

Budget 2014 full of paradoxes

The 2014–15 Australian Budget tabled by the Treasurer, Joe Hockey, on 13 May 2014 is one of the more unusual budgets I have encountered. It is full of paradoxes and unexplained directions. For example, we are told on the one hand, there is a budget crisis and the government will fix it. On the other hand, we are going to buy fifty-eight more F35 Joint Strike fighter planes (making a total of seventy-two) at a cost of \$12 billion as part of increasing defence spending to 2% of GDP. Yet, no arguments have been made to suggest that we are in any more danger now than we were one year ago, or considerations that drone technology may well overtake the need for most of the reconnaissance roles of the F35s in the not too distant future.

The government is going to scrap the carbon tax, which generates about \$4 billion per year, despite its effectiveness in reducing carbon emissions from electricity generating plants, and that most people are not even aware they are paying this tax. Nearly everybody, however, will feel the increase in petrol excise imposed by the government without the benefit of generating anything like \$4 billion per year. In addition, the Direct Action plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions – where a \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund, paid for by the taxpayer, will be established to pay the biggest polluters to reduce their carbon emissions – is just another example of an unnecessary expense.

The government is introducing a \$7 co-payment charge on everyone who goes to see a GP, has a blood test or an image taken. However, the revenue generated is not going to help in reducing the deficit if it is going towards a new \$20 billion research fund to cure diseases.

It should be noted that the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is already set to receive \$1 billion in 2014–15, which is more than the \$905 million allocated for the whole of

Agency	Resources 2013–14 (\$M)	Resources 2014–15 (\$M)
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	314	366
Australian Research Council	913	905
Australian Institute of Marine Science	52	62
Bureau of Meteorology	346	344
CSIRO	1305	1252
Geoscience Australia	135	130
NHMRC	878	1000

the Australian Research Council (ARC). Furthermore, there does not appear to be any new programmes to improve the health of the nation by preventing diseases or tackling chronic life style afflictions. It seems to me that the national research effort is in danger of being distorted in favour of curing rather than preventing. In any case, Australia is unlikely to have the capacity to manufacture or market any new drugs discovered: profits are not likely to return to Australia, but will go to the Pfizers of this world.

The 2014 budget proposes to maintain the savage efficiency dividends (2% per year) on government agencies introduced by the previous Labor government. This is a lazy way of cutting government programs without any proper prioritisation. I would have thought that in this day and age, when we rely so heavily on science and technology, the government science programmes might have been spared or even expanded, but this is not to be.

The table below summarises the resource allocations for the main science agencies, taken from the budget papers.

As you can see ANSTO, AIMS and NHMRC appear to have had their budgets increased, whilst all the others are going backwards. Geoscience Australia has a \$5 million reduction; on top of this will be reductions in external earnings from other government departments, because they cannot afford GA's services.

The other strange announcement in the budget is the allocation of the entire new

infrastructure funding to building more roads, mostly in and around Sydney and Melbourne, where the benefits will probably be only temporary (most new roads in cities seem to become clogged very soon), and in the apparent absence of a national cost benefits analysis.

For me, infrastructure should include a whole range of systems, such as water storage and supply, sewerage systems, waste management, electrical grids and telecommunications; in other words, systems that improve the nation's living conditions. All we seem to be getting are more roads near the major cities – mid-20th century thinking.

For one-tenth of the costs of the roads proposed we could build a National Broadband Network (NBN) to service just about everybody. This would allow more people to work at home or away from the congested cities...but then, that is only my suggestion!



David Denham
denham1@iinet.net.au

Update on the Geophysical Survey Progress from the Geological Surveys of Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and WA Department of Water (information current on 8 May 2014)

Tables 1–3 show the continuing acquisition of the airborne magnetic, radiometric, gravity and AEM data of the Australian continent respectively.

Geoscience Australia (GA) managed all surveys. Select locality maps accompany Tables 1 and 2, shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Further information

on these surveys is available from Murray Richardson at GA via email at murray.richardson@ga.gov.au or telephone on (02) 6249 9229.

Table 1. Airborne magnetic and radiometric surveys

Survey name	Client	Contractor	Start flying	Line (km)	Spacing AGL Dir	Area (km ²)	End flying	Final data to GA	Locality diagram (Preview)	GADDS release
Kalgoorlie East & Kurnalpi North	GSWA	Thomson Aviation	5 Aug 13	122 000	100 m 50 m E–W	Kalgoorlie: 11 000; Kurnalpi N: 11 000	100% complete at 15 Mar 14	TBA	Issue 165 (Aug 13) p. 11	TBA
Widgiemooltha North	GSWA	UTS Geophysics	25 Jul 13	92 000	100 m 50 m E–W	8200	100% complete at 27 Jan 14	Expected 8 May	Issue 165 (Aug 13) p. 11	TBA
Menzies South	GSWA	GPX Surveys	28 Nov 13	92 000	100 m 50 m E–W	8200	100% complete at 16 Mar 14	Expected 15 May	Issue 165 (Aug 13) p. 11	TBA
Kurnalpi South	GSWA	UTS Geophysics	28 Jan 14	92 000	100 m 50 m E–W	8200	92.0% complete at 4 May 14	TBA	Issue 165 (Aug 13) p. 11	TBA
Coompana	GSSA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Survey design is underway	The proposed survey may cover all or part of Noorina, Wyola, Cook, Coompana, Nullarbor, Ooldea, Maurice, Wells and Birksgate standard 1 : 250 000 standard Map Sheets				
Dunmarra	NTGS	TBA	TBA	102 500	400 m 80 m N–S	The Quotation Request was released on 29 April, closing on 15 May. The proposed survey covers the Katherine, Larrimah, Hodgson Downs, Daly Waters, Tanumbirini and Newcastle Waters standard 1 : 250 000 Map Sheets				
Yalgoo	GSWA	TBA	TBA	108 000	100/200 m 50 m E–W	The Quotation Request is in preparation by GA. The proposed survey covers the four 1 : 100 000 Map Sheets centred at the common point (117°E, –29°E) of the Yalgoo, Kirkalocka, Perenjori and Ninghan standard 1 : 250 000 Map Sheets				

See Figures 2 and 3 for the locality maps of the Southern Thomson and Gippsland Basin surveys respectively. TBA, to be advised.

Table 2. Gravity surveys

Survey name	Client	Contractor	Start survey	No. of stations	Station spacing (km)	Area (km²)	End survey	Final data to GA	Locality diagram (Preview)	GADDS release
WA Reconnaissance Gravity Surveys Stage 3	GSWA	TBA	TBA	Approx. 53 900 in total across 7 proposed surveys	2.5 km regular grid and 2 km road traverses	TBA	TBA	The Quotation Request opened on 28 Jan 14 and closed on 27 Feb 14	The proposed surveys are located in: 1. Ngururrpa Region, 1 survey: Stansmore and surrounds 2. NE Yilgarn, 4 surveys: Herbert-Rober, Throssel, Sir Samuel and Wiluna-Nabberu 3. SW Yilgarn, 2 surveys: Perth and Albany	
West Amadeus	NTGS	TBA	TBA	TBA	4 km regular with areas to be defined for 2 km infill	45 050	The Quotation Request was released on 23 Apr and closes on 8 May. The proposed survey may cover all or part of Mount Rennie, Bloods Range, Petermann Ranges, Ayers Rock, Lake Amadeus and Mount Liebig standard 1 : 250 000 standard Map Sheets			
Southern Thomson	GA/ GSNSW/ GSQ	TBA	TBA	3660	8 traverses at 333 m station spacing	TBA	The Quotation Request was released by GA on 2 May and closes on 23 May			
Gippsland	GSV	TBA	TBA	1440	12 traverses at 500 m station spacing	8358	The Quotation Request was planned for release on 9 May, closing three weeks later			

See Figure 2 for locality of the Gippsland Basin survey. TBA, to be advised.

Table 3. AEM surveys

Survey name	Client	Contractor	Start flying	Line (km)	Spacing AGL Dir	Area (km ²)	End flying	Final data to GA	Locality diagram (Preview)	GADDs release
Swan/Scott Coastal Plain and Albany/ Esperance	WA Department of Water	CGG Aviation (Australia)	25 Mar 13	8607	300/600 m	TBA	100% complete to 15 May	Final data to GA 20 Jan 14	Issue 163 (Apr 13) p. 17	TBA
Capricorn Orogen	GSWA	CGG Aviation (Australia)	19 Oct 13	29 697	5 km N-S	146,300	100% complete at 9 January	Updated datasets - 28 Apr 14	Issue 166 (Oct 13) p. 34	TBA
Southern Thomson Orogen	GA/GSNSW/ GSQ	Geotech Airborne Ltd	8 Apr 14	4198 (3327 in survey and 871 in traverses)	5 km E-W	16 270	100% complete at 5 May	Additional work (traverses) over the Paroo and Darling Rivers to examine the potential for new groundwater resources is being finalised	Issue 168 (Feb 14) p. 24	TBA

TBA, to be advised.

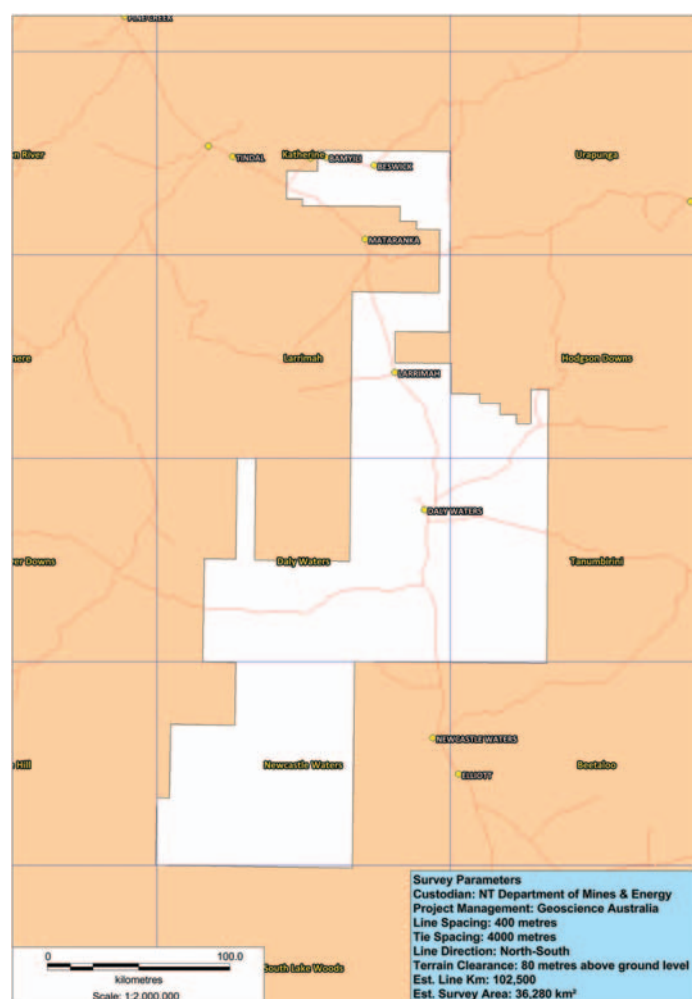


Fig. 1. Locality map outlining the Dunmarrah survey (detailed within Table 1).

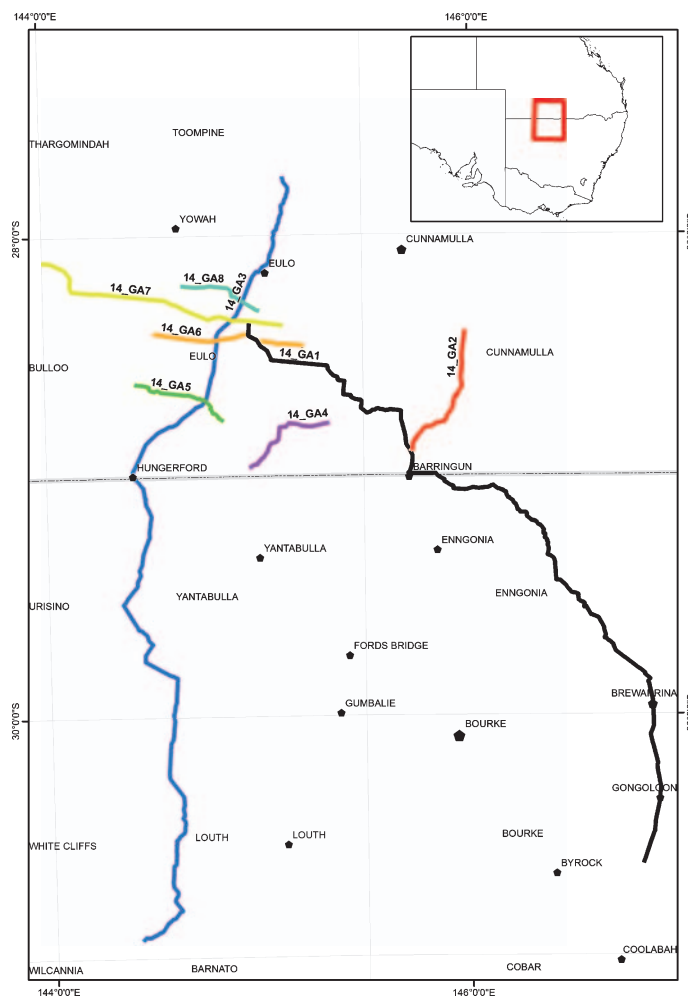


Fig. 2. Locality map outlining the Southern Thomson survey (detailed within Table 2).

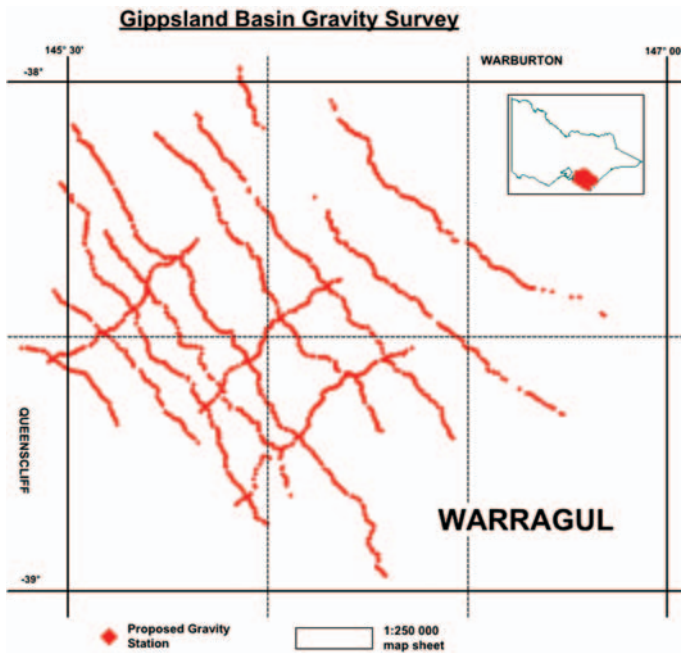


Fig. 3. Locality map outlining the Gippsland Basin survey (detailed within Table 2).

Downhole EM, MMR and IP Surveys

Surface EM and MMR Surveys

High Power (100A) EM Surveys

Surface IP Surveys including 3D

Geophysical Consulting

Instrument Repair

TECHNOIMAGING

Inverting your data
any size
any system
all 3D:

EMVision®

3D modeling - 3D inversion - 3D migration

Electromagnetic

Magnetotelluric

Induced Polarization

Gravity and Gravity Gradiometry

Magnetics and Magnetic Gradiometry

Airborne - Land - Borehole

www.technoimaging.com

emvision@technoimaging.com



4/133 Kelvin Rd, Maddington
Western Australia 6109

PO Box 3215, Lesmurdie
Western Australia 6076

p. (08) 9291 7733

f. (08) 9459 3953

e. sales@vortexgeophysics.com.au



VORTEX GEOPHYSICS

www.vortexgeophysics.com.au