

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**



## Inquiry into greenfields mineral exploration and project development in Victoria

Janet Hergt  
Head of Earth Sciences

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** | This presentation is focussed on:

- Areas in which the earth sciences play a key role
- The earth sciences capacity we have in Victoria
- The different functions of government, universities and the broader industry
- How stakeholders could work together more effectively to enhance exploration (and other) investment in Victoria

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** | The underlying geology is central



Whether looking for gold, mineral sands, base metals, diamonds, oil & gas, coal, or areas prospective for geothermal energy...  
We need to go from this... to this...

...and indeed well beyond a broad interpretation of the surface geology.

Neither Industry nor Universities can undertake this work, Geoscience Victoria is essential

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** | Why do universities have any role to play?

- 'Greenfields' research
  - Our research is not restricted to Victoria, nor as directed in its scope. We can therefore bring new insights, technologies and ideas, often from left field to *complement*, not duplicate, the research of government and industry.
- Education of future Earth Scientists
  - Melbourne & Monash are both MTEC partner universities (2 of the 8 institutions nationwide supported by the MCA)
  - Our graduates have strong broadly-based Earth Sciences expertise, helping to address pressing skills shortages
  - Their employment means the direct uptake of new ideas into the workforce
- Community engagement
  - In some cases, academics are viewed with less suspicion than those thought to have a vested interest (e.g., engagement in geothermal energy)

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** | A strong history of cross-organisational geoscience collaboration



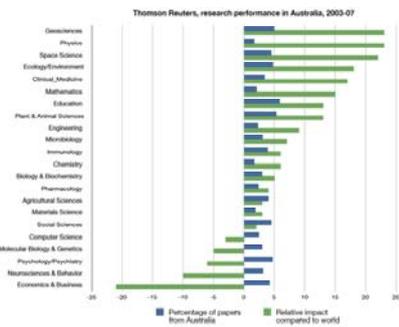
Adelaide, ANU, Curtin, JCU, Melbourne, Monash, UTA, UWA

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** | ...and collaboration with Industry



Taking on the world's toughest energy challenges™

- Geosciences in Australia, punches well above its weight
- The recent ERA exercise confirms research at Melbourne and Monash is both broadly-based and at or above world standard
- The ERA doesn't capture pockets of excellent work also being conducted in Victoria's smaller institutions



- Like Industry, universities have the entire world consider when choosing where to direct their precious resources
- Much has been made of the value of pre-competitive data made available to Industry by GSV but universities also rely upon these sources of up-to-date information



- **State Government:** does not need to undertake all of this work in isolation
- **Universities:** can build on State Government research and develop new technologies and research projects within and outside the mandate
- **Other partners:** Industry and other agencies (e.g., CSIRO) also have a great deal to contribute



Victoria does not lack many of the pieces required to establish a formidable geoscience cooperative but:

- The resources to put them together are lacking
- Some pieces are missing
- We are in the process of losing others



INNOVATION ROAD MAPS FOR VICTORIA'S EARTH RESOURCES  
FINAL REPORT  
AUGUST 2006

Prepared by STEM Partnership Level 2, 4/4 St Kilda Road Melbourne, VIC 3004