This map was created from the new Surface Geology of Australia digital dataset, which was compiled at 1:1 million scale. The Surface Geology data was compiled by standardising and matching the edges of over 400 geological maps which have been published by Australian Government, State and Northern Territory agencies over the past 40 years.

The seamless digital representation of Australia’s geology over the whole continent and Tasmania at 1:1 million scale provides detailed information on the distribution and type of outcropping bedrock and regolith, such as sand plains and dunes.

This new national dataset contains details of more than 5000 geological units and has a spatial accuracy of between 200 metres and one kilometre, depending on the quality of the original source data. Most of the source geological maps were published at 1:250,000 scale. The new dataset seamlessly resolves differences in geological mapping across all jurisdictional boundaries which existed due to differences in data acquisition methods over time and the development of new geological understanding.

The dataset is the result of a cooperative program involving a team of geologists and cartographers at Geoscience Australia working in partnership with geologists from the State and Northern Territory Geological Surveys. It provides a valuable baseline dataset for regional and national evaluations of resource potential as well as for environmental management and land use decision making.


Segments of the national dataset may be downloaded free from MapConnect. The entire national dataset may be ordered on DVD from the Geoscience Australia Sales Centre ([sales@ga.gov.au](mailto:sales@ga.gov.au)).

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