

Australian Thematic Mineral Deposit Maps

AGSO has released two thematic 1:5 million scale national maps (930 x 820 mm) which overlay mineral deposit information from OZMIN (AGSO's mineral deposit database) on a greyscale magnetic image of the continent. They are:

- 'Australian mineral deposits by deposit type'; and
- 'Australian mineral deposits by age of formation'.

Areas of mainly Phanerozoic basin cover that are essentially unmineralised have been superimposed as a green or orange stipple on the image used in each map. Providing information on the distribution, age, and types of mineral deposits developed in Australia, both maps will be of considerable value to those with an interest in the mineral resources sector. They promote the global attractiveness of Australia for investment in mineral exploration, and reveal extensions to prospective areas concealed beneath sedimentary basin cover.

Both maps are a spatial representation of selected attribute information retrieved and simplified from the national dataset in AGSO's mineral deposit database known as OZMIN (see *AUS.GEO News* 42). This dataset has been compiled from published reference material. It contains comprehensive mineral deposit information covering location, deposit, host rock, and deposit environment characteristics, and includes references. OZMIN has been designed so that attribute information can be retrieved and analysed in relation to spatial data contained in geographic information systems (GIS). The dataset covers almost 61 commodities (including coal).

The maps take in more than 900 of Australia's major current and historic mines and undeveloped mineral deposits. In both maps, currently operating mines and those yet to be developed are labelled with deposit name and commodities whereas historic

mines are labelled by commodity only. Enlargements detailing heavily mineralised areas in the Kalgoorlie and Pine Creek regions appear as insets on each of the map sheets, and a further inset illustrates the distribution of major Australian deposit types through geological time.

The map depicting deposit type has cast Australia's major deposits into 20 categories based on their geological setting and general deposit characteristics. The map illustrating deposit age has been simplified from the detailed age information stored in OZMIN, and depicts 21 age categories at the era and period level (e.g. Cainozoic, Palaeozoic, Jurassic, Ordovician, etc.). For fuller information on each deposit and their relationship to infrastructure, both maps should be read in conjunction with the map 'Australia's Mines and Major Mineral Deposits' produced by AGSO at the same scale in mid-2000 for the Minerals Council of Australia (see *AUSGEO News* 58).

Australia's mineral endowment is a direct result of its geological evolution. Mineral deposits have been discovered and mined mainly where the major crustal elements that make up Australia are exposed and not obscured by younger sedimentary basins and regolith materials. The magnetic image shows the extent of these elements and major structures beneath the basin cover, and reveals the full extent of concealed prospective areas. It is a greyscale total magnetic intensity image of Australia that has been enhanced by a sun-angle illumination from the northeast.

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Thematic Mineral Deposit Maps	Price (A\$) (incl. GST)
'Australian Mineral Deposits by Deposit Type' (laminated print-on-demand colour map) <i>AGSO Catalog # 33286</i>	\$77
'Australian Mineral Deposits by Age of Formation' (laminated print-on-demand colour map) <i>AGSO Catalog # 33285</i>	\$77
Map package (discount of \$55 applies if one copy of each of the above maps is purchased together)	\$132

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