PALEOPROTEROZOIC ERA (2500-1600 Ma)

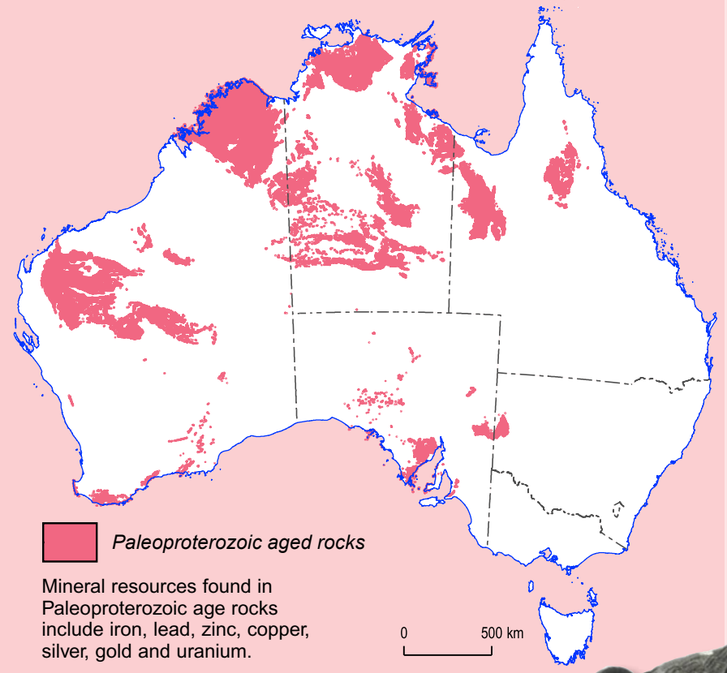
Geological TimeWalk

At the beginning of this era, **'The Great Oxidation Event'** occurred, dramatically changing the atmosphere and climate. Suddenly, oxygen increased, which triggered the Earth's **first ice age** by removing the greenhouse gas, methane, from the atmosphere. These glaciations may have lasted up to 400 million years.

Life in the oceans diversified with the first **eukaryotes (single-celled algae)** evolving, followed later by the evolution of multicellular algae.

Early in the Paleoproterozoic Era, precipitation of banded iron formation continued in the Hamersley Basin. For the rest of the era, widespread shallow seas covered most of northern Australia.

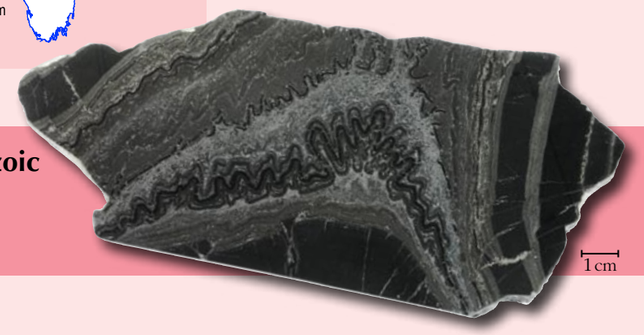
Paleoproterozoic rocks and resources in Australia



Mineral resources found in Paleoproterozoic age rocks include iron, lead, zinc, copper, silver, gold and uranium.

Paleoproterozoic Timescale

Age(Ma)	Era	Period
1700	Paleoproterozoic	Statherian
1800		
1900		Orosirian
2000		
2100		Rhyacian
2200		
2300		Siderian
2400		



Lead-Zinc ore from the Paleoproterozoic Mount Isa deposit, Queensland.

Some of the world's largest deposits of iron, lead, zinc, silver, and uranium were formed in Australia during the Paleoproterozoic Era.

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