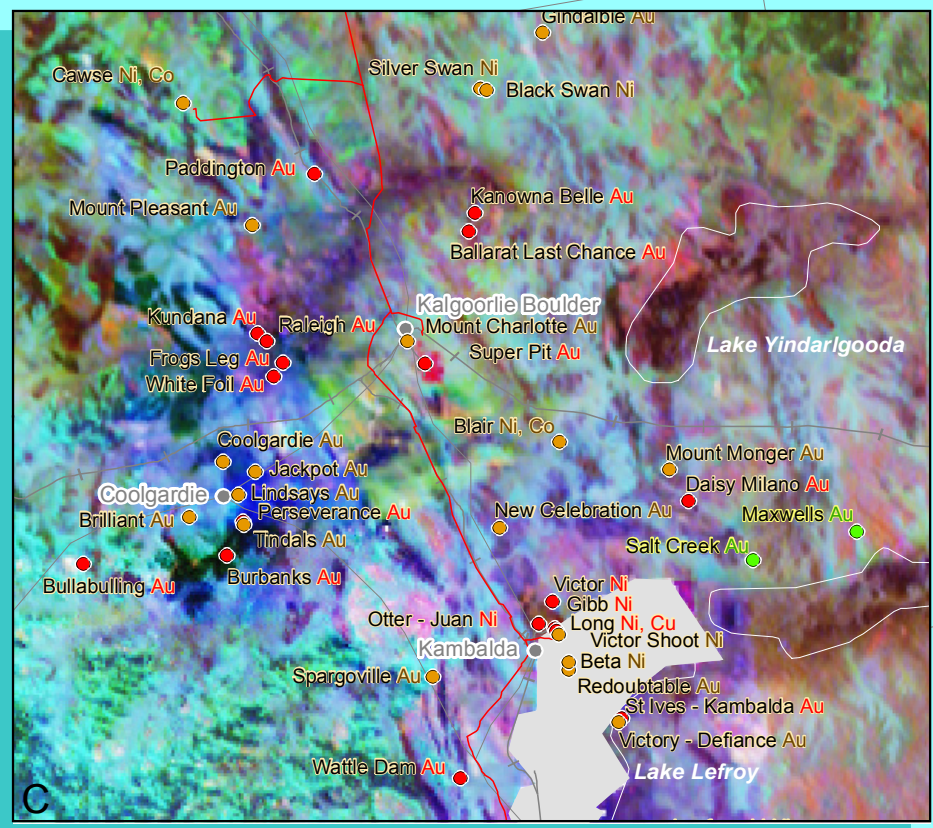


Selected Commodities and Operating Status



The Base Image for this Map is the Radiometric Map of the Australian Region

This lithary isomeric image shows the concentrations of the radiobelements potassium (K), uranium (U) and thorium (Th). The image is a false colour composite of three separate maps, each showing the concentration of one of the elements. The colours red, blue and green represent potassium, uranium and thorium, respectively. These primary colours are mixed in the same proportions at each point on the map as the concentrations of the radiobelements. Thus white areas have high levels of all three elements, black areas have low levels of all three elements, and intermediate shades of grey indicate varying levels of U and Th but low or no K; deeper turquoise (a mixture of green and blue), so this representation of the data is useful for viewing the concentrations of all 3 radiobelements in single image. Areas where data is not currently available are shown in light grey.

The distribution of the radioblements reflects the geochemical mineralogy of bedrock and geolith materials. K is found throughout the continent, but is particularly concentrated in the eastern half, especially in the south-east. Uranium is more widely distributed, but is particularly concentrated in the north-west and north-east. Thorium is also widely distributed, but is particularly concentrated in the north-west and north-east. The distribution of the radioblements is closely related to the distribution of the major rock types. Granite and gneiss generally contain high levels of all three elements and mafic rocks low. A general increase in K, U and Th with increasing bedrock contact is usually observed. Surface weathering modifies the distribution of these elements, and their concentration in weathered material can vary significantly from the concentration in the unweathered bedrock. This is particularly true for potassium, which is strongly associated with resistant minerals, clay and oxides in the weathering profile.

Note: The Radiometric Map of Australia is available as a free PDF or JPG or can be purchased as an A0 printed wall map from our Sales Centre via our website at: <http://www.ga.gov.au>