Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

Prospectivity of the world's oldest stacked petroleum systems with emphasis on the McArth Supersystem

Amber Jarrett, Tim Munson, Adam Bailey and Tehani Palu

Vaughton Siltstone, northern McArthur Basin (McArthur Supersystem)

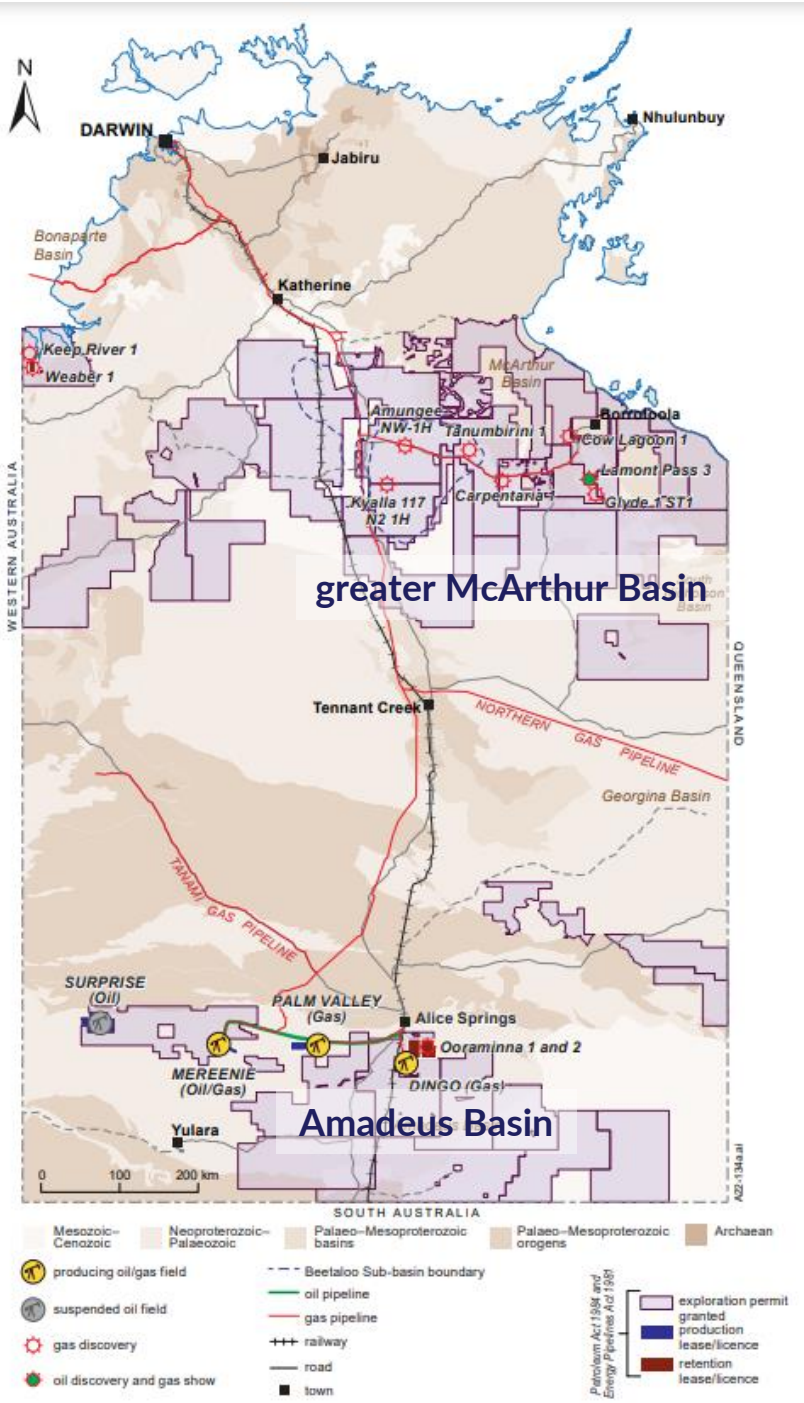
Outline

1. Northern Territory oil and gas
2. The greater McArthur Basin project
3. New exploration framework: Stacked Petroleum supersystems to plays

   (using Proterozoic McArthur Supersystem as an example)

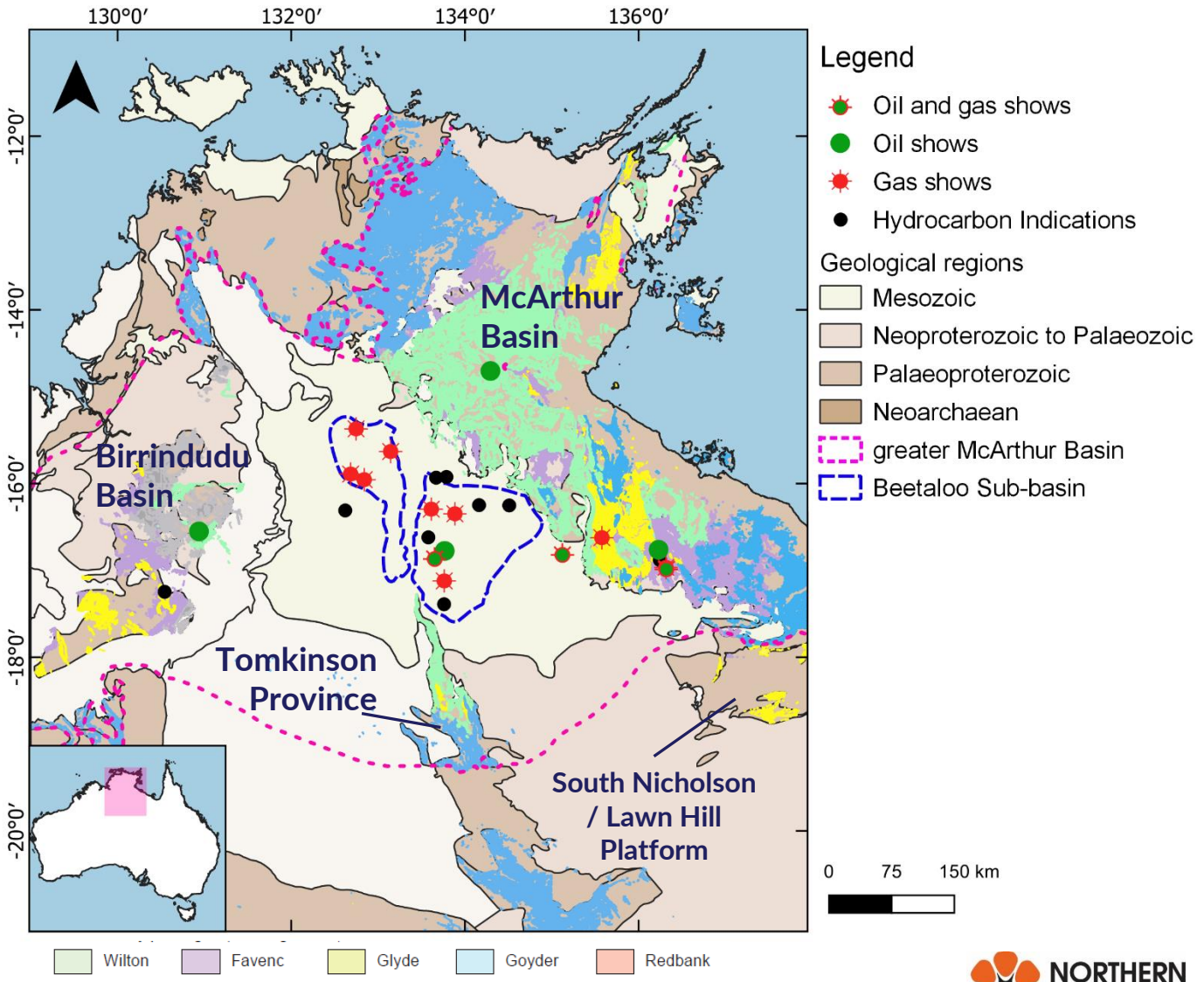
Northern Territory energy

- Oil and gas production in the Amadeus Basin
- Exploration in the Amadeus Basin
  - Sub-salt hydrogen and helium
  - CCS potential
  - Conventional oil and gas
- Advanced exploration for shale gas in the greater McArthur Basin (including Beetaloo Sub-basin)
  - Exploration and appraisal of Beetaloo Sub-basin
  - New wells and flow testing 2021/22
- Many other NT basins are frontier, have great potential but are underexplored
- See NTGS Report 22 for a comprehensive summary

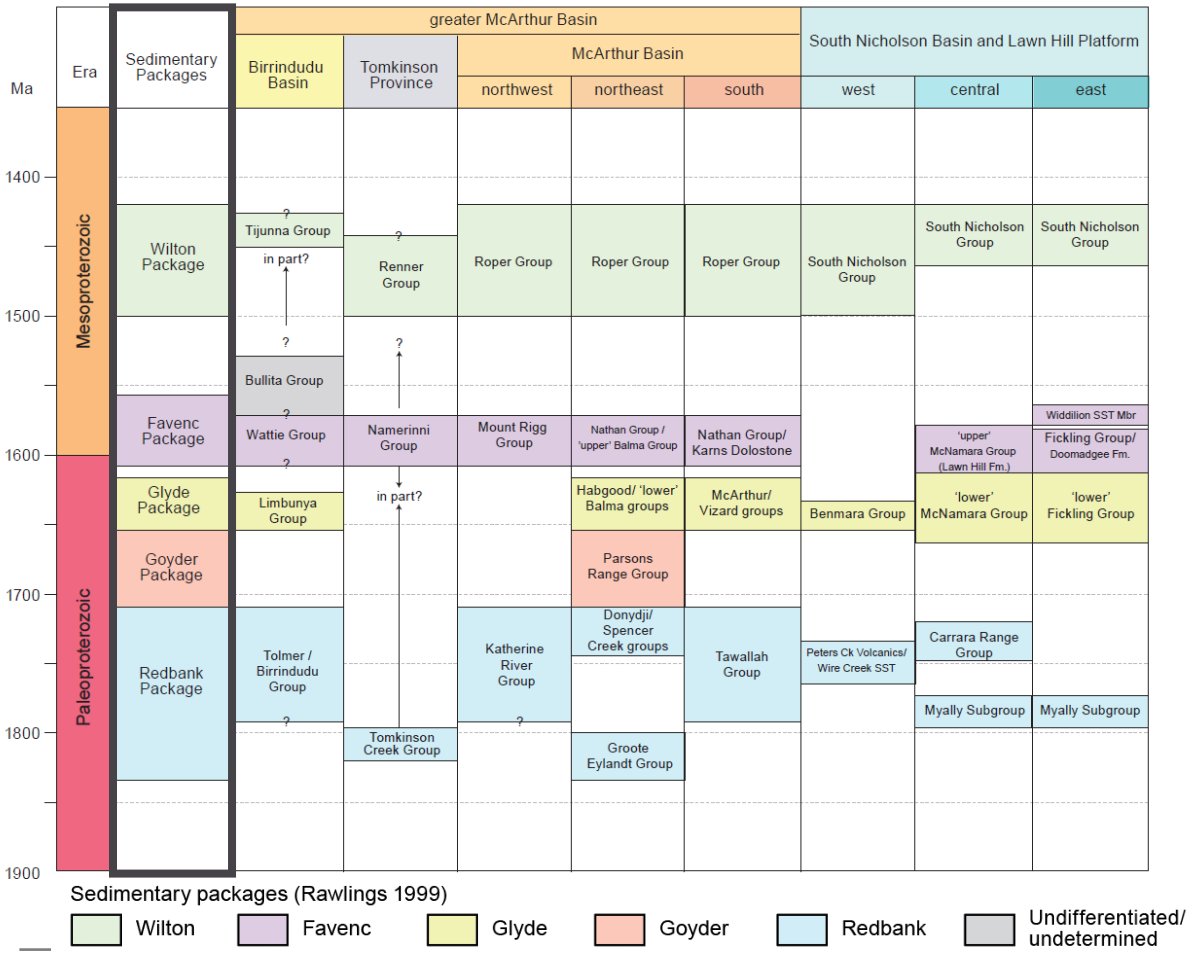


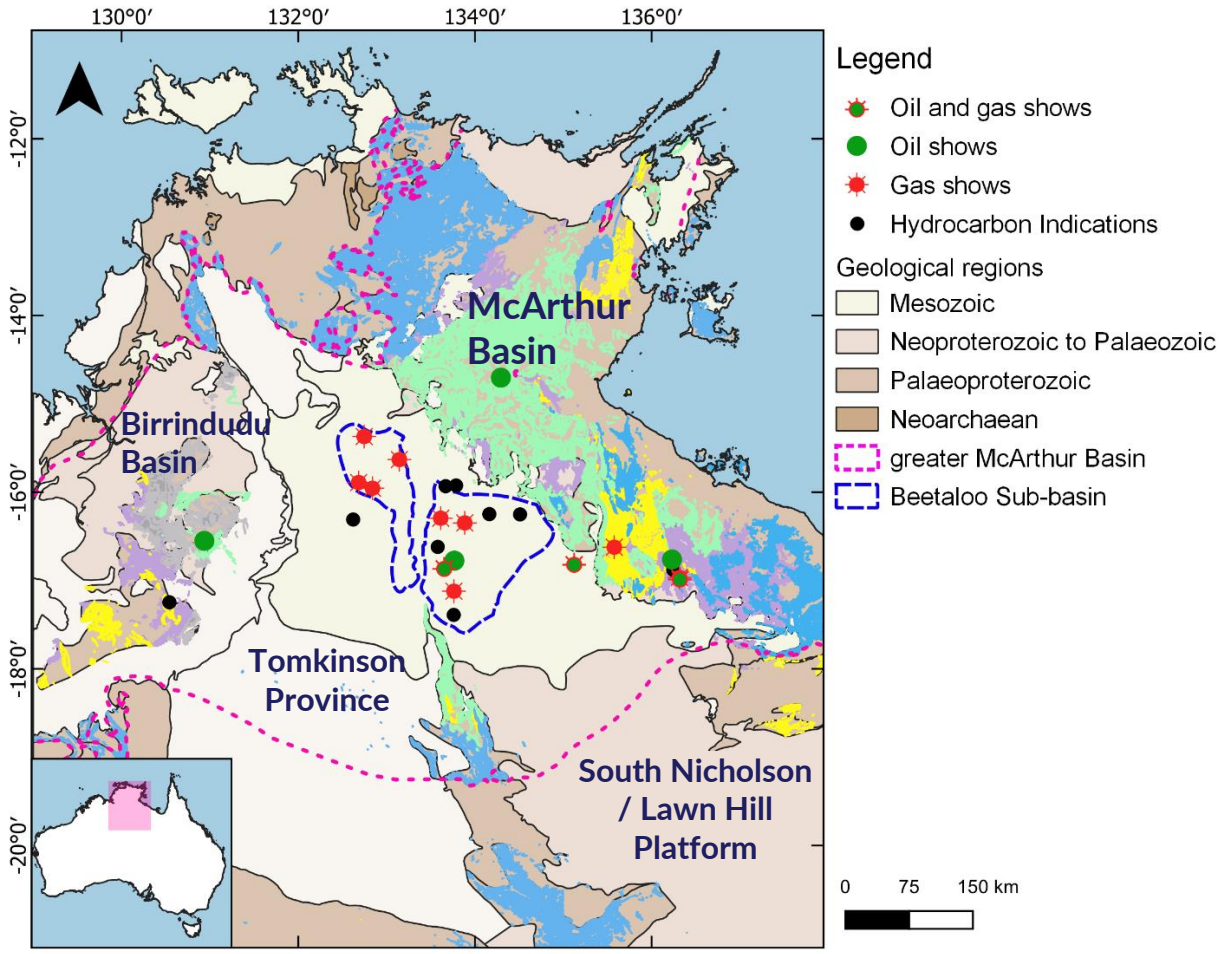
Resourcing the Territory initiative

- Supporting exploration in the NT
- Providing precompetitive geoscience to unlock new areas for exploration
- This study focuses on creating a clear and consistent exploration framework across the greater McArthur Basin
- Bridges exploration scales from continent to prospect in both advanced and frontier regions



The greater McArthur Basin



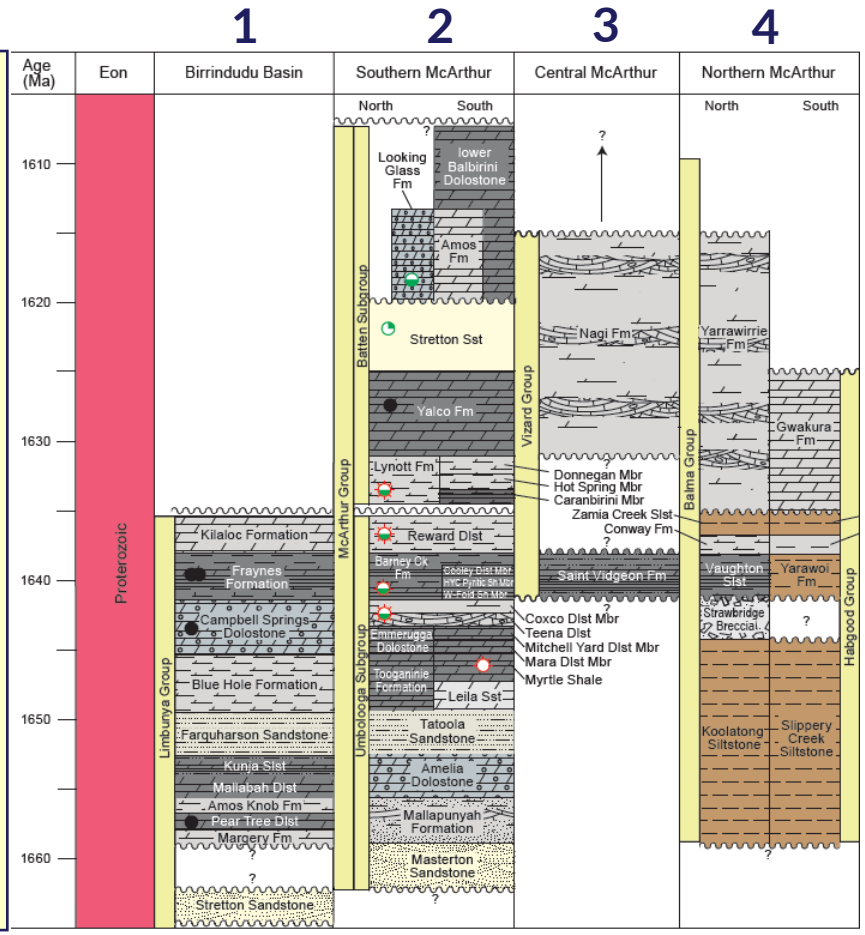


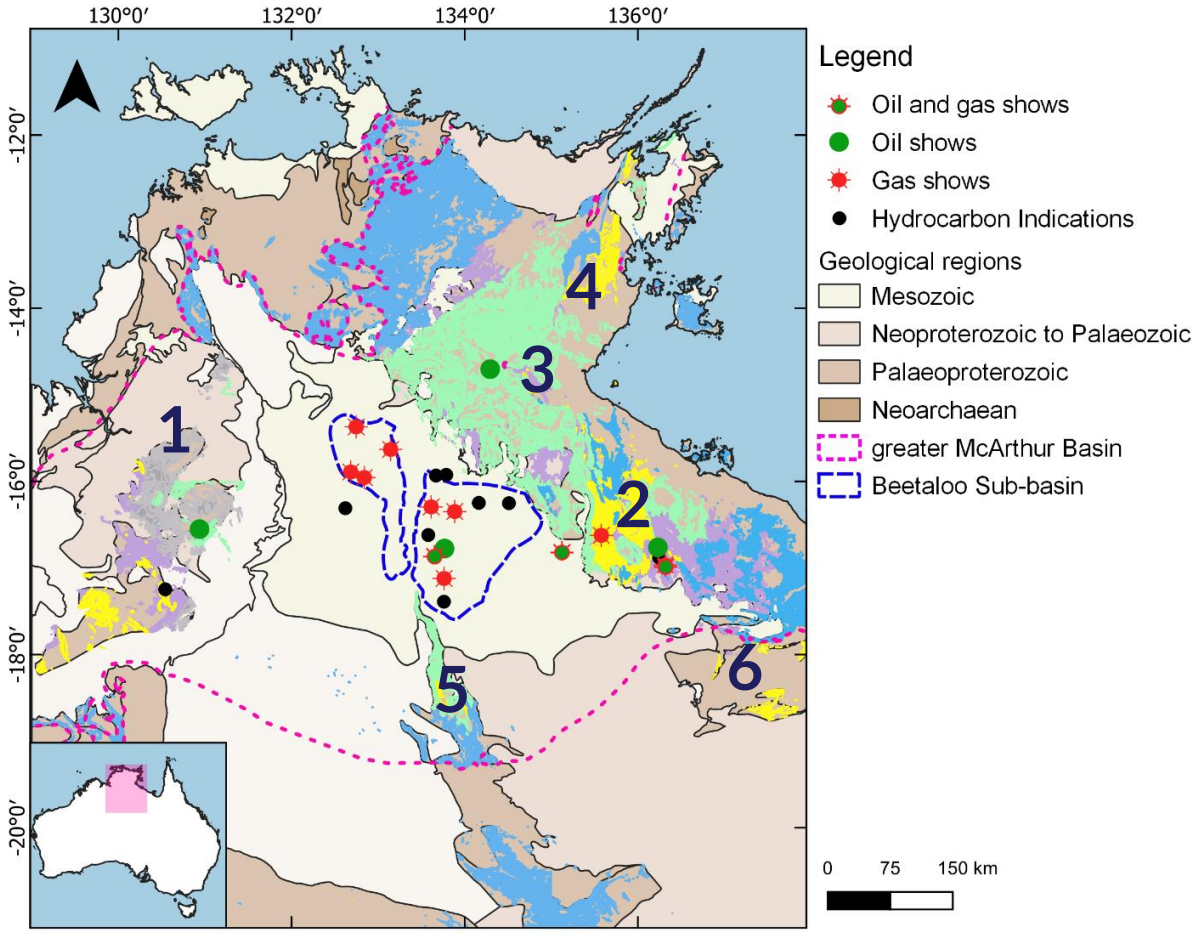
NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Exploration challenges:

Correlation and petroleum potential across the Glyde Package

Glyde package





Lithologies

- shale, siltstone and fine sandstone
- sandstone, siltstone
- siltstone, shale and shaley silt
- stromatolitic dolostone and dolarenite
- dolomitic sandstone, silicified carbonate, dolarenite
- dolomitic siltstone, shale and fine-grained sandstone
- sandy dolostone
- mudstone, dolostone, carbonaceous shale, dolomitic siltstone
- dolostone
- stromatolitic and/or oolitic dolostone
- breccia

5 = Tomkinson Province 6 = Lawn Hill Platform
(not shown in correlation chart)

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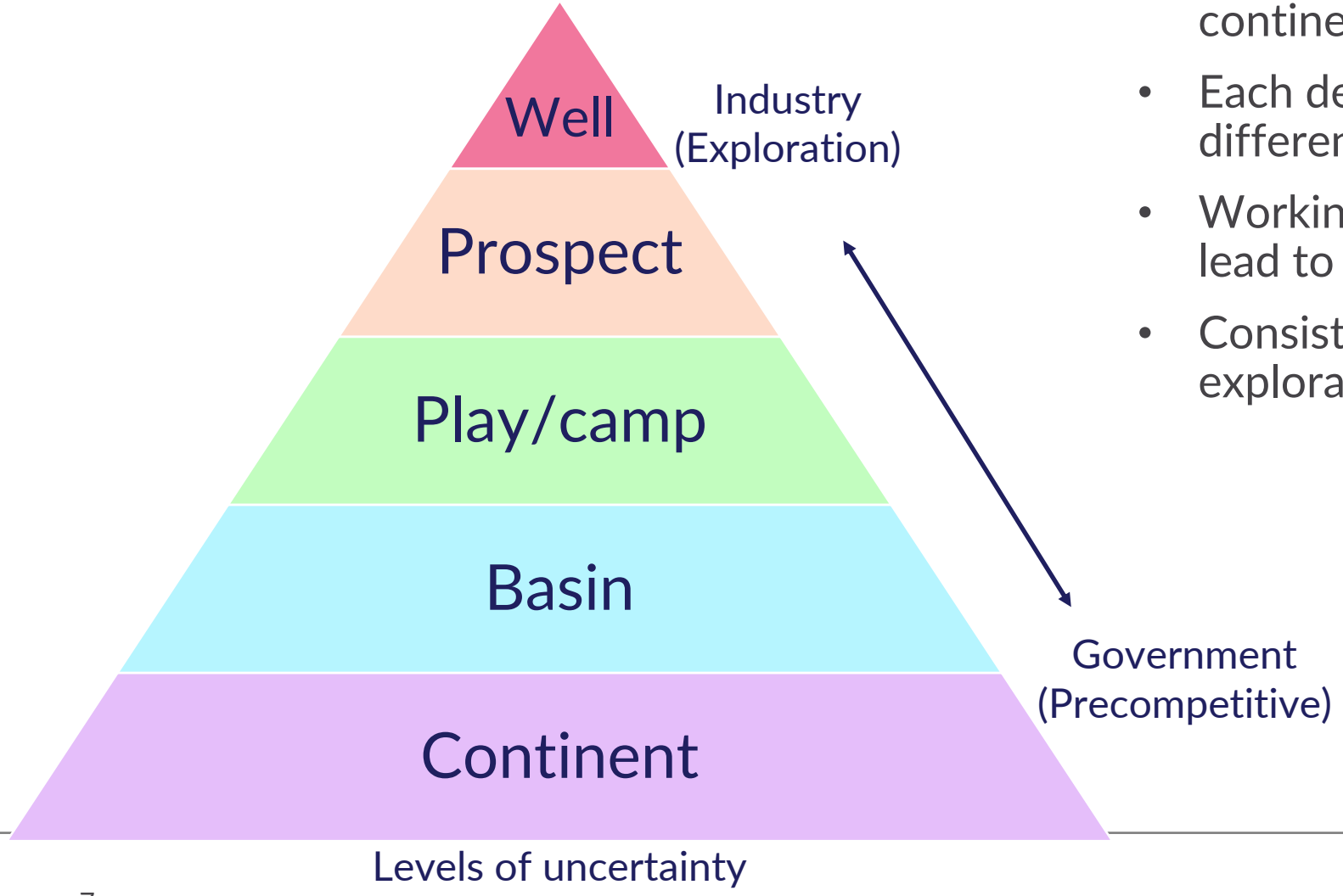
Exploration scales



- Exploration crosses multiple scales from continent-to-well-scale
- Each decision-making point requires different information
- Working at different scales can often lead to different terminology
- Consistent framework can lead to better exploration outcomes

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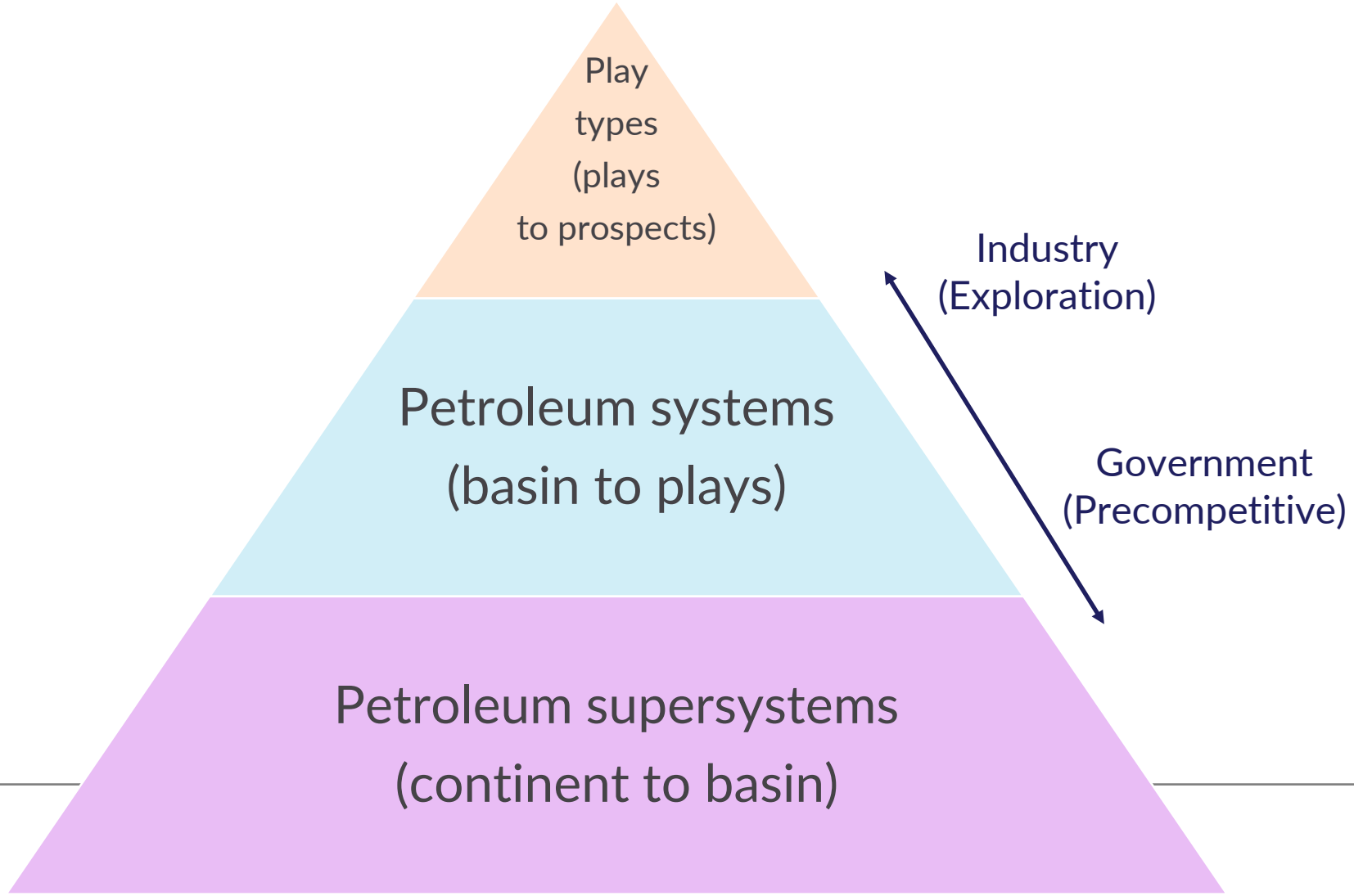
New stacked petroleum system framework



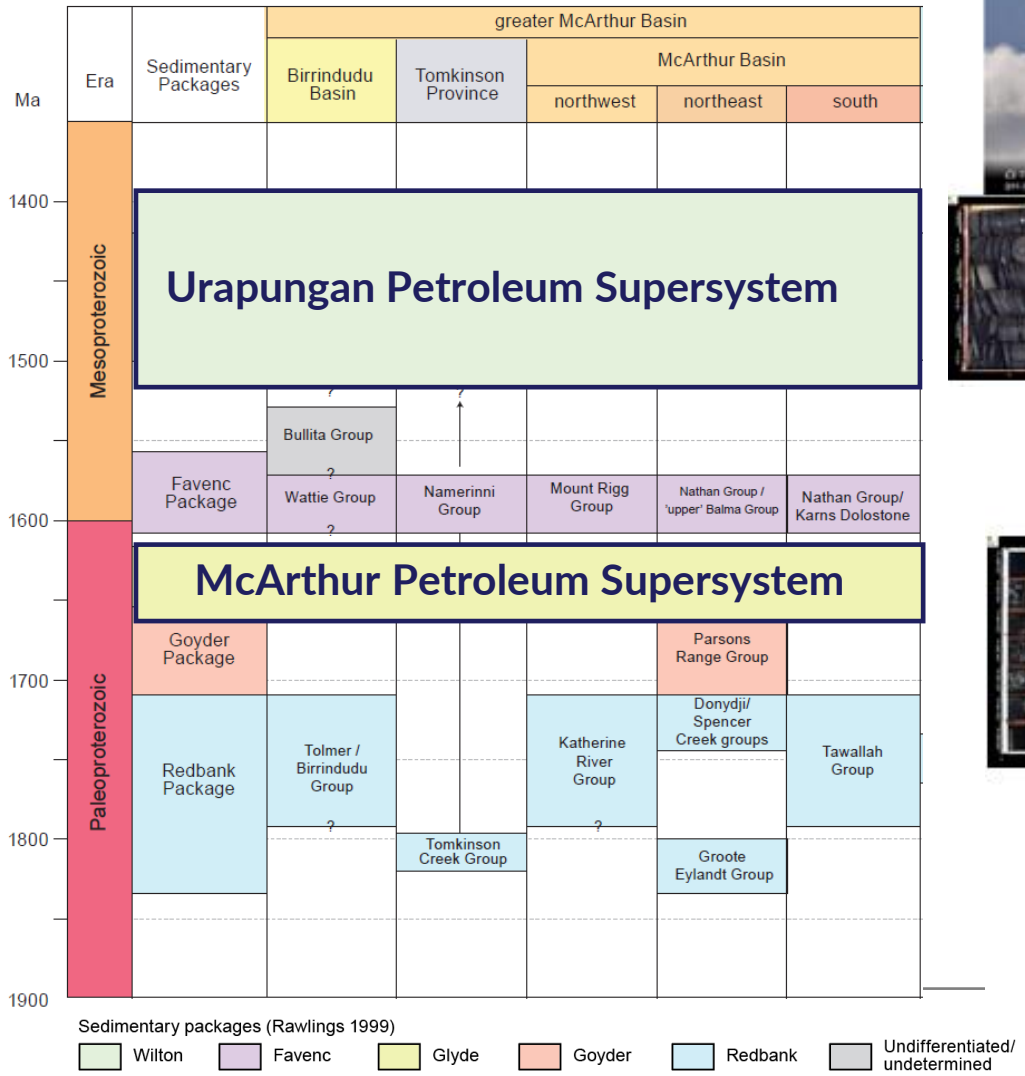
NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

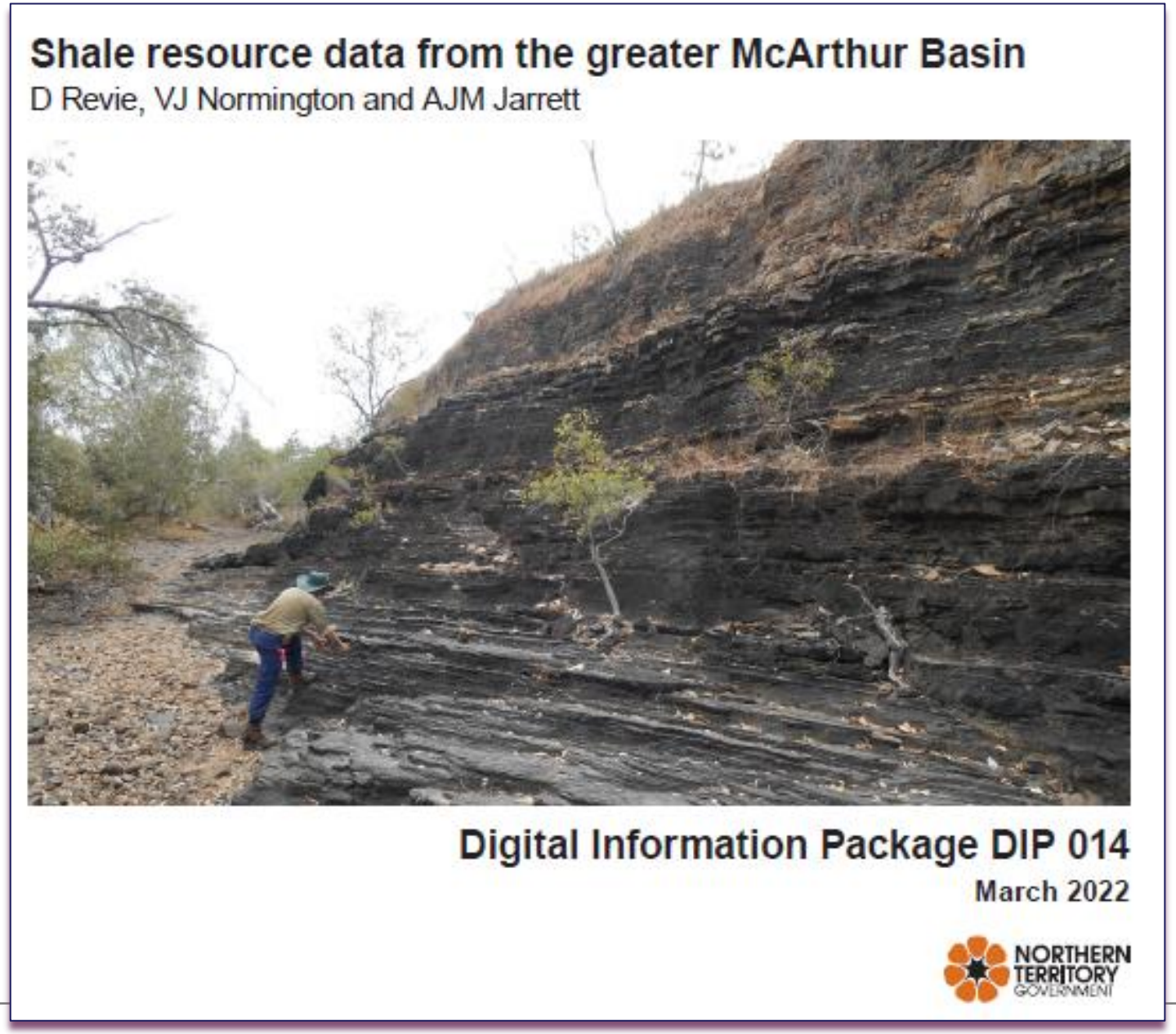
Petroleum supersystems (continent to basin scales)

Previous version (Bradshaw *et al.* 1994)

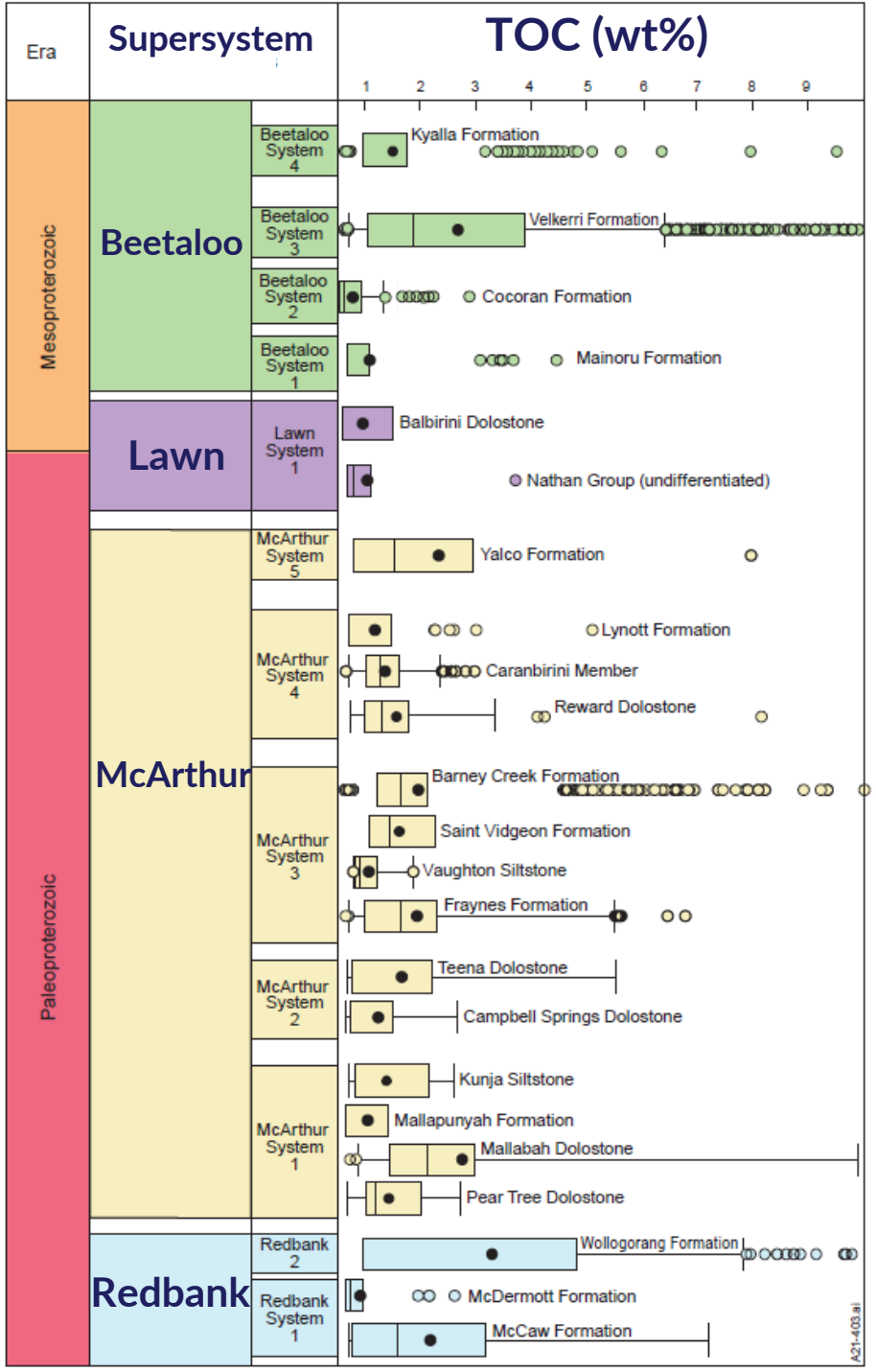
- Continent-scale framework linking basins of similar age, depositional environment and hydrocarbon potential
- Can be used to make predictions in frontier regions
- Definition based on organic-richness and a hydrocarbon show
- Bradshaw *et al.* (1994) defined two Proterozoic supersystems

Petroleum Supersystems
(continent to basin)



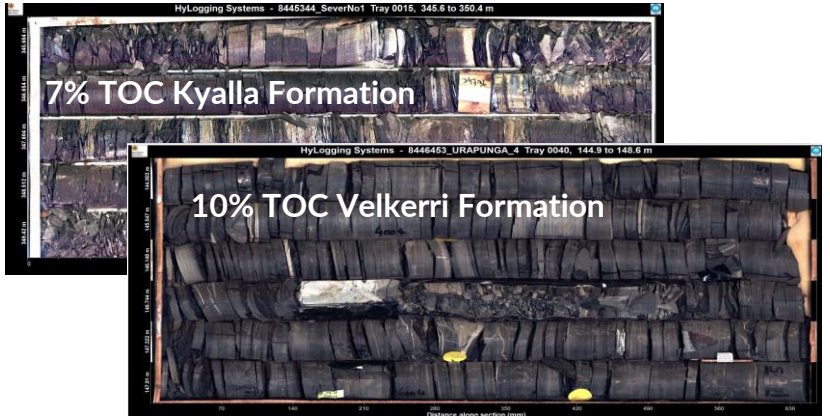


Cover image: Tim on the Vaughton Siltstone, Balma Group, Northern McArthur Basin (McArthur Supersystem)
https://www.geoscience.nt.gov.au/gemis/ntgsjspui/handle/1/82595



Beetaloo Supersystem

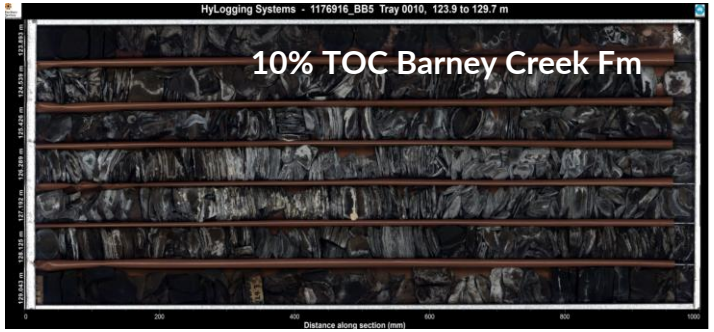
(formerly Urapungan Supersystem, new systems 1 and 2)
See Jarrett *et al.* (2022) AGES



Newly defined Lawn Supersystem

McArthur Supersystem

(new systems 1, 2, 4, 5)



Newly defined Redbank Supersystem

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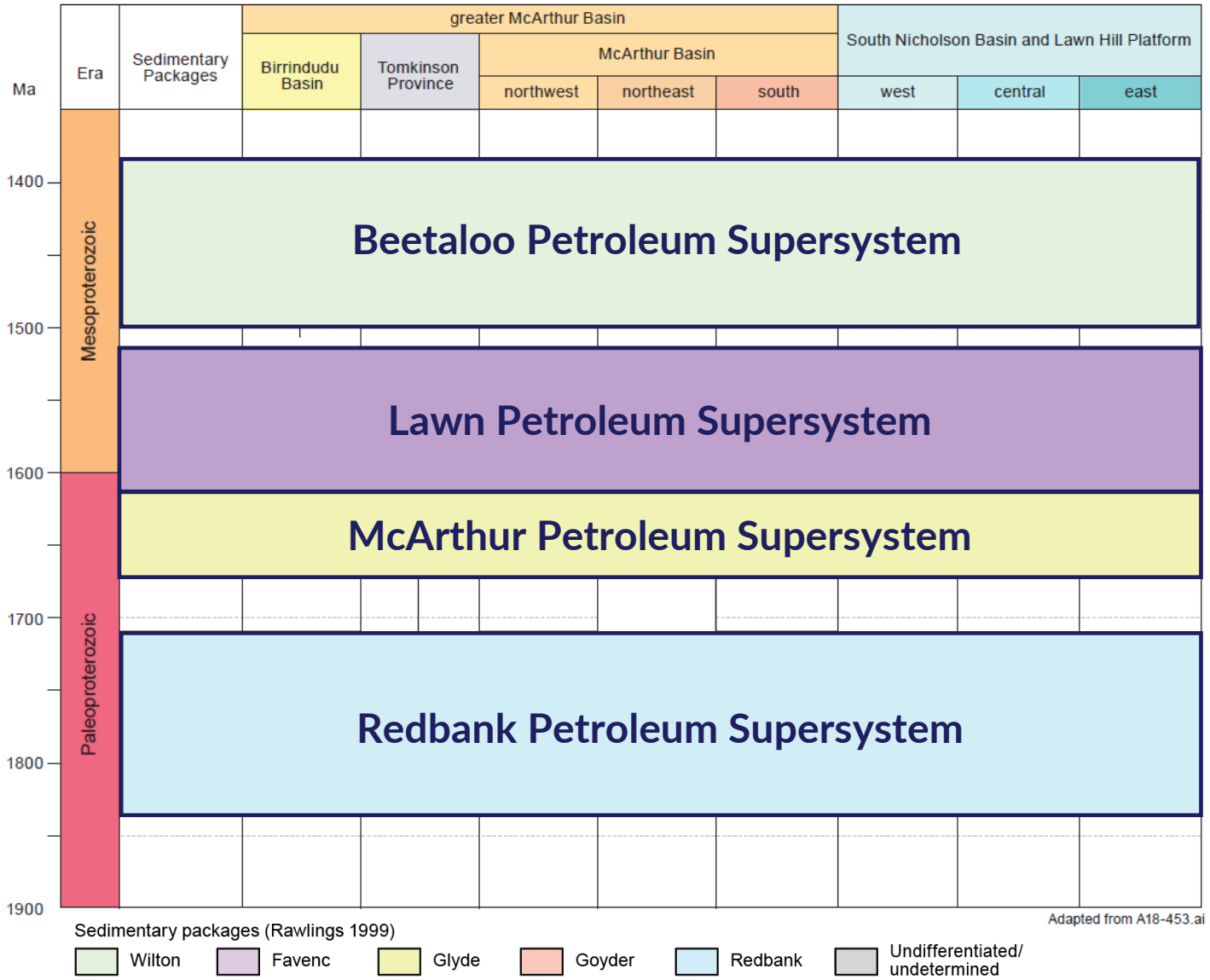
Petroleum supersystems (continent to basin scales)



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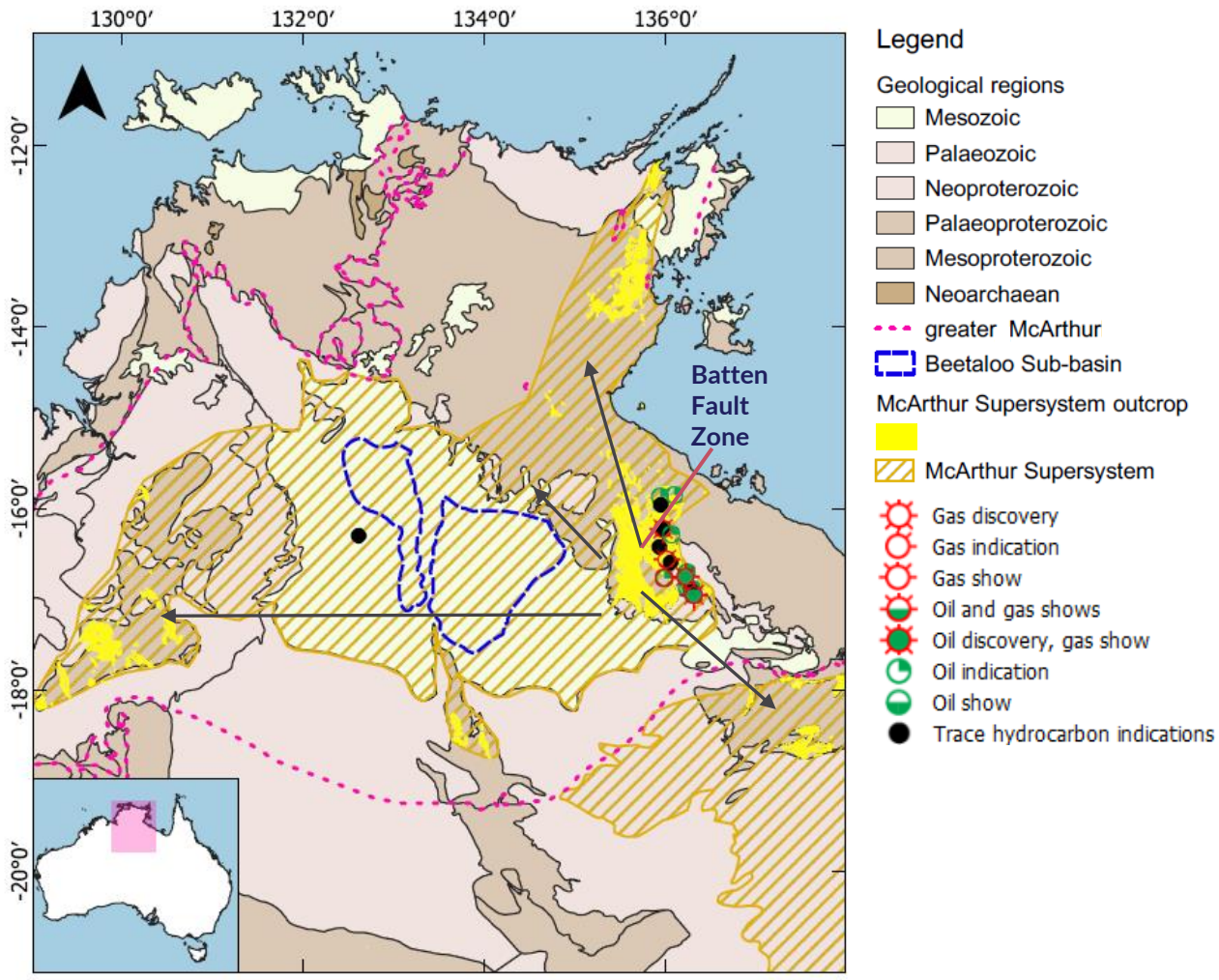
Petroleum Supersystem (continent to basin scale)
McArthur Supersystem

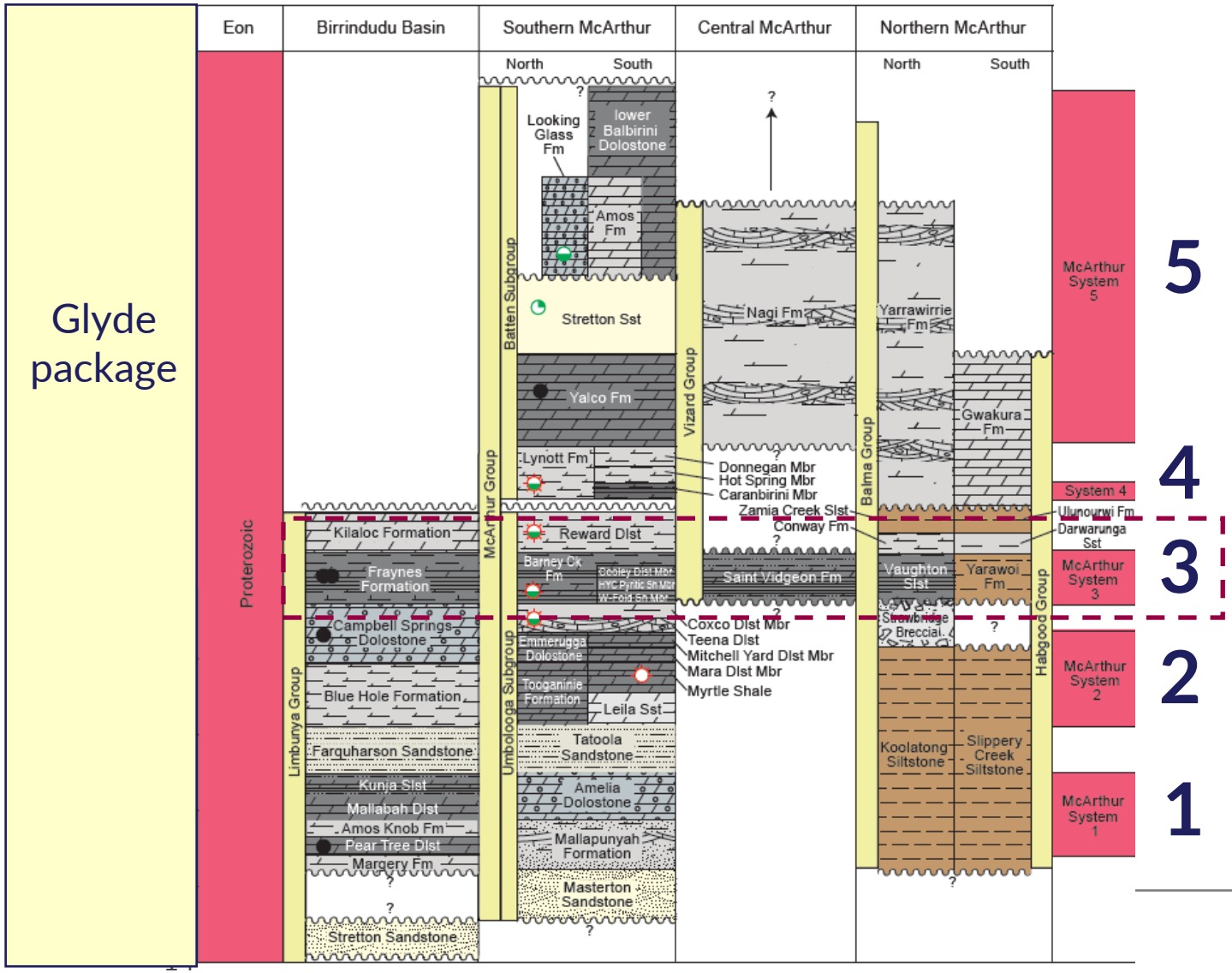
- Named by Bradshaw *et al.* (1994)
- Includes Paleoproterozoic shales from the Birrindudu and McArthur basins and the Lawn Hill Platform
- Multiple discoveries and hydrocarbon shows in the Batten Fault Zone
- Can predict potential systems in frontier basins or regions of the greater McArthur Basin
- Uncertainties beneath cover due to minimal well penetration and seismic



Petroleum Supersystems
(continent to basin)

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

McArthur systems



- McArthur Supersystem contains five systems
- All have excellent source rock potential (TOC >5%)
- Barney Creek Formation has best well penetration, thus is best defined
- Higher uncertainties in the central and northern McArthur Basin because of no/poor well control
- Can our understanding of Barney Creek Formation be used to make predictions on contemporaneous shales?

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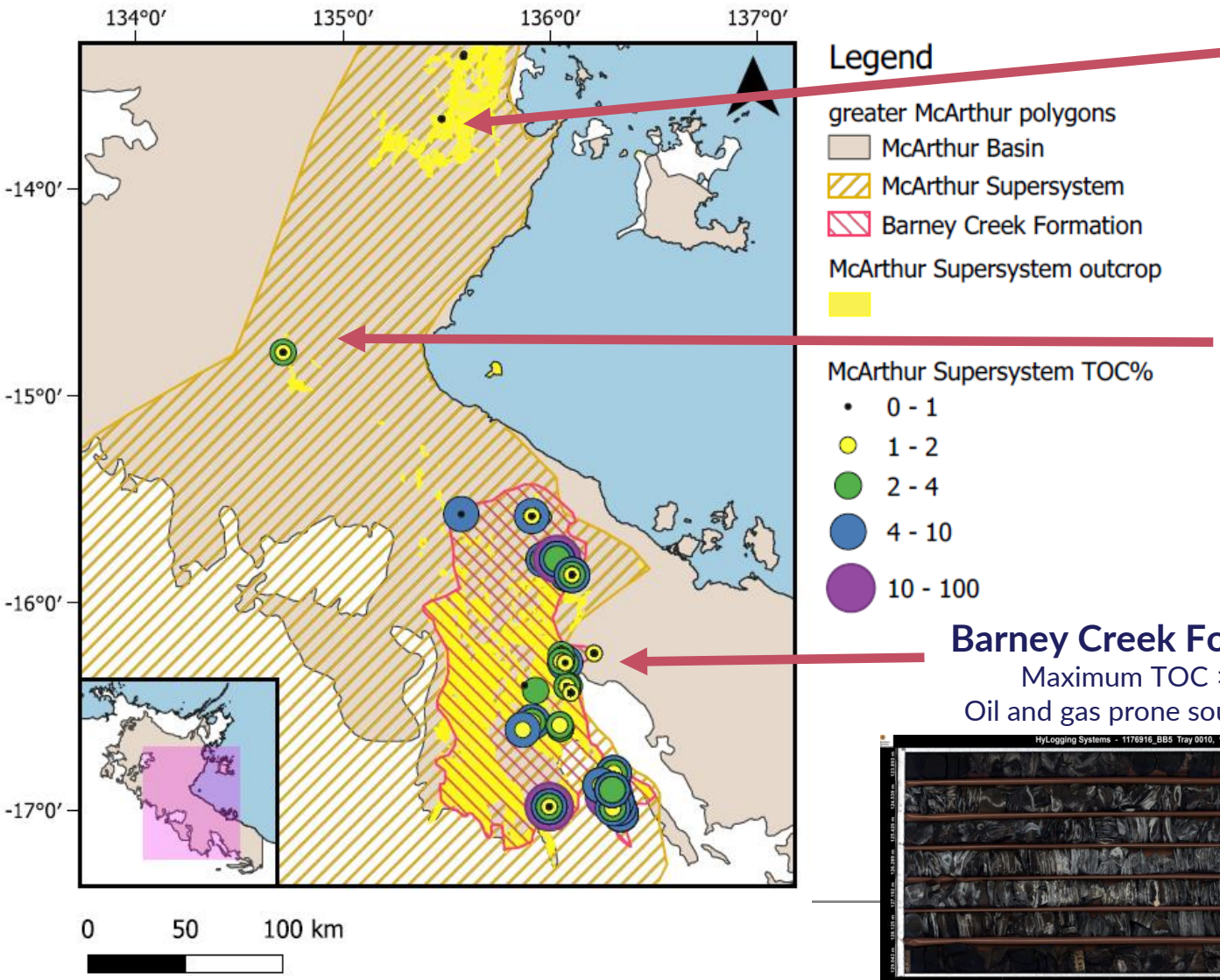
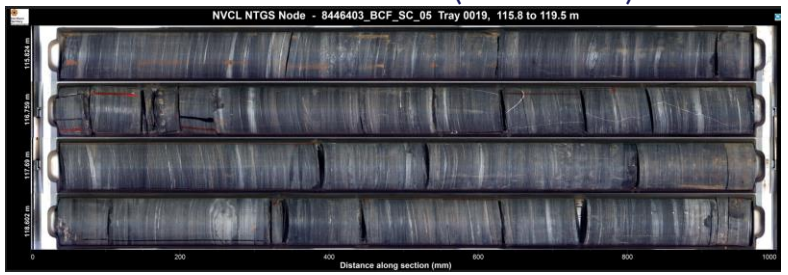
McArthur System 3



Vaughton Siltstone
(outcrop only)
Maximum TOC 1.3%

BCF SC 04- Saint Vidgeon Formation
Imperial Energy and NTGS drilling collaboration hole
Maximum TOC 1.5% (overmature)



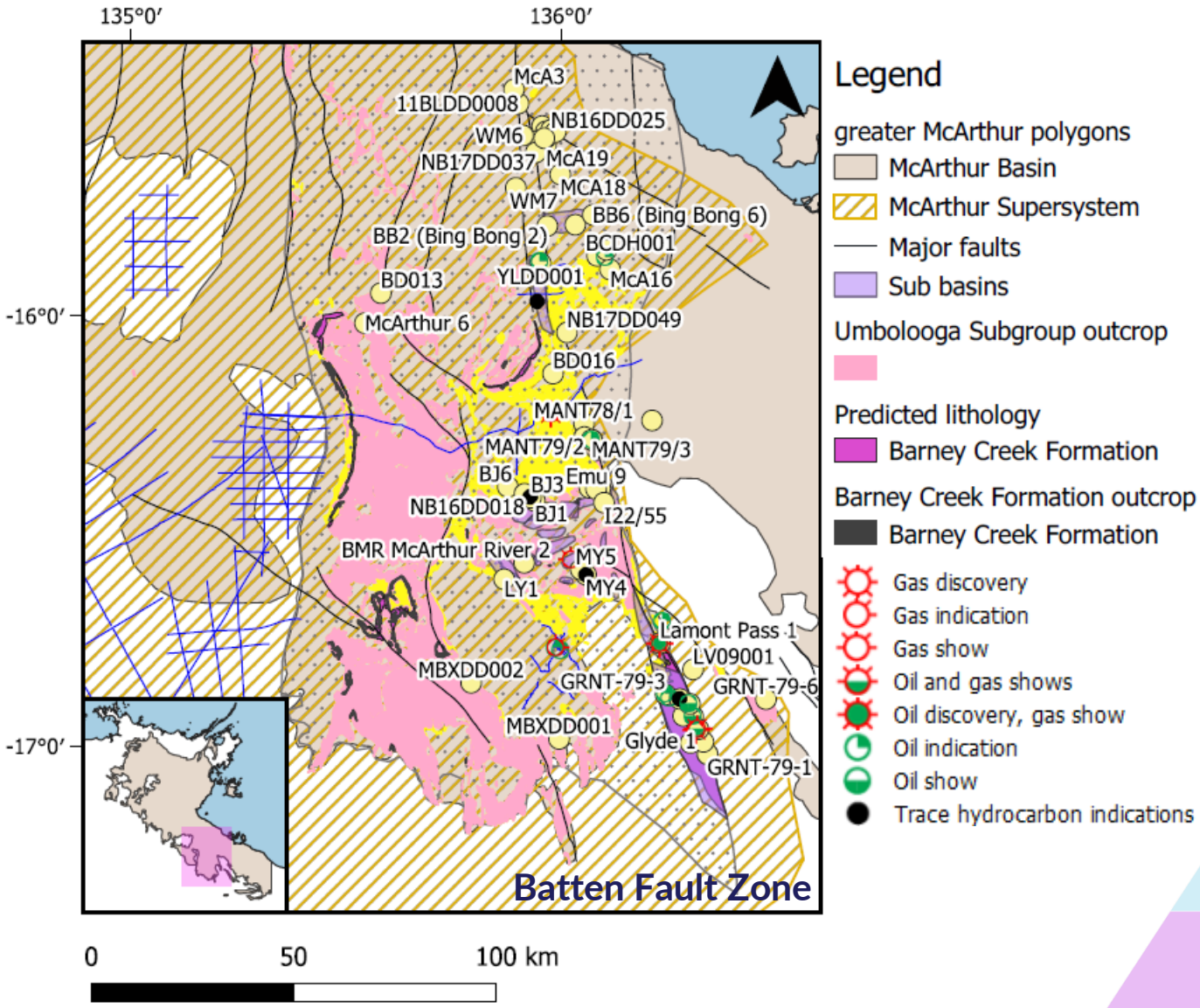
Barney Creek Formation
Maximum TOC >10%
Oil and gas prone source rocks

Glyde 1 gas flare

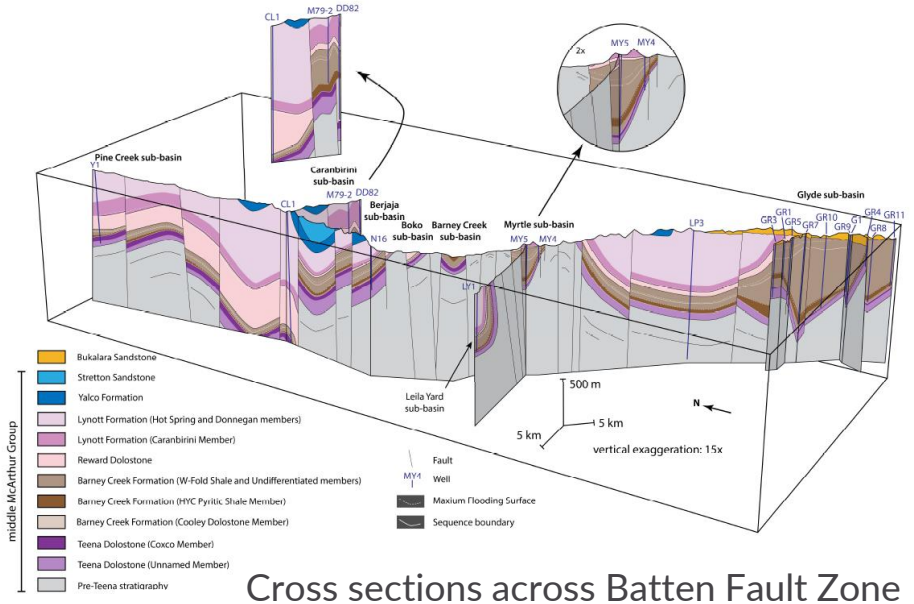
Image from Armour Energy ASX Release
https://www.asx.com.au/asxpdf/20210303/pdf/44t9hj0xxq4z9n.pdf

Petroleum systems (basin- to prospect-scale)

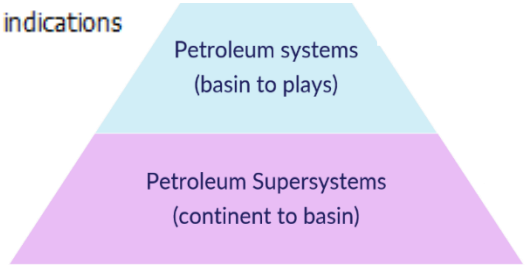
McArthur System 3 focus



- Hydrocarbon discoveries, shows and flows
- Thickest and deepest sections in structural sub-basins

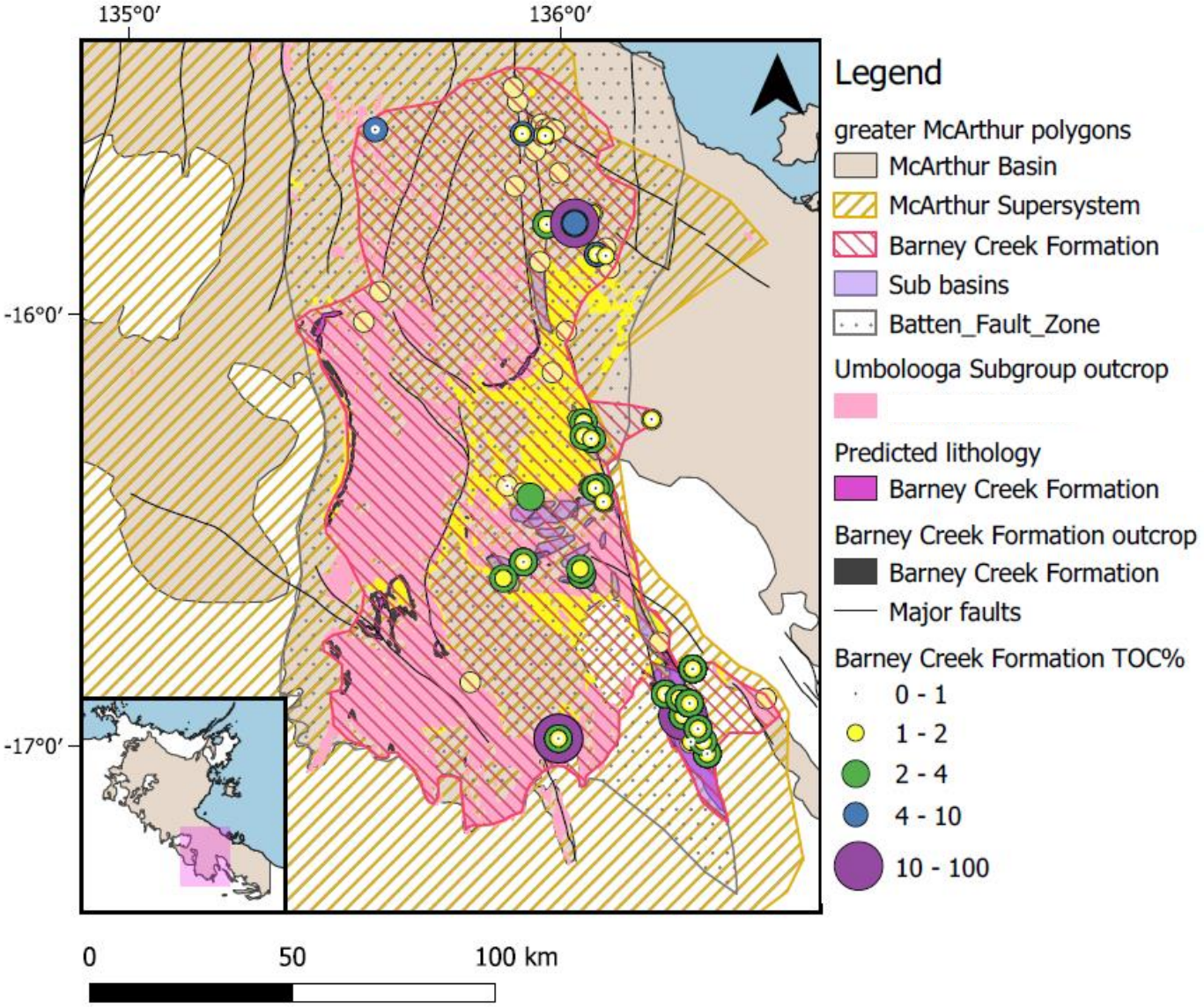


Cross sections across Batten Fault Zone
Kunzmann *et al.* (2019)
NTGS Record 2019-016



Petroleum systems (basin to prospect scale)

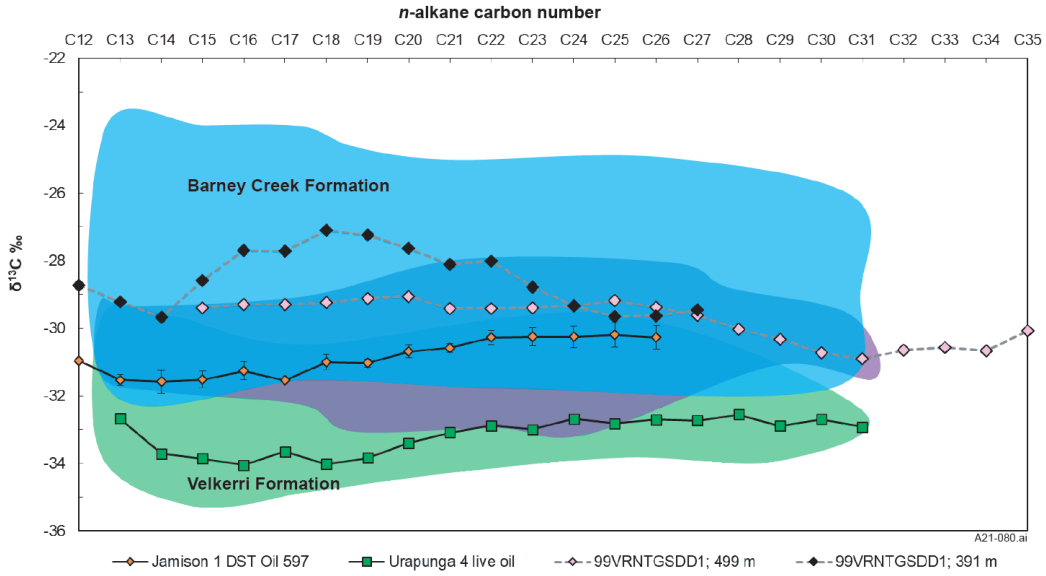
McArthur System 3 focus



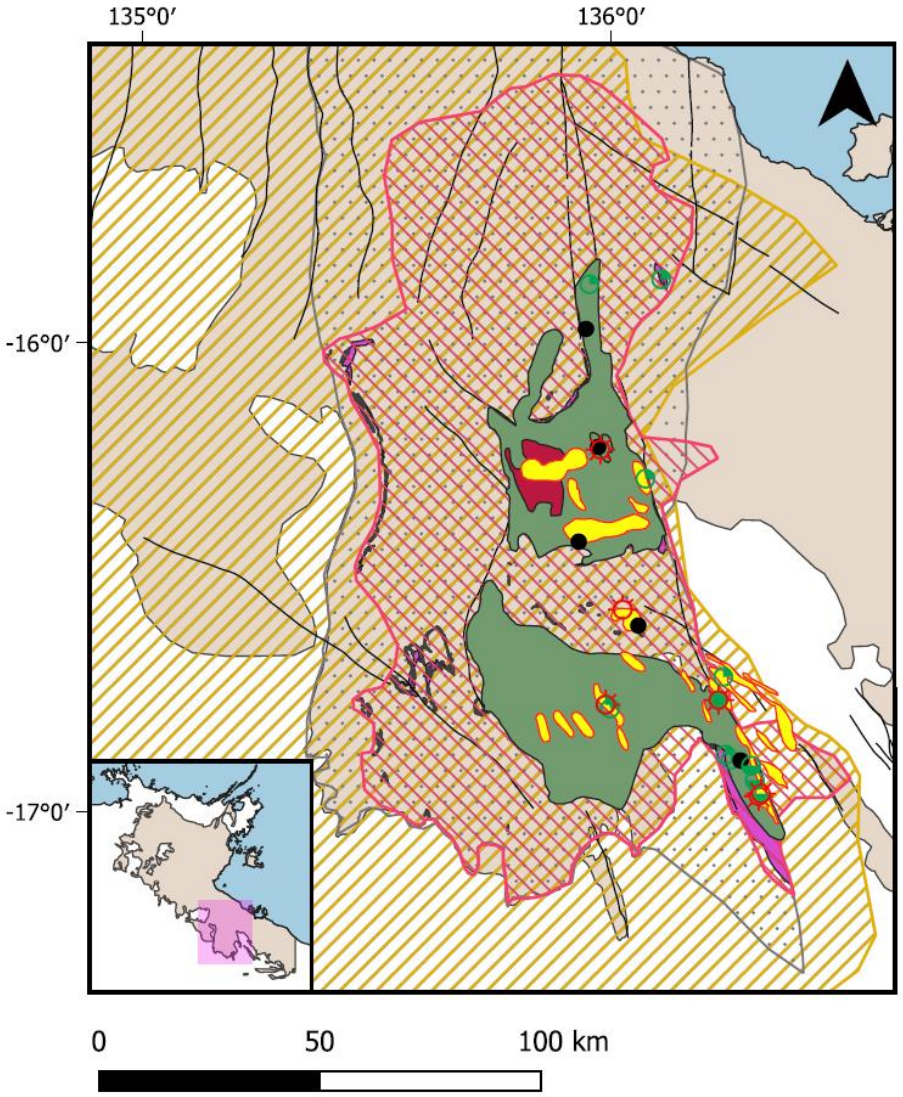
- McArthur System 3 extent based on outcrop, seismic and intersecting wells
- Good to excellent TOC throughout the basin
- Detailed geochemistry for Barney Creek Formation and related oils and source rocks (Jarrett *et al.* 2019 AGES)

McArthur Supersystem 3

Oil and source rock geochemistry available



Petroleum play types (play- to prospect-scale)

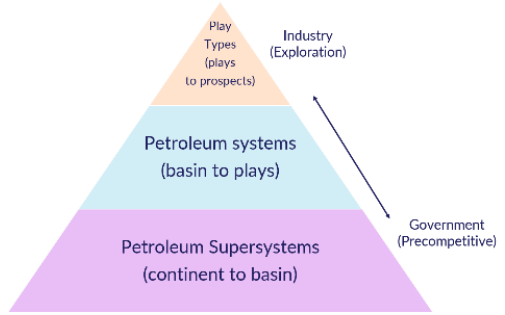


Legend

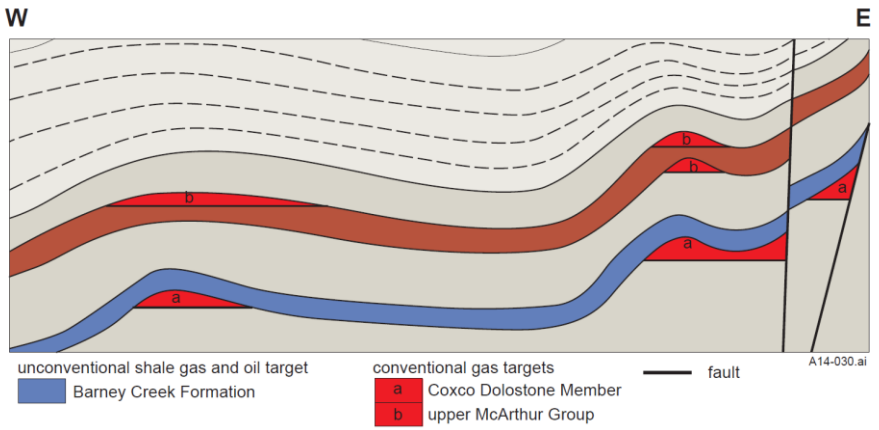
Geological regions
- Mesozoic
- Neoproterozoic to Palaeozoic
- Palaeoproterozoic
- Neoarchaean
- McArthur Supersystem

Major faults

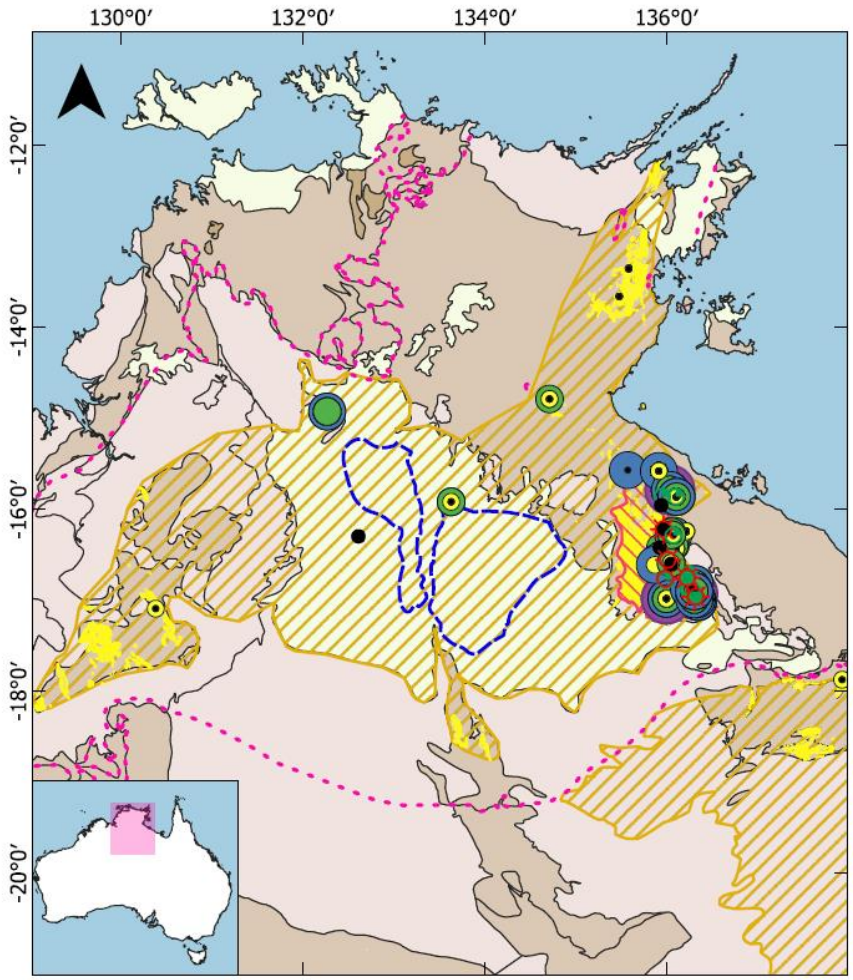
- Barney Creek Formation drillcore intersections
- Barney Creek Formation extent
- Barney Creek - Teena/Reward(!) leads
- Barney Creek- dry shale gas play
- Barney Creek- wet shale gas play
- Gas discovery
- Gas indication
- Gas show
- Oil and gas shows
- Oil discovery, gas show
- Oil indication
- Oil show
- Trace hydrocarbon indications



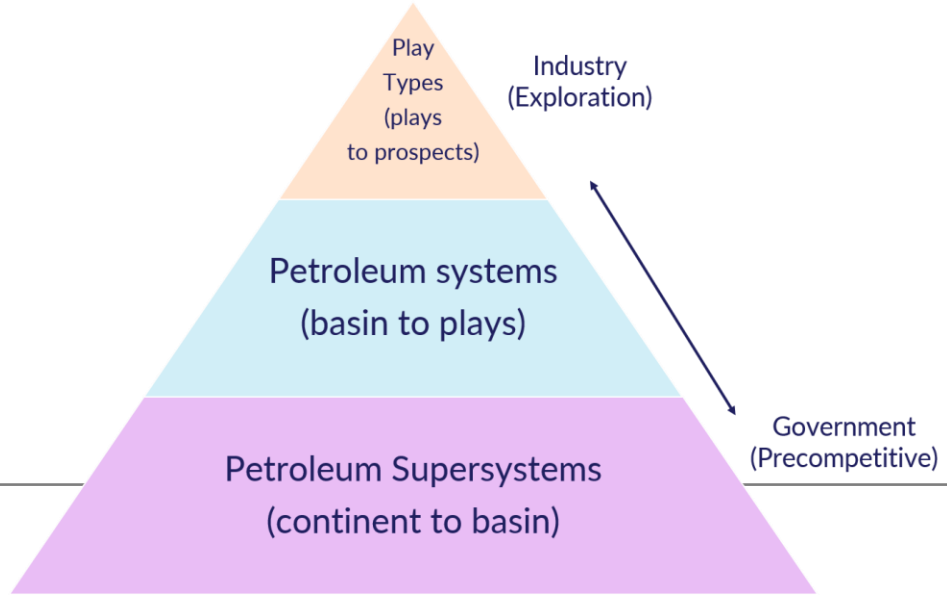
- Conventional gas plays
- Unconventional wet and dry gas leads
- Challenges still exist in correlating units across the basin and testing these plays



Summary and next steps



- We present a new exploration framework across the greater McArthur Basin
- Petroleum system framework will be released as an NTGS Record
- Challenges still exist in correlating units across the greater McArthur Basin and testing these plays
- Systems have the flexibility to be updated as required



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Thank you

Any questions please email
Amber.Jarrett@nt.gov.au

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'Fossilised Koala' Caranbirini Mbr, Photo: J.J. Brocks