



The Place To Be

Media release

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VICTORIAN GEOLOGISTS LEAD ON INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Accessing information about the earth's crust in Victoria, and how it links to other states, will become easier from this week, with the launch of two exciting international projects, GeoScience Victoria Director Kathy Hill said today.

Ms Hill said a new language to link together geological datasets from around the world is being launched today and follows the release yesterday by Geoscience Australia of the first detailed map of Australia's geology linking together states and territories.

"Victorian geologists have played a key role in both these projects which will assist decision making around our mineral, energy and groundwater resources," Ms Hill said.

"These two projects are examples of the key role Victoria is taking in advancing technology to piece together both our own and the world's geology.

"By taking a lead in these projects and allowing access to our data, it will encourage international interest and exploration of our vast untapped resources."

Ms Hill said Geoscience Australia yesterday launched Australia's contribution to the OneGeology world map.

"OneGeology aims to develop a geological map of the world at a scale of a minimum of 1:1 million," Ms Hill said.

"Geoscience Australia's contribution combines Australian geological mapping in detail and allows an opportunity to see how cross jurisdiction geology links together. GeoScience Victoria provided comprehensive datasets on Victoria's geology for this project.

"Geology doesn't stop at state borders and this map has allowed the removal of mismatches across borders and for a better understanding of Victorian resources.

"Until now, accessing data from multiple suppliers, such as different state and territory governments, was inconsistent and difficult.

"The launch of the map is the culmination of several years work and Geoscience Australia should be congratulated for compiling this important dataset for the first."

On another international project, geologists from GeoScience Victoria have also played a lead role in developing parts of GeoSciML – or GeoScience Mark-up Language – a new international geological map language being released in the United States today at the 2008 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in San Francisco.

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“GeoSciML will underpin OneGeology and will allow geological datasets to be read and downloaded anywhere in the world. For example, a geologist in Canada or France will be able to access data held in Australia, without needing to reformat or translate it,” Ms Hill said.

“An enormous amount of geological information is currently stored in various databases around the world in varying formats and languages.

“GeoSciML provides a mechanism for managers of this data to make it available without needing to rebuild their databases and will substantially cut data management time for explorers.

“Before GeoSciML, up to 80 per cent of an explorer’s time could be spent converting geological data from one format to another.

“GeoScience Victoria, along with the CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and AuScope Ltd, have been key players in this international project, which has taken five years to reach fruition.

“Both these projects allow us to better understand cross-jurisdiction geology, such as the likelihood that Tasmania’s nickel-rich Avelbury deposit extends into western Victoria, Victoria’s biggest gold-producing provinces continue north into NSW and that our mineral sands deposits extend into NSW and SA.”

More on the OneGeology project can be found at www.onegeology.org