



Building a low emissions future

# CCS in Australia's transition to a low emissions future

Enabling industrial scale emission abatement

**Dr Matthias Raab**  
Chief Executive Officer

CCS Technical Workshop, Tokyo, Japan

24 January 2024



# CO2CRC is a world leader in applied CCUS research

We do research and **commercially relevant demonstrations** in CCUS applications.

We build and operate **first of a kind plant and equipment**.

We develop **industry led** technology options to **accelerate commercial deployment**.

We own and operate the **Otway International Test Centre** in South-West Victoria, Australia.



# Collaborative Research at the Otway International Test Centre



Trained over  
60 PhDs



Published more than  
400 peer reviewed  
journal papers



Between 40 – 180  
researchers  
participating in our  
research program at  
any one time

‘CO2CRC is a very successful model for organising a broad group of research providers and industry to accelerate the development of CCS. It has been particularly effective at establishing unique world-class research sites such as the Otway Project. The UKCCSRC values international partnerships, such as the links it has with CO2CRC.’

**Prof Jon Gibbins** Director,  
UKCCSRC

## Research



## Industry



## Government



Carbon capture and geological carbon storage (CCS)

is

***Proven – Safe – Reliable - Necessary***

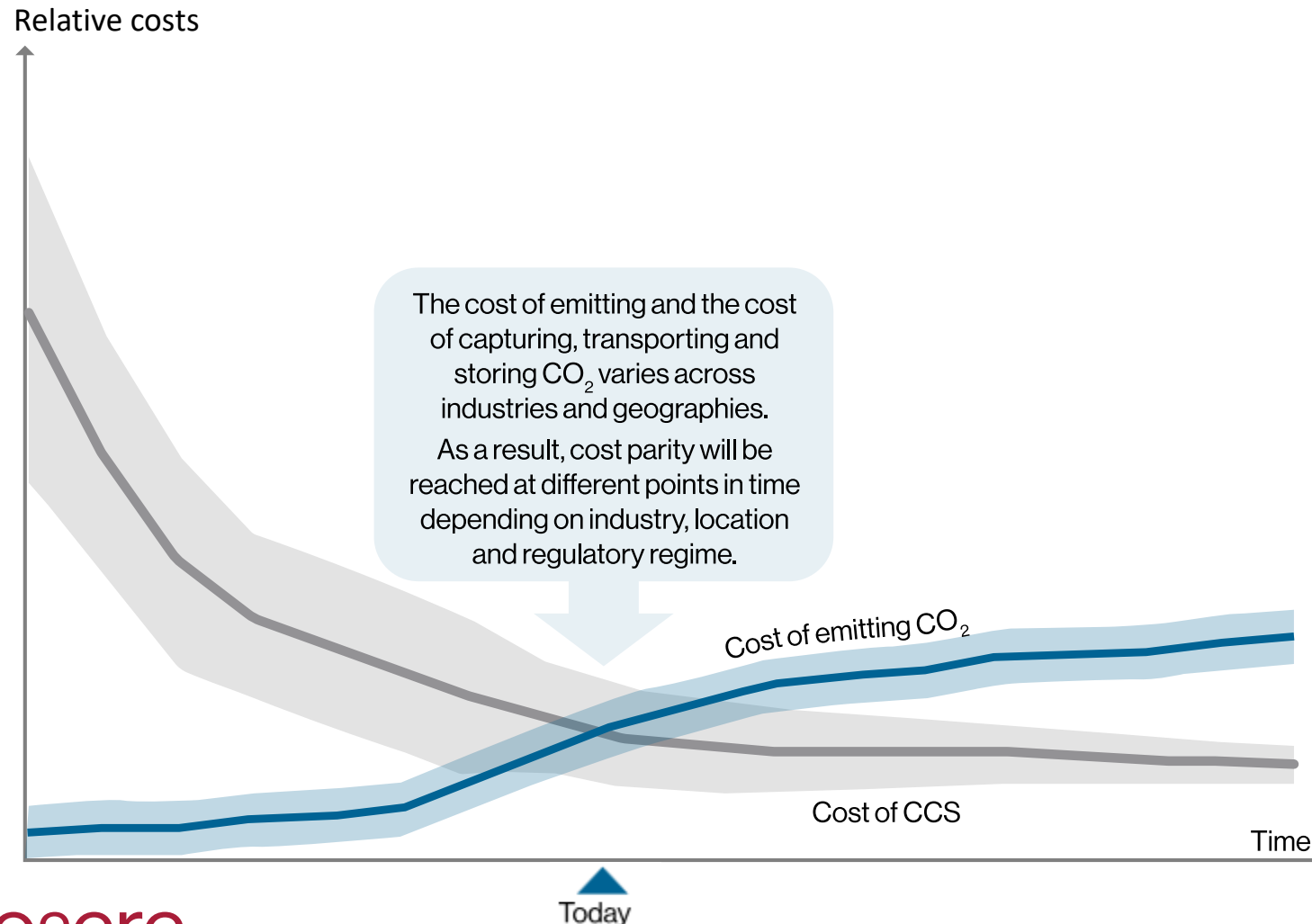
Carbon abatement or climate benefits

are

***Immediate – Permanent – Large Scale***

# Recognising economic value of CCS

## Cost of emitting CO<sub>2</sub> vs cost of CCS



### Cost of emitting



CO<sub>2</sub> tax,  
quotas or both



Regulations  
and targets



Indirect costs/  
"License to  
operate"

### Cost of CCS



Cost of  
capturing





Cost of  
transportation



Cost of  
storing

*Modified after Rystad  
Energy and analysis*

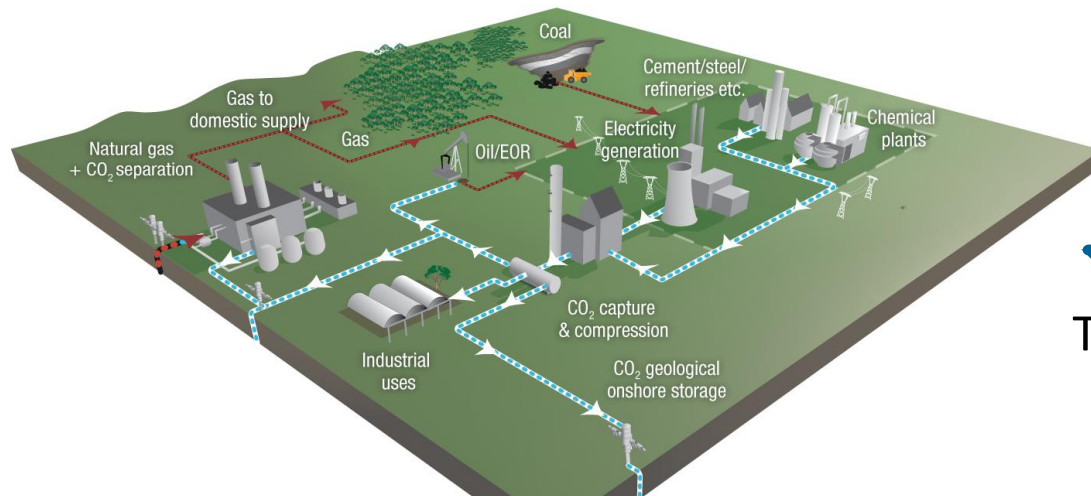
# CCUS: lowest entry cost vs highest impact

	Example facilities emitting CO <sub>2</sub>	Share of total global CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	Estimated cost range for captured CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Concentrated CO<sub>2</sub> Streams</b>	Ammonia <b>Natural gas processing</b> Petro chemical Ethanol	<b>&lt;10%</b>  Emitters of concentrated CO <sub>2</sub> streams exist across 100+ potential sites	 <b>~\$15-50/ton</b>  Lower-cost due to direct compression of CO <sub>2</sub> stream
<b>Dilute CO<sub>2</sub> Streams</b>	Petroleum refining Steel production Cement <b>Coal and gas to power</b>	 <b>~90%</b>  Largest emitters, incl. electricity generation facilities across 1000+ potential sites	<b>~\$45-200+/ton</b>  Additional step to separate CO <sub>2</sub> from stream prior to compression

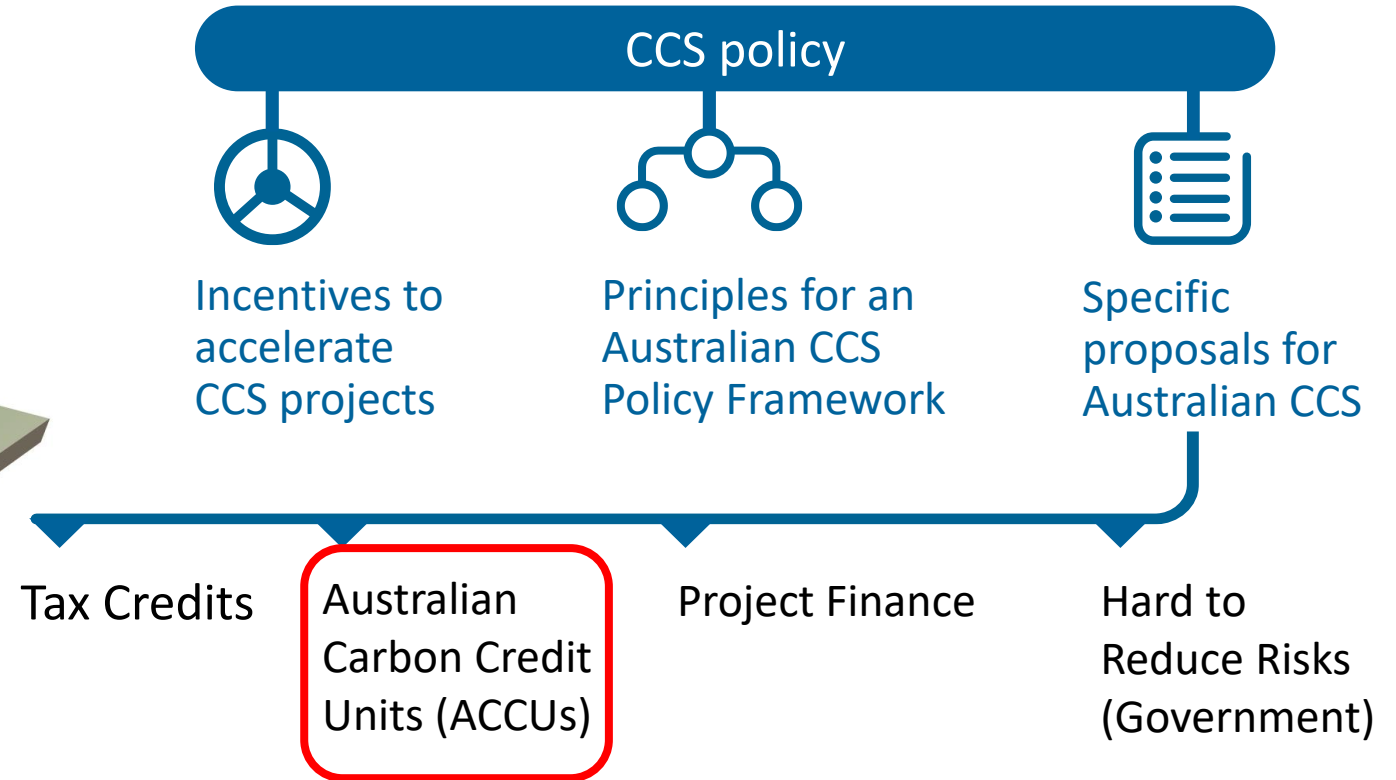
Source: OGCI and US Dept. of Energy (DOE)

# Enabling factors for Australia

Invest into Research & Development in CCS



CCS is an essential technology in Australia's Low Emissions Technology Statement



# CCS projects 2021

- Capture – operational
- Capture – completed

- ◆ CO<sub>2</sub> EOR – feasibility
- ▼ CCS – feasibility
- Storage – operational
- + Storage hub – feasibility

- Major emission nodes
- ◆ Offshore CCS permits
- Basins with potential for CO<sub>2</sub> storage

CCS Flagship project



# CCUS Projects in Australia 2023

- 1 Operational Project
- 1 Final Investment Decision taken
- 14 Projects in feasibility

Legend

Operational

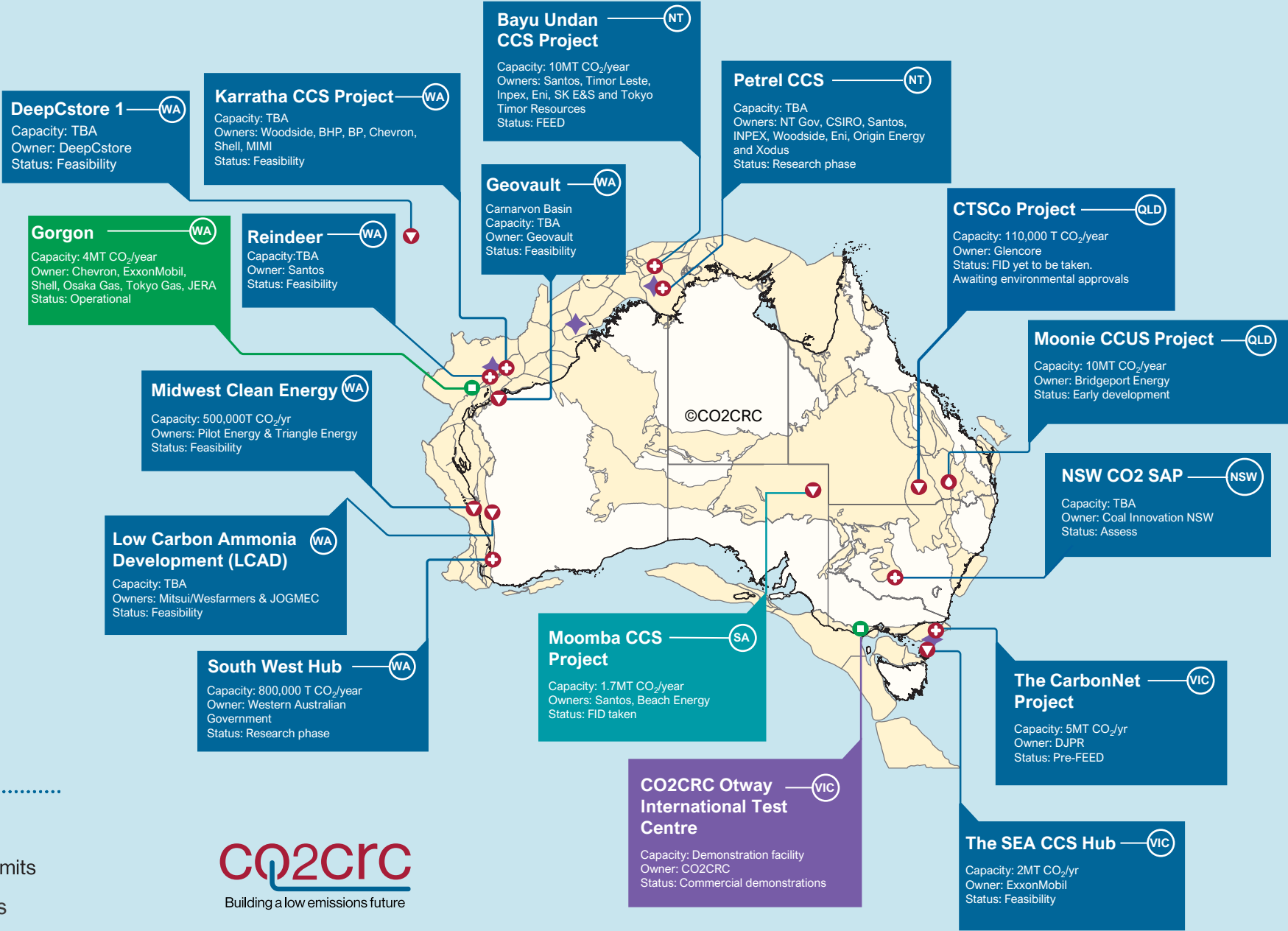
CO2-EOR

CCS

Storage hub

Offshore CCS permits

Geological Basins



# What Does (Or Could) The Future Look Like?

- CCS-CCUS is in a great place in Australia and the future looks bright, with a large number of new and substantial projects in the early to mature phases of evaluation
  - Driven by the wide acknowledgement within industry about the need to decarbonize and more recently by the 43% reduction by 2030 and by the net-zero 2050 targets
  - Most of the projects in the North West Shelf and Timor Sea are driven by LNG (a high-value product)
  - Projects in the South West of WA are mostly driven by the needs of the onshore heavy industrial emitters
  - Projects in southeastern Australia are a hybrid (SEA CCS at Bream and CarbonNet)
  - Substantial projects onshore in eastern Australia (Moomba CCS; Moonie CCUS etc, also hybrids)
- The next 5-15 years will probably represent the major “project roll-out” phase for CCS-CCUS, with a growing number of large projects coming on-stream
- But nothing is guaranteed, and major speed humps exist

# What Could (Possibly) Go Wrong?

- The short answer is lots, including the following:
  - The regulatory framework is a genuine mixed bag
    - Varies state by state, and some states have no framework as yet; South Australia is the best
    - The Federal framework is comprehensive but is over 15 years old (when Windows XP reigned) and is not particularly fit for purpose contains lots of issues and inconsistencies which can produce genuinely perverse outcomes (examples to follow)
  - There are glaring omissions concerning ACCU credits (e.g., for CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR; Direct Air Capture or DAC), which are counter-intuitive and encourage higher emissions and poorer economic outcomes in some geologic settings
  - The regulators know all about petroleum but not necessarily CCS-CCUS
    - Some “*like DAC but not CCS*” (which suggests that tag and release is the goal) and so education is critical
  - The science supporting CCS (e.g., monitoring and verification) is moving fast and is not reflected in the regulations (e.g., “old school” emphasis on 4D seismic for plume monitoring etc.)

# CO2CRC's Otway International Test Centre



CO2CRC's Otway International Test Centre enables field scale research and development of CCUS technologies for commercial deployment.

# Otway International Test Centre

## Key Success Factors



**At scale investment** - Long term Government and Industry funding



Focused on **accelerating Australia's transition to a low emissions future**



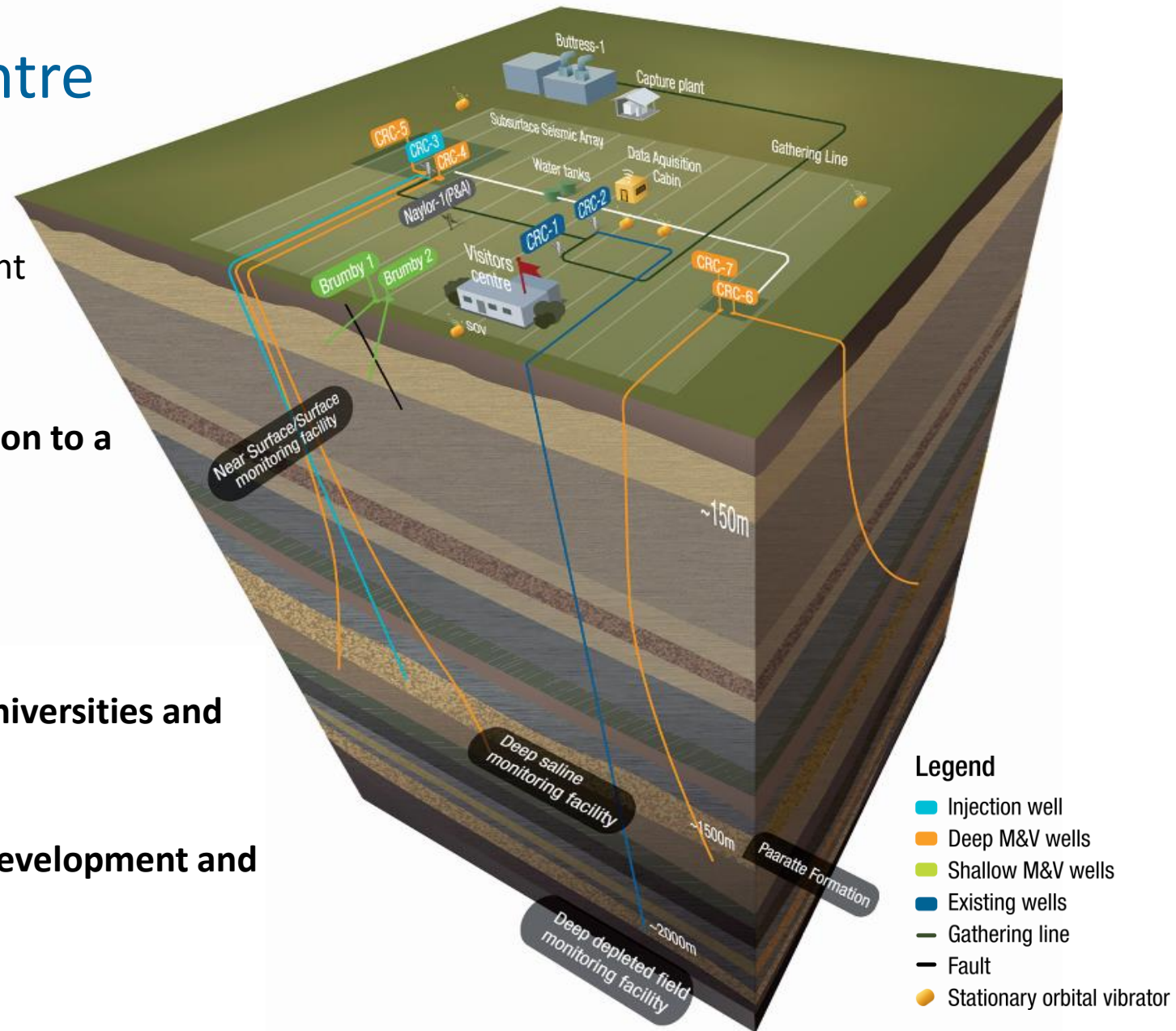
**Industry led Research**



Well-established **collaboration between universities and industry**, nationally and internationally



**Globally unique test centre to accelerate development and commercial deployment of technologies**



# Otway International Test Centre

## Otway Stage 1 (Concept): 2004 – 2009

- ✓ Demonstrated safe transport, injection and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> into a depleted gas reservoir

## Otway Stage 2 (Risk Reduction): 2009 – 2019

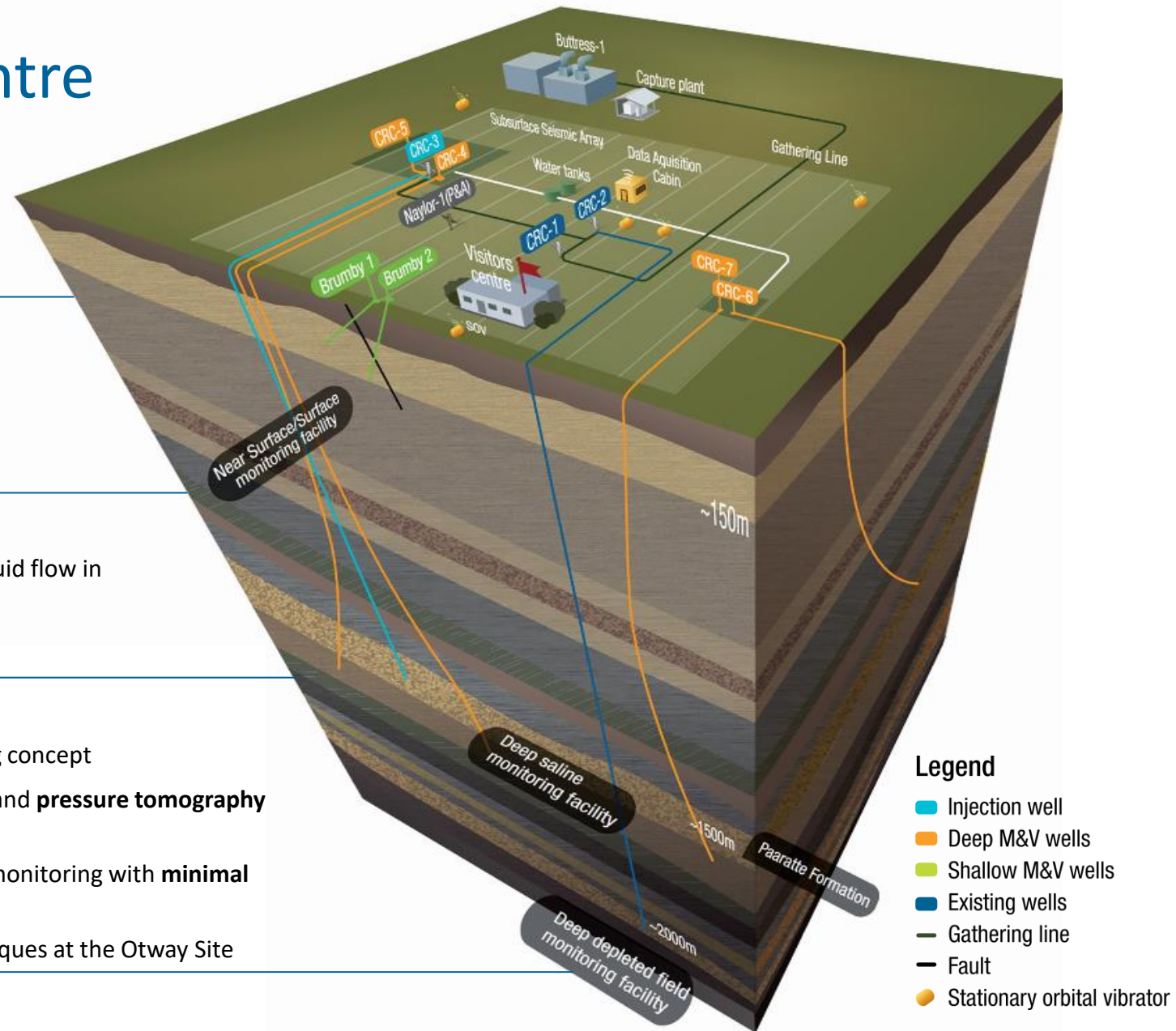
- ✓ Demonstrate safe injection of CO<sub>2</sub> into a saline formation
- ✓ Stage 2B – Near well residual & solution trapping characterisation
- ✓ Stage 2C – Minimum detection, 4D M&V & Plume stabilisation

## Otway Shallow CO<sub>2</sub> Migration

- ✓ Improve capability to predict the role of faults in controlling CO<sub>2</sub> fluid flow in the near surface;
- ✓ Improve near surface monitoring capabilities

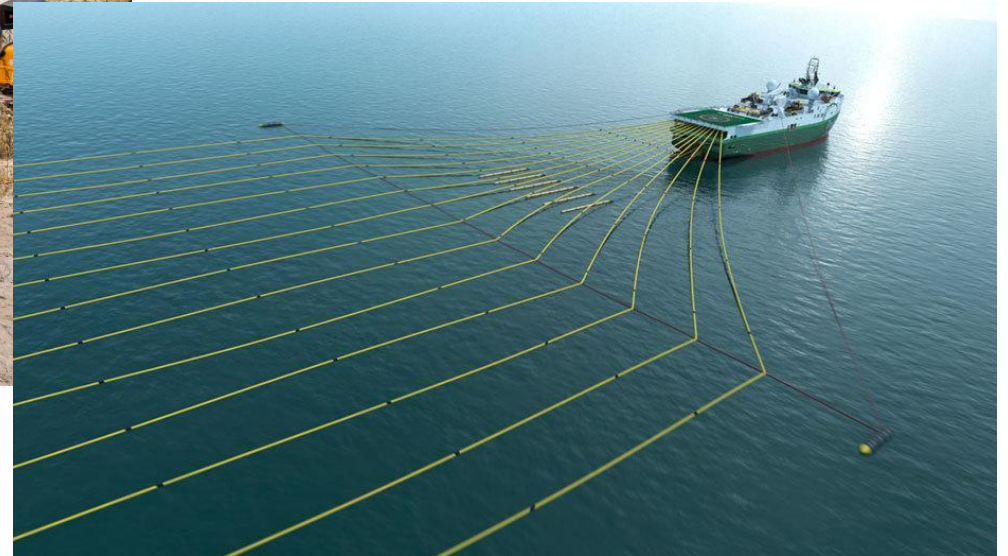
## Otway Stage 3: 2012 – 2022

- ✓ Develop an “on-demand”, sub-surface and permanent monitoring concept
- ✓ Two primary technologies - **sub-surface seismic data acquisition** and **pressure tomography** (4 new monitoring wells)
- ✓ Field test the various techniques to demonstrate **lower cost CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring** with **minimal surface and environmental impact**
- ✓ Demonstrate **regulatory and community acceptance** of the techniques at the Otway Site



# Breakthrough technologies

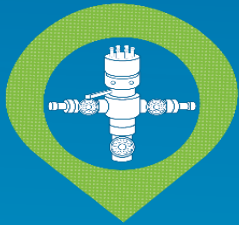
# In order to see, the industry needed:



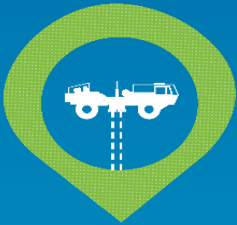
# DE-RISKING THE STORAGE OF CO<sub>2</sub> IN SALINE FORMATIONS

Saline formations have the greatest potential for CO<sub>2</sub> storage globally. Their utilisation will be necessary to ensure we remain within the COP21 2C target.

## 2015–2019



15,000  
TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>



THROUGH THE MONITORING AND VERIFICATION OF 15,000 TONNES OF INJECTED CO<sub>2</sub> WE WILL VALIDATE SALINE ROCK FORMATIONS FOR CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE BY:



VALIDATING THE ACCURATE MODELLING OF CO<sub>2</sub> STABILISATION AND TRAPPING IN A SALINE FORMATION

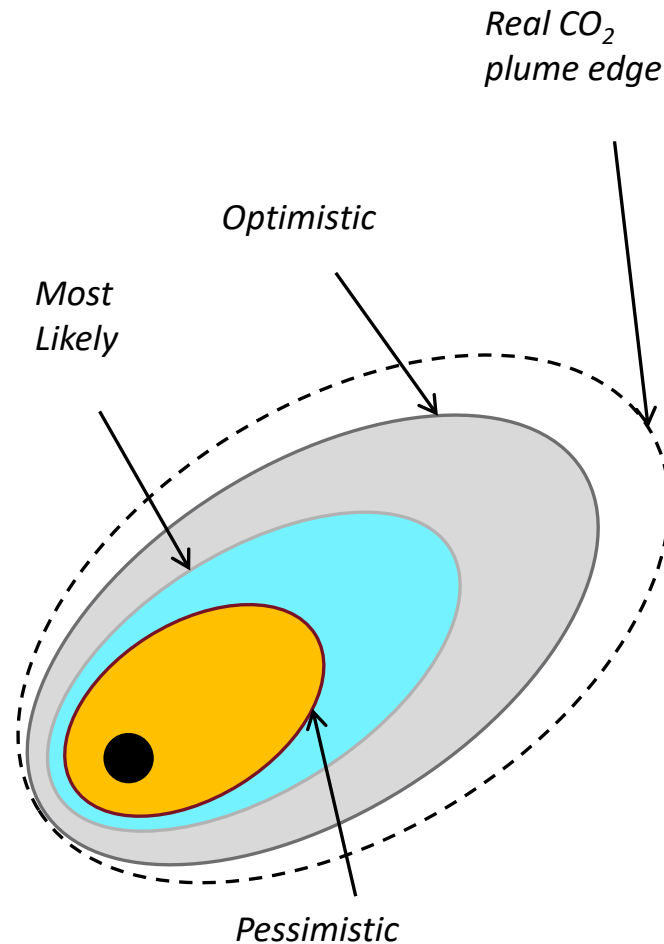


UNDERSTANDING THE SAFE STORAGE CAPACITIES OF THIS RESOURCE



DEMONSTRATING THE MINIMUM DETECTION LEVEL OF CO<sub>2</sub>

## Stage 2 Objectives



**Demonstrate safe saline formation storage**

**Characterise saline formation processes**

**Main injection phase objectives:**

- **Detect injected CO<sub>2</sub> and establish minimum detection threshold**
- **Observe gas plume development in TL**
- **Verify stabilisation of the injected plume**

# Monitoring Program



Geophones

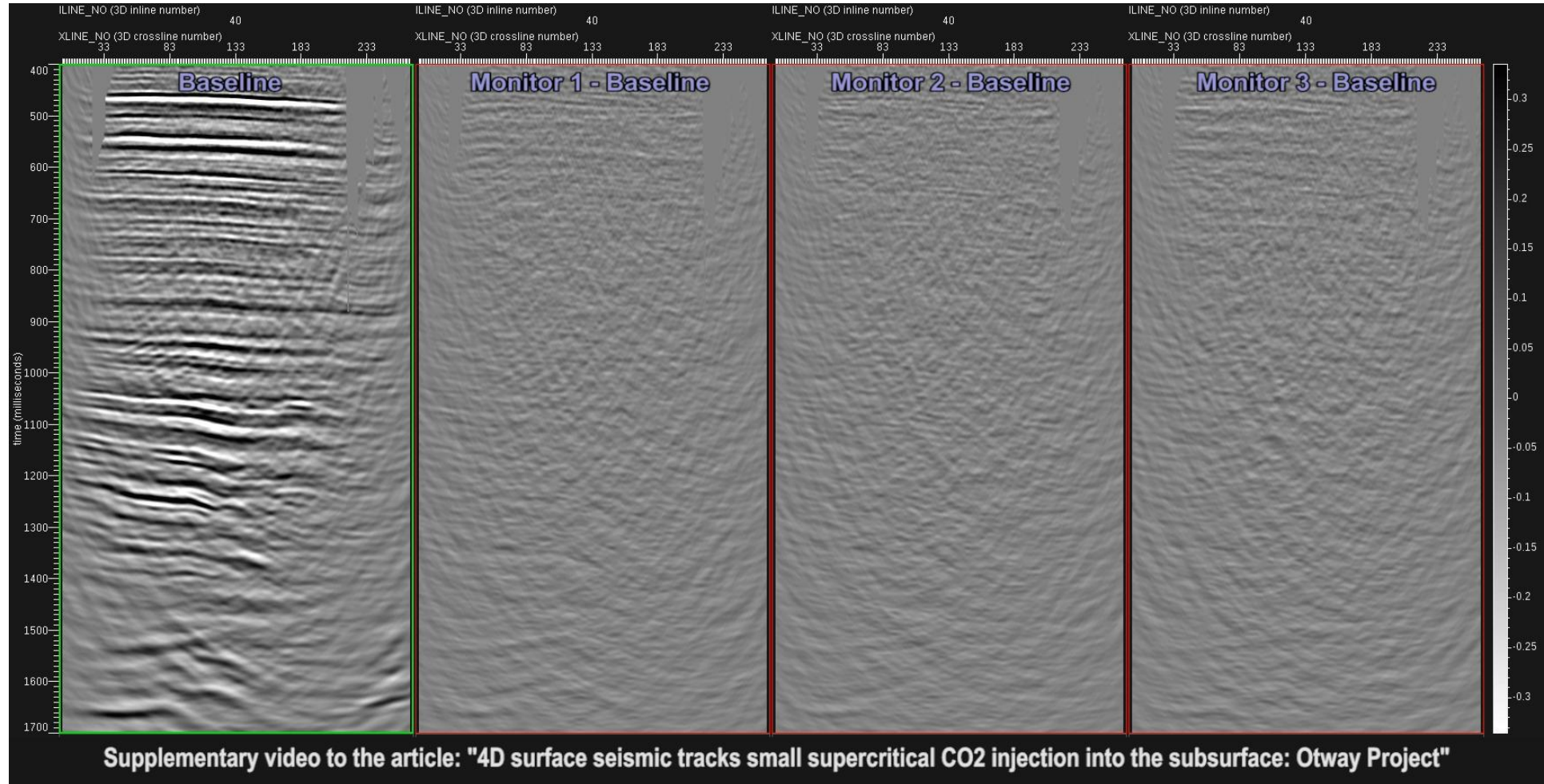


Fibre optic cable

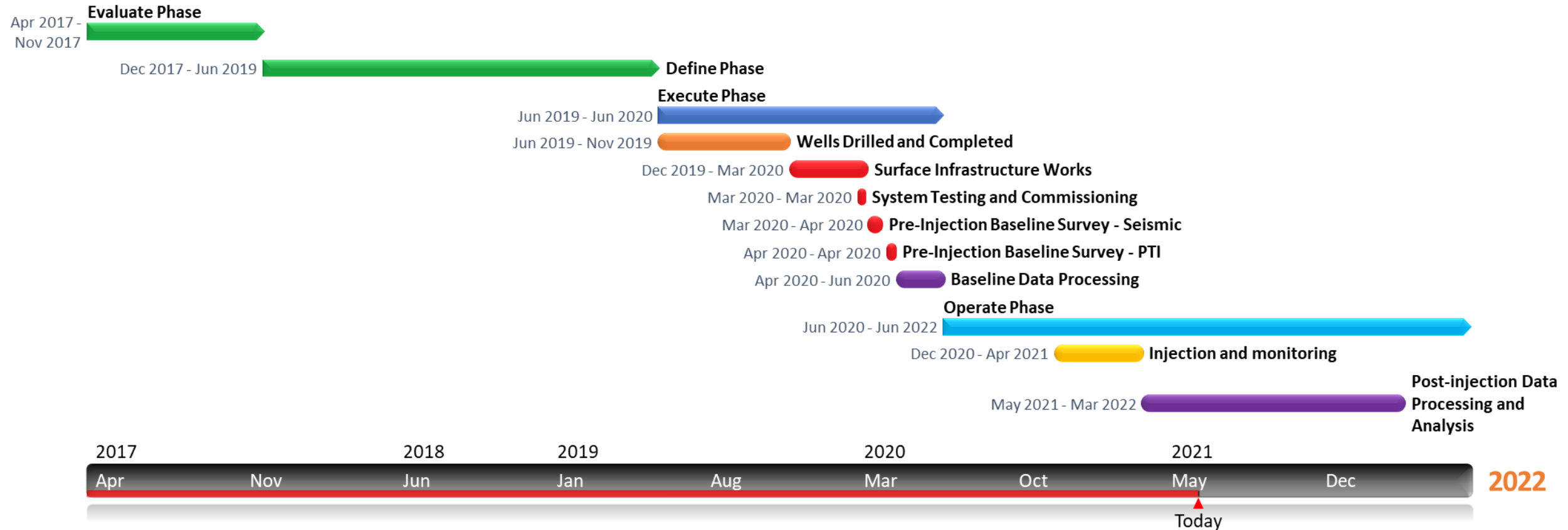


Deployed in  
Trench

# How confident can we be?

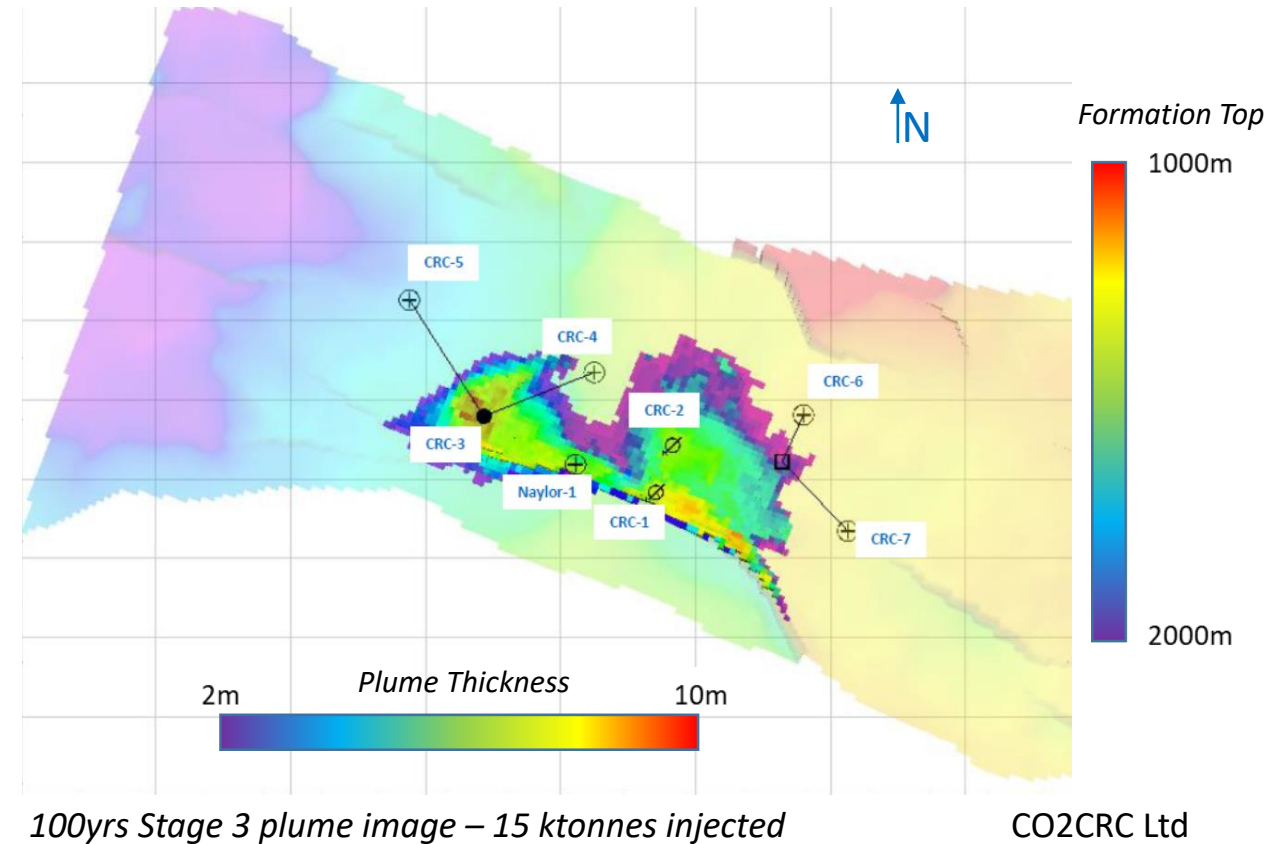


# Stage 3 Overall Project Timeline



# Plume Modelling

- Paaratte formation is known to “up-dip” from West to East
- Prior movement of the Stage 2C Plume
- Known impermeable fault south of CRC-3
- Various dynamic model probability realisations
- Desire to keep monitoring wells out of the plume



# Stage 3 Execution – Wells Infrastructure

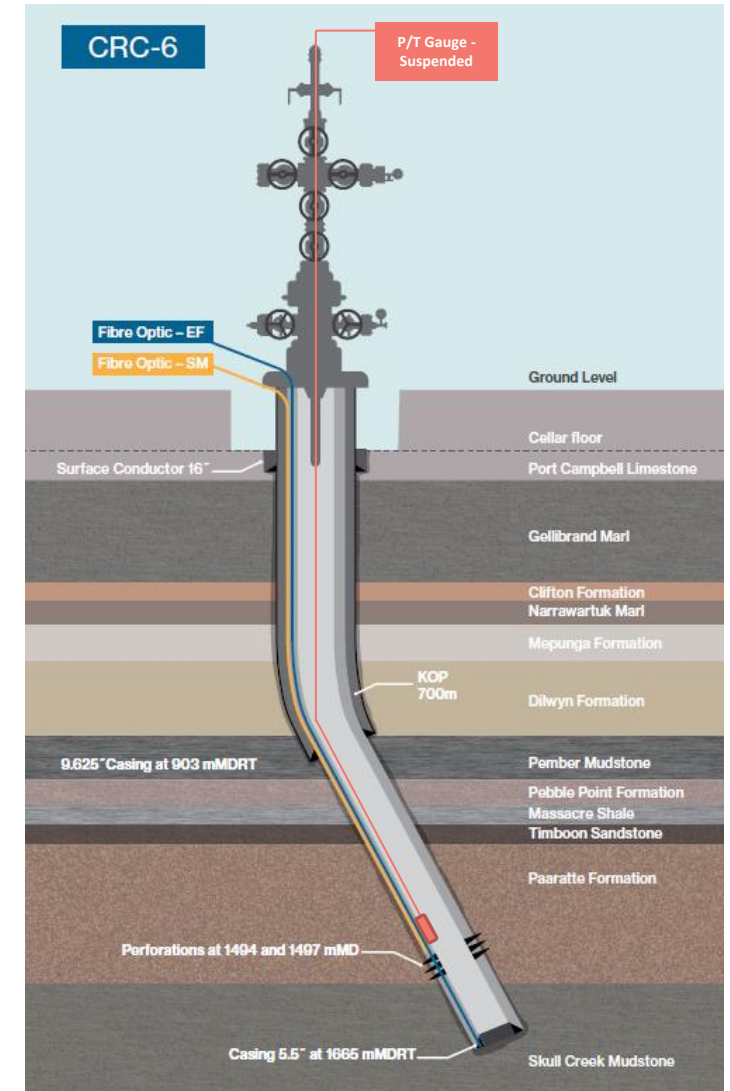
**Project Technical Objective:** to be able to observe the growing gas plume in the reservoir using the innovative technologies of Downhole Seismic and Pressure Tomography

- Wells drilled directionally from 2 x wellpads
- Positioned specifically to monitor the injection
- One Vertical Injection Well – CRC-3
  - Tubing and packer completion
  - 1,650m depth
  - 15,000t injection CO<sub>2</sub> supercritical condition
- 4 directional monitoring wells – CRC 4,5,6,7
  - 2 close monitors; 2 “far field” monitors
  - CO<sub>2</sub> compliant metals and cement
  - Water injection capable



# Wells Design for Injection and Monitoring

- June to October 2019, 4 wells drilled for monitoring and 1 appraisal well completed for injection
- **CRC-3** Injection well was completed for full CO<sub>2</sub> contact with a tubing and packer, single zone perforated completion;
- **CRC-4 to 7** Monitoring wells (see image) were deviated wells; monobore, single zone perforated completions with suspended instrumentation; designed for CO<sub>2</sub> contact but are operationally water injector wells



# Well Instrumentation

## Injection Well

- 2 x Engineered TEF\* cemented outside of casing and looped at TD
- 1 x Engineered TEF clamped to tubing and looped at TD
- P&T gauges at reservoir depth (positioned above and below injection zone)
- Wellhead P&T
- Injection line P&T



## Monitoring Well

- 2 x Engineered TEF\* cemented outside of casing and looped at TD
- P&T gauge at reservoir depth suspended from wellhead (TEC clamped to suspension cable)
- CRC-4: 1 x SM/MM TEF suspended from wellhead (clamped to suspension cable)
- Wellhead Pressure

# Stage 3 Execution – Surface Infrastructure

**Project Technical Objective:** to be able to observe the growing gas plume in the reservoir using the innovative technologies of Downhole Seismic and Pressure Tomography

- Buttress Gas Plant located 2km north of the site – Source of CO<sub>2</sub> for the experiment
- Gathering pipeline from Buttress Plant through to CRC-3 (~3.5km total length)
- 9 permanent vibrators (replacing vibroseis trucks) (7 new)
- Legacy water injection facility with new water distribution system

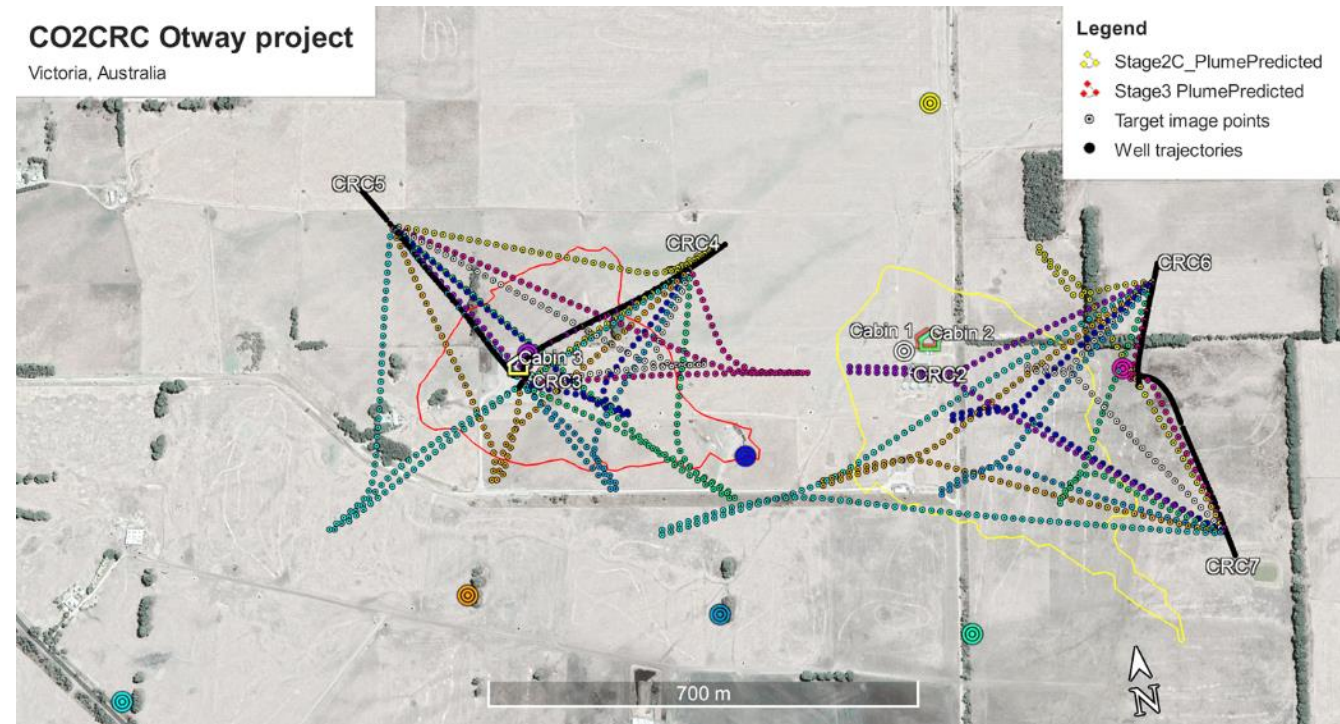


# Stage 3 Operational Summary

1. **Gas Injection Operation** – provide a plume for testing of innovative monitoring techniques
  - Commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 and utilised Buttress for injection to well CRC-3
  - Injection of ~15,000 tonnes to a saline aquifer at ~140 tonnes per day
  - 3 intervals: 4,400 tonnes; 8,100 tonnes; 2,550 tonnes = total injection of 15,050 tonnes
  - Paused injection used to perform monitoring activities
2. **Seismic Surveys** – Benchmarking of the plume using accepted techniques
  - Baseline (pre-injection survey) M6 in March and April 2020
  - Monitor surveys at 4,400 tonnes (Jan21, M7) and 12,500 tonnes (Mar21, M8)
3. **Pressure Monitoring Activities - Testing Stage 3 Technologies and Techniques**
4. **Seismic Monitoring Activities - Testing Stage 3 Technologies and Techniques**

# Risk based monitoring through downhole seismic and SOV/DAS

- To use permanent sources and in well fibre optics to provide multiple transects throughout the injection area and monitor plume evolution.
- **The system was configured to provide a new image of the site every 2 days.**
- The system commenced data acquisition in Jun 2020.
- **It first detected the gas plume on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of injection with ~300 tonnes injected.**

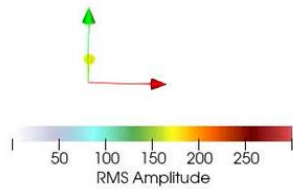


# Seismic Operations

## Learnings and Challenges

- The system operated with limited operator contact as required
- It first detected the gas plume on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of injection with ~300 tonnes injected
- Processing the seismic data onsite and reducing data volume (~1GB/day) for offsite data transfer and final processing was critical
- Significant learning were taken from how the fibre optics performed during the operations – particularly in conjunction with water injections
- Passive seismic monitoring has proven to be a useful complement to monitor the injection and unlocks new possibility for using natural seismicity for plume identification





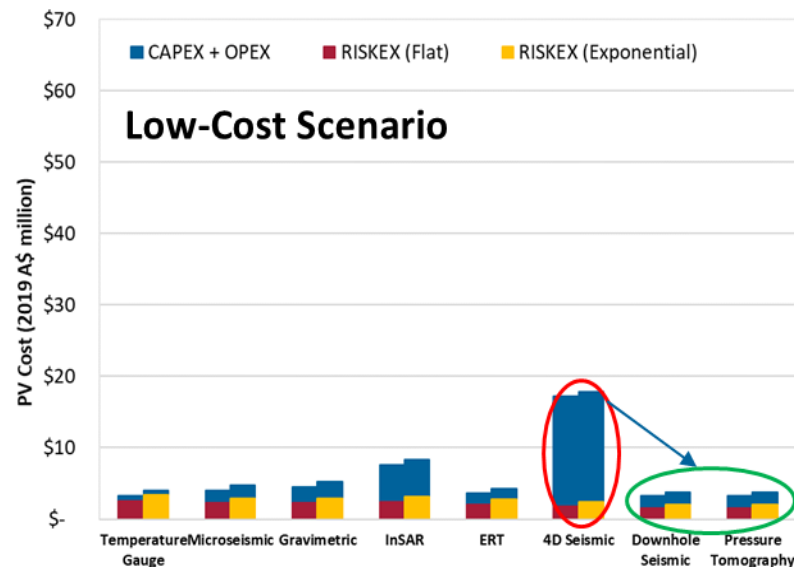
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# Development of cost-effective monitoring technologies

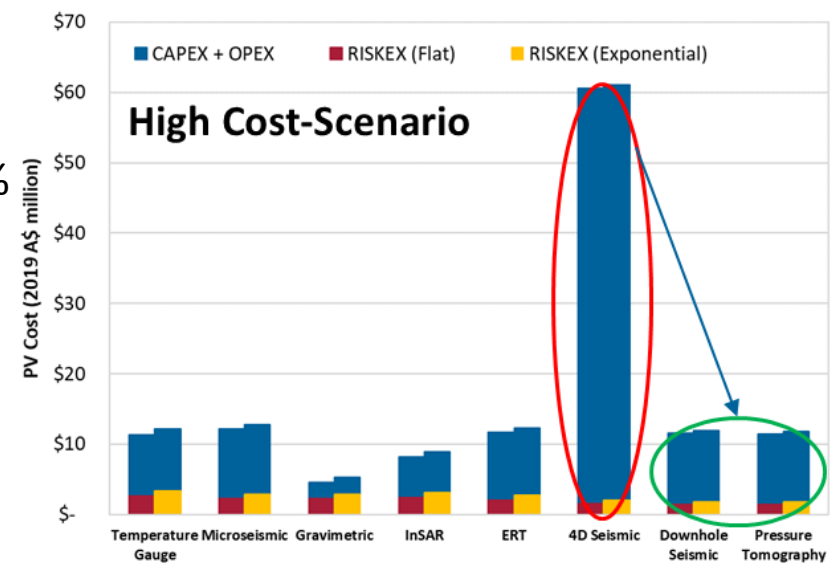
- CO2CRC has trialled **cost effective monitoring** technologies as part of Otway Stage 3 project.
- Both probabilistic and risk based methodologies were deployed to perform **techno economic analysis**
- The analysis shows the CO2CRC novel technologies can save **up to 85%** of the monitoring cost

85%



- Using existing wells as monitoring wells
- 3D seismic is required every 5 years
- A baseline 3D seismic does already exist

75%



- New monitoring wells are required to be drilled
- 3D seismic is required every 2 years
- A baseline 3D seismic needs to be acquired

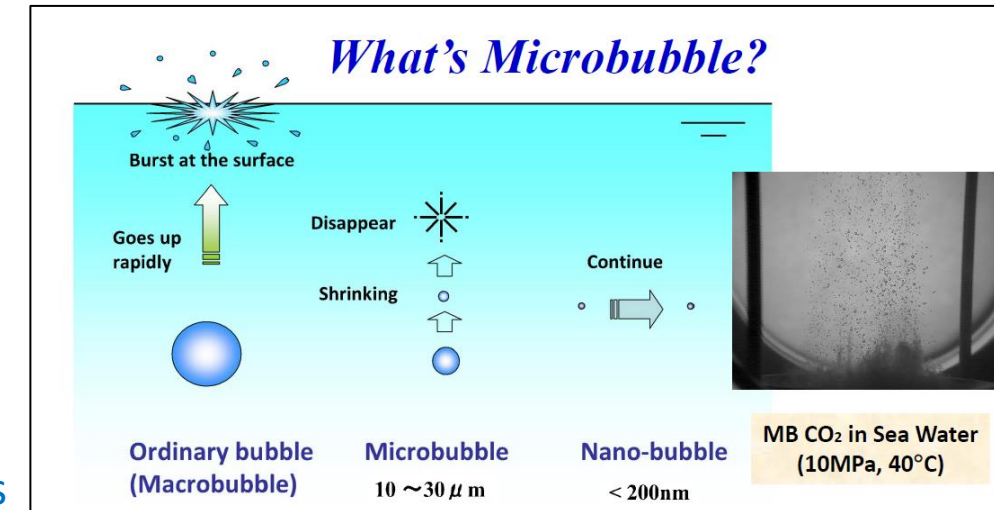
# Next: Advancing novel injection technology

through international collaboration with Japan's with Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth (RITE)

Improve sweep efficiency and enhance the storage capacity.

- The main advantages of MB CO<sub>2</sub> injection are:
  - Higher dissolution into the oil/water
  - better penetration into smaller pore spaces which allow more storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in same reservoirs
  - reduce preferential CO<sub>2</sub> flow into high permeable streaks which delays CO<sub>2</sub> breakthrough time
  - Lower injection pressure at the bottomhole helping to achieve higher gas injection rate in the same injection well

Figure from RITE's presentation



# Otway Stage 4

The next major international research program at  
The Otway International Test Centre in Australia

# Otway Stage 4 Goal & Outcomes

## Otway 4 Program Goal

Demonstrate commercially-focused reservoir management technologies to improve injection, storage, and monitoring efficiencies, and thereby materially lower project costs.

## Otway 4 Program Outcomes

- Provide a minimum 20% increase in CO<sub>2</sub> storage efficiency for commercial storage.
- Unlock poorer quality storage systems' capacity for commercial CO<sub>2</sub> storage.
- Improved modelling workflow, with sufficient predictive capacity to support performance-based closure.
- Storage 'performance' monitoring which is fit-for-purpose and low cost.
- A suite of technologies and workflows that can be selected to create bespoke solutions which optimise the use of CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity while minimising capital and operating costs.

# OITC Forward plans – 2028+

## Otway Stage 4: 2020 – 2026

- ❖ Demonstrate commercially-focused reservoir management technologies to improve injection, storage, and monitoring efficiencies, and thereby materially lower project costs.

## Otway Shallow CO<sub>2</sub> Migration (Injection) 2022 - 2025

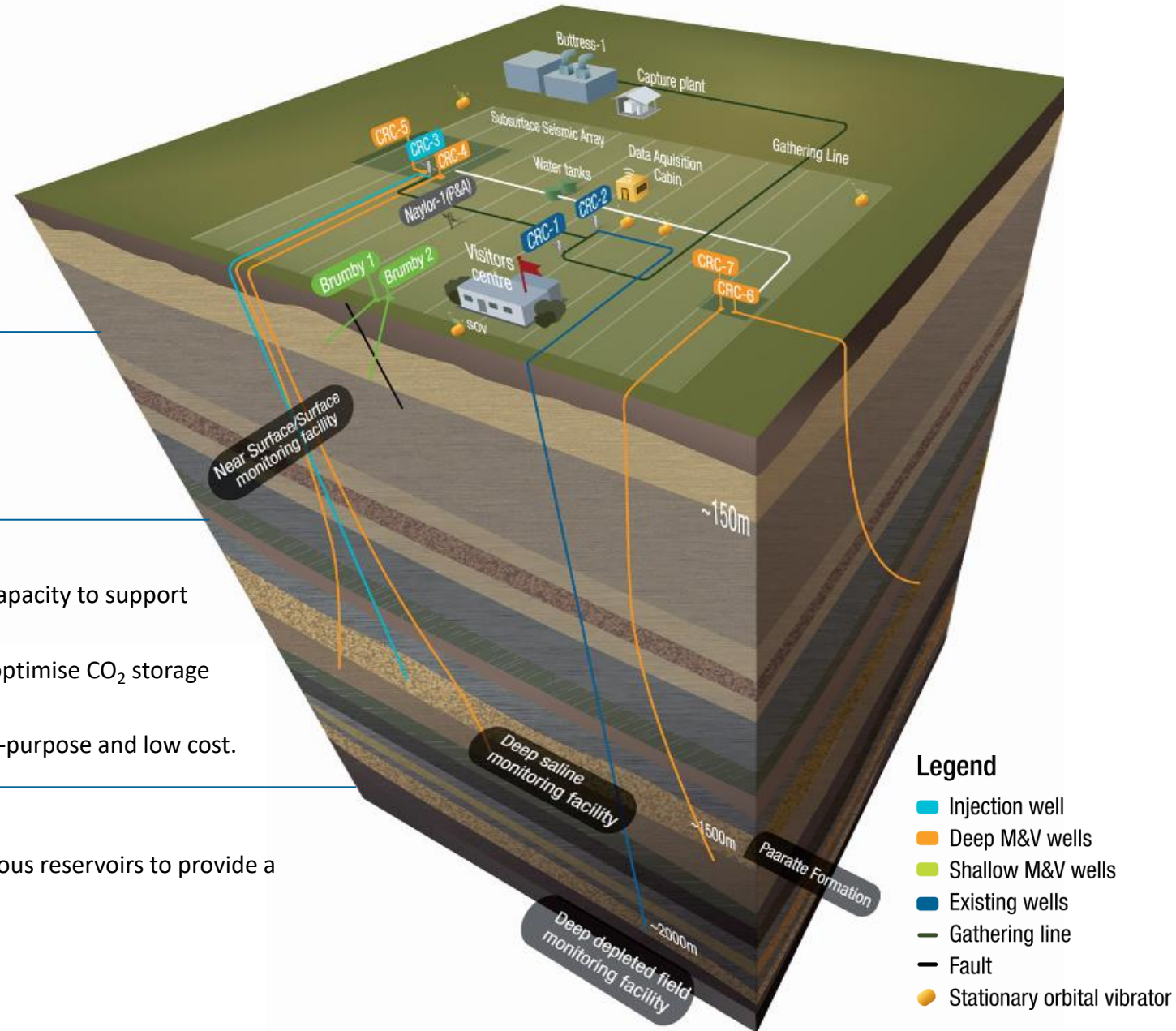
- ❖ Distributed Strain Sensing and Reverse VSP trials
- ❖ Assessment of capability to predict the role of faults in controlling CO<sub>2</sub> fluid flow in the near surface

## Otway Deep Projects (Optimisation): 2020 – 2027

- ❖ Improved modelling workflow, with sufficient predictive capacity to support performance-based closure.
- ❖ Demonstrate a suite of technologies and workflows that optimise CO<sub>2</sub> storage usage while minimising capital and operating costs.
- ❖ Develop storage 'performance' monitoring which is fit-for-purpose and low cost.

## Underground Hydrogen Storage Demonstration: 2021 – 2028

- ❖ Field scale demonstration of underground hydrogen storage in porous reservoirs to provide a platform for technology development.



# Nuancing the energy transition with CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR

# CO<sub>2</sub> Utilisation : CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Potential in Australia

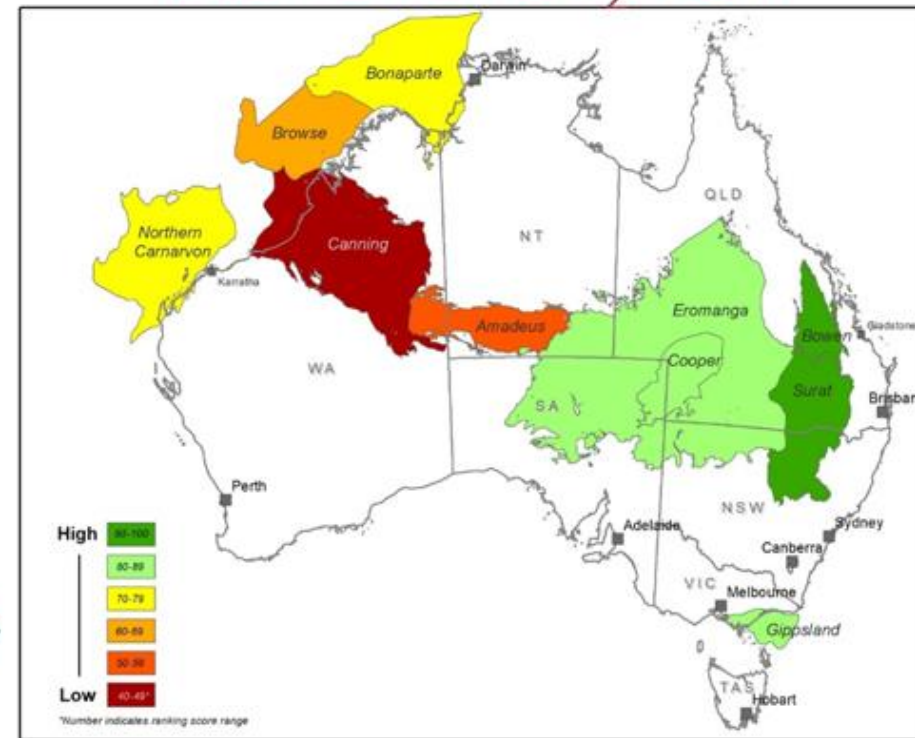
## CO<sub>2</sub> EOR potential in Key Australian basins

Basin	PRO (mmbbl)	PR Condensate (mmbbl)	kgCO <sub>2</sub> /bbl oil		
			300	600	900
			million tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> required		
Cooper/Eromanga	145	32	53	106	160
Bowen/Surat	13	2	5	9	14
Gippsland	945	80	308	615	923
Carnarvon	809	340	345	690	1035
Bonaparte	209	120	99	198	296
Canning	11	6	5	10	16
Amadeus	9	1	3	6	8
Browse	11	243	76	152	228

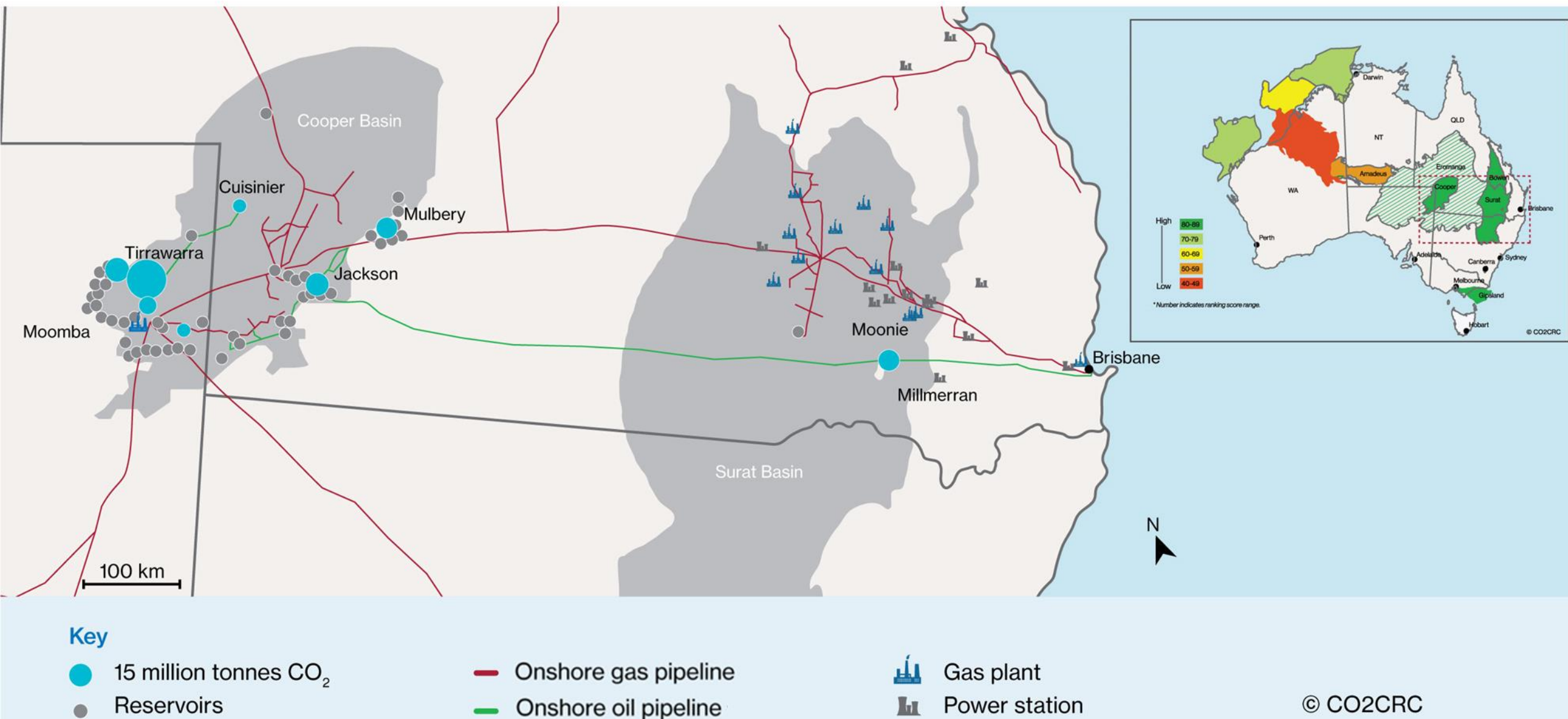
The ranking above is based on **subsurface** and **infrastructure** properties and recoverable oil and associated CO<sub>2</sub> storage is not included



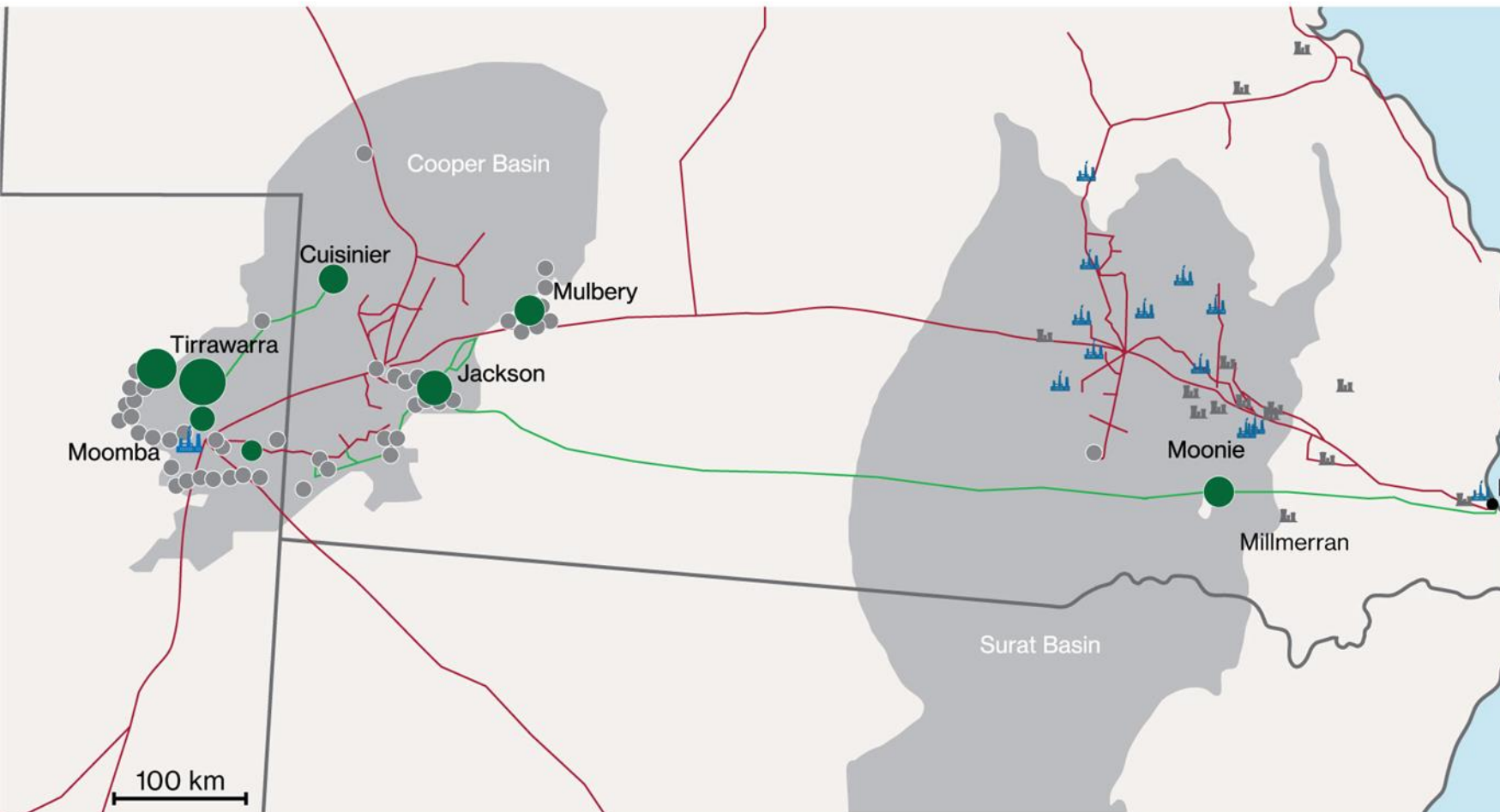
## Ranking of Australian basins for CO<sub>2</sub> EOR



# CO<sub>2</sub> storage potential during EOR



# Potential of enhanced oil recovery using CO<sub>2</sub>

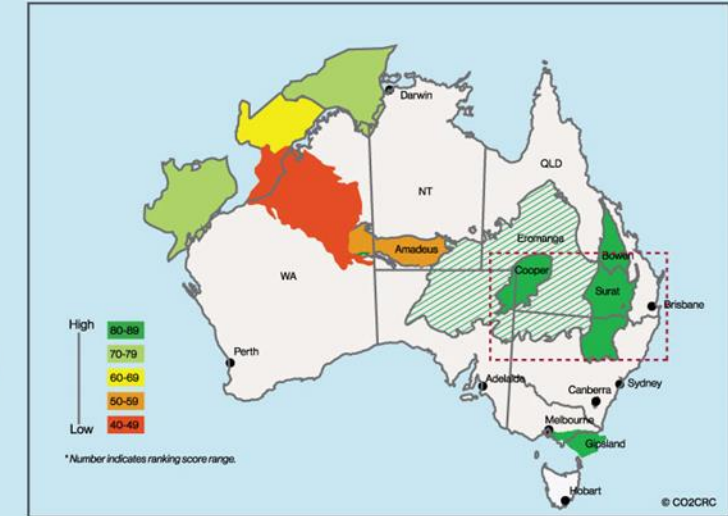


## Key

- 25 million barrels
- Reservoirs

- Onshore gas pipeline
- Onshore oil pipeline

- Gas plant
- Power station



- 120 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> could be stored in the Cooper-Eromanga and the Bowen-Surat Basins, and
- an additional 250 million barrels of crude oil could be technically recovered through applying CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR.

# A reality check or The reality challenge

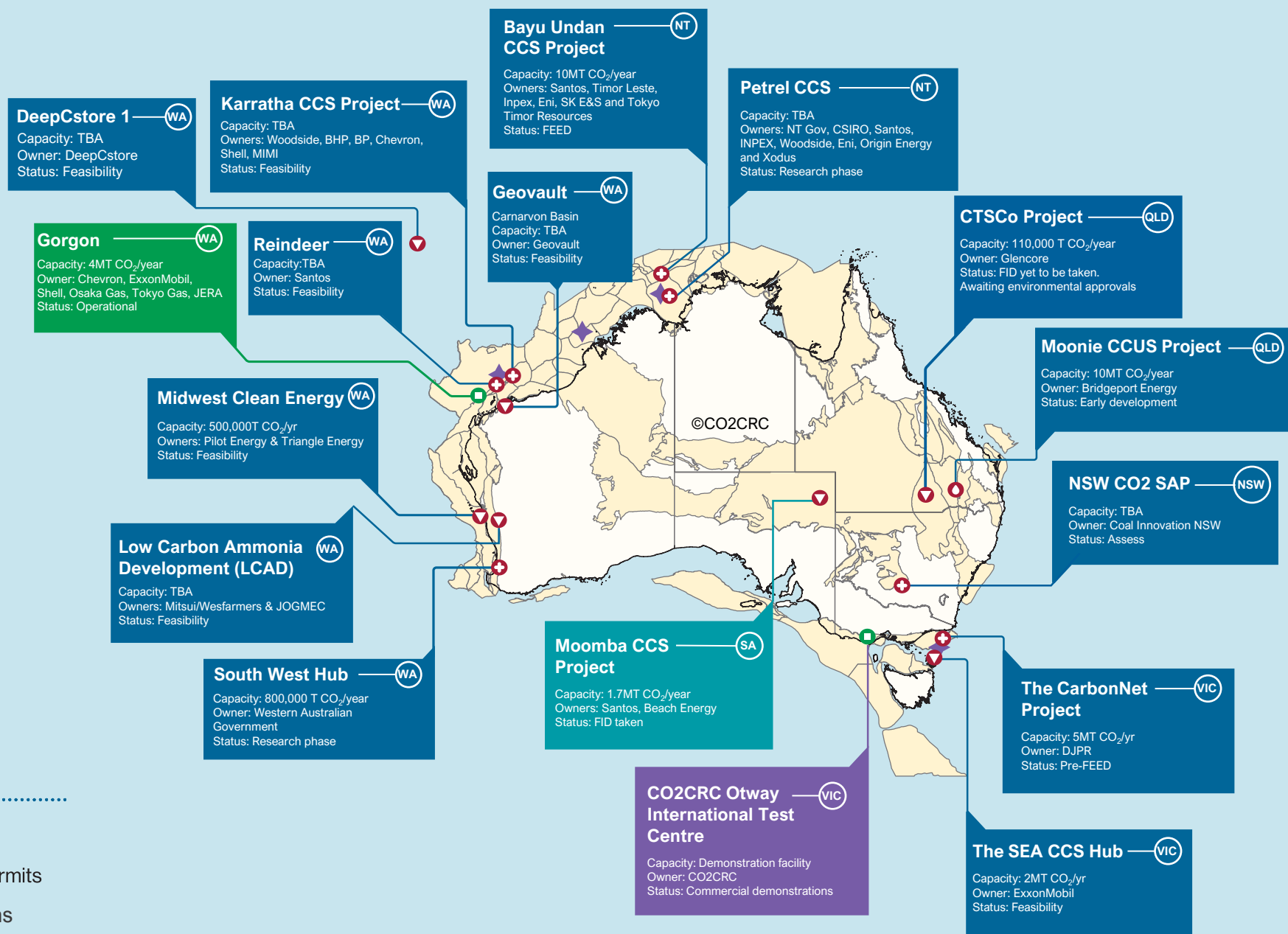
Technology, policy, London Protocol, economics and legislation

## CCUS Projects in Australia 2022

- 1 Operational Project
- 1 Final Investment Decision taken
- 14 Projects in feasibility

### Legend

- Operational
- + Storage hub
- CO2-EOR
- ◆ Offshore CCS permits
- ▼ CCS
- Geological Basins





# Collaboration between Australia and Japan

RITE and CO2CRC signed an MOU in June 2021 to collaborate and **accelerate CCUS technology advancements**.

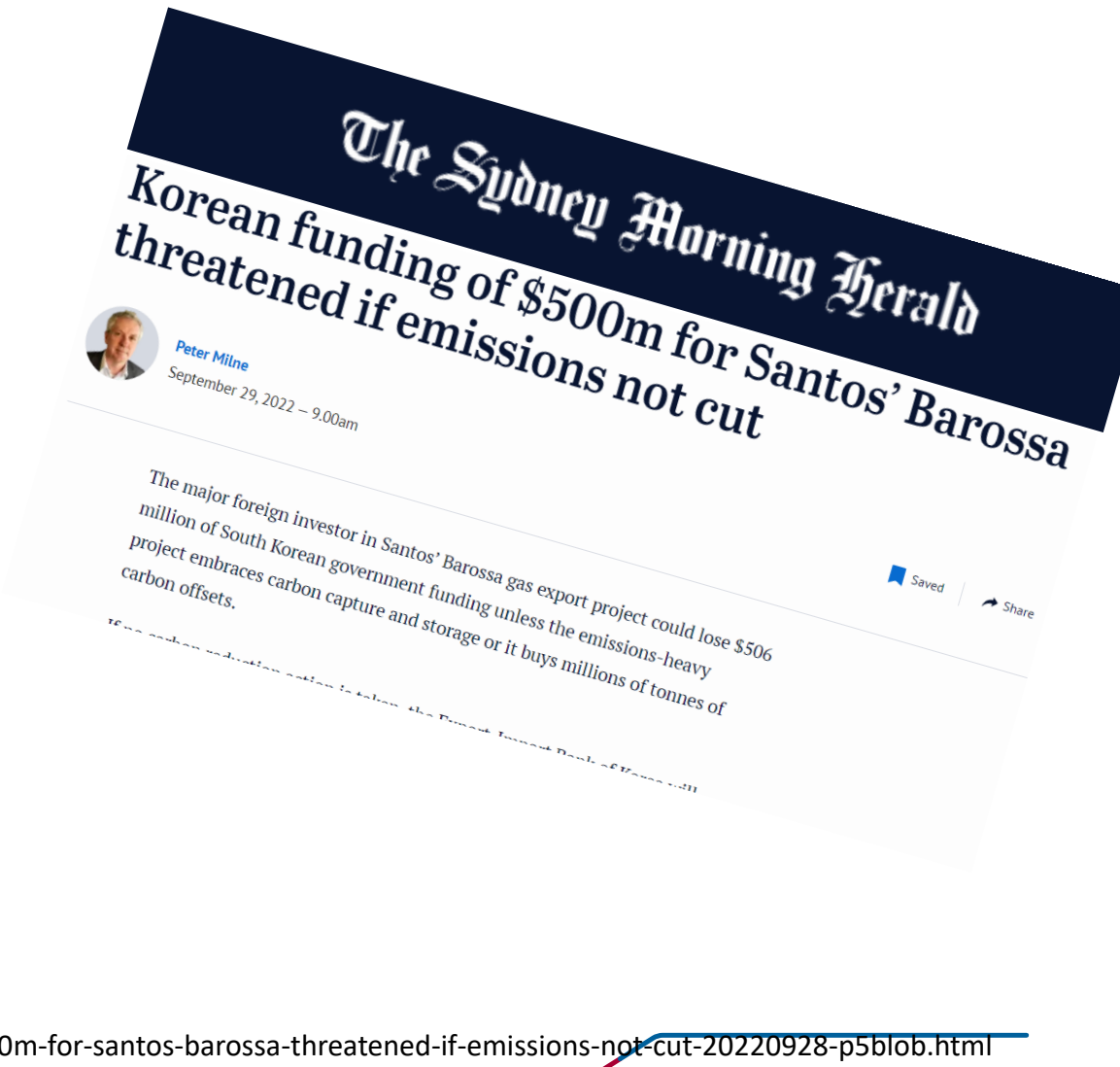
In detail:

- Australia and Japan have ambitious 2030 emission reduction targets; CCUS is a key technology
- To trial RITE's microbubble CO<sub>2</sub> injection for both CCS and CO<sub>2</sub> EOR,
- To trial fibre optic sensing for near surface CO<sub>2</sub> leakage monitoring,
- To trial pressure measurement through fibre optic sensing,
- To develop Geological Modelling Techniques for Geological CO<sub>2</sub> Storage and to propose those projects for funding to the respective governments.

## From Recent News closer to home

### KEXIM reported to be reconsidering \$500m loan to SK E&S project if emissions not cut

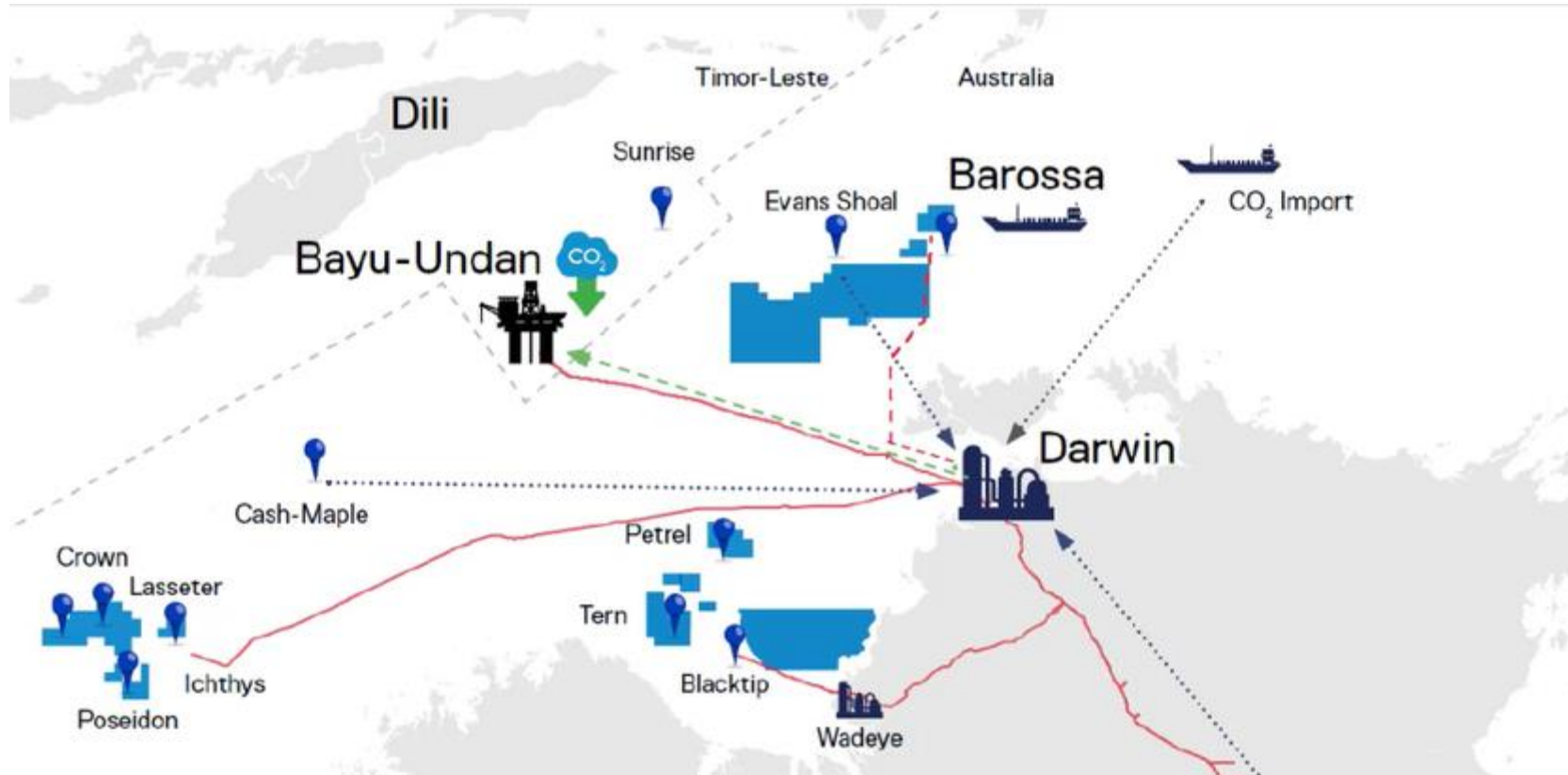
- Barossa gas export project could lose \$506 million of South Korean government funding unless the emissions-heavy project embraces carbon capture and storage or it buys millions of tonnes of carbon offsets.
- If no carbon reduction action is taken, the Export-Import Bank of Korea will consider it a **breach of contract** and take action to recover the \$US330 million it loaned SK, which owns 37.5 per cent of Barossa, according to a response from the bank to a question from a South Korean parliamentary representative.



# The opportunities for Transboundary CCS

- There are several new gas developments/expansions in Northern Australia which are looking to utilise offshore CCS in order to be consistent with commitments to meet net zero emission goals in Australia and in Japan.
- This is the future for new gas/LNG and for blue hydrogen in the Asia Pacific region.
- This would be a world-first, CCS and Clean Energy Hub based around Darwin.
- It would provide clean energy to the Republic of Korea.
- It would unlock billions of dollars of investment for Northern Australia and critically, provide a significant long-term revenue stream for Timor Leste to supplement its rapidly declining petroleum revenue.
- Critically, the Bayu Undan CCS Project will also act as the cornerstone of a CCS infrastructure and skills hub that will facilitate the development of many other gas fields in northern Australia and the Timor Sea

# Northwest shelf assets



# The potential for transboundary CCS

- Estimated total storage capacity of more than 250 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Estimated injection rate of more than 10 MtCO<sub>2</sub> pa
- Existing wells, platforms and pipelines for potential CCS use
- Based on production data, the Bayu Undan reservoir has a proven seal and high injectivity
- CO<sub>2</sub> from the Barossa field could be the foundation customer with 2MtCO<sub>2</sub>+ pa, enabling
  - CO<sub>2</sub> from other Australian assets, such as Barossa and Ichtyis via new pipelines, **and**
  - Transboundary CCS via ships e.g. from Japan

# The challenges for transboundary CCS

- Transboundary shipment of CO<sub>2</sub> is currently banned under Australian domestic legislation (Sea Dumping Act), in line with the original provisions of the London Protocol.
- In 2009, the Contracting Parties to the Protocol agreed to an amendment to Article 6 to provide for transboundary shipment, recognising the essential role international CCS projects can play in meeting global climate objectives.
- Australia supported the amendment but has yet to formally ratify the change and enact its provisions through modification of its domestic legislation.
- The legislative amendments to the Sea Dumping Act are drafted, and they are waiting on the authority to introduce it into Parliament in 2022.
- However, before they can take a final investment decision, it is imperative that Australia ratifies the 2009 amendment to the London Protocol and align/amend its domestic legislation to allow for the transboundary shipment of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Australia is an innovation  
powerhouse  
to trial novel technologies

# Next: testing the feasibility of underground Hydrogen storage for Australia

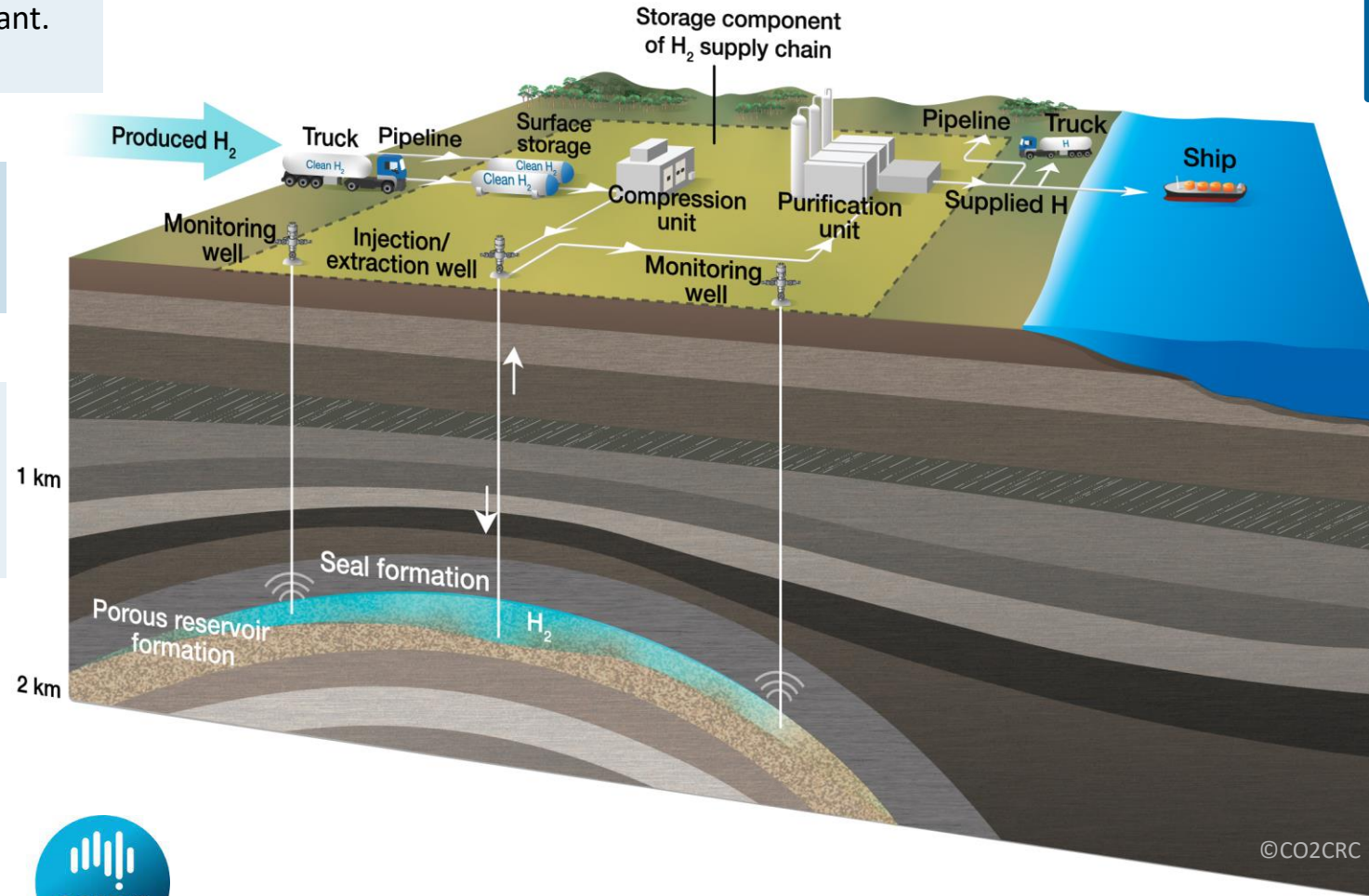
Storing large volumes of hydrogen becomes increasingly important.

Large fluctuations between supply and demand need balancing.

Large scale underground hydrogen storage could provide an attractive option.

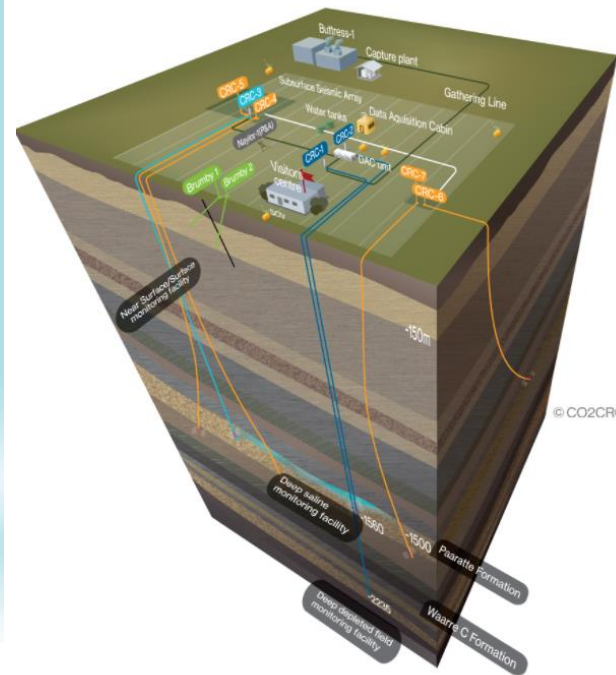
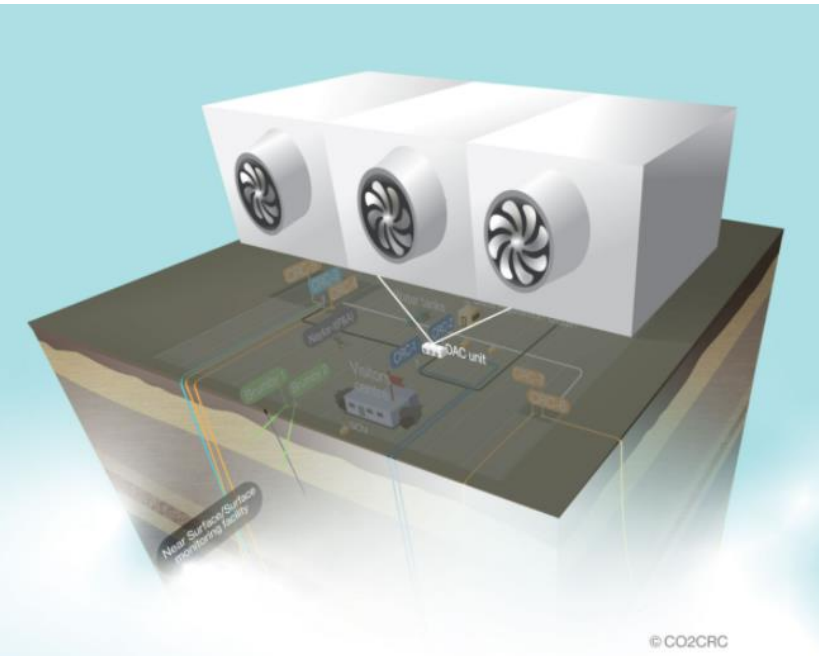
Australia can move quickly to a field scale demonstration of the technology.

A successful trial could accelerate the uptake of this technology in Australia.



# Direct Air Capture (DAC)

Overarching Objective: Field testing and demonstration of Direct Air Capture (DAC) to support of DAC development and reduction of capture cost. Potentially FOAK - DACCS (end to end) demonstration in OITC.



## Key Value Propositions & Benefits:

- The OITC infrastructure has been & ideal for DACCS pilot testing and demonstrating.
- Highly instrumented subsurface facilities; CO<sub>2</sub> injection can commence within 6-9 months of project start-up.
- Potentially 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind DAC-CCS (end to end) pilot test for CO<sub>2</sub> storage in a porous reservoir.
- Full operational support tailored to customer requirements.
- OITC can support multiple DAC units with fully flexible operation, can be tailored for either short or long-term operation.
- Potential to support continuous DAC-CCU R&D in the future to increase carbon utilisation besides sequestration.
- Optimising DAC and CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration operation to reduce the cost of DACCS

# What Do We Need To Fix And Why Does It Matter?

- Without CCS-CCUS, it will be impossible for the world to reach net-zero by 2050 and indeed, impossible for Australia to reach a 43% reduction by 2030; we must choose *Glory Over Death!*
- GHG storage is moving from the R&D (which has a low regulatory impact) to the major roll-out phase for multiple projects, wherein both the Australian GHG regulatory system and its regulators are going to be stress-tested within a charged political and social environment
- Our science is advancing rapidly (especially in MMV) but the regulations are static and so there is a potential disconnect between regulatory expectations and the industry's technical capacity and capability, now and into the future, which will require a high level of communication between all of the interested parties (in effect, mutual, continuous education and feedback)

CO2CRC acknowledges and appreciates the strong relationships it has with industry, community, government, research organisations, and agencies in Australia and around the world



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Energy and Resources



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Department of Education, Skills and Employment



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