fender Geophysics, EXIGE, SoluForce

Accelerate commercialisation of renewable hydrogen by reducing barriers to entry for companies considering large scale storage of hydrogen.

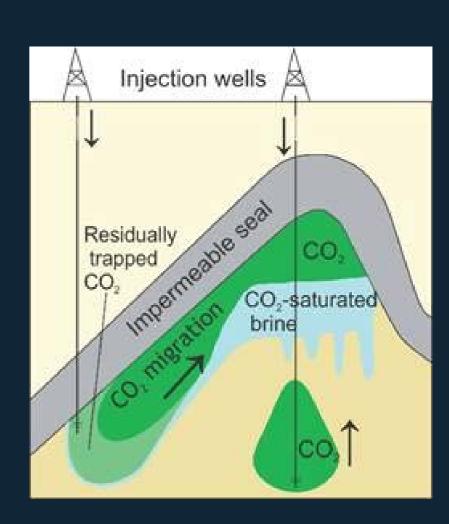
ARC Linkage Submission Dec 2023

Multiscale physics for well-reservoir prediction during CO₂ storage

Prof. Bedrikovetsky, A/Prof Zeinijahromi, Prof. Keshavarz (ECU), Prof Hussain (UNSW)

Partners: DEM, Santos

Predicting behaviour of injection wells and reservoirs, through integrated laboratory studies with analytical modelling and numerical simulation.

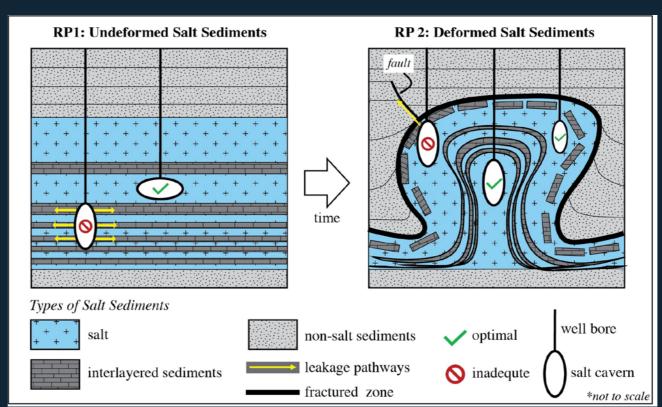


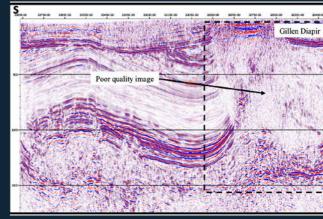
ARC Early Career Industry Fellowship – Dr Rachelle Kernen Submission Oct 2023

Unlocking Australia's hydrogen industry through large-scale geological storage in salt caverns.

Partners – DEM, NTGS, Woodside Energy, CSIRO

Characterising heterogeneities within bedded salt, incorporating sedimentology and structural geology to better understand potential leakage pathways





Industry and Government engagement

- Evolving membership of School and University advisory boards
- Rather than a formal Advisory Board, likely stakeholder workshops for focused GeoEnergy research, teaching and training input
- Tailored discussions around potential collaborations welcomed

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