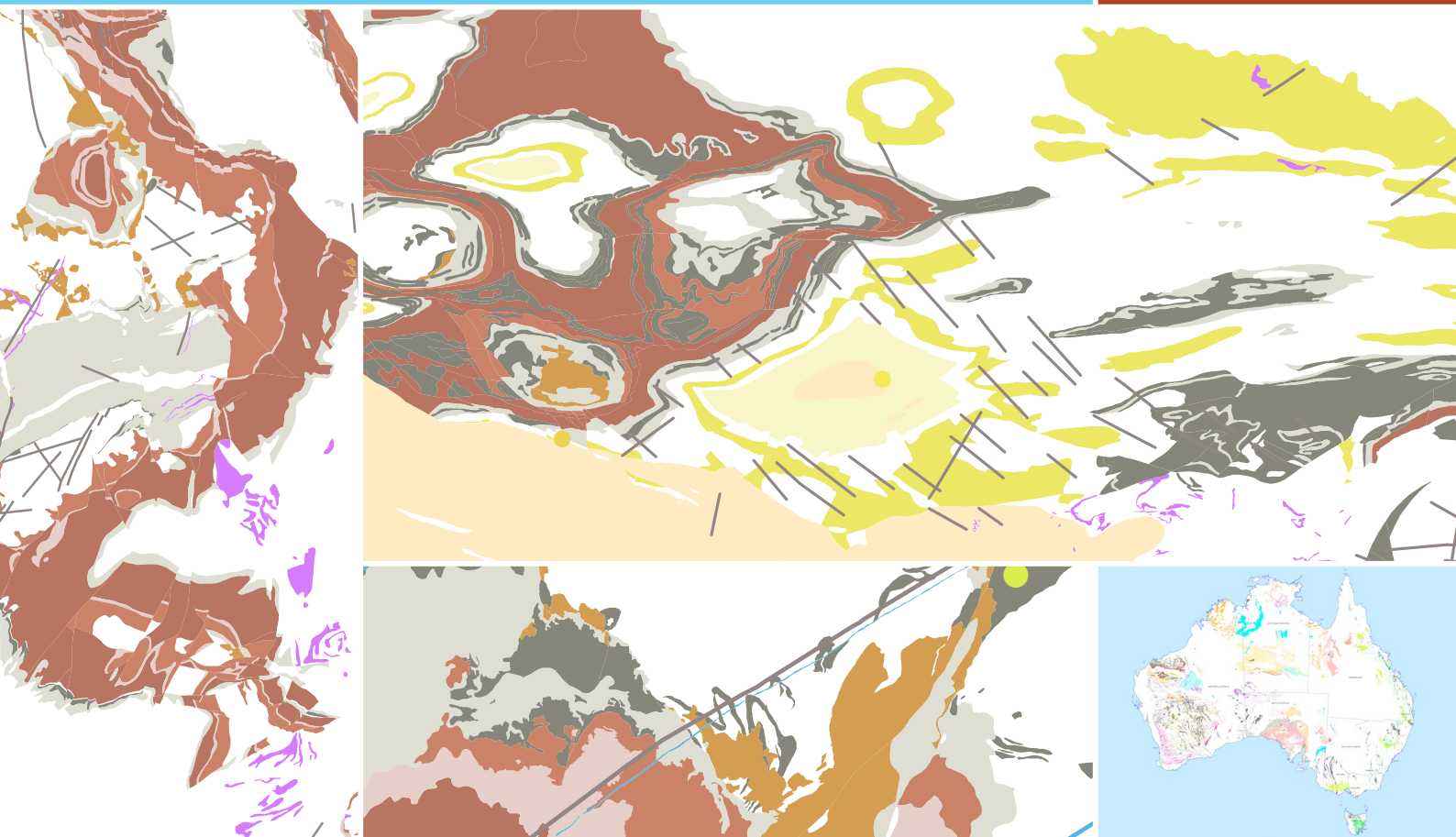




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Guide to using the Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events GIS Dataset

Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic Magmatic Events

Jane P. Thorne, Michelle Cooper and Jonathan C. Claoué-Long

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Executive Summary

This document provides supporting information to assist in the use of the Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events GIS Dataset. The dataset is made publicly available as a GIS at nominal 1:5 000 000 scale, and shows the time-space-event distribution of mafic-ultramafic magmatism in Australia from the early Archean to the present day.

Development of this GIS has been a multi-year project and earlier released extracts (in viewable PDF form with accompanying Geoscience Australia Records) included compilations for the Archean magmatic record, the Proterozoic magmatic record, and the Australian Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs). Publication of the GIS completes the series with addition of the Phanerozoic magmatic record, and formalisation of the complete record of Archean-Phanerozoic magmatic events as a single series.

The chronology of Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatism resolves into 74 magmatic events within, predominately, resolvable bands of ± 10 million years (Myr). Each event is identified by geological units grouped by similar age – this coeval magmatism may or may not be genetically related and may be in response to different geodynamic environments. These magmatic events range in age from the Eoarchean ~3730 Ma ME 1 – Manfred Event, confined within a small remnant domain within the Yilgarn Craton, to the widespread record of Cenozoic magmatism in eastern Australia (ME 72 to ME 74). The magmatic events range in magnitude from the giant volumes of magma in Large Igneous Provinces, to events whose only known occurrence is an isolated record of dated mafic igneous rock in a single drillhole. The GIS makes it possible to focus on the location of any one of these magmatic events, or groups of magmatic events that may be of interest, and overlay context from any other information that users may have available.

The delineation of magmatic events for this study is based on several hundred published ages of mafic and ultramafic igneous rocks from different isotopic systems and minerals. In addition to their ages and extents, primary recorded aspects of each magmatic event include the presence or absence of ultramafic components. Further to this, the presence or correlation of known magmatic-related mineralisation is highlighted in Time-Space-Event Charts of Australia (Appendix D, figures D1 and D2). The basis for mapping has been regional solid geology, interpreted basement geology and surface geology base maps made available by the State and Northern Territory geological surveys, providing insight into the total areal extent of the magmatic systems under cover. Also available to complement the Event GIS are the domains and element boundaries from the Australian Crustal Elements map. These boundaries which are based on geophysical extrapolation of crustal elements under the cover of continental basins, provide a framework of the shallow crustal structure of the continent, and are used in this guide. The Crustal Elements digital dataset is available for download from the Geoscience Australia website.

Insight into the geodynamic development of the continent is provided by the magmatic event structure through time. The compilation draws attention to concentrations of mafic-ultramafic magmatism in the Archean from ~2820–2665 Ma, in the Proterozoic from ~1870–1590 Ma, and in the late Neoproterozoic-Phanerozoic from ~530–225 Ma. These three time spans contain 39 of the 74 magmatic events, 53% of the entire mafic-ultramafic magmatic event record of the continent. The periods in between have mafic-ultramafic magmatic records that are more dispersed in time. Other

features of interest include the shared geographic and crustal element locations of Large Igneous Provinces and numerous events with smaller magma volumes.

In the Archean, only three mafic-ultramafic magmatic events are known to be mineralised, but one of these (the ~2705 ME 19 Kambalda Event) is the basis of much of Australia's world-leading production of komatiite-hosted nickel. Exploration is yet to discover world class examples of magmatic-related mineralisation in Australia's Proterozoic and Phanerozoic magmatic events. Nine Proterozoic and nine Phanerozoic magmatic events in Australia, however, do have discovered resources, indicating that the mineral system is present in those magmatic events. The compilation identifies that every magmatic event corresponding to world-class magmatic mineral deposits in other continents is also represented in Australia, with the sole exception of the ~2585 Ma Great Dyke mineralisation in Zimbabwe. These correlations of mineralisation, both within Australia and with magmatic mineralisation in other continents, are a basis for investigating mineral potential in under-explored parts of igneous provinces, especially where they extend under cover.

The Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events GIS Dataset is a fundamental national framework within which to integrate other geological, geochemical and geophysical datasets, and to evaluate pointers to under-explored and potentially mineralised environments. As a compilation of all mafic-ultramafic magmatic events, large and small, this is currently the most detailed magmatic event record available for any continent. It provides the detailed basis from which to constrain the role of the mantle and mafic-ultramafic magmatism in the development of the Australian continent, and the correlation with other continents.

1. Scope of the Map

This document is a user guide for the GIS dataset of 'Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events' produced by Geoscience Australia (GA). The dataset adds coverage of Phanerozoic mafic-ultramafic magmatic events to previously-published Archean and Proterozoic compilations to complete the detailed magmatic event framework for the Australian continent in a single accessible dataset.

Production of the dataset was undertaken within the Mineral Systems Group of the Resources Division (RD), in collaboration with the State and Northern Territory geological surveys, all of whom made available their most recent geological and geochronological datasets (Appendix A). Two earlier releases of specific Proterozoic and Archean compilations were produced within the Mineral Exploration Promotion Project which published the resulting maps as PDFs and JPGs. This new National GIS is the final component of the series. It supersedes the earlier productions by completing the Phanerozoic magmatic event series and by publishing a digital dataset accessible to GIS systems.

This dataset focusses attention on the continent-wide extent and volume of certain magmatic systems, and can be used to make associations with mineralisation. The locations of magmatic units in space and time, their extensive correlations across the continent, and the relationship of magmatism to the present day crustal structure of the continent, are all prominent. This dataset will be of interest to those explorers searching for nickel, platinum-group elements (PGEs: platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium, and ruthenium), chromium, titanium and vanadium, as well as being a fundamental resource for understanding the thermal and dynamic evolution of the Australian continent.

The magmatic event framework in time and space is presented as a digital GIS dataset and has been compiled from map sources ranging from 1:100 000 to 1:2 000 000 scale. This framework shows the continental distribution of 26 Archean, 29 Proterozoic and 19 Phanerozoic mafic-ultramafic magmatic events. These range from ~3730 Ma gabbros in the Narryer Terrane of the Yilgarn Crustal Element, to the record of Cenozoic magmatism in eastern Australia. Regional and local solid-geology digital maps were synthesised to produce a national presentation of mafic-ultramafic rock units, including regional rock packages that contain relatively minor coeval mafic-ultramafic igneous rock components. Colour-coding of rock unit polygons by their age of magmatism provides a visual cue to the spatial and temporal correlations of magmatic units at province and continental scales. In this guide, their relationship to the evolution of the continent is shown with an underlay of the Australian Crustal Elements map (Shaw et al, 1996a) which delineates the shallow crustal structure of the continent (see section 4.1 for a link to a digital version of this map). The Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events dataset includes recorded isolated occurrences of dated magmatic units, in the form of point data, and also highlights the extent of known mafic-ultramafic magmatic units which lack reliable age control.

This document provides a description of the digital dataset, and links to supporting information published in the earlier publications of Australian Archean, Proterozoic and Large Igneous Province magmatism.

2. Methods

2.1. Sequence of Development

This study was initiated with a State-by-State compilation of Australian Proterozoic mafic-ultramafic magmatic events which was completed with publication in PDF format of a 1:5 000 000 Map of Australian Proterozoic Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events (Hoatson et al, 2008). This documented, for the first time, the time-space-event framework and wide continental extent of 30 magmatic events from ~2455 Ma to the Cambrian emplacement of the ~510 Ma Kalkarindji Large Igneous Province.

An Archean 1:5 000 000 Map compilation then followed (Hoatson et al., 2009). A 1:5 000 000 Map synthesising the extent and crustal framework of the five Proterozoic LIPs and their context was also published (Claoué-Long et al., 2009).

The Australian framework of mafic-ultramafic magmatic events has now been completed by documenting the event framework and extent of Phanerozoic mafic-ultramafic magmatism across Australia. The previously-compiled magmatic event series for the Archean (26 events), Proterozoic (29 events) and Phanerozoic (19 events including a continuum of Cenozoic magmatism that is broken into three events) have now been joined as a single series of 74 Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic events from ~3730 Ma to the present day.

Previous maps in the series were published as PDFs at 1:5 000 000 scale. The underlying unreleased digital GIS data for those previous maps is now included with the Phanerozoic data, making the complete Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic digital GIS dataset for the Australian continent publicly available. However, no updates have been made to the Proterozoic and Archean datasets since they were first compiled for release as PDFs and JPEGs in 2008 and 2009 respectively. Additionally, it should be noted that due to the wide range of map sources used it has not been possible to create a seamless continent-wide integration of the combined datasets, or to release a unified national GIS. This is evident in discontinuities at the boundaries of States and of regional maps, and more subtly in widely different modes of representing mafic-ultramafic rock units in maps created across different parts of Australia at differing scales. It has also meant that it has not been possible to fully standardise many of the text fields in the associated feature class and look-up tables. Demand for access to the underlying digital dataset, even in its inherently fragmented form, has been expressed from the exploration and research communities. The complete Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic digital GIS dataset is, therefore, being made publicly available—**with the caveat that the combination of State / Northern Territory, regional and local data representations means that individual mafic-ultramafic units may be represented by multiple overlapping polygons (from the various data sources).**

2.2. Sources of Geochronological Data and Digital Dataset

The geological and geochronological data which underpin this study were obtained from extensive searches of published and unpublished literature. Information was sourced from scientific journals; publications produced by Geoscience Australia and its precursor agencies the Bureau of Mineral Resources and the Australian Geological Survey Organisation; from the Commonwealth Scientific

Industrial Research Organisation; and from the State and Northern Territory geological surveys. Publications from the geological surveys included first, second, and third Edition 1:100 000 and 1:250 000 geological maps and their respective explanatory notes, bulletins, reports, and records. Unpublished information was obtained from company exploration reports and university theses. Unpublished geochronological data were sourced from university theses, State and Northern Territory geological survey databases, and from Geoscience Australia's OZCHRON national database of age determinations on Australian rock samples. Mineral resource data are from both the Australian Mines Atlas—database of Australian minerals and energy deposits, mines, resources, and processing centres and OZMIN—Geoscience Australia's national database of mineral deposits and resources. The use of all sources are acknowledged and fully referenced in this guide (see Appendix E) and in the GIS dataset look-up tables.

There exists no single solid-geology map or GIS for all Australia. Consequently, the base maps used are the most current solid-geology coverages available from the State and Northern Territory geological surveys (Appendix A) at the time of compilation. Surface geological maps, which may not record the undercover extent of geological units, were used for additional data in areas where solid geology maps are not available. All of these map sources vary in their mapping approaches, coverage, scale and detail. For example, Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria, have solid-geology coverages but variations in the mapping approaches are wide, especially where maps join at State borders. At the time of compilation, there was no single solid geology map available for Queensland or the Northern Territory, obliging recourse to a variety of local and regional maps at a range of scales. In New South Wales, the representation of mafic and ultramafic magmatic rocks is held in different digital solid geology sources in different parts of the State. The representation of mafic and ultramafic magmatic units across the national compilation varies significantly because of the limitations and different scales of these disparate sources.

Solid-geology maps may have an advantage over outcrop-based equivalents as they can provide an insight into the interpreted total areal extent of rock units (e.g. extensions under the cover of younger rocks, or regolith), and hence the volume of the magmatic systems, which is an important criterion when assessing mineral potential. However, it should be noted that solid-geology often omit potentially important dykes and dyke swarms in larger scale formats. In addition, the actual total volumes of magmatic systems cannot be determined due to the inherent uncertainties in estimating thicknesses and amounts of erosion.

Other thematic mapping sources were integrated to achieve a more complete representation of mafic-ultramafic rocks. These include the province-wide coverage of unassigned mafic dykes and sills in Western Australia (Myers and Hocking, 1998), the inferred distribution of gabbroic intrusions under cover in the Officer Basin of Western Australia (D'Ercole and Lockwood, 2004), and local documentation of mafic dyke swarms on some, but not all, 1:250 000 and 1:100 000 geological sheets from the Northern Territory and Queensland. Where State or regional scale maps did not include important individual mafic-ultramafic units, they were incorporated from other sources (an example is the representation of the Milliwindi Dolerite Dyke, Kimberley, Western Australia from Hanley and Wingate, 2000, which is important as a well-dated component of the Kalkarindji LIP).

Where no map representation of an important mafic-ultramafic magmatic rock is available, suitably attributed point data are included in the final GIS to represent the occurrence.

2.3. Crustal Elements

Different approaches to geological province boundaries were trialled over the course of this study. An initial map of Western Australia used the 1:2 500 000 Tectonic Units of Western Australia (June 2001, Geological Survey of Western Australia). A subsequent map of the Northern Territory and South Australia used the Georegions GIS representation from Geoscience Australia.

The Map of Australian Proterozoic Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events for all Australia was the first in the series to require a seamless and consistent province delineation for the entire continent. The only extant crustal framework representation at the relevant 1:500 000 scale is the Australian Crustal Elements 1:5 000 000 scale map of Shaw et al. (1996a), and this was used as a base with minor modifications (see below). The Australian Crustal Elements are based primarily on composite geophysical (magnetic and gravity) domains. The advantages of this approach to crustal elements include a consistent coverage for the entire continent, and the attempt to show the spatial distribution of provinces in the third (vertical) dimension: i.e., under younger cover. This geophysical domain map emphasises links to tectonic provinces, but is not a tectonic map as such. Shaw et al. (1996b) discuss in detail the principles and applications of the Australian Crustal Elements map (Shaw et al., 1996a). The Phanerozoic compilation is dominated by magmatic rocks in the eastern Australia States, but also includes correlatives in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Subsequent publication of the Archean map required a different approach to the crustal framework because the Australian Archean cratons are each single undivided 'elements' in the Shaw et al. (1996a) Australian Crustal Elements map. The Australian Archean Mafic-Ultramafic Events Map (Hoatson et al., 2009) made use of subdivisions of these into specific terrane and domain schemes developed and published for each craton. While these are not consistently based, they do provide a basis for evaluating the relationship of Archean magmatism to the crustal structure within each Archean element (Figure 2.1).

In the interest of continuity and to minimise confusion the Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events dataset uses a modified version of the element schema from the Australian Crustal Elements map of Shaw et al (1996a) (Figure 2.2), discarding the schema of Figure 2.1.

Modifications to the Shaw et al. (1996a) element boundaries take into account new geophysical and other datasets obtained since 1995 and include:

- the locus of the Tasman Line in North Queensland is modified to reflect the recommendations of Nishiya et al. (2003) and is also modified to represent the Irindina crustal element east of the line in this guide;
- the Warumpi Province boundary in central Australia is drawn to accommodate the description of Scrimgeour et al. (2005);
- the boundary of the South Australian Element is drawn to exclude the Albany-Fraser Province and include the Peake and Denison Inliers; and
- Proterozoic subdivision of the South Australian Element into Southwest Gawler, Central Gawler, North Gawler, East Gawler and Coompana provinces follows recommendations of R. Skirrow (Geoscience Australia, pers. comm., 2008) (see Figure 2.2) based on a detailed recent study of the Gawler Craton by Geoscience Australia and the South Australian Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy.

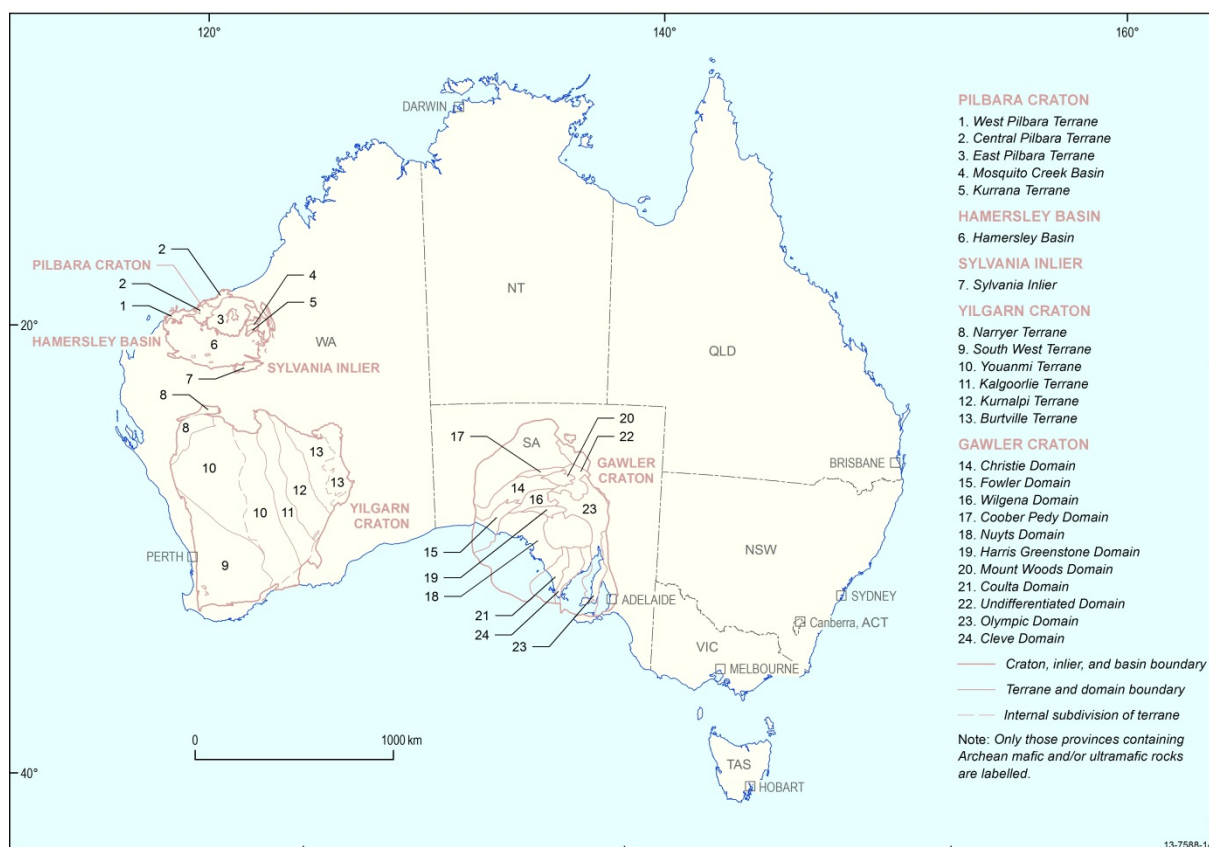


Figure 2.1 Major Geological Divisions of the Australian Archean cratons as used in previous work. Modified from Hoatson et al, (2009)

Particularly important to the Phanerozoic evolution, but also much debated, is the approximate easternmost limit of the Australian Precambrian crustal elements (Shaw et al., 1996b; Direen and Crawford, 2003; Glen, 2005). The Tasman Line, a controversial concept in the geology and tectonics of eastern Australia, is a zig-zag line that crosses the Australian continent from north to south. In regions of exposure its location is mapped in surface geology, but its extension under the cover of later basins is much debated. For consistency, the interpretation of the boundary in Shaw et al. (1996a) is used here. The Tasman Line is interpreted by some researchers to be a regional orogenic suture that demarcates the western extent of the break-up of Rodinia, followed by the growth of orogenic belts along the eastern margin of Gondwana. Other investigators have interpreted the Tasman Line to be the westernmost limit of deformation associated with the eastern Australian Palaeozoic orogen (e.g., 'Tasman Orogenic System'). The region east of the Tasman Line, extending across to the eastern coast of the continent, has been referred to as the Tasmanides of eastern Australia. Detailed reviews of the Tasman Line and Tasmanides can be found in Direen and Crawford (2003) and Glen (2005, 2013), respectively.

The Shaw et al. (1996a) map of crustal elements does not include or represent most of the continental basins, because its purpose is delineation of the underlying basement to those basins. Mafic-ultramafic magmatic rocks hosted within those basins, therefore, appear attributed within the underlying basement element. An example is sills within the Officer Basin in central and southern Australia which form part of the ME 57 – Kalkarindji Event: in the crustal element framework these are located as part of the underlying Albany-Fraser and Capricorn basement elements.



Figure 2.2 Major Australian post-Archean Crustal Elements and names used in this compilation

2.4. Definition of Magmatic Events

The compilation evaluated all available geochronological data that can constrain the timing and duration of magmatic ‘events’. ‘Events’ in this sense are defined as “probable geological incidents of significance that are suggested by geological, isotopic, or other evidence” (after Neuendorf et al., 2005). For the purpose of this dataset release, a mafic-ultramafic magmatic event is identified by geological units grouped by similar age – this coeval magmatism may or may not be genetically related and may be in response to different geodynamic environments.

The magmatic events compilation attempts to be comprehensive: it includes all recorded occurrences of Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic rocks for which an emplacement age has been measured, or is inferred by correlation, or can be estimated from geological considerations. Thus it includes magmatic events across the spectrum from the giant systems known as Large Igneous Provinces, to ‘Isolated occurrences of dated Magmatic Events’, which are examples of dated mafic-ultramafic rocks that have no defined spatial extent (e.g., from drillhole or outcrop). Wherever possible, occurrences large and small are portrayed using published solid geology polygon or line information, supplemented with surface geology data where solid geology mapping is not available. Small occurrences are important since they may represent the named example of the dated magmatic event, or they may be the only known example of a particular magmatic event in a given province; in some cases, such as the Saxby and Elizabeth Hills events, there is only one known occurrence in the entire continent.

Units were defined as mafic and/or ultramafic using basic criteria, taking into consideration unit name and lithological description. Rocks were classified as mafic if their unitname or description included the word(s) basalt, dolerite, gabbro, amphibolite or basaltic andesite; or ultramafic if they included words like komatiite, picrite, peridotite, serpentinite, pyroxenite or dunite. Kimberlite and lamproite units were not included. Particularly in the Phanerozoic, if a unit contained ultramafic rocks it was classified as being ultramafic.

The recognition of magmatic events and their correlation has been made possible by the vastly increased coverage of geochronology in Australia over the last thirty years. Published ages were assessed for their geochronological methods and consistency with other temporal-related evidence, e.g., field relationships of associated rock units.

The series of 26 named Archean Magmatic Events is that of Hoatson et al. (2009b). The series of named 29 Proterozoic Magmatic Events is that of Hoatson et al. (2008b). The series of 19 named Phanerozoic Magmatic Events is newly compiled for this dataset and accompanying publication. The individual Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic series have now been combined into a single 74-event time series for the Australian continent. The separate compilations combine seamlessly with the exception of the Phanerozoic Kalkarindji Event (Cambrian ~510 Ma), which was included as part of the Proterozoic series because of the magnitude of this magmatic episode, the overlap of its spatial distribution and crustal controls with earlier Proterozoic magmatic events, and the potential exploration importance. This is now superseded because the Phanerozoic event compilation reveals an earlier ~530 Ma magmatic event intervening between the end of the Proterozoic and the Kalkarindji event.

More than 90 per cent of the Archean and Proterozoic ages compiled are from zircon and baddeleyite U-Pb isotopic systems, and Sm-Nd isotopic studies make up most of the balance. There are fewer modern U-Pb dating studies among Phanerozoic units, creating greater reliance on the legacy of K-Ar and Ar-Ar (total cooling, fusion, plateau, feldspar) ages together with some U-Pb (monazite), Pb-Pb, and Rb-Sr isotopic dating. The criterion of choice in every case was the best available constraint on the magmatic age.

In some examples, ages of associated intermediate to felsic rocks were used, where the field relationships between the dated felsic rocks and the spatially associated mafic-ultramafic rocks were unequivocal, e.g., the felsic rocks are magmatically interlayered with the mafic-ultramafic rocks. This criterion is especially relevant to dating basalt lavas which may lack any other dating constraint.

Specific to the Phanerozoic is the relevance of biostratigraphic dating constraints. The Phanerozoic compilation documents several examples of basalt lava formations which have age attribution from biozonation of intercalated sedimentary rocks, in turn related to the Phanerozoic Time Scale of numerical ages (c.f. Gradstein et al., 2012).

In context with the available resolution of geochronology, the magmatic event series is, for the most part, defined at a maximum resolvable duration of 20 Myr (i.e., ± 10 Myr). This ± 10 Myr band of resolution was designed for the Archean and Proterozoic where the average precision of available isotopic dating is in the order of ± 5 Myr. There are two exceptions to the resolvable 20 Ma bands, one between 2820 and 2810 (ME 9 – Lady Alma and ME 10 – Mount Sefton) and the other 2800 and 2790 (ME 11 – Narndee and ME 12 – Little Gap) where the resolvable duration is 10 Myr. This relatively low level of resolution also applies to much of the younger magmatism of the Phanerozoic – because of the pervasive reliance on legacy K-Ar dating in Phanerozoic Australia, with its inherent age uncertainty due to alteration and argon leakage. For the same reason, the 65 Myr continuum of the youngest

(Cenozoic) lavas, mostly in eastern Australia, is arbitrarily divided into three wide age bands, and there is uncertainty in ascribing individual units between those bands.

Magmatic Event names are derived from the published names of reliably dated mafic \pm ultramafic rock units (e.g., Gairdner, Oenpelli and Hart). In cases of unnamed units, a prominent associated name, e.g., for a deposit hosted by the mafic \pm ultramafic rock unit (Bow River nickel deposit), or the formation or group that is intruded (Lane Creek) were used. The name of the most voluminous or prominent dated magmatic system was used for the naming of each magmatic event. For example, the ~1655 Ma ME – 40 Lane Creek Event was named after the dolerites which intrude the Lane Creek Formation in the Georgetown Inlier of the North Australian Crustal Element, rather than the relatively smaller coeval Tarcoola mafic magmatism in the Central Gawler province of the South Australian Crustal Element. The named examples of the each mafic-ultramafic Magmatic Event are listed in Appendix C.

The compilation of mafic-ultramafic events includes a substantial population of magmatic rock units for which there is no published age, or having doubtful age attribution, or age data inconsistent with field relationships. These are assigned as Undefined Event and divided into three categories, Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic to reflect general age associations.

A relevant factor in the recognition of 'events', including both LIPs and smaller mafic-ultramafic magmatic events, is the range of time scales of mafic-ultramafic magmatic activity. Durations range between two end-members. One is the magmatic processes which typically occur at plate margins such as spreading ridges and subduction zones. It is inherent in the 'conveyor-belt' nature of plate boundary environments that magmatism, while punctuated as episodes, is in overall continuous production over the lifetime of the plate boundary movements. This is especially true at the scale of age resolution in the Precambrian where currently available geochronology has difficulty in resolving ages less than ~5–10 Myr apart. Intraplate magmatism, far-field from plate boundary processes and sometimes attributed to an exogenous event such as the arrival of a mantle plume, represents the opposite end-member in duration. The preserved records of intraplate mafic-ultramafic magmatic activity characteristically are of short duration, typically are isolated in time, and are readily identified and defined as discrete 'events'.

There are caveats to the distinction of the two end-member cases. For example, the two may overlap where an exogenous input such as a mantle plume impinges at a plate boundary, and there are important intermediate situations between the two cases described. Nevertheless, the distinction is useful in considering the record of mafic-ultramafic magmatism. Both discrete and geologically-continuous periods of mafic-ultramafic magmatism can be identified in the Australian geological record.

2.5. Definition of Igneous Provinces

An igneous province may be defined as the extent in space and time of igneous rock units that relate to a single overall magmatic (or thermal) process. This is broader than the narrow definition above of a 'magmatic event' because an igneous province may encompass multiple 'events' and a much longer period of time than the ± 10 Myr resolution of a single event within the magmatic events series. The inferred spatial extent of groups of events over longer periods of time can be explored in the GIS by grouping events considered to be related on age, geochemical or other criteria. These would then represent provinces in which the igneous rock units share a common time-space context. The

boundaries of these igneous provinces today will reflect variable erosion, preservation and burial of evidence under cover.

Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs) are a subset of Igneous Provinces with a narrow definition and meaning. The published literature debating the meaning of 'Large Igneous Province' is enormous (cf. Ernst et al., 2005 and references therein; Bryan and Ernst, 2008). Recent definitions require not merely wide areal extent in an igneous province, but also demonstrably huge volumes of magma, and a narrow time dimension to distinguish transient magmatic 'events' from the long-lived magmatic systems associated with plate boundary environments.

Large Igneous Provinces are usually considered as being dominated by mafic (\pm ultramafic) igneous rock units, but there are important examples of LIPs associated more with silicic magmatism, referred to as silicic-dominated LIPs by some authors. The question of definition is related to divergent views of the mantle plume hypothesis of LIP formation, on which the literature is also enormous (c.f. Campbell, 2007 and references therein). This contribution does not take a position on definitions, accepting instead the five Australian LIP definitions, or proposals, already made by other authors in the context of the continuing debate.

Two aspects of the Australian context are important. First, it is clearly a precondition that the broader definition of an igneous province must first be met, before the size and time dimension of the province can be tested for adherence to definition as a LIP. Only the youngest two of the named Proterozoic LIPs (~510 Ma Kalkarindji LIP; ~825 Ma Gairdner LIP) have clearly been demonstrated to be both time equivalent and geochemically comagmatic systems throughout their extent (Glass and Philips, 2006; Zhao et al., 1994). The older proposed Proterozoic LIPs (~1070 Ma Wakurna, ~1210 Ma Marnda Moorn, and ~1780 Ma Hart LIPs) refer to igneous provinces recognised only by time equivalence of correlated igneous rock units: their geochemical coherence as igneous provinces is yet to be established.

Secondly, this compilation of mafic-ultramafic magmatic events highlights other large and transient magmatic events in Australia which have not yet attracted a proposal as candidate LIPs. Prominent examples are the ~2420 Ma ME – 28 Widgiemooltha Event, and the ~1590 Ma ME – 42 Curramulka Event, both of which have large regional extents recognised in this compilation.

It is important to note that while an event may be synonymous with a LIP, as is the case with the ME 36 – Hart Event, a LIP does not have to be synonymous with an Event. For example, ca. 510 Ma rock units in eastern Australia, related to the Tasman Orogen, have been assigned to the ME 57 – Kalkarindji Event but are not part of the Kalkarindji LIP.

2.6. Spatial Representation of Magmatic Events

Solid-geology maps available to this compilation do not always directly represent the presence of mafic-ultramafic rocks. Large igneous rock units, such as gabbro intrusions, are usually denoted with a discrete polygon. Smaller units of mafic-ultramafic rocks, such as narrow dykes, or lava flows interspersed within other stratigraphy, are often subsumed as a minor component of a regional rock package. It is necessary to include both types of unit in this compilation to properly represent the geographic extent, correlation and likely volume of each magmatic event. Accordingly a two-fold system of colour legend has been deployed:

- Bold colours are used on the map where the mafic-ultramafic rocks constitute the dominant component of a map unit.
- Pale colours of the same hue denote the presence of a subordinate component of coeval mafic-ultramafic rocks within a regional package of rocks: this is applied to map units of associated sedimentary, metamorphic, and intermediate and/or felsic igneous rocks wherever they include subordinate mafic-ultramafic units.

Examples of this dual legend occur in all areas of the map. The large area of ~1830 Ma ME 34 – Edmirringee Event in central Australia, for example, does not denote a large mafic magmatic unit: it represents a volumetrically small but regionally widespread component of metabasalt and metadolerite in dominantly sedimentary units of the Aileron and Tanami crustal elements.

A problem encountered in construction of this dataset has been the variable treatment of mafic dyke swarms in regional solid-geology maps. Individual dykes are small bodies and map compilers frequently omit them from regional scale maps. This is unfortunate, because the collective importance of a swarm of dykes can be significant. Particular effort has therefore been made to source map representation of mafic dykes wherever they are known, sometimes by recourse to detailed 1:100 000 and 1:250 000 solid geology and outcrop maps.

A particular problem exists in spatial representation of Archean mafic-ultramafic igneous rocks, owing to the lack of published, stratigraphically-attributed, solid geology polygons for major Archean greenstone belts and other provinces, especially for the Yilgarn Craton. In the absence of relevant solid geology coverage, event recognition is restricted to the few directly dated mafic-ultramafic igneous units and cannot be attributed more widely to stratigraphic correlatives. Hence entire greenstone belts lack event attribution in the current compilation, leaving only dated point data available for the map. Readers are pointed to the specific Archean compilation (Hoatson et al., 2009) for additional information on the spatial representation of Archean mafic-ultramafic magmatic events.

2.7. GIS Dataset Specifications

The National Map was produced using ArcGIS version 10. The feature classes showing the distribution of mafic and ultramafic rocks and the attributes of magmatic events are stored in an ArcGIS geodatabase. The feature classes are grouped by magmatic event to obtain event-maps showing the distribution of mafic and ultramafic rocks of that event. Since the geological datasets from the State and Northern Territory geological surveys do not follow standardised attributes for rocks, it was not possible to create a seamless nation-wide dataset of mafic and ultramafic rocks. The inclusion of Geoscience Australia's unique unit number from the Australian Stratigraphic Units Database (Stratno), however, will allow the integration of the mafic and ultramafic rocks dataset with other national-scale datasets in GA, such as OZCHEM (GA's inorganic geochemistry database of whole-rock and stream-sediment geochemistry).

The geochronological and geological attribution data for the mapped mafic-ultramafic units were compiled for the ArcGIS geodatabase, initially using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and arranged by state or territory, and geological province. The attribution data for each State and the Northern Territory were aggregated for publication in a single GIS attribute table in which the following four fields are important links to other digital data sources:

MAP_SYMB is the single map code for each unit entry in the GIS attribute table that links to the original polygon/line data within the relevant digital GIS source in a State / Northern Territory digital data source.

SOURCE is the specific citation of the source map used for geological units within the compilation.

UNITSOURCE is the key reference(s) for rock unit descriptions

STRATNO is the stratigraphic formation number linking to entries for each unit in Geoscience Australia's Stratigraphic Units Database.

CRUSTELEM denotes the location of each mafic-ultramafic magmatic unit within the Australian shallow crustal elements modified from Shaw et al. (1996a).

MAJELEMENT is the unit's more local tectonic-geological unit as defined by the base maps used in each State / Northern Territory.

All the other criteria used to characterise the mafic-ultramafic units are summarised in Appendix B.

3. Associated Maps and Reports

The study of the time and spatial distribution of Precambrian mafic-ultramafic rocks was a staged process over four years. Earlier interim maps presented regional subsets of information. The new release GIS dataset accompanying this Record includes these earlier coverages. More recently, the study has concentrated on the time and spatial distribution of Phanerozoic mafic-ultramafic rocks.

Ideas and information evolved during the course of the study. However, all maps and reports in the series deploy consistent definitions, event criteria and names to facilitate cross-reference. The major changes introduced in the current product are the inclusion of Phanerozoic magmatism, the consistent use of major elements and crustal elements using the modified map produced by Shaw et al. (1996a), and the replacement of all earlier event numbering for parts of the geological record (Archean, Proterozoic) with a single seamless event series 1-74 for the entire mafic-ultramafic magmatic event record of the Australian continent.

The digital GIS dataset and all the earlier maps in this series (which are in PDF and JPEG format) are available for free download from Geoscience Australia's Discovery and Delivery system (<http://www.ga.gov.au/search/index.html#/>) website. **Users of the digital GIS dataset are referred to all the products listed below for detailed supporting data and information which is not repeated in this guide.**

Outcomes from the study are available as:

1. Hoatson, D.M., Claoué-Long, J.C. and Jaireth, S., 2008. *Map of Australian Proterozoic mafic-ultramafic magmatic events, Sheets 1 and 2, 1:5 000 000 map*, Geoscience Australia.
2. Hoatson, D.M., Jaireth, S., Whitaker, A.J., Champion, D.C. and Claoué-Long, J.C., 2009. *Map of Australian Archean mafic-ultramafic magmatic events, Sheets 1 and 2, 1:5 000 000 map*, Geoscience Australia.
3. Claoué-Long, J.C. and Hoatson, D.M., 2009. *Map of Australian Proterozoic Large Igneous Provinces, Sheets 1 and 2, 1:5 000 000 map*, Geoscience Australia.
4. Hoatson, D.M., Claoué-Long, J.C. & Jaireth, S., 2008. *Guide to Using the Australian Proterozoic Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events Map*. Record 2008/015. Geoscience Australia, Canberra.
5. Hoatson, D.M., Jaireth, S., Whitaker, A.J., Champion, D.C. & Claoué-Long, J.C., 2009. *Guide to Using the Australian Archean Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events Map*. Record 2009/041. Geoscience Australia, Canberra.
6. Claoué-Long, J.C. & Hoatson, D.M., 2009. *Guide to using the Map of Australian Proterozoic Large Igneous Provinces*. Record 2009/044. Geoscience Australia, Canberra.

4. Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events Time Series

Magmatic units have been assigned to 74 Magmatic Events (ME) ranging in age from the Early Archean ~3730 Ma (ME 1) to the Cenozoic (ME 74). The event series 1-74 supersedes the earlier partial event series devised within the Proterozoic and Archean in earlier publications.

The following figures provide a time series construction showing the secular evolution of post-Archean mafic-ultramafic magmatism in spatial relation to the Australian Crustal Elements. It is not yet possible to construct a similar map series for the Archean because stratigraphically attributed solid geology polygons were unavailable at the time of compilation for major parts of the Archean record, especially for the Yilgarn Craton.

The Proterozoic and Phanerozoic evolution of mafic-ultramafic magmatic events falls naturally into 12 time periods, each presented as a map in sequence and described in turn in the following pages. This time series should be compared with the Time–Space–Event chart in Appendix D.

Users are cautioned that the reduced scale of these maps does not permit distinction between solid geology polygons that are dominantly mafic-ultramafic rocks, and polygons representing regions that may contain very small components of mafic rocks. Detail of the distinction between the two types of polygon representation is found in the digital dataset.

In each of the eight figures there is drawn an inferred extent for all the mafic-ultramafic magmatic events within the relevant time period. These inferred igneous provinces may refer to magmatic activity over long periods of time. Events within each time period are discussed below each figure. Two codes in parenthesis (m) or (mu) attributed to each magmatic event indicate the composition of the igneous rocks constituting that event. The (m) code signifies that only mafic rocks are present, whereas (mu) indicates that both mafic and ultramafic rocks are present even if the ultramafic component may constitute only a few per cent of the total mafic-ultramafic rock assemblage.

The restricted time intervals of the five documented Australian LIPs are included within the broader periods. The time sequence maps suggest that other magmatic events may potentially meet the definition of LIPs, but their attribution will require further work. An example is the ~2420 Ma ME 2 – Widgiemooltha Event, of which the preserved area of east-west dolerite dykes may be only a remnant of the original extent of the igneous province. The ~1590 Ma ME 16 – Curramulka Event is also prominent for its wide spatial correlation across both the North and South Australian Major Crustal Elements, extending also into early protoliths of the Musgrave Element in Central Australia.

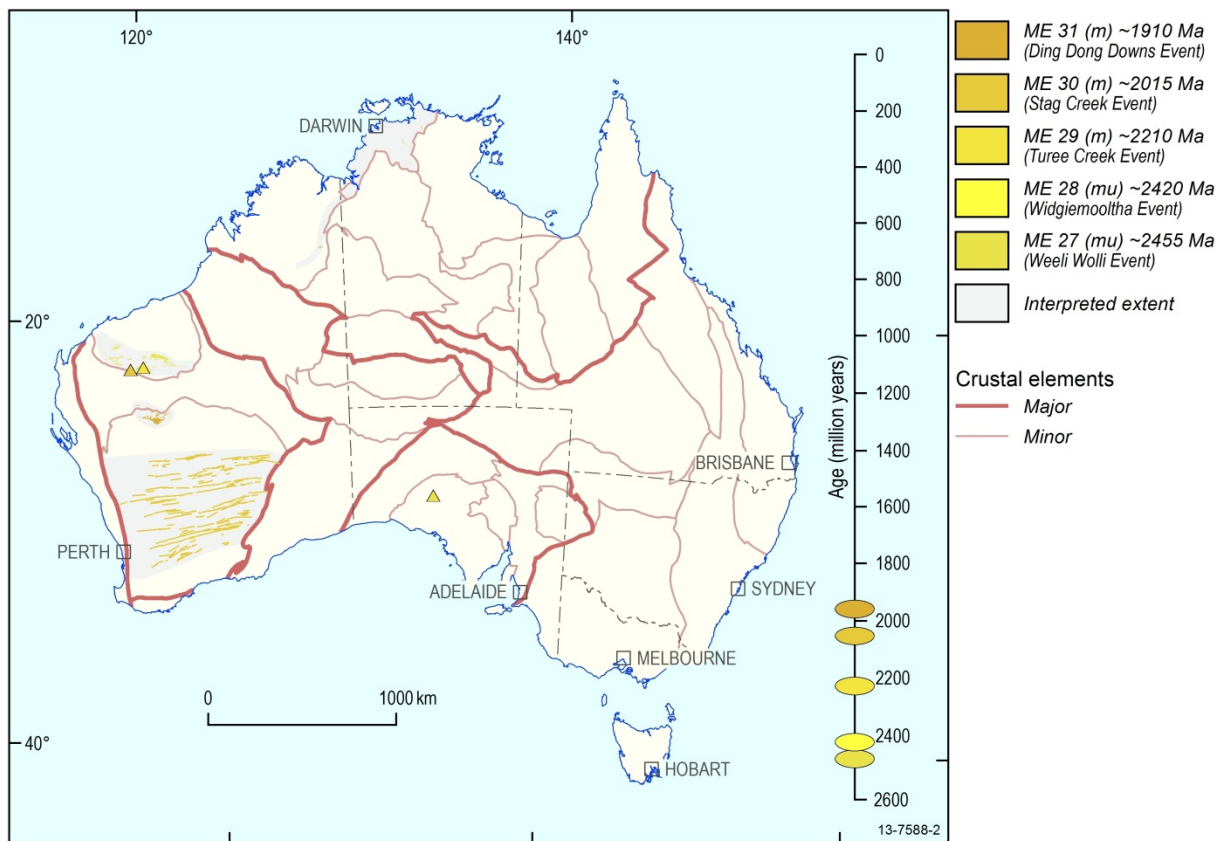


Figure 4.1 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~2500 Ma to ~1900 Ma

In the Proterozoic prior to ~1870 Ma, the Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic record is confined to the western half of the continent and the dominant expression is a series of east-west trending mafic-ultramafic magmatic belts (Figure 4.1). The pattern of east-west magmatic trends in this part of the continent remains a feature to the end of the Proterozoic. Magmatic Events 27, 29, 30 and 31 are preserved as east-west belts at the southern margin of the Pilbara Element and the northern margin of the Yilgarn Element. The ~2015 Ma ME 30 – Stag Creek Event, and the ~1910 Ma ME 31 – Ding Dong Downs Event, are the first to have expression within the North Australian Element, in the Pine Creek and Halls Creek provinces.

The ~2420 Ma ME 28 – Widgiemooltha Event is of wide geographic extent, comprising an east-west mafic and ultramafic dyke swarm that traverses the Yilgarn Element. The full extent of this igneous province may be wider than that shown to the south and north. An arbitrary southern extent is shown where the Widgiemooltha dykes are crossed by the later ~1210 Ma ME 47 – Marnda Moorn Event dolerite dykes at the southern margin of the Yilgarn Element. The two sets of dyke orientations are similar in this area, making it difficult to distinguish the two. It is possible that the Widgiemooltha Event extends south to the margin of the Yilgarn Element, but confirmation will require detailed field, dating and geochemical study. Similarly, the northern boundary is drawn arbitrarily where the Widgiemooltha dykes are crossed by the later ~1070 ME 50 – Warakurna Event dykes, which also have an east-west orientation. The Widgiemooltha Event has not yet been proposed for attribution as a LIP, but could qualify on its spatial extent. The preservation represents an eroded and tectonically dismembered remnant of the original area, parts of which may reside within other continental fragments.

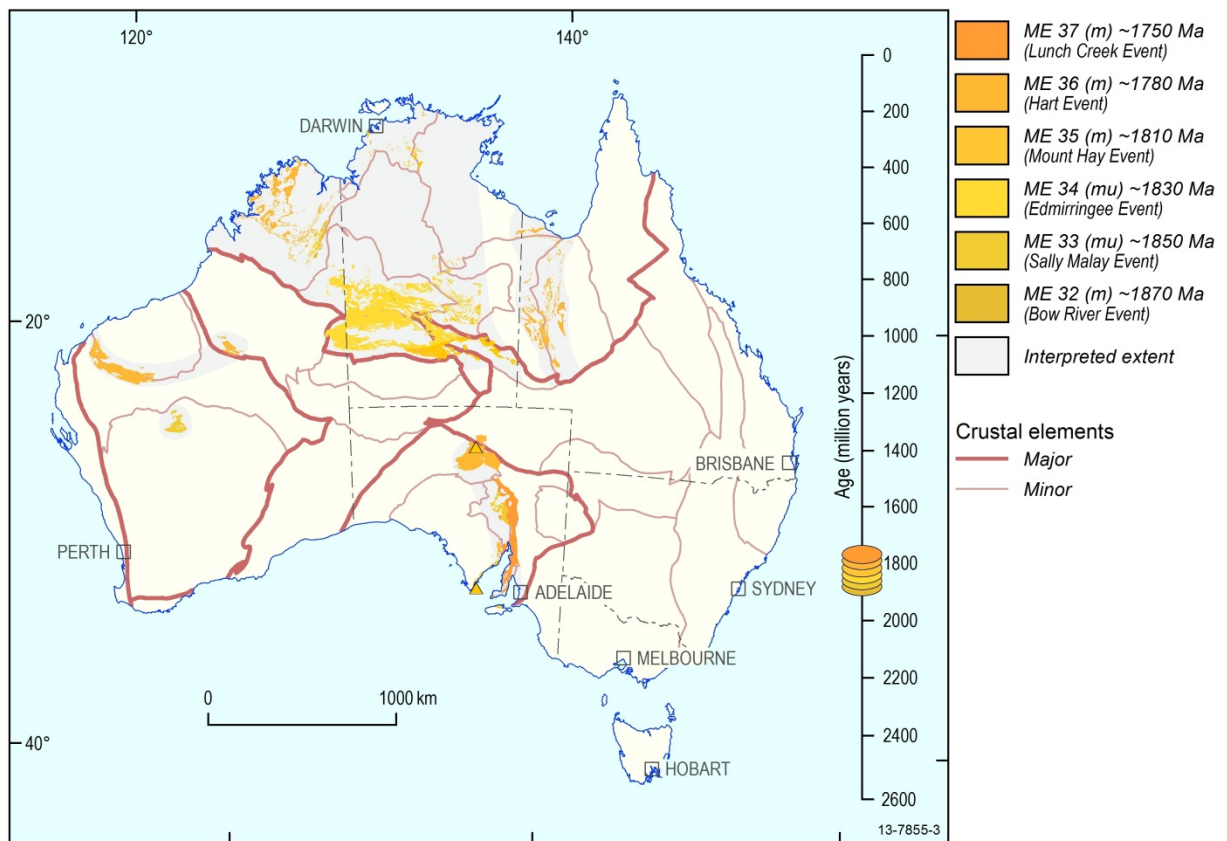


Figure 4.2 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~1870 Ma to ~1750 Ma

Starting with the ~1870 Ma ME 32 – Bow River Event, an intense and geologically continuous period of mafic-ultramafic magmatic activity commenced in both the North and South Australian elements (Figure 4.2). Magmatism is confined to within a north-south belt in the South Australian Element, in parallel with the evolution of a north-south belt on the Queensland side of the North Australian Element. The continuity of magmatism over a long period invites consideration of plate boundary processes. Only the ~1850 Ma ME 33 – Sally Malay Event and the ~1780 Ma ME 36 – Hart Event are correlated into the West Australian Element.

The ~1780 Ma ME 36 – Hart Event is preserved in five disconnected regions across all the major crustal elements. The component within the Kimberley and Halls Creek Element has been proposed by Tyler et al. (2006) as the Hart LIP where it comprises extensive preservation of basaltic lavas (Carson Volcanics and equivalents) and the Hart Dolerite which is an equally extensive dolerite sill complex. This compilation shows the proposed LIP to be time-equivalent with a separate east-west ME 36 magmatic belt in the West Australian Element (south Pilbara and Paterson elements), another east-west ME 36 belt at the south margin of the North Australian Element (part of the Aileron Element), and within the two north-south belts noted earlier in the South Australian Element and the Queensland area of the North Australian Element. Time equivalence alone does not support comagmatic relations and detailed geochemistry and other work will be required to test the equivalence of the disconnected ME 36 magmatic belts.

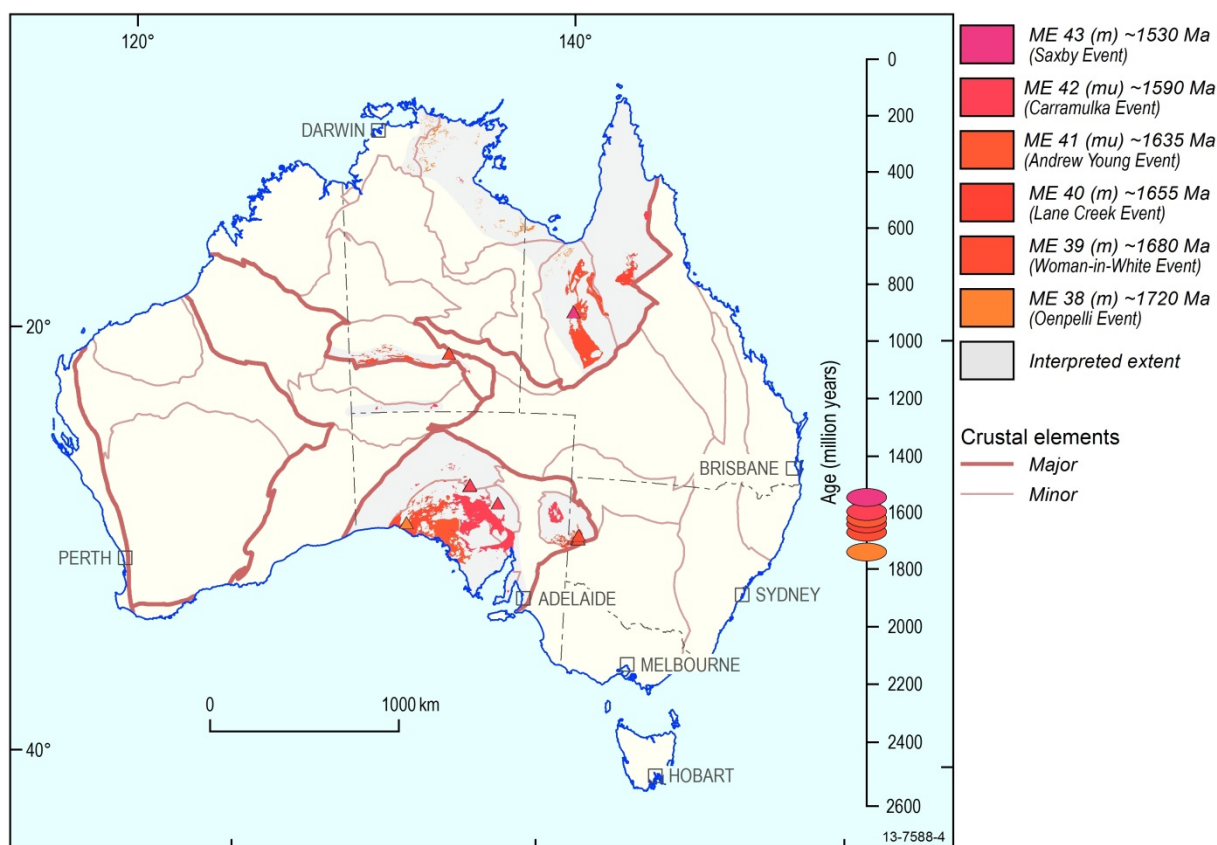


Figure 4.3 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~1720 Ma to ~1530 Ma

Following the ~1780 Ma – Hart Event, the West Australian Element entered a ~300 Myr hiatus in mafic-ultramafic magmatic activity, with no events recorded.

Mafic-ultramafic magmatic activity in the North and South Australian Elements in this time continues the intense ~300 Myr period of magmatic events between ~1870–1590 Ma. There is no discernable hiatus between the last defined magmatic event defined on the previous map (ME 37, ~1750 Ma) and the first magmatic event on this map (ME 38, ~1720 Ma) (Figure 4.3). Within the North Australian Element there is a clear indication of diachroneity over the ~1870–1590 Ma sequence of magmatism. Regions that preserve the earlier ME 33–37 (~1850–1750 Ma) events became quiescent, and the focus of magmatism shifted to the south and east margins. The continuity, and diachroneity, of mafic-ultramafic magmatism during the 1870–1590 Ma period together invite consideration of plate boundary processes.

The same time-equivalent series of events is correlated extensively across the South Australian Element, now separated into the Curnamona and Gawler provinces by later development of the Adelaide Province. The ~1590 Ma ME 42 – Carramulka Event is notable for correlating across a very wide extent of both the North and South Australian elements; it is also the first mafic-ultramafic magmatic event recorded in protoliths of the Musgrave province in the Central Australian Element. Following the ~1590 Ma ME 42 – Carramulka Event, both the North and South Australian elements together entered a 300 Ma hiatus in magmatic activity. This pattern of quiescence after a widely correlated magmatic event is similar to the 300 Ma hiatus within the West Australian Element that followed the ~1780 Ma ME 36 – Hart Event.

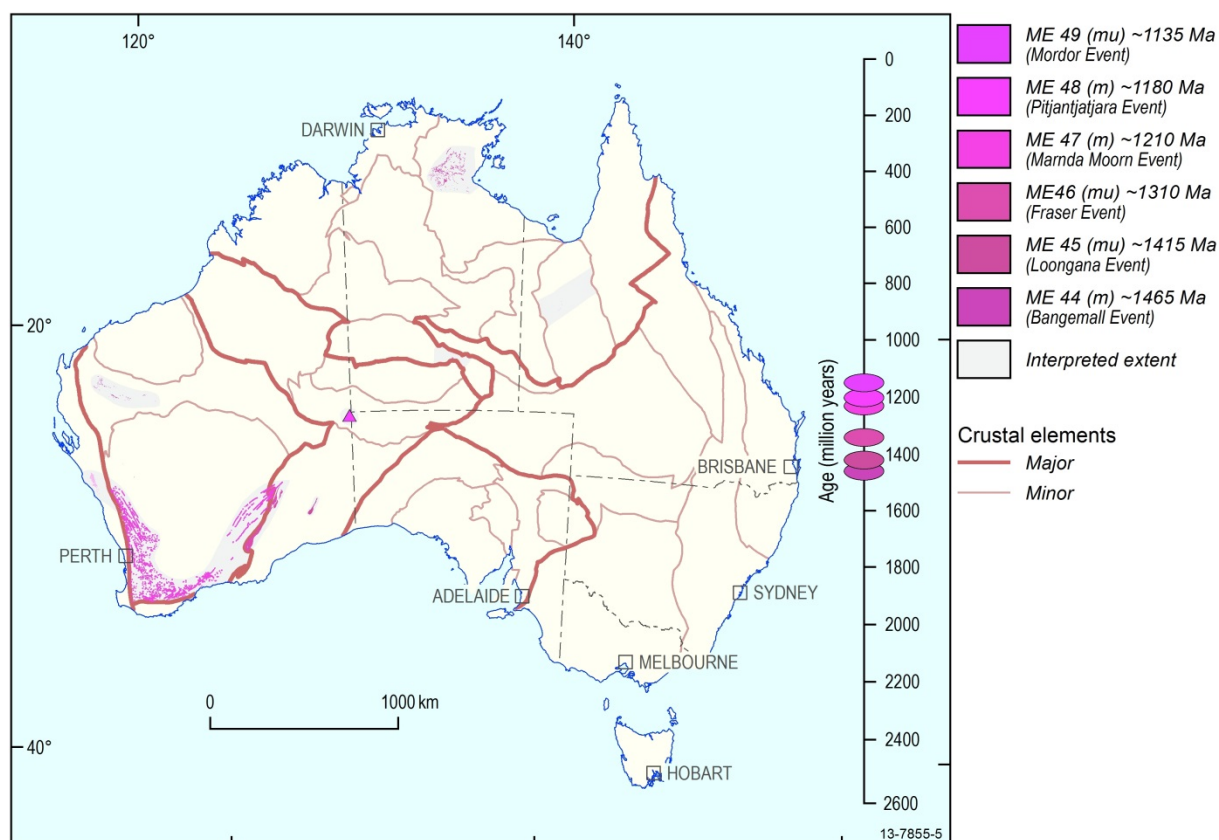


Figure 4.4 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~1470Ma to ~1130 Ma

Following the ~1590 Ma ME 42 – Curramulka Event, the North and South Australian Elements entered a 300 Ma hiatus, with no mafic-ultramafic magmatic events recorded. The separate evolution of the West Australian Element is expressed in this period by the ~1465 Ma ME 44 – Bangemall Event, continuing the series of local east-west belts that lack correlation elsewhere in Australia (see Figure 4.4). Commencing at the ~1415 Ma ME 45 – Loongana Event, a series of poorly-known mafic-ultramafic Magmatic Events is recorded in an apparent belt northeast from the Albany–Fraser Element. Much of this area is buried beneath later cover and its Proterozoic evolution is yet to be established in detail; it is likely that further mafic-ultramafic rock units, and events, remain to be discovered.

A sill complex in the McArthur Element of far north Australia is time-equivalent with, and along strike from, the ~1310 Ma ME 46 – Fraser Event at the margin of the Yilgarn and Albany–Fraser elements. The ~1210 Ma ME 47 – Marnda Moorn Event is also located on this margin, and extends around the south and west margins of the Yilgarn Element as the Marnda Moorn LIP. Little is known about the dyke swarm forming this LIP, apart from the age and estimated extent, because most of the constituent dykes are not exposed and are inferred only from aeromagnetic mapping.

Two further mafic-ultramafic magmatic events lie within extension of the same NE-trending corridor. The ~1180 Ma ME 48 – Pitjantjatjara Event is known only within the Musgrave Element. The ~1135 Ma ME 49 – Mordor Event, named for an alkaline-ultramafic intrusion at the south margin of the North Australian Element, and is located along strike from coeval ENE-trending dolerite dykes in the Mount Isa Element.

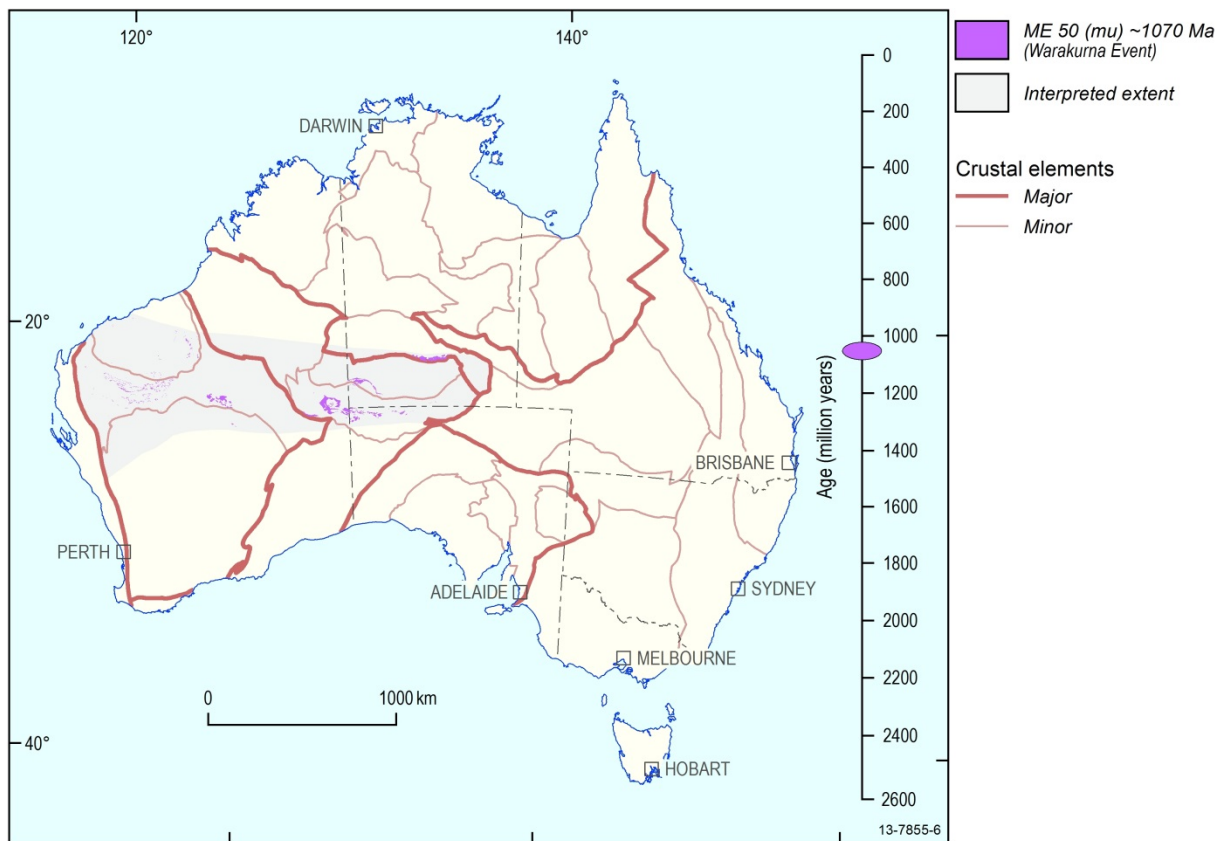


Figure 4.5 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Event at ~1070 Ma

The ~1070 Ma ME 50 – Warakurna Event is synonymous with the Warakurna LIP, as proposed by Wingate et al. (2004), a correlation of three geographically separate mafic-ultramafic igneous provinces across the West, Central and North Australian Crustal elements (Figure 4.5). As with the earlier proposed ~1780 Ma Hart LIP and ~1210 Ma Marnda Moorn LIP, the proposal that this is a single Large Igneous Province is so far based only on time equivalence: other attributes that would substantiate comagmatic relationships, are yet to be established.

Within the West Australian Crustal Element, the ~1070 Ma mafic-ultramafic rock units define a broad east-west belt across the south of the Pilbara Element, the northern margin of the Yilgarn Element, and the Capricorn Element between them. This is the ninth such east-west trending mafic-ultramafic magmatic belt of Proterozoic age developed within the West Australian Crustal Element. There is no evidence that it extends into the Pinjarra Element.

In central Australia, the Warakurna Event correlation includes the Giles Complex mafic and ultramafic intrusions in the Musgrave Element, an important series of large and mineralised intrusions, emplaced at a range of shallow and deep crustal levels. A coeval dolerite dyke swarm at the southern margin of the North Australian Element has a north-south orientation, orthogonal to the overall east-west trend of the Warakurna correlation.

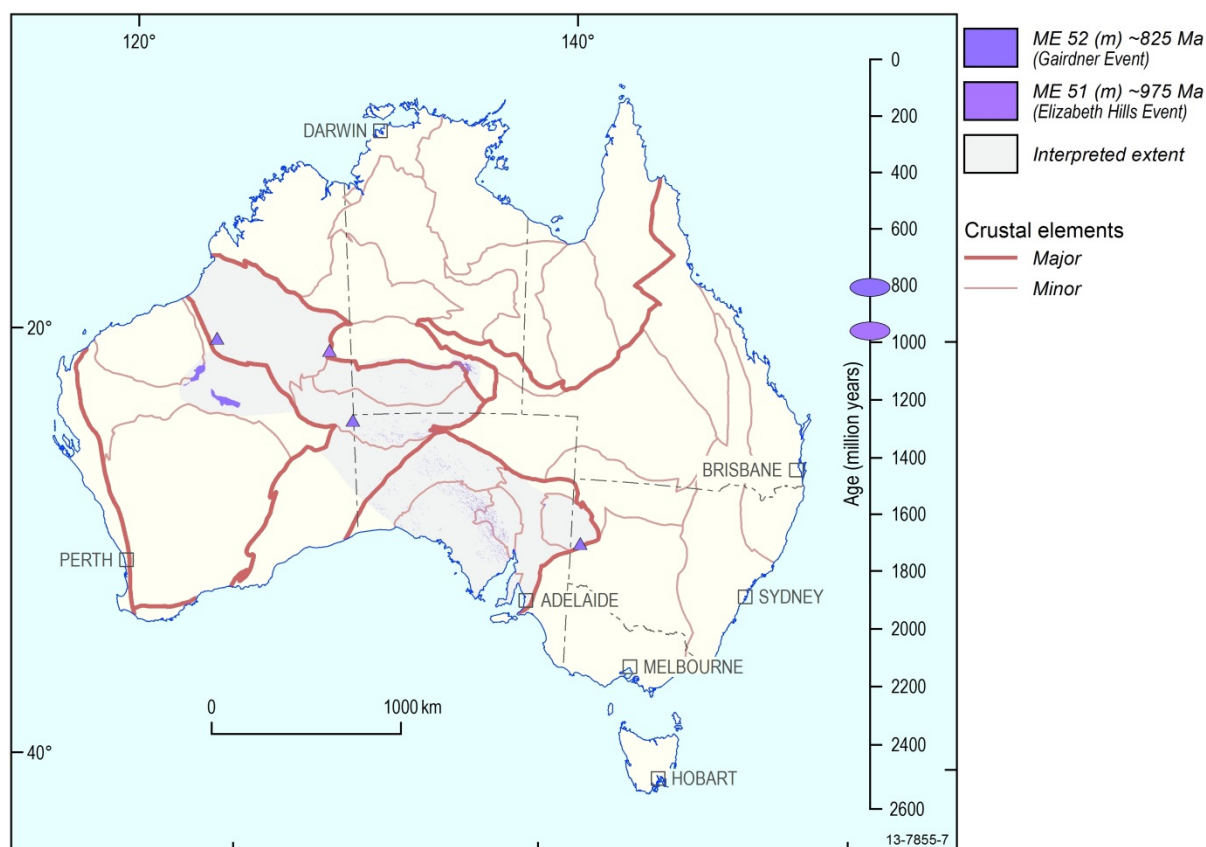


Figure 4.6 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~975 Ma to ~825 Ma

The ~975 Ma ME 52 – Elizabeth Hills Event is known only from a single occurrence in the far west of the Warumpi Province, at the south margin of the North Australian Element (see Figure 4.6).

In contrast, the subsequent ~825 Ma ME 53 – Gairdner Event is comprised of the extensive Gairdner LIP, originally proposed from the correlation of prominent northwest-trending dyke swarms in the South Australian Crustal Element and the Musgrave Element of Central Australia with coeval lavas and sills in the basal stratigraphy of the Amadeus and Adelaide elements. The Gairdner Event is widened to include similar coeval sills in the basal stratigraphy of the West Officer Basin, another remnant of the Centralian Superbasin (which occupied a large area of central, southern and western Australia during much of the Neoproterozoic), and to the basement of the Paterson Province.

This northwest-trending belt coincides with the initiation of the Centralian Basin system and marks the initiation of a new alignment of mantle-derived magmatism through the Australian lithosphere. Other events mapped in this series display re-use of pre-existing magmatic belts oriented either east-west (in the West Australian Element) or north-south (at the east margins of the North and South Australian elements).

Only shallow erosion of the rocks that make up the Gairdner Event has been observed, exposing hypabyssal dykes and sills; some lavas are also preserved. Therefore, despite the wide extent, the event is represented only by relatively minor rock units. Large mafic-ultramafic intrusions which could be prospective for mineralisation are not exposed.

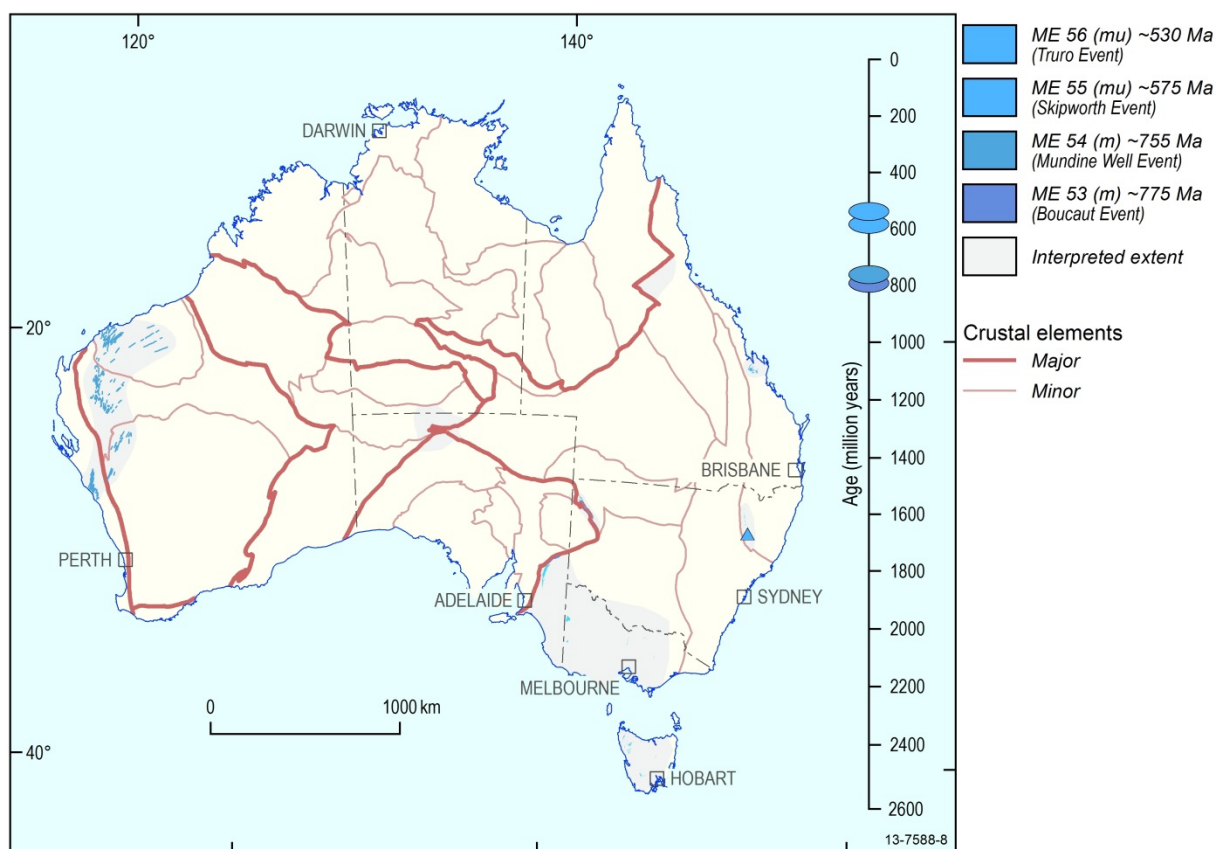


Figure 4.7 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~775 Ma to ~530 Ma

Commencing at ~775 Ma, a series of mafic-ultramafic magmatic events are recorded at the west and east margins of the Precambrian continent. This period coincides with the continuing Paleozoic evolution of the Centralian Basin (Figure 4.7).

An early recorded event is the ~775 Ma ME – 53 Boucaut Event at the eastern margin of the South Australian Element, known only from a single recorded occurrence. It was followed 20 Myr later by the ~755 Ma ME 54 – Mundine Well Event, a regionally extensive dolerite dyke swarm at the opposite margin of the continent, crossing the northwestern West Australian Element in a direction orthogonal to the northwest belt that was developed ~70 Myr earlier by the ME 53 – Gairdner Event.

The ~575 Ma ME 55 – Skipworth Event is named for mafic-ultramafic rock units on King Island, which are coeval with mafic rocks in adjacent Tasmania, and isolated occurrences of both mafic and ultramafic (peridotite) rock units in New South Wales and Queensland. Time-equivalent mafic rock units are also recorded at the eastern margin of the South Australian Element, a location similar to that of the earlier ~775 Ma ME 53 – Boucaut Event. The subsequent ~530 Ma ME 56 – Truro Event is named for the Truro Volcanics and confined to southeast Australia.

Both the Skipworth Event and Truro Event include geological units that contain ultramafic igneous components, indicating some mafic magmatic activity during these events had high degrees of mantle partial melting in their origin. Both events also include occurrences of Ni-Cu sulphide mineralisation, noted in the Time-Space-Event Chart at Appendix D.

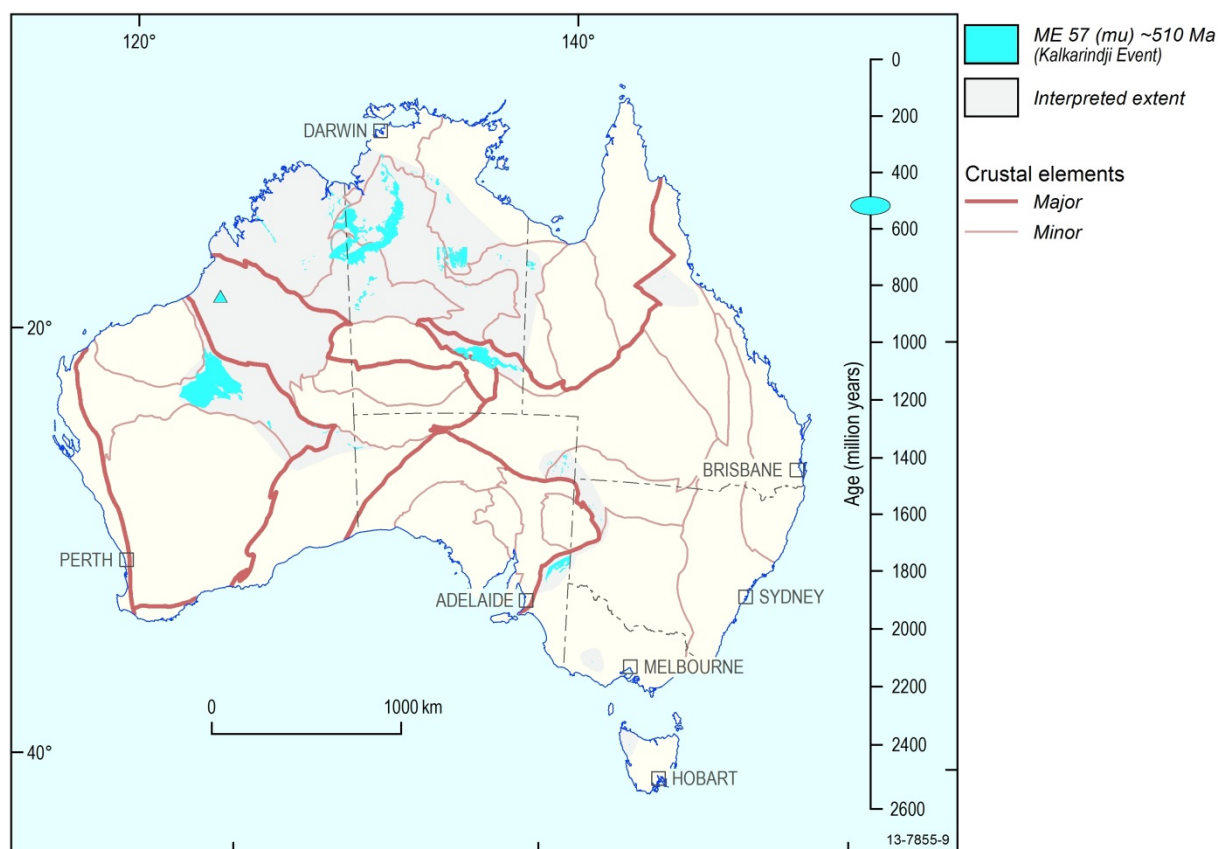


Figure 4.8 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Event at ~510 Ma

The early Cambrian ~510 Ma ME 30 – Kalkarindji Event (Figure 4.8) is dominated by the Kalkarindji LIP. This LIP was originally defined from voluminous early Cambrian basalt lavas which are widespread across northern Australia, from the Antrim Plateau Basalts in the west to the Colless Volcanics in Queensland (Glass, L.M. and Phillips, D., 2006). Cambrian sills in the Officer Basin are coeval and geochemically comagmatic with the north Australian occurrences. The preserved thickness of the lavas reaches its thickest development adjacent to the Kimberley and Halls Creek Element. Much of the original feeder zone is now buried beneath the lava pile and sedimentary accumulations, but uplift at the south margin of the North Australian Element has exposed two deeper crustal correlatives of the lavas. One is the Milliwindi dolerite dyke and equivalents in the Kimberley and Halls Creek Element, whose intrusion direction is parallel with the Larapinta Seaway, developed at this time (Cook, 1988; Cook and Totterdell, 1991). The other is in the Irindina Element where dated ~510 Ma mafic rocks, subsequently deformed and metamorphosed at deep-crustal levels during the Ordovician, are exposed (Maidment, 2005). The northwest-trending zone from the Irindina Element to the Milliwindi intrusion may have been the major focus of magma passage for the Kalkarindji LIP, a possibility that requires further detailed research.

Coeval with the Kalkarindji LIP magmatism, there are mafic igneous rocks preserved along the “Delamarian” eastern margin of the Precambrian continent: in a belt along the Tasman Line east of the Curnamona Province, in western Tasmania, western Victoria, with correlatives in north Queensland.

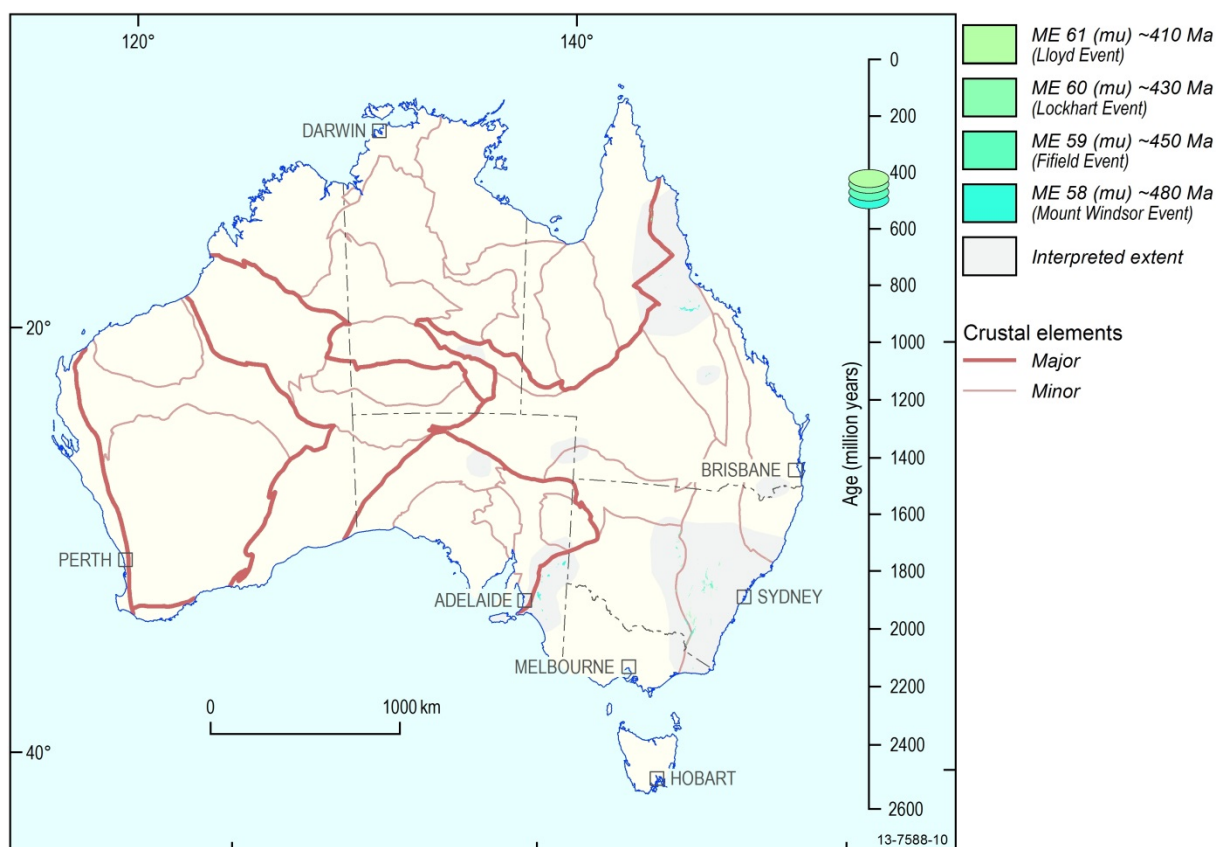


Figure 4.9 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~480 Ma to ~410 Ma

For ~100 Ma following the Kalkarindji Event, smaller mafic-ultramafic magmatic events are recorded across all the crustal components of the Tasmanides of eastern Australia (Figure 4.9). There is evidence of dated ~480–410 Ma mafic-ultramafic igneous rocks just east of the Tasman line in the Thomson and West Lachlan elements and in north Queensland, and coeval mafic magmatic rocks also in the East Lachlan and New England elements, remote from the Precambrian margin.

Three of these events (Mount Windsor, Fifield, Lloyd) have known occurrences of magmatic Ni-Cu or PGE mineralisation. Additionally, the ME 58 – Mount Windsor and ME 61 – Lloyd Events share location attributes of the ME 57 – Kalkarindji Event, in having dated components within the western embayment of the Tasman Line into central Australia: in the western Thomson Element (Mount Windsor Event) and the Paleozoic Irindina Element (Lloyd Event). All of these magmatic events include ultramafic igneous components, indicating high degrees of mantle partial melting in their origins.

The ME 61 – Lloyd Event is named after the Lloyd Gabbonorite which is in the Irindina Element, and contains massive Ni-Cu sulphide mineralisation. This is the last Australian magmatic event to include ultramafic igneous rocks (excepting the obducted remnants of mantle lithosphere in the later Great Serpentine Belt (New England Orogen, NSW), coeval with the ME 65 – Werrie Event).

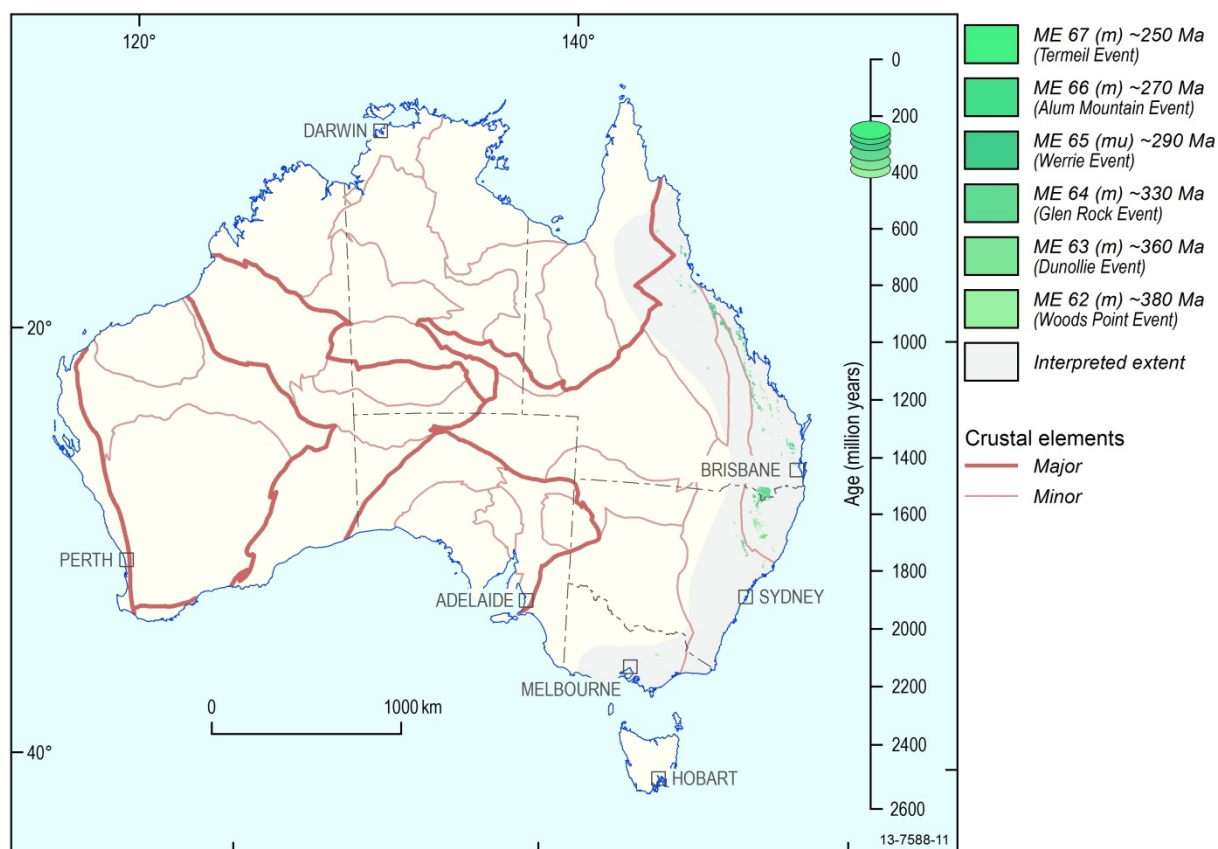


Figure 4.10 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~380 Ma to ~250 Ma

Following the ~410 Ma ME 61 – Lloyd Event, there is a major change in both the composition and location of Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic events (see Figure 4.10).

From the ~380 Ma ME 62 – Woods Point Event onwards, all the recorded magmatic events include only mafic igneous rocks. The ~290 Ma ME 65 – Werrie Event does include the serpentinite bodies of the Great Serpentinite Belt extending from New South Wales to Queensland, but these units are thought to represent obducted remnants of mantle lithosphere rather than the products of magmatic intrusion.

In contrast to all earlier mafic-ultramafic magmatic events, the location of the magmatic events from ~380 Ma ME 62 – Woods Point Event to ~250 Ma ME 67 – Termeil Event is confined within a narrow belt adjacent to, and parallel with, the current coastline. There are no occurrences of these events within the western embayment of the Tasman Line. The mapped distribution appears to bear little relation to the crustal element configuration, with occurrences of these events crossing crustal element boundaries for the New England, East and West Lachlan, Townsville, and North Queensland elements along the coastline from southern Victoria to north Queensland.

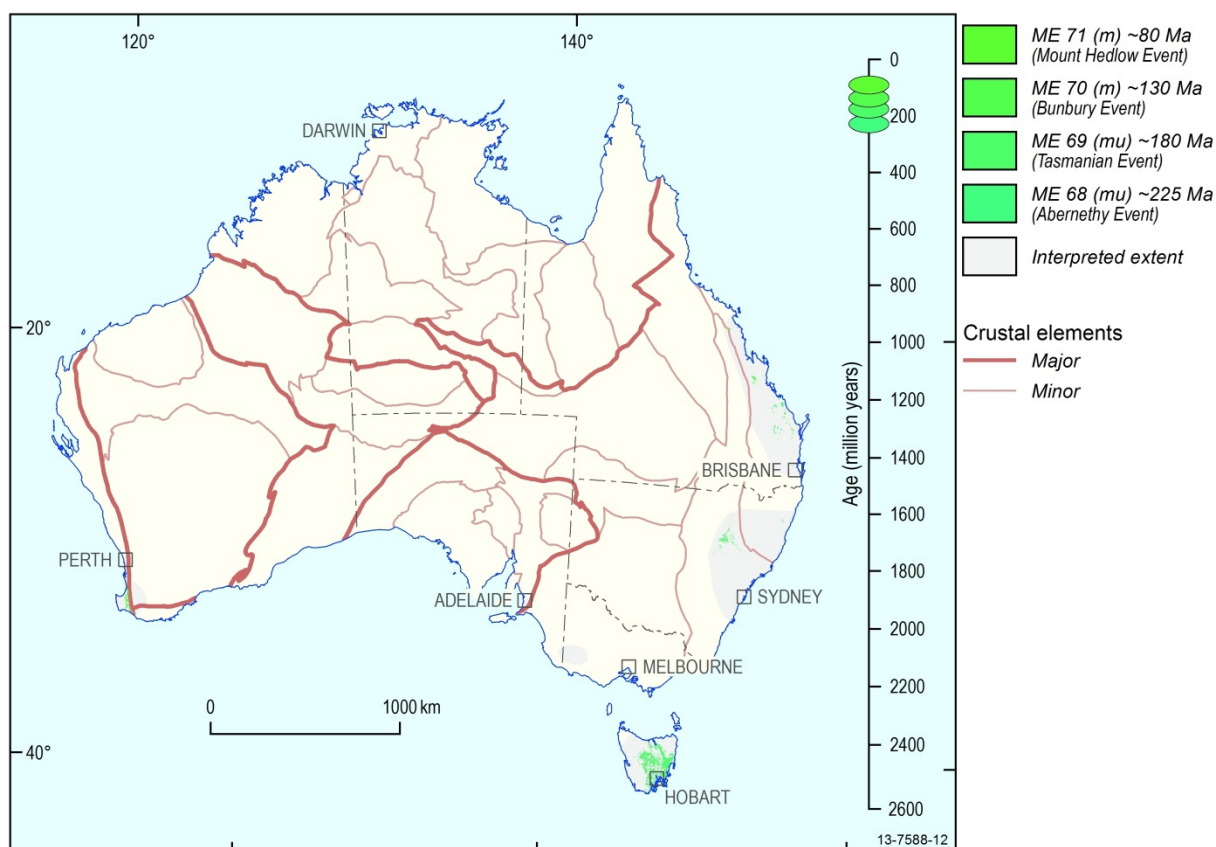


Figure 4.11 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~225 Ma to ~80 Ma

From the ~225 Ma ME 68 – Abernethy Event onwards there is a further geographic shift in the location of mafic-ultramafic magmatism. Occurrences are confined to the New England and Eastern Lachlan elements in a very narrow zone adjacent to the east Australian coastline, a location range more restricted than the earlier magmatic events (see Figure 4.11).

This period is also marked by the onset of mafic magmatism at the south Australian margin, represented by mafic igneous rocks in Tasmania and southwest Victoria. The extent of further dated occurrences within the offshore sector of the southern margin is not known.

The ~130 Ma ME 70 – Bunbury Event marks the first occurrence of mafic magmatism on the west Australian margin. The Bunbury Basalt in the west is age-equivalent with the Mount Salmon Volcanics at the east coast of Queensland, indicating contemporaneous systems at the opposing margins of the continent. The extent of further dated occurrences within the offshore sector of the west and northwest margin is not known.

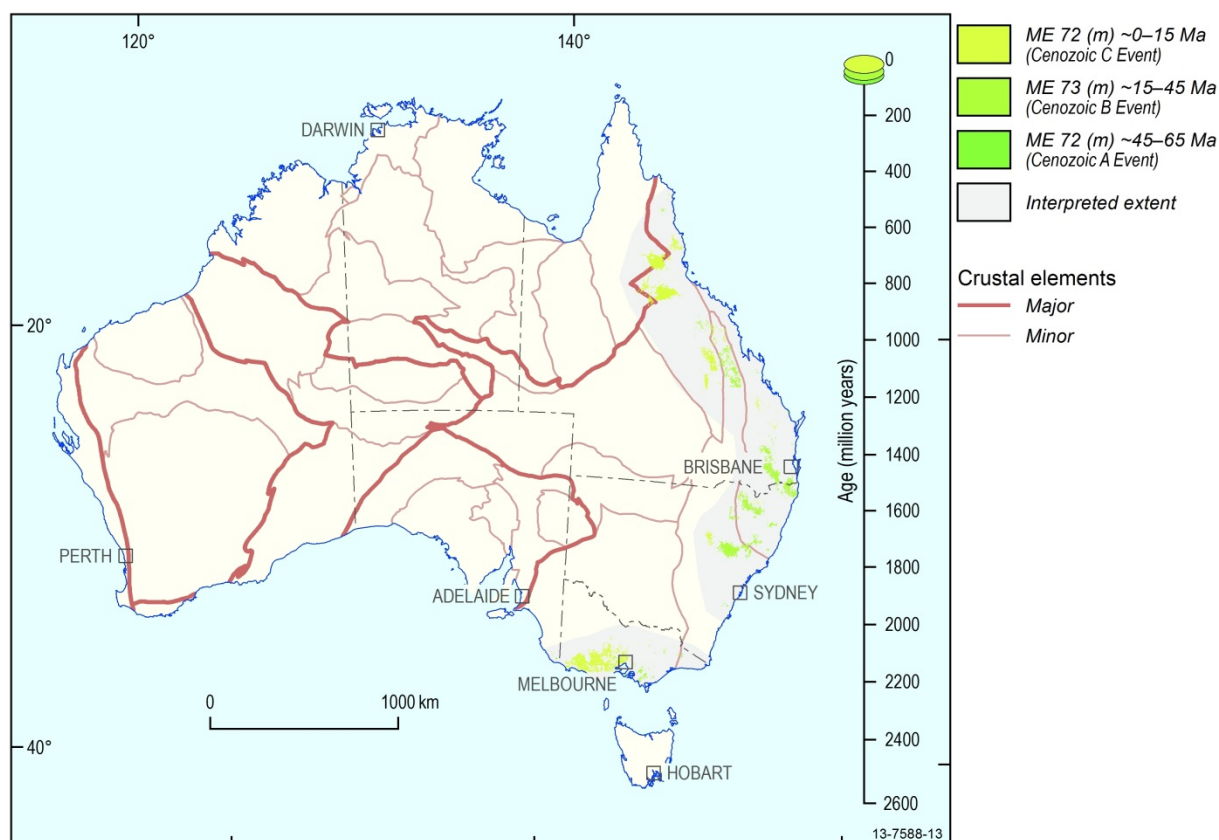


Figure 4.12 Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events ~65 Ma to ~0 Ma

For the purpose of this compilation the Cenozoic record is arbitrarily divided into three broad age zones consistent with the uncertainty of age estimates (Figure 4.12). However, the record of Cenozoic mafic magmatism is nearly continuous from ~65 Ma to the present day. A significant proportion of this magmatism is coincident with related hotspot activity offshore and with the opening of the Tasman Sea. The location of the continental mafic components, mapped here, is similar to the coastal belt of mafic magmatic Events 62–67 (~380–250 Myr) in occupying a location parallel to the current east Australian coastline, and crossing all the crustal element boundaries.

4.1. Time-Space-Event Charts

The presence and correlation of the 74 Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic events are represented in two Time–Space–Event Charts in Appendix D.

A chart of the 26 Archean mafic-ultramafic magmatic events is related to the Archean craton subdivisions in Figure 2.1, as used by Hoatson et al. (2009). A chart of the 48 Proterozoic and Phanerozoic magmatic events is related to the Australian Crustal Elements framework of Australia in Figure 2.2, adapted from Shaw et al. (1996a). In both charts the event names and ages, symbol colours, and crustal elements (with informal names) are those of the digital dataset.

It is emphasised that time-equivalent magmatism in different crustal elements shown on the chart does not necessarily imply cogenetic magmatism.

The Time–Space–Event Chart is a particularly useful way of depicting the geological timing, duration, and spatial extent of geological events. It highlights the lateral extent of magmatic events, and important correlations across provinces. For example, it can be seen that some events are isolated to one element, whereas others have widespread presence across many elements. In addition, the chart shows that some elements have experienced multiple magmatic events (e.g., seven magmatic events affected the Central Gawler Element from 1850 Ma to 1590 Ma). It also highlights the frequency and groupings of magmatic events, especially three prominent groupings of mafic-ultramafic magmatic events in the Late Archean (~2800 to ~2665 Ma), Late Paleoproterozoic (~1870 Ma to ~1590 Ma) and Phanerozoic (~510 to present day), which represent important geological periods of mafic ± ultramafic magmatism in the evolution of Australia.

Within the charts, each mafic-ultramafic magmatic event name is annotated to highlight whether the event comprises only mafic magmatic rocks (m), or both mafic and ultramafic magmatic rocks are present (mu). The suffix (mu) is applied to an entire magmatic event even if only one minor ultramafic component is known, because this may potentially be important evidence about the thermal state of the mantle at the time and the possible degree of partial melting that produced the overall magmatic event.

Horizontal coloured bands in the chart indicate the presence of known Ni-PGE-Cr-V-Ti-(±Au-Cu-Ag) mineralisation within magmatic events, either in Australia or overseas. Seven of the Australian Magmatic Events (ME 27, 31, 32, 33, 45, 52, 67) are time-equivalent with important world Ni-Cu ± PGE deposits in other continents (e.g., ~2440 Ma Penikat in Finland; ~1918 Ma Raglan, ~1880 Ma Thompson, and ~1850 Ma Sudbury in Canada; ~1403 Ma Kabanga in Tanzania; ~827 Ma Jinchuan in China; ~250 Ma Noril'sk in Russia).

5. Applications and Conclusions

The digital release of the 'Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events' dataset completes a multi-year effort to compile all the mapped mafic-ultramafic magmatism for an entire continent. Necessarily, in different States and Territories it uses disparate datasets of different standards and scales, but wherever possible it uses solid geology to represent the known areal extent of magmatism, whether exposed or under cover. The compilation is not confined to the large and prominent igneous systems but instead is inclusive of all recorded mafic-ultramafic rock occurrences across Australia, large and small. The dataset is made possible by the significant advances in Australian solid geology mapping and in geochronology of the past 30 years. In keeping with the currently available resolution of geochronology it resolves rock units into an Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic time series of 74 magmatic events based primarily on age bands of ± 10 Myr.

The outcome places all occurrences of Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic rocks into context with coeval magmatism elsewhere in the continent – often revealing unexpected magmatic correlations that expand the known extents of certain igneous provinces and link, for example, certain intrusions in one part of the continent have coeval erupted lavas elsewhere. The events and igneous provinces thus recognised can be placed in context with the crustal elements framework that contains them. For the first time the magmatic rock units are seen as a distinctive secular event evolution in space and time that expresses, and helps to define, the thermal and dynamic evolution of the continent towards its present day configuration.

An overview must first point out the deficiencies of the dataset, which is the first continental attempt at compilation of this kind, at this level of detail.

Most prominent of these deficiencies is the huge quantity of Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic rock units for which no reliable age has been measured, or can be estimated. Up to half of the mapped mafic-ultramafic rock units may be estimated to be approximately Archean, Proterozoic or Phanerozoic by their location in the crustal framework (Figure 5.1), but can only be grouped as 'Undefined Event' because they cannot be attributed within the detailed event series. Perhaps the most important advance for the future will be the application, in quantity, of modern geochronology techniques to mafic-ultramafic rocks, a neglected target for geochronology in comparison with felsic igneous rocks, metamorphic terranes and sedimentary basins. The way forward has been shown in selected Australian provinces by Page and Hoatson (2000), Wingate et al. (2000, 2002, 2004), Hoatson and Sun (2002), Claoué-Long and Hoatson (2005), Fanning (1997), and Fanning et al. (2007). The process of successfully obtaining U-bearing zircon and baddeleyite from mafic (and even ultramafic) intrusions, using an integrated approach of field and geochemical criteria to guide sampling, opens the possibility of routinely dating mafic-ultramafic magmatic systems (Claoué-Long and Hoatson, 2005). The dating of these rocks is likely to increase the spatial extent of magmatic events defined here, and (almost certainly) reveal new magmatic events.

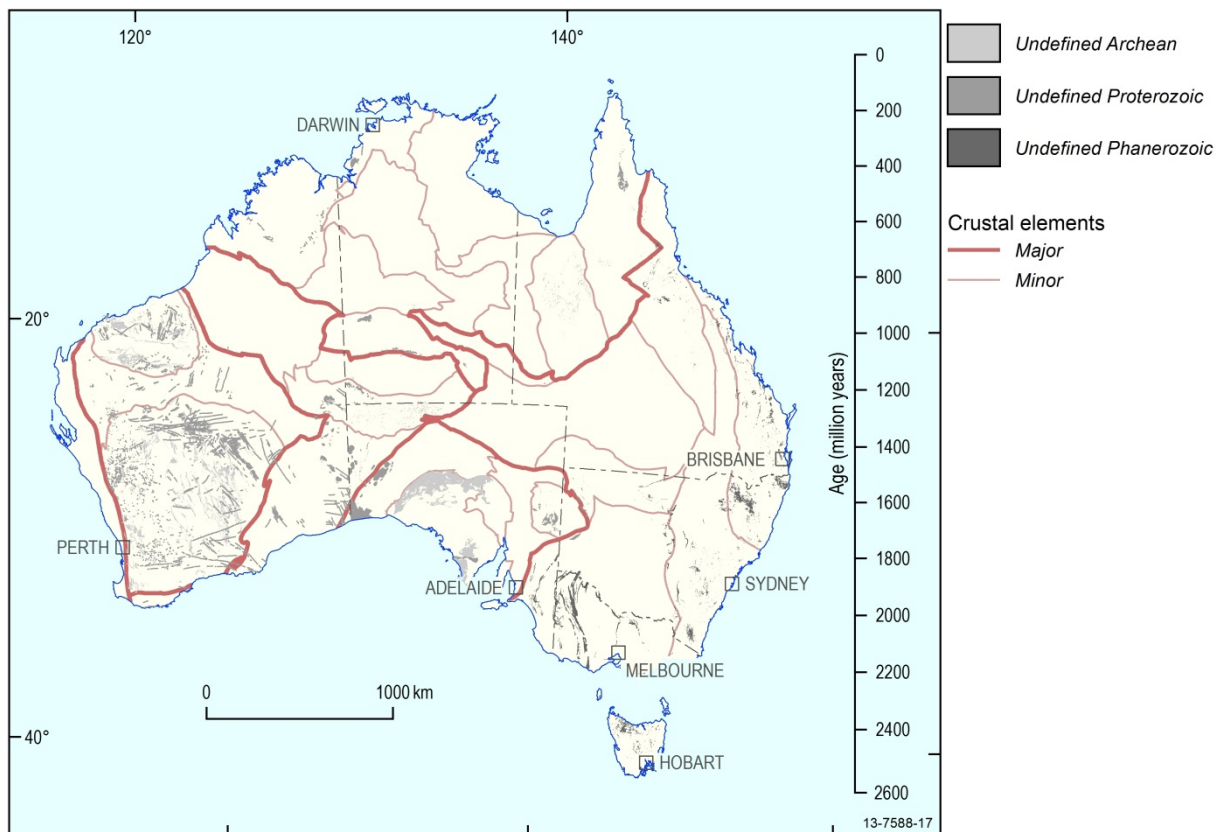


Figure 5.1 Mafic-Ultramafic igneous rocks of undefined age across Australia

The second major deficiency is the restricted availability of solid-geology mapping, which currently prevents development of a unified national GIS of mafic-ultramafic magmatic rocks. There exists no single seamless solid geology map for Australia on which to base this work. State-based solid geology mapping approaches vary from region to region and are still developing towards a seamless national coverage. There is a specific problem with accurate solid geology mapping of mafic-ultramafic igneous rock units both at the surface and under cover, in comparison with the satisfying detailed representations routinely available for felsic igneous rocks. It is particularly important for solid geology maps to progress towards depicting small, but collectively important, units such as dolerite dykes which underpin major studies such as continental reconstructions.

The third deficiency is the available crustal reference framework for Australia. Use has been made of the Australian Crustal Elements map of Shaw et al. (1996a), which remains the pioneering and, so far, only attempt to delineate the crustal framework of Australia at a detailed scale. It is specifically a shallow crust framework and does not necessarily map the deeper lithosphere which controls the passage of magma from the mantle. In the present context it has proved useful for framing Proterozoic magmatic events, but the crustal map does not subdivide the Archean cratons. The shallow crust framework is also problematic for framing Neoproterozoic and Phanerozoic magmatism younger than ~825 Ma (ME 52 – Gairdner Event), much of which is hosted within the continental basins that overlie those basement elements. An updated attempt to incorporate new geophysical and geological knowledge would improve basic continental framework understandings on which this study, and many others, depend.

With these caveats always in mind, certain general observations can be made from the Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatic events compilation.

The Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Events GIS Dataset is a fundamental framework for the exploration for magmatic-associated mineral deposits, and for assessing their generation in geodynamic processes that range in scale from the local to the continent-wide. Relative to the other continents, Australia has a deficit of discovered nickel, PGE, and other magmatic-associated mineral deposits. The primary intention of this GIS is the provision of information that may lead to redressing the discovery imbalance. The solid-geology presentation suggests significant exploration opportunities, especially in greenfields environments, by extending known outcropping magmatic systems into regions masked by shallow cover or younger basin sequences. Solid-geology datasets also provide an estimate of the total areal extent of each mafic-ultramafic magmatic system, which is an important consideration in assessing potential for magmatic-associated mineralising systems. Use of the GIS to match data with past exploration can help to determine if a particular magmatic system has been adequately tested during exploration.

The integration with geophysically-defined Major Crustal Elements permits the mafic-ultramafic rock units of each event to be evaluated in the context of the continental-scale structures and crustal processes that may be important in controlling the distribution of mineral deposits when used in conjunction with the digital dataset. These crustal elements are primarily geophysical entities (gravity and magnetic), and the reader is cautioned that their delineation and tectonic meaning are not always clear. It is probable that some units were not in their current configuration, relative to each other, at the time of emplacement. The newly-defined evolution of mafic-ultramafic magmatic events is itself a new constraint on the development of the Australian continent into its current form. The magmatic event series is comprehensive, including both subordinate and dominant mafic magmatic occurrences, so the time-event basis of the GIS serves as a reference for the correlation of other geodynamic systems and for the evolution observed in other continents.

Mafic-ultramafic magmatism in Australia has been resolved into 74 magmatic events from the Archean to the present day. Each magmatic event is defined as a short period of less than 20 million years, in keeping with the resolution of current geochronology. Colour-coding of units by their age of magmatism provides a visual cue to the spatial and temporal correlations of mafic-ultramafic magmatic units at province and continental scales. The dataset may be analysed in two ways: as a stand-alone resource, and by overlaying with other data chosen by users for a specific purpose. Here we provide some initial remarks that arise from visualisation of the mafic-ultramafic magmatic development of the continent in space and through time.

The sequential development of Australian mafic-ultramafic magmatism commenced in the northwest Yilgarn Craton, with 3730 ± 6 Ma gabbroic rocks in the Manfred Complex. This was followed by intermittent magmatism in the Pilbara Craton, and then mafic-ultramafic magmatic events became distinctly frequent and widespread in the early Neoarchean with a ~200 Myr period of frequent and coeval magmatic events across the Yilgarn and Pilbara cratons, the Hamersley Basin, and the Sylvania Inlier from ~2820 Ma to ~2665 Ma. The Archean mafic-ultramafic magmatic record concluded with two isolated magmatic occurrences (ME 25–2560 Ma and ME 26–2520 Ma) whose currently known extent is confined to the Gawler Craton.

There are periods of mineralisation associated with mafic-ultramafic magmatism during three distinct Archean events. They are: ~2925 Ma—platinum-group elements-nickel-copper (Munni Munni Intrusion: ME – 8) and nickel-copper-platinum group elements (Radio Hill Intrusion: ME – 8); ~2800 Ma—titanium-vanadium (Windimurra Intrusion: ME 11); ~2705 Ma—nickel-copper \pm platinum-group

elements associated with komatiitic rocks (Kambalda-Wiluna region: ME 19). Of these three, ME 19 contains significant economic resources, while ME 8 and ME 11 have experienced intermittent mining in recent decades. The ME19 economic resource is coeval with, and very similar to, nickel sulphide deposits in the Abitibi Belt of Canada. Australia appears to lack a coeval analogue to the mineralised ~2585 Ma Great Dyke of Zimbabwe, but this could be an artefact of cover and lack of discovery.

Mafic-ultramafic magmatism in Proterozoic Australia resolves into 29 magmatic events. As in the Archean, the Proterozoic record includes long periods with an intermittent record of mafic-ultramafic magmatism, and a single protracted period of mafic-dominated tholeiitic magmatism in the form of flood basalts, mafic dyke swarms and sills, and mafic \pm ultramafic intrusions. Approximately one-third of all the Proterozoic magmatic events took place during the 300 Myr period from ~1870 Ma (ME 32) to ~1590 Ma (ME 42).

Many Proterozoic magmatic events which were thought to be local to certain provinces are now correlated across the continent, thereby creating the potential for locating undiscovered large-volume magmatic systems. The compilation also presents correlations across provinces of magmatic systems which are known to be mineralised in Australia, or in other continents. An example is the ~1780 Ma Hart Event (ME36) in which mineralised occurrences known in the Halls Creek and Arunta regions can now be seen to have magmatic correlatives as disparate as the Capricorn, Mt Isa and Gawler elements. An inter-continental example is the ~825 Ma Gairdner Event (ME 52), which is not yet known to be mineralised in Australia, but is coeval with the world class Jinchuan magmatic nickel deposit in China – opening the question of the geological plate configuration at that time. Five major Proterozoic LIPs, formed by the rapid and voluminous emplacement of mafic-dominated magmas in intraplate settings, have left a record of intrusions and lavas across extensive regions of the continent; and some of the LIPs may be much more extensive than previously thought (e.g., ME 36 Hart~1780 Ma).

The ~825 Ma Gairdner Event (ME 52) is coincident with the initiation of the Centralian Basin systems over much of continental Australia. Following this major change, most mafic-ultramafic magmatism extends east of the Tasman Line, with some important correlatives in central and western Australia. Consistent with its development as an evolving continental margin, the record of Phanerozoic mafic-ultramafic magmatism in eastern Australia is nearly continuous with 16 magmatic events from the Cambrian to the Cretaceous and frequent basalt lava eruptions through the Cenozoic – a similar record to the intense periods of mafic-ultramafic magmatism in the Paleoproterozoic between ~1870–1590 Ma and in the Archean between ~2820–2665 Ma. From the ~575 Ma Skipworth Event (ME 55) to the ~410 Ma Lloyd Event (ME 61), each of these Phanerozoic magmatic events includes an ultramafic component and the magmatic events correlate widely from Queensland southward to Victoria, suggesting large magmatic systems, high degrees of mantle partial melting and the potential for magmatic PGE-Cr mineralisation as well as magmatic Ni mineralisation. Some of these magmatic events (e.g. ~410 Ma ME 61 – Lloyd Event) include correlatives within the orthogonal central continental belt between the Northern Territory and northern South Australia, indicating penetration of the mantle thermal anomaly westwards into that part of the continent. An eastwards progression of the location of magmatism is observed during the course of Phanerozoic time; this switches at the time of the ~180 Ma Tasmanian Event (ME 69) to include important correlatives associated with the southern margin (e.g., Tasmania) and western margin (e.g., ~130 Ma ME 70 – Bunbury Event).

Users are encouraged to make use of this fundamental time-space-event framework to overlay and integrate their own datasets, to evaluate:

- the spatial distribution of mafic and ultramafic rocks, their geological settings, the frequency of emplacement and potential coeval relationships;
- the secular variation of mafic and ultramafic magmatism, such as mafic-dominated systems versus ultramafic-dominated systems;
- the magnitude of each magmatic system (including LIPs) which has implications for structural frameworks, tectonic settings, and metallogenesis;
- correlatives of magmatic units that are mineralised elsewhere in the Australian continent, and in other continents;
- relationships with favourable reactive (e.g., carbonaceous, sulphur-bearing) country rocks that may potentially induce contamination and sulphur saturation of mafic-ultramafic magmatic systems during emplacement; and
- the spatial distribution of extrusive versus intrusive magmatic components within each magmatic event, as an indication of erosional levels and potential vectors to favourable mineralised environments, such as feeder conduits and basal contacts of intrusive bodies.

Datasets that should be considered for integration include geochemical and isotopic data for specific magmatic events of interest: these can now be placed within a systematic context of correlation in time and space, and so used to discriminate coeval systems and their potential for mineralisation. The context of other metamorphic and igneous rocks, including alkaline igneous rocks (kimberlite, lamprophyre, etc.) can be used to evaluate mantle processes and the wider geodynamic systems of which the mafic-ultramafic magmatism is a part. Integration with the increasing coverage and sophistication of geophysical surveys, including continental seismic traverses, can improve knowledge of the fundamental crustal architecture within which the magmatic systems are emplaced, and enhance the capacity to detect and evaluate igneous rock units under cover.

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- Wingate, M.T.D., Pirajno F. and Morris, P.A., 2004. Warakurna large igneous province: A new Mesoproterozoic large igneous province in west-central Australia. *Geology*, 32, 105–108.
- Zhao, J.-Y., McCulloch, M.T. and Korsch, R.J., 1994. Characterization of a plume-related ~800 Ma magmatic event and its implications for basin formation in central-southern Australia. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 121, 349–367.

Appendix A Digital Datasets used in this Study

A.1 Archean compilation

Geological base maps and solid-geology rock GIS

Western Australia

Geological Survey of Western Australia, 2008, *Distribution of Precambrian mafic and ultramafic rocks in Western Australia: 1:500 000 Interpreted Bedrock Geology Map of Western Australia*, Geological Survey of Western Australia.

South Australia

Cowley, W.M. (Compiler), 2006. *Solid geology of South Australia. Department of Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia*. Mineral Exploration Data Package 15 (version 1.1.).

Geological and tectonic province boundaries (Sheets 1 and 2):

Yilgarn Craton

Cassidy, K.F., Champion, D.C., Krapez, B., Barley, M.E., Brown, S.J.A., Blewett, R.S., Groenewald, P.B. and Tyler, I.M., 2006. *A revised geological framework for the Yilgarn Craton, Western Australia*. Geological Survey of Western Australia, Record 2006/8, 8 pp.

Pilbara Craton, Hamersley Basin, Sylvania Inlier

Geological Survey of Western Australia, 2001, *1:2 500 000 Tectonic Units of Western Australia, June 2001*, Geological Survey of Western Australia.

Gawler Craton

Fairclough, M.C., Schwarz, M.P. and Ferris, G.M., 2003. *Interpreted crystalline basement geology of the Gawler Craton*, South Australia, Geological Survey, Special map, 1:1 000 000 scale.

Distribution of Archean dolerite dykes and sills in Western Australia

Thorne, A.M. and Trendall, A.F., 2001. *Geology of the Fortescue Group, Pilbara Craton, Western Australia*. Geological Survey of Western Australia, Bulletin 144, 249 pp.

Geological and geophysical datasets

Interpreted distribution of Archean mafic and ultramafic rocks

Whitaker, A.J. and Bastrakova, I.V., 2002. *Yilgarn Craton aeromagnetic interpretation (1:1 500 000 scale map)*, Geoscience Australia.

Geochronology of Archean mafic and ultramafic rocks

Hoatson, D.M., Jaireth, S. and Jaques, A.L., 2006. Nickel sulphide deposits in Australia: Characteristics, resources, and potential. *Ore Geology Reviews*, 29, 177–241.

- Van Kranendonk, M.J. and Ivanic, T.J., 2009. *A new lithostratigraphic scheme for the northeastern Murchison Domain, Yilgarn Craton*. Geological Survey of Western Australia Annual Review 2007–08, 35–53.
- Van Kranendonk, M.J., Hickman, A.H., Smithies, R.H., Williams, I.R., Bagas, L. and Farrell, T.R., 2006. *Revised lithostratigraphy of Archean supracrustal and intrusive rocks in the northern Pilbara Craton, Western Australia*. Geological Survey of Western Australia, Record 2006/15, 57 pp.
- Wilde, S.A., 2001. *Jimperding and Chittering Metamorphic Belts, southwestern Yilgarn Craton, Western Australia—a field guide*. Geological Survey of Western Australia, Record 2001/12, 24 pp.

Compositional data of komatiitic rocks

- Barley, M.E., Blewett, R.S., Cassidy, K.F., Champion, D.C., Czarnota, K., Doyle, M.G., Krapez, B., Kositsin, N., Pickard, A.L. and Weinberg, R.F., 2006. *Tectonostratigraphic and structural architecture of the eastern Yilgarn Craton*. Final AMIRA Report P763/pmd*CRC Project Y1, December 2006.
- Barnes, S.J., Hill, R.E.T., Perring, C.S. and Dowling, S.E., 2004. Lithogeochemical exploration for komatiite-associated Ni-sulfide deposits: strategies and limitations. *Mineralogy and Petrology*, 82, 259–293.
- Leshner, C.M. and Keays, R.R., 2002. Komatiite-associated Ni-Cu-PGE deposits: geology, mineralogy, geochemistry, and genesis. In: Cabri, L.J. (editor), *The Geology, Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Mineral Beneficiation of Platinum-Group Elements*. Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, Special Volume 54, 579–617.

Nickel sulphide resources for deposits and regional nickel endowment

- Geoscience Australia, 2008, OZMIN—Geoscience Australia's national database of mineral deposits and resources, <http://ga.gov.au>

Neodymium model ages

- Champion, D.C. and Cassidy, K.F., 2008. Geodynamics: Using geochemistry and isotopic signatures of granites to aid mineral systems studies: an example from the Yilgarn Craton. In: Korsch, R.J. and Barnicoat, A.C. (editors), *New Perspectives: The Foundations and Future of Australian Exploration*. Abstracts for the 11–12th June 2008 pmd*CRC Conference. Geoscience Australia, Record 2008/09, 7–16).

A.2 Proterozoic compilation

Solid-geology coverage of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania is available as State Maps from the relevant State geological surveys. Coverage of Queensland and the Northern Territory was assembled from a variety of regional solid- and surface-geology sources at scales ranging from 1:100 000 to 1:1 000 000.

Geological base maps and relevant publications

Western Australia

Distribution of Precambrian mafic and ultramafic rocks in Western Australia:

- Geological Survey of Western Australia, 2001. *1:500 000 Interpreted Bedrock Geology Map of Western Australia*, Geological Survey of Western Australia (June 2001).

Distribution of dolerite dykes and sills:

Myers, J.S. and Hocking, R.M., 1998. *Geological Map of Western Australia, 1:2 500 000 (13th Edition)*. Geological Survey of Western Australia, Perth.

Distribution of gabbroic intrusions under cover in the Officer Basin:

D'Ercole, C. and Lockwood, A.M., 2004. *The tectonic history of the Waigen area, western Officer Basin, interpreted from geophysical data*. Western Australia Geological Survey, Annual Review 2003–04, Technical Paper, 71–80.

Northern Territory

- Ahmad, M. and Scrimgeour, I.R., 2006. *Geological map of the Northern Territory (1:2 500 000 scale map, 2006 Edition)*, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin.
- Donnellan, N. and Johnstone, A., 2004. *Mapped and interpreted geology of the Tennant Region (1:500 000 scale map, First Edition)*, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Edgoose, C.J., Close, D.F. and Scrimgeour, I.M., 2004. *Musgrave Block Special, Northern Territory (First Edition) 1:500 000 scale geological map*. Northern Territory Geological Survey, Alice Springs.
- Lally, J. and Doyle, N., 2005. Pine Creek Orogen 1:500 000 Solid Geology Interpretation, preliminary release, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin.
- Liu, S.F., Raymond, O.L., Stewart, A.J., Sweet, I.P., Duggan, M.B., Charlick, C., Phillips, D. and Retter, A.J., 2007. *Surface Geology of Australia, Northern Territory, 1:1 000 000 GIS dataset*. Geoscience Australia, Canberra.
- Meixner, A. and Hoatson, D.M., 2004. *Geophysical interpretation of Proterozoic mafic-ultramafic intrusions in the Arunta Region, central Australia*, Geoscience Australia, Record, 2003/29, 125 pp.
- Meixner, T., Scrimgeour, I.M., Close, D.G. and Edgoose, C.J., 2004. *Mount Liebig, Northern Territory (Second Edition) 1:250 000 interpreted geological map series (Sheet SF 52–16)*. Northern Territory Geological Survey, Alice Springs.
- Rawlings, D.J., 2001. *Tectonostratigraphy of the McArthur Basin (1:1 000 000 scale map, First Edition)*, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin.
- Shaw, R.D. and Warren, R.G., 1995. *Hermannsburg, Northern Territory (Second Edition), 1:250 000 Geological Series map (Sheet SF 53–13)*. Australian Geological Survey Organisation, Canberra.
- Shaw, A.D., Langworthy, A.P., Stewart, A.J., Offe, L.A. and Jones, B.G., 1983. *Alice Springs, Northern Territory (Second Edition), 1:250 000 geological map (Sheet SF 53–14)*. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia.
- Slater, K.R., 2000a. *Tanami 1:250 000 integrated interpretation of geophysics and geology (First Edition)*, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin.
- Slater, K.R., 2000b. *The Granites (SF 52–3) 1:250 000 integrated interpretation of geophysics and geology (First Edition)*, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin.
- Slater, K.R., 2004. *Musgrave Block Special, Northern Territory, integrated interpretation of geophysics and geology (1:500 000 scale map, First Edition)*, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Vandenberg, L.C., Johnstone, A., Donnellan, N., Green, M.G. and Crispe, A., 2004. *Northern Arunta Region integrated interpretation of geophysics and geology, Northern Territory (1:500 000 scale map, First Edition)*, Northern Territory Geological Survey, Alice Springs.

South Australia

Cowley, W.M. (Compiler), 2006. *Solid geology of South Australia*. Department of Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia. Mineral Exploration Data Package, 15 (version 1.1.).

Queensland

Bain, J.H.C. and Draper, J.J. (Compilers), 1997. *North Queensland Geology*. Australian Geological Survey Organisation, Bulletin, 240, and Queensland Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland Geology, 9, 600 pp.

Geological Survey of Queensland, 2002. *North Queensland gold and base metal study, Stage 1 (Georgetown) geoscience (GIS) dataset*. Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland, Brisbane.

Geological Survey of Queensland, 2002. *South-east Queensland region geoscience (GIS) dataset*. Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland, Brisbane.

Geological Survey of Queensland, 2003. *North Queensland gold and base metal study, Stage 2 (Charters Towers) geoscience (GIS) dataset*. Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland, Brisbane.

Geological Survey of Queensland, 2005. *Central Queensland region (Yarrol–Connors–Auburn) geoscience (GIS) dataset (version 2)*. Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland, Brisbane.

Geological Survey of Queensland, SRK Consulting, ESRI Australia, and Taylor, Wall and Associates, 2006. *North-west Queensland mineral province geoscience (GIS) dataset (version 2006)*. Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland, Brisbane.

New South Wales

Scheibner, E. and Hayward, D., 1999. *New South Wales State Geoscience Package*. Geological Survey of New South Wales, Sydney.

Victoria

Simons, B.A. and Moore, D.H., 1999. *Victoria 1:1 000 000 Pre-Permian Geology*. Geological Survey of Victoria, Melbourne.

Tasmania

Brown, A.V., Calver, C.R., Clarke, M.J., Corbett, K.D., Everard, J.L., Forsyth, S.M., Goscombe, B.A., Green, D.C., Green, G.R., McClenaghan, M.P., Pemberton, J. and Vicary, M.J., 2007. *1:250 000 Digital Geology of Tasmania*. Mineral Resources Tasmania, Hobart.

Geophysical datasets

Total Magnetic Intensity, Fourth Edition, 2004: Milligan, P.R. and Franklin, R., 2004. *Magnetic Anomaly Map of Australia (1:5 000 000 scale map, Fourth Edition)*, Geoscience Australia, Canberra.

Bouguer Gravity, Second Edition, 1997: Murray, A.S., Morse, M.P., Milligan, P.R. and Mackey, T.E., 1997. *Gravity Anomaly Map of the Australian Region (1:5 000 000 scale map, Second Edition)*, Australian Geological Survey Organisation, Canberra.

Digital Elevation and Bathymetry, 2006: *Image compiled from Land Digital Elevation Model (SRTM), National Geospatial–Intelligence Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Australian bathymetry and topography grid (June 2005)*, Geoscience Australia; and *ETOPO2 Global 2_Minute Gridded Elevation data_ocean bathymetry*, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Crustal Elements and Provinces used for National Map

Shaw, R.D., Wellman, P., Gunn, P., Whitaker, A.J., Tarlowski, C. and Morse, M., 1996a. *Australian Crustal Elements 1:5 000 000 map based on the distribution of geophysical domains, GIS dataset*. Australian Geological Survey Organisation, Canberra.

A.3 Phanerozoic compilation

Solid-geology coverage of Western Australia and surface-geology coverage of Tasmania are available as State Maps from the relevant State geological survey. Coverage of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria was assembled from a variety of regional solid- and surface-geology sources at scales ranging from 1:100 000 to 1:2 000 000, also available as State Maps from the relevant State geological survey.

Geological base maps

Western Australia

Geological Survey of Western Australia, 2008. *1:500 000 Interpreted Bedrock Geology Map of Western Australia*, Geological Survey of Western Australia, Perth.

Northern Territory

Larson, R. 2006. *Digital geology and lithology of the Quartz, Northern Territory 1:100 000 map sheet 5951*. Geoscience Australia, Canberra.

South Australia

Cowley, W.M. (Compiler), 2006. *Solid geology of South Australia*. Department of Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia. Mineral Exploration Data Package, 15 (version 1.1.)

Geological Survey of South Australia. 2012. *Surface Geology 2M*. Department of Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia

Queensland

Geological Survey of Queensland, November 2011. *Geodata Queensland Geological Digital Data - state, regional and detailed mapping (DVD)*. Geological Survey of Queensland

New South Wales

Gilmore, P.J., Greenfield, J.E., Mills, K., Musgrave, R.E., and Reid, W.J. 2011 *Koonenberry Belt 1:250 000 Solid Geology*, Geological Survey of NSW, Maitland

Geological Survey of New South Wales, *New England Orogen Z56 seamless geology pre-release*, 2012, Geological Survey of NSW, Maitland

New South Wales Geological Survey, 2012. *Western Division geological-geophysical basement interpretation map*, 2012. Geological Survey of NSW, Maitland

Dawson M.W. and Glen R.A. 2006. *Eastern Subprovince of the Lachlan Orogen Version 2– Solid Geology and Mineral Deposits, 1:500 000 map*. Geological Survey of NSW, Sydney

Victoria

Simons, B.A. and Moore, D.H., 1999. *Victoria 1:1 000 000 Pre-Permian Geology*. Geological Survey of Victoria, Melbourne.

Welch, S.I., Higgins, D.V., Callaway, G.A. (eds), 2011. *Surface Geology of Victoria 1:250 000*. Geological Survey of Victoria, Department of Primary Industries, Melbourne.

Tasmania

Brown, A.V., Calver, C.R., Clarke, M.J., Corbett, K.D., Everard, J.L., Forsyth, S.M., Goscombe, B.A., Green, D.C., Green, G.R., McClenaghan, M.P., Pemberton, J., Seymour, D.B., and Vicary, M.J., 2011. *1:250 000 Digital Geology of Tasmania, Digital Geological Atlas 1:250,000 Scale Series* Mineral Resources Tasmania, Hobart.

National

Geoscience Australia, 2010. *Surface Geology of Australia 2010: GIS data package*. Geoscience Australia, Canberra.

Crustal Elements and Provinces used for National Map

Shaw, R.D., Wellman, P., Gunn, P., Whitaker, A.J., Tarlowski, C. and Morse, M., 1996a. *Australian Crustal Elements 1:5 000 000 map based on the distribution of geophysical domains, GIS dataset*. Australian Geological Survey Organisation, Canberra.

Appendix B Attributes, Definitions and Values

Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events Polygons, Lines, Points Table

EVENTID

Unique identifier for the geologic event from Geoscience Australia's geological events database

EVENT_NAME

Name of the geological Magmatic Event and informal name defined in the National study

PROPORTION

Relative abundance of mafic-ultramafic rock composition within the geological unit. Values are:

- Dominant: mafic ± ultramafic rocks comprise a major component of total rock package
- Subordinate: mafic ± ultramafic rocks comprise a minor component of total rock package

SOURCE

Specific citation of the source map used for geologic units within the compilation

CAPT_SCALE

The denominator of the scale from which the mapped feature has been compiled

CAPT_DATE

The date of original data capture for this mapped feature

RES_SCALE

Is the resolution scale at which the mapped data is designed to be represented.

MAP_SYMB

Letter symbol or code representing the geologic unit from the State or Northern Territory digital datasets used in the dataset (see Appendix A for relevant State and Northern Territory datasets or see source attribution within dataset tables)

STRATNO

Unique rock unit formation number from Geoscience Australia's Stratigraphic Units Database

UNITNAME

The name of the mafic or ultramafic unit or the unit in which a mafic or ultramafic is assigned from Geoscience Australia's Stratigraphic Units Database

SOURCENAME

Name of the geological unit as described by the original map source or previous mafic- ultramafic map releases.

UID

Unique identification key for polygon, line and point unit attribution: the key used to join to the MUMGeologicalUnit and MUMGeologicalUnitAge tables

Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events Geological Unit Table**MAJORELEMENT**

Modified from Australian Crustal Elements, 1:5 000 000 scale map by Shaw et al. (1996a)

CRUSTALELEMENT

Modified from Australian Crustal Elements, 1:5 000 000 scale map by Shaw et al. (1996a)

BULK_COMP

Bulk composition of mafic ± ultramafic body, i.e. Mafic, Ultramafic

LITHOLOGY

A summary description of the mafic/ultramafic lithological composition of the geologic unit.

MORPHOLOGY

Description of the style/form of mafic ± ultramafic body. Values include:

- Dyke, layered dyke, massive dyke
- Sill, composite sill
- Plug
- Pluton
- Lava
- Xenolith
- Raft
- Feeder conduit
- Flood
- Flood basalt
- Lava flow, lava channel, basaltic flow
- Komatiitic flow, komatiitic intrusion
- Intrusion, layered intrusion, massive intrusion
- Fault-bounded intrusion
- Tectonised intrusion

Volcaniclastic sheet deposit

ENVIRO

Broad emplacement setting of mafic ± ultramafic body. Values include:

- Intrusive
- Extrusive
- Hypabyssal
- Emplacement

COUNTRYROC

Major country rocks for intrusive body or associated rock types if extrusive listed by either unitname or lithology

UNITSOURCE

Key reference for rock unit descriptions

GEOLHIST

Text summary description of the geological history of the geological unit

SUPERGROUP

Name of the supergroup rank unit in the stratigraphic hierarchy for the geological unit, if applicable

GROUPNAME

Name of the group rank unit in the stratigraphic hierarchy for the geological unit, if applicable

SUBGROUP

Name of the subgroup rank unit in the stratigraphic hierarchy for the geological unit, if applicable

FORMATION

Name of the formation rank unit in the stratigraphic hierarchy for the geological unit, if applicable

MEMBER

Name of the member rank unit in the stratigraphic hierarchy for the geological unit, if applicable

BED

Name of the bed rank unit in the stratigraphic hierarchy for the geological unit, if applicable

Australian Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events Geological Unit Age Table

NUMAGE

Absolute measured age (in million years: Ma) from published and unpublished sources.

NUMAGEER

Calculated error in +/- million years

NUMAGECOM

Additional information regarding measured age

NUMAGEMETH

The analytical method used to determine the measured absolute age. Values include:

- U-Pb (zircon)
- Pb-Pb (zircon evaporation)
- TIMS
- Sm-Nd
- Rb-Sr
- K-Ar
- mineral isochron
- whole-rock
- Ar-Ar (total cooling, fusion, plateau)

NUMAGEREF

Reference for absolute age

YGNUMAGE

Relative minimum age (in million years: Ma) from published reports, maps, etc

YGNUMAGEER

Calculated error in +/- million years

YGNUMMETH

Geochronological method used. Values include:

- U-Pb (zircon)
- Pb-Pb (zircon evaporation)
- TIMS
- Sm-Nd
- Rb-Sr
- K-Ar
- mineral isochron
- whole-rock
- Ar-Ar (total cooling, fusion, plateau)

YGSOURCE

Reference for minimum age data

OLDNUMAGE

Relative maximum age (in million years: Ma) from published reports, maps, etc

OLDNUMAGER

Calculated error in +/- million years

OLDNUMMETH

Geochronological method used. Values include:

- U-Pb (zircon)
- Pb-Pb (zircon evaporation)
- TIMS
- Sm-Nd
- Rb-Sr
- K-Ar
- mineral isochron
- whole-rock
- Ar-Ar (total cooling, fusion, plateau:

OLDSOURCE

Reference for maximum age data

Australian Mafic Ultramafic Events Table**EVENTID**

Unique identifier for the geological event

EVENTNAME

Name of the geological event

EVENTPROC

The type of geological process of the event

YNGNUMAGE

The younger numerical age of the geological event, if known, in Ma

YNGAGEERR

The uncertainty associated with the younger numerical age of the geological event, if known, in Ma

YNGAGEMETH

The method used to derive the younger age of the geological event

OLDNUMAGE

The older numerical age of the geological event, if known, in Ma

OLDAGEERR

The uncertainty associated with the older numerical age of the geological event, if known, in Ma

OLDAGEMETH

The method used to derive the older age of the geological event

DOMCOMP

A description of whether the event has mafic or ultramafic components.

DESCR

A summary of the event

SOURCE

Text describing feature-specific details and citations to source materials, and if available providing URLs to reference material and publications describing the geological feature.

Appendix C Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events

ME 74 – Cenozoic C (0-15 Ma) (mafic)

ME 73 – Cenozoic B (15-45 Ma) (mafic)

ME 72 – Cenozoic A (45-65Ma) (mafic)

For the purpose of the GIS, the available solid and surface geology polygons for Cenozoic magmatism across much of eastern Australia are arbitrarily grouped as three broad age spans denoted A, B and C. This is because much of the available isotopic dating (especially whole-rock K-Ar ages) is of uncertain accuracy.

ME 71 – Mount Hedlow (80 Ma) (mafic)

Named after the Mount Hedlow Trachyte which, although predominately comprised of rhyolite and trachyte plugs, includes two basalt plugs and associated basalt flows.

ME 70 – Bunbury (130 Ma) (mafic)

Named after the Bunbury Basalt located in the far south–west of Pinjarra province in Western Australia, consisting of porphyritic tholeiitic basalt. There is coeval mafic magmatism at the eastern Australian margin in Queensland.

ME 69 – Tasmanian (180 Ma) (mafic)

Named after the large volumes of unnamed dolerites that were intruded across much of Tasmania during the Middle Jurassic. These formed mainly as sills and concentrated in the Tasmania Basin.

ME 68 – Abernethy (225 Ma) (mafic)

The Abernethy Basalt is a Late Triassic olivine basalt of the Aranbanga Volcanic Group with a whole-rock K-Ar whole age.

ME 67 – Termeil (250 Ma) (mafic)

Named after the Termeil Essexite located at Bawley Point in New South Wales, comprising small intrusions of monzogabbro with basalt dykes and sills.

ME 66 – Alum Mountain (270 Ma) (mafic)

The early Permian Alum Mountain Volcanics disconformably overlie Carboniferous rocks within the Hunter-Myall Region. Mafic igneous rocks are present in the Burdekins Gap Basalt and the Lakes Road Rhyolite Member.

ME 65 – Werrie (290 Ma) (mafic)

Named after the Werrie Basalt in the Gunnadah Basin, which is the mafic component of bimodal volcanism that dominated the region during that time period.

ME 64 – Glenrock (330 Ma) (mafic)

The Glenrock Group in the uppermost part of the Burdekin Basin contains multiple basaltic lavas throughout the Group's six units. An upper age limit of 330 ± 7 Ma is provided by granitoid intrusions into the Ewan Formation. Lower age limit is early Visean.

ME 63 – Dunollie (360 Ma) (mafic)

Named after the Dunollie Beds which include flows and pyroclastics of basalt, andesite, dacite and volcaniclastic rocks.

ME 62 – Woods Point (380 Ma) (mafic)

Named for dated Woods Point Dyke Swarm in Victoria in which compositions range from felsic to mafic. The date is based on an Ar-Ar (Hornblende) date for the mafic Mountain Home dyke.

ME 61 – Lloyd (410 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

The Lloyd event is named for the Lloyd Gabbonorite located within the Irindina province in the south-east of the Northern Territory; there is coeval mafic magmatism in eastern Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

ME 60 – Lockhart (430 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

Named after the Lockhart Basic Intrusive Complex, in which the plutonic rocks range from olivine-bearing gabbro to leucogranite. The date represents the magmatic crystallisation age of a tonalite phase.

ME 59 – Fifield (450 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

Named after the Fifield mafic-ultramafic intrusions in the Lachlan Orogen. The age is based on a single U-Pb isotopic date for the Bulbodney Creek Complex of the Fifield Suite.

ME 58 – Mount Windsor (480 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

Named for basalt associated with the Mount Windsor Volcanics of the Seventy Mile Range Group in the Charters Towers region.

ME 57 – Kalkarindji (510 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 30). Kalkarindji LIP: modified after Glass and Phillips, 2006. Extensive preservation of basaltic lavas and associated sills across the North Australian and Central Australia Crustal Elements; intrusions in the Kimberley and Irindina provinces. Coeval mafic lavas and sills also occur in the Tasmanides Element.

ME 56 – Truro (530 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

Named after the Truro Volcanics of the lower Cambrian Normanville Group in south-east South Australia and western Victoria. The volcanics are interbedded with the dated Heatherdale Shale in South Australia.

ME 55 – Skipworth (575 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 29). Named after mafic-ultramafic volcanics (Skipworth Subgroup) on King Island. Other isolated dated occurrences of basalt and dolerite include those along the Tasman Line in

Tasmania and New South Wales such as the Mt Arrowsmith Volcanics north of Broken Hill, NSW, as well as ultramafics, dolerite and gabbro pods within the Princhester Serpentinite in Queensland. Other fault-bounded occurrences of mafic-ultramafic rocks in the Tasmanides are undated and could belong to this, or later Phanerozoic, events

ME 54 – Mundine Well (755 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 28). The only dated occurrence is the Mundine Well Dolerite dyke in the Pilbara province; other dykes in the Pilbara and Capricorn provinces could belong to this event.

ME 53 – Boucaut (775 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 27). Only known occurrence is the Boucaut Volcanics near the southeastern margin of the Adelaide province.

ME 52 – Gairdner (825 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 26) Gairdner LIP: modified after Zhao et al., 1994) Northwest-trending Gairdner Dyke Swarm traversing the South Australian Crustal Element and the Musgrave province; basalt lavas in the basal stratigraphy of the Adelaide and Amadeus provinces; and possible correlatives in the Paterson province.

ME 51 – Elizabeth Hills (975 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 25). Only known occurrence is un-named dolerite dykes near Elizabeth Hills in the western Aileron province.

ME 50 – Warakurna (1070 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 24) Warakurna LIP: modified after Wingate et al., 2004). Time-equivalent magmatism in an east-trending belt that includes the Musgrave province and crosses the West Australian Crustal Element; dolerite dykes in the southern margin of the North Australian Crustal Element.

ME 49 – Mordor (1135 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 23). Named after the sub-circular Mordor ultramafic-mafic intrusion in the Aileron province; only other known occurrence is the northeast-trending Lakeview dolerite dykes in the Mount Isa province.

ME 48 – Pitjantjatjara (1180 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 22). Only known occurrence is a dated gabbro intrusion and associated mafic granulite associated with granitic rocks of the Pitjantjatjara Supersuite, Musgrave province.

ME 47 – Marnda Moorn (1210 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 21). Marnda Moorn LIP: modified after Wingate and Pidgeon, 2005. Extensive coeval dolerite dyke swarms and sills, with variable emplacement orientations in the Yilgarn and Pinjarra provinces.

ME 46 – Fraser (1310 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 20). Named for dated mafic intrusions in the Albany-Fraser province; correlative is the Derim Derim dolerite sills in the McArthur province.

ME 45 – Loongana (1415 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 19). Only known occurrence is the Loongana mafic-ultramafic intrusion in the basement to the Officer Basin.

ME 44 – Bangemall (1465 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 18). Only known occurrence is dated dolerite sills in the Bangemall Supergroup of the Capricorn province.

ME 43 – Saxby (1530 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 17). Only known occurrence is small gabbro and dolerite bodies associated with the ~1530 Ma Saxby Granite, Mount Isa province.

ME 42 – Curramulka (1590 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 16). Named after the Curramulka gabbro in East Gawler province; correlated mafic magmatism throughout the South Australian Crustal Element; minor correlatives in North Queensland, Mount Isa and McArthur provinces.

ME 41 – Andrew Young (1635 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 15). Named for the Andrew Young Hills gabbro intrusion and numerous associated mafic and ultramafic intrusions in the Warumpi and southern Aileron provinces; correlatives in the South and Central Gawler provinces.

ME 40 – Lane Creek (1655 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 14). Named for un-named sills and basalt associated with the Lane Creek Formation in the Georgetown province; minor basalt correlatives known in the Central Gawler province.

ME 39 – Woman-in-White (1680 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 13). Named after Woman-in-White Amphibolite in Curnamona province; widespread correlatives occur in the Curnamona and Central Gawler provinces, and the Warumpi, Aileron, Mount Isa, and Georgetown provinces in northern Australia.

ME 38 – Oenpelli (1720 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 12). Named after the Oenpelli Dolerite in the Pine Creek province; correlated basalt and mafic sills in parts of the stratigraphy of McArthur and Mount Isa provinces.

ME 37 – Lunch Creek (1750 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 11). Named for the Lunch Creek Gabbro in the Mount Isa province and associated mafic intrusions; correlatives in the Eastern Gawler province.

ME 36 – Hart (1780 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 10). Dolerite and basalt within the Kimberley province (the Hart LIP); possible extension of this LIP to the south and southeast encompasses time-equivalent magmatism in eight other provinces across the West, North, and South Australian Crustal Elements, and in Central Australia.

ME 35 – Mount Hay (1810 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 9). Named for the Mount Hay Granulite and associated gabbro intrusions in the Aileron province; geographically extensive basalt elsewhere in the stratigraphy of the Aileron, Tennant, and Tanami provinces; minor correlatives in the Eastern Gawler province.

ME 34 – Edmirringee (1830 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 8). Named for the Edmirringee Basalt in the Tennant province; geographically extensive but volumetrically minor metabasalt and metadolerite in the regional sedimentary rock packages of the Aileron, Tennant, and Tanami provinces, minor correlatives in the Kimberley and Pine Creek provinces.

ME 33 – Sally Malay (1850 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 7). Named for the Sally Malay mafic-ultramafic intrusion and correlatives in the Kimberley province; minor gabbros in the Tennant province, correlatives in the East and Central Gawler provinces; basalt and dolerite sills in the Yerrida Basin overlying the Yilgarn province.

ME 32 – Bow River (1870 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 6). Named for the Bow River nickel deposit hosted by un-named gabbro in the Tickalara Metamorphics in the Kimberley province, and associated basalt and mafic intrusions; correlated Wangi Basics in the Pine Creek province.

ME 31 – Ding Dong Downs (1910 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 5). Named for the Ding Dong Downs Volcanics in the Kimberley province; correlated basalt in the Bryah Basin overlying the Yilgarn Craton.

ME 30 – Stag Creek (2015 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 4). Named for the basaltic component of the Stag Creek Volcanics in the Pine Creek province; isolated correlative in the Pilbara Craton.

ME 29 – Turee Creek (2210 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 3). Only known occurrence is un-named dolerite dykes and sills near Turee Creek in the Pilbara Craton.

ME 28 – Widgiemooltha (2420 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 2). The Widgiemooltha mafic-ultramafic dyke swarm crossing the Yilgarn Craton; many un-named and undated mafic dykes within the Yilgarn Craton assigned as Undefined Event may belong to this event.

ME 27 – Weeli Wolli (2455 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Proterozoic ME 1). Named for dolerite dykes and sills and basalt in the Weeli Wolli Formation, Pilbara province; correlative is Blackfellow Hill Pyroxenite in the Central Gawler province.

ME 26 – Lake Harris (2520 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 26). Named after dated volcanoclastic rock interbedded with komatiite from Lake Harris Komatiite, Gawler Craton.

ME 25 – Devils Playground (2560 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 25). Named after dated rhyodacite interbedded with basalt of Devils Playground volcanics, Gawler Craton, South Australia. The Australian Archean mafic-ultramafic magmatic record concludes in the late Neoproterozoic with two isolated magmatic events (AME 25 and ME 26) recorded in the Gawler Craton.

ME 24 – Kaluweerie (2625 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 24). Named after dated granophyric dolerite from Kaluweerie, Yilgarn Craton.

ME 23 – Coates Siding (2665 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 23). Named after dated gabbro from Coates Siding, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the South West Terrane and Kalgoorlie Terrane.

ME 22 – Golden Mile (2675 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 22). Named after dated granophyre from Golden Mile Dolerite, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the Kalgoorlie Terrane and South West Terrane.

ME 21 – Mount Pleasant (2685 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 21). Named after dated Mount Pleasant sill, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the Kalgoorlie Terrane and Kurnalpi Terrane.

ME 20 – Williamstown (2695 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 20). (Formerly Archean AME 26). Named after dated granophyric quartz gabbro from Williamstown Peridotite, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the Kalgoorlie Terrane and South West Terrane.

ME 19 – Kambalda (2705 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 19). Named after dated felsic tuff interbedded with komatiite of the Kambalda Komatiite, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the Kurnalpi Terrane, Kalgoorlie Terrane, and South West Terrane.

ME 18 – Maddina (2715 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 18). Named after dated felsic tuff interbedded with basalt of Maddina Basalt, Pilbara Craton. Correlatives in the Hamersley Basin, West Pilbara Terrane, East Pilbara Terrane, and South West Terrane, Youanmi Terrane, and Kalgoorlie Terrane. This is the final major mafic-ultramafic magmatic event documented in the Pilbara Craton and Hamersley Basin.

ME 17 – Gidley (2725 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 17). Named after dated gabbro from Gidley Granophyre, Pilbara Craton. This event is confined to the Dampier Archipelago in the West Pilbara Terrane.

ME 16 – Kathleen Valley (2735 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 16). Named after dated quartz gabbro from Kathleen Valley Gabbro, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the Kalgoorlie Terrane, Hamersley Basin, West Pilbara Terrane, East Pilbara Terrane, and Kurrana Terrane.

ME 15 – Sylvania (2745 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 15). Named after dated dolerite from Sylvania dyke swarm, Sylvania Inlier. Correlatives in the Sylvania Inlier and Youanmi Terrane.

ME 14 – Mount Warren (2755 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 14). Named after dated leucogabbro from Mount Warren, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the Burtville Terrane and Youanmi Terrane.

ME 13 – Black Range (2770 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 13). Named after dated dolerite from Black Range Dolerite Suite, Pilbara Craton. Correlatives in the East Pilbara Terrane, West Pilbara Terrane, Central Pilbara Terrane, Mosquito Creek Terrane, and Hamersley Basin.

ME 12 – Little Gap (2790 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 12). Named after dated unnamed dolerite from Little Gap Yilgarn Craton.

ME 11 – Narndee (2800 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 11). Named after dated gabbro from Narndee Intrusion, Yilgarn Craton. Correlatives in the Youanmi Terrane and South West Terrane.

ME 10 – Mount Sefton (2810 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 10). Named after dated pegmatoidal leucogabbro from Mount Sefton leucogabbro, Yilgarn Craton.

ME 9 – Lady Alma (2820 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 9). Named after dated gabbro from Lady Alma Intrusion, Yilgarn Craton. The Mesoarchean period from ~2820 million years (ME 9) to ~2665 million years (ME 23) represents an extremely busy evolutionary phase with multiple overlapping coeval events recorded for the Pilbara and Yilgarn cratons, Hamersley Basin, and Sylvania Inlier.

ME 8 – Munni Munni (2925 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 8). Named after dated ferrogabbro pegmatite from the Munni Munni Intrusion, Pilbara Craton. This ME is confined to the Pilbara Craton with correlatives documented in the West Pilbara Terrane and Central Pilbara Terrane.

ME 7 – Lake Wells (2960 Ma) (mafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 7). Named after dated felsic volcanoclastic rock interbedded with basalt from Lake Wells Station, Yilgarn Craton. Outside the Manfred Complex in the Narryer Terrane (ME 1), the Lake Wells Event in the Burtville Terrane is the oldest mafic-ultramafic magmatic event documented in the Yilgarn Craton.

ME 6 – Bradley (3115 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 6). Named after dated felsic tuff interbedded with basalt of Bradley Basalt, Pilbara Craton. Correlatives in the West Pilbara Terrane and Central Pilbara Terrane.

ME 5 – Honeyeater (3175 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 5). Named after dated tuff interbedded with basalt of Honeyeater Basalt, Pilbara Craton.

ME 4 – Euro (3350 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 4). Named after dated volcanoclastic sandstone interbedded with chert and basalt of Euro Basalt, Pilbara Craton.

ME 3 – Mount Ada (3470 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 3). Named after dated tuff interbedded with basalt of Mount Ada Basalt, Pilbara Craton (note location of dated sample is very close to the dated ME 2 sample).

ME 2 – North Star (3490 Ma) (mafic and ultramafic)

(Formerly Archean AME 2). Named after dated pyroxenite lens interbedded with basalt of North Star Basalt, Pilbara Craton. The next evolutionary phase for the Archean in Australia involves the Pilbara Craton, with dated mafic-ultramafic rocks in ME 2 to ME 6 reported from the East, Central, and West Pilbara terranes.

ME 1 – Manfred (3730 Ma (mafic and ultramafic))

(Formerly Archean AME 1). The Archean mafic-ultramafic magmatic record for Australia commences with dated leucogabbroic and meta-anorthositic rocks from the Manfred Complex in the Narryer Terrane, northwest Yilgarn Craton. Gabbroic rocks in this layered igneous complex are the oldest known rocks in Australia that have been dated. The Narryer Terrane appears to be anomalous (exotic accreted origin?) in its age context relative to the other juxtaposed terranes of the Yilgarn Craton.

Undefined Archean , Undefined Proterozoic, Undefined Phanerozoic

Units assigned as Undefined Archean, Undefined Proterozoic or Undefined Phanerozoic Event include all available mapped occurrences of mafic-ultramafic rocks that are known to be Archean, Proterozoic or Phanerozoic in age, but are without reliable isotopic age control. Prominent examples are mafic dyke swarms of many orientations and probable ages throughout most provinces.

For example, most Archean mafic and ultramafic rocks in the Yilgarn Craton are designated Undefined Archean Event because the solid-geology datasets available from the Geological Survey of Western Australia do not contain stratigraphic Formation or Member attributes for these rocks. Consequently, their stratigraphic details are unknown (and, therefore, their age is not known with sufficient confidence to assign an Event).

Appendix D Time-Space-Event Charts

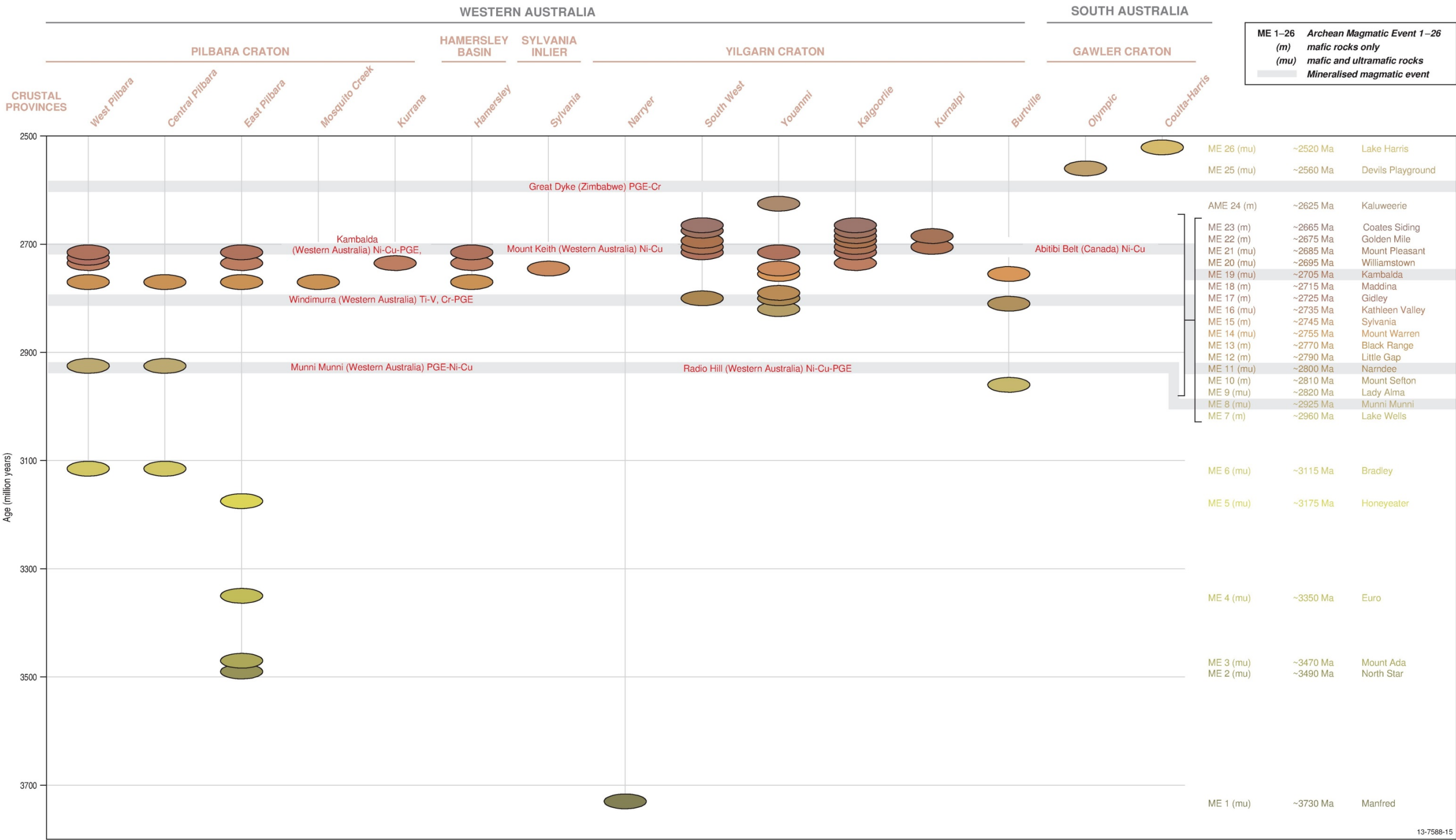
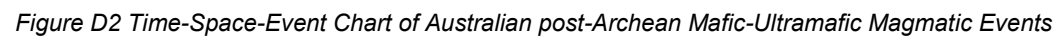


Figure D1 Time-Space-Event Chart of Australian Archean Mafic-Ultramafic Magmatic Events



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