# PALEOGENE PERIOD (65.5-23.03 MA)

Geological TimeWalk

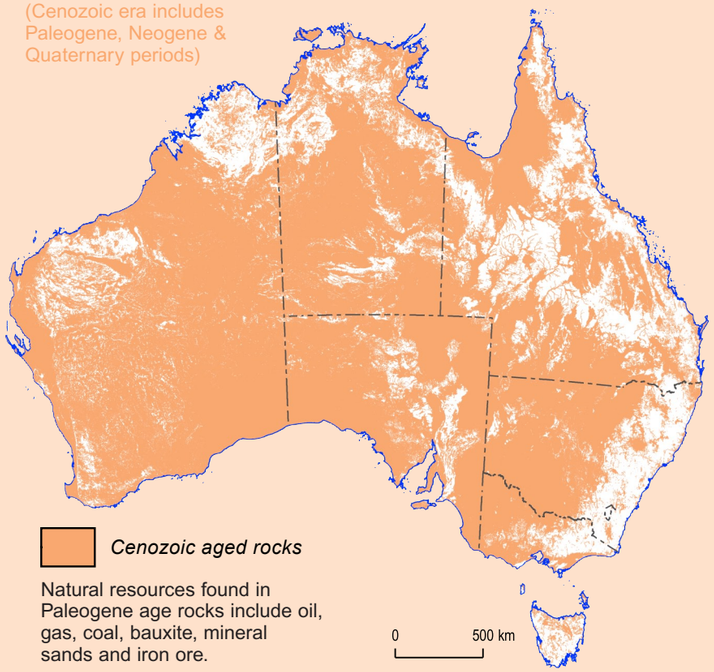
Australia finally separated from Antarctica and continued its northward drift. Rapid diversification of mammals followed the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction. Globally, **mammals soon dominated the land,** and entered the oceans and evolved into whales. However, in Australia marsupials soon filled many habitats previously occupied by the dinosaurs.

In the sky, birds diversified into different colours, shapes and sizes. Some flightless birds reached up to two metres tall.

The Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction also decimated the forests. Ferns quickly colonised these devastated areas. As the flora recovered, deciduous and conifer forests covered much of the planet, including Antarctica. The **first wattle trees** appeared in Australia.

**Cenozoic Era rocks and resources in Australia**

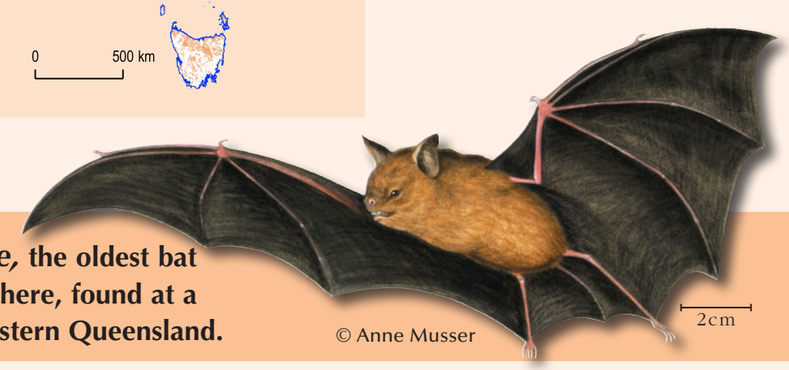
(Cenozoic era includes Paleogene, Neogene & Quaternary periods)




Natural resources found in Paleogene age rocks include oil, gas, coal, bauxite, mineral sands and iron ore.

**Paleogene Timescale**

| Age(Ma) | Period | Epoch |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | Paleogene | Oligocene |
| 30 | | |
| 35 | | Eocene |
| 40 | | |
| 45 | | |
| 50 | | |
| 55 | | Paleocene |
| 60 | | |
| 65 | | |




***Australonycteris clarkae,*** **the oldest bat from the Southern Hemisphere, found at a single fossil site in southeastern Queensland.**

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The Glass House Mountains in south-eastern Queensland are remnants of extinct volcanoes that were active around 27 million years ago.

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