

Emerging Opportunities for Supercritical CO₂ Technology

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8th International Symposium on sCO₂

ENERGY

www.csiro.au



Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

People >6000

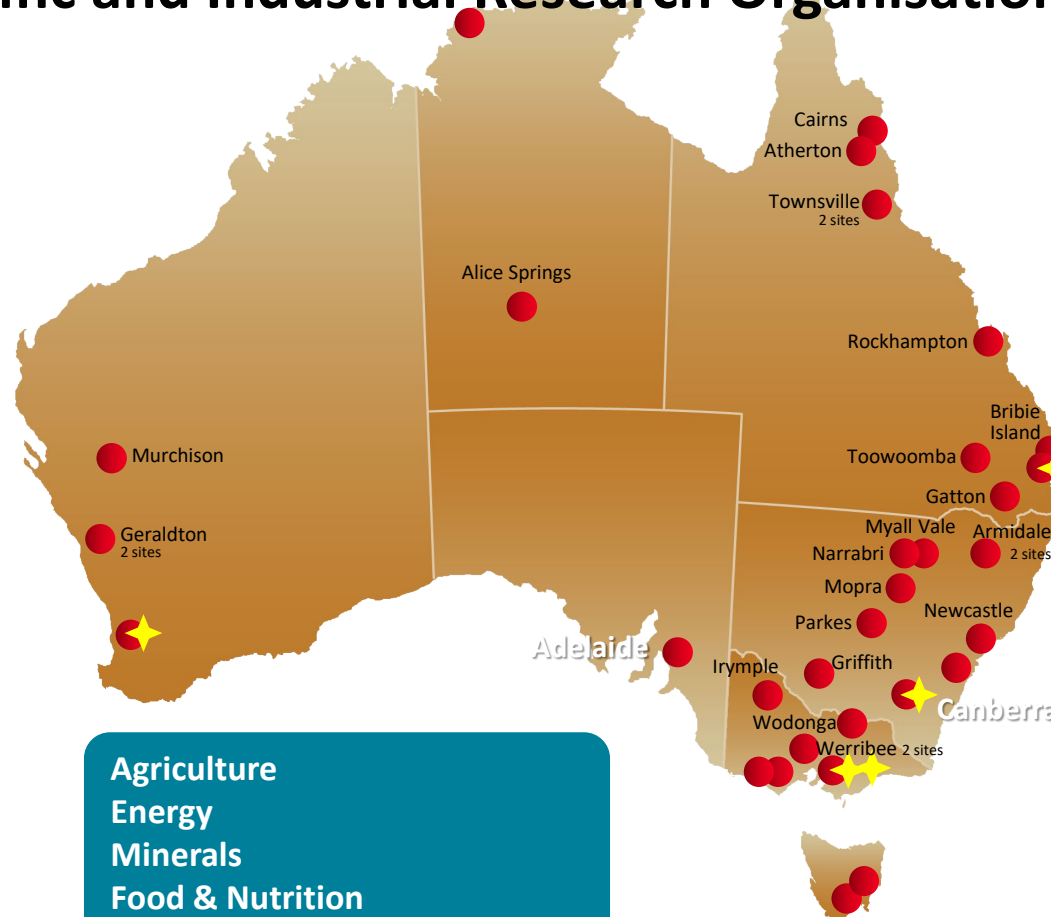
Locations 55

Business units 9

Budget \$1B+

Industry 2800+

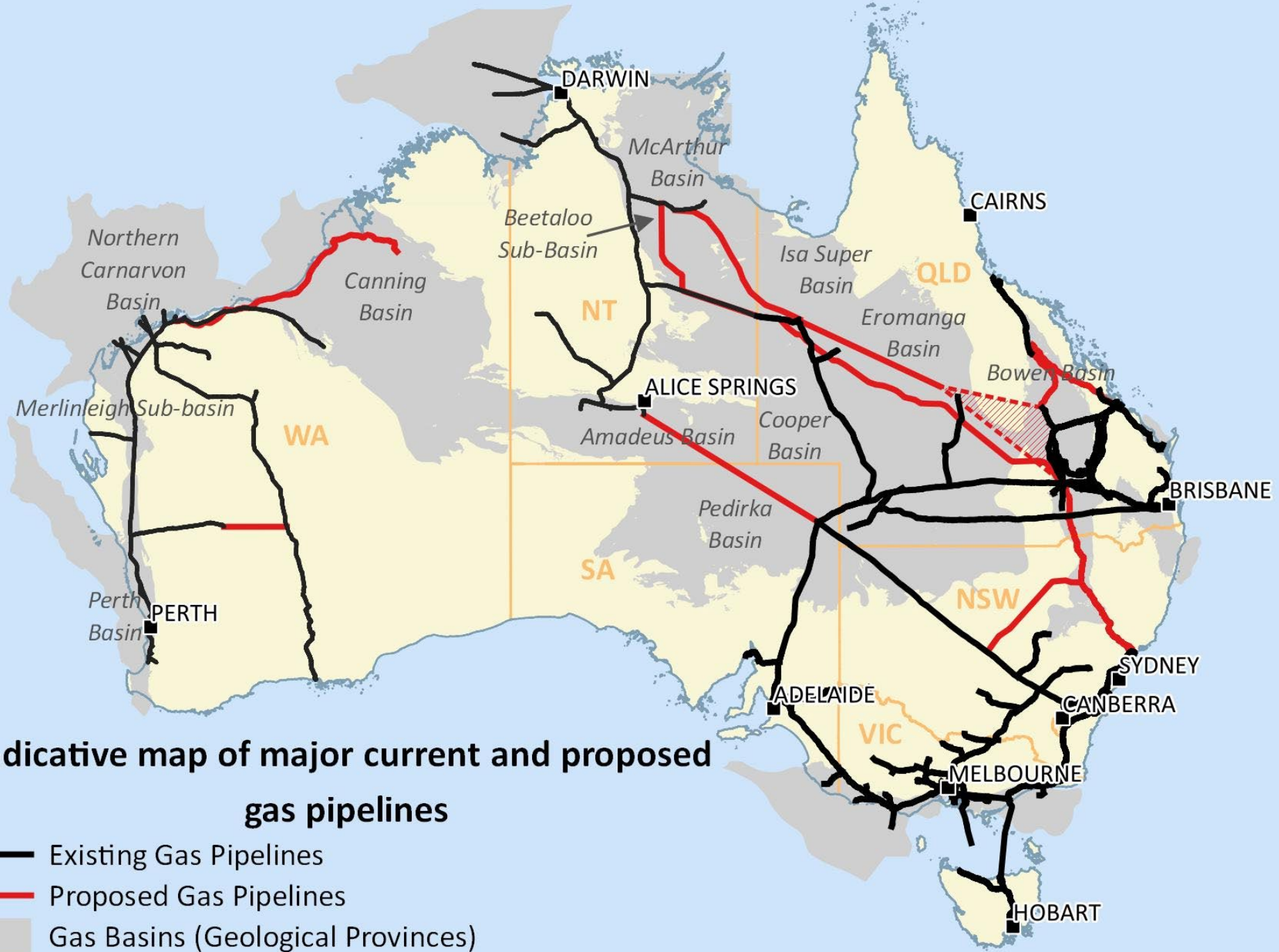
**Top 1% global
research org.**



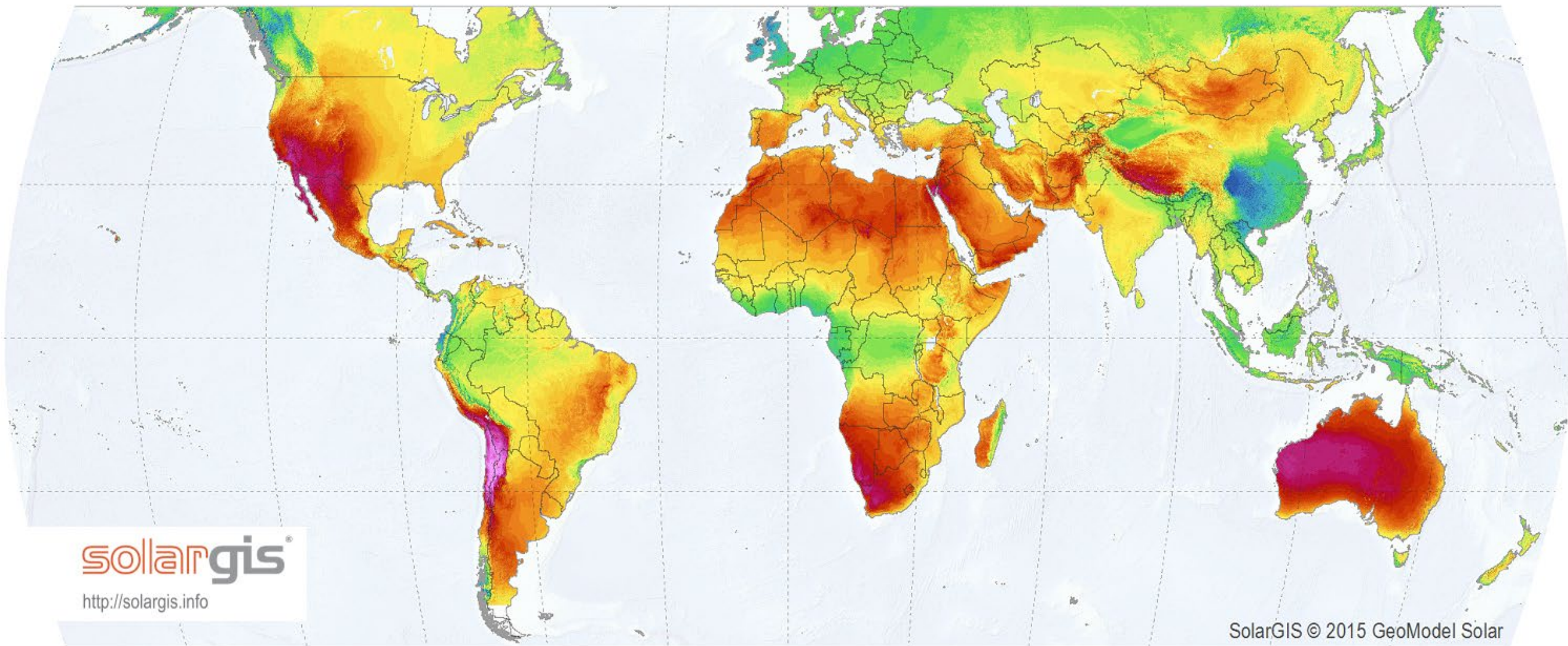
Agriculture
Energy
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Food & Nutrition
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Health & Biosecurity
Manufacturing
Data61

Transmission Infrastructure





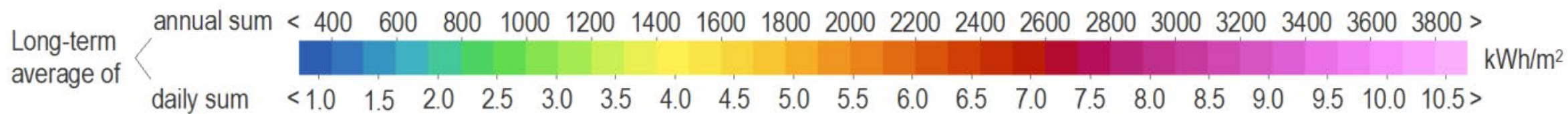
DIRECT NORMAL IRRADIATION



solarGIS

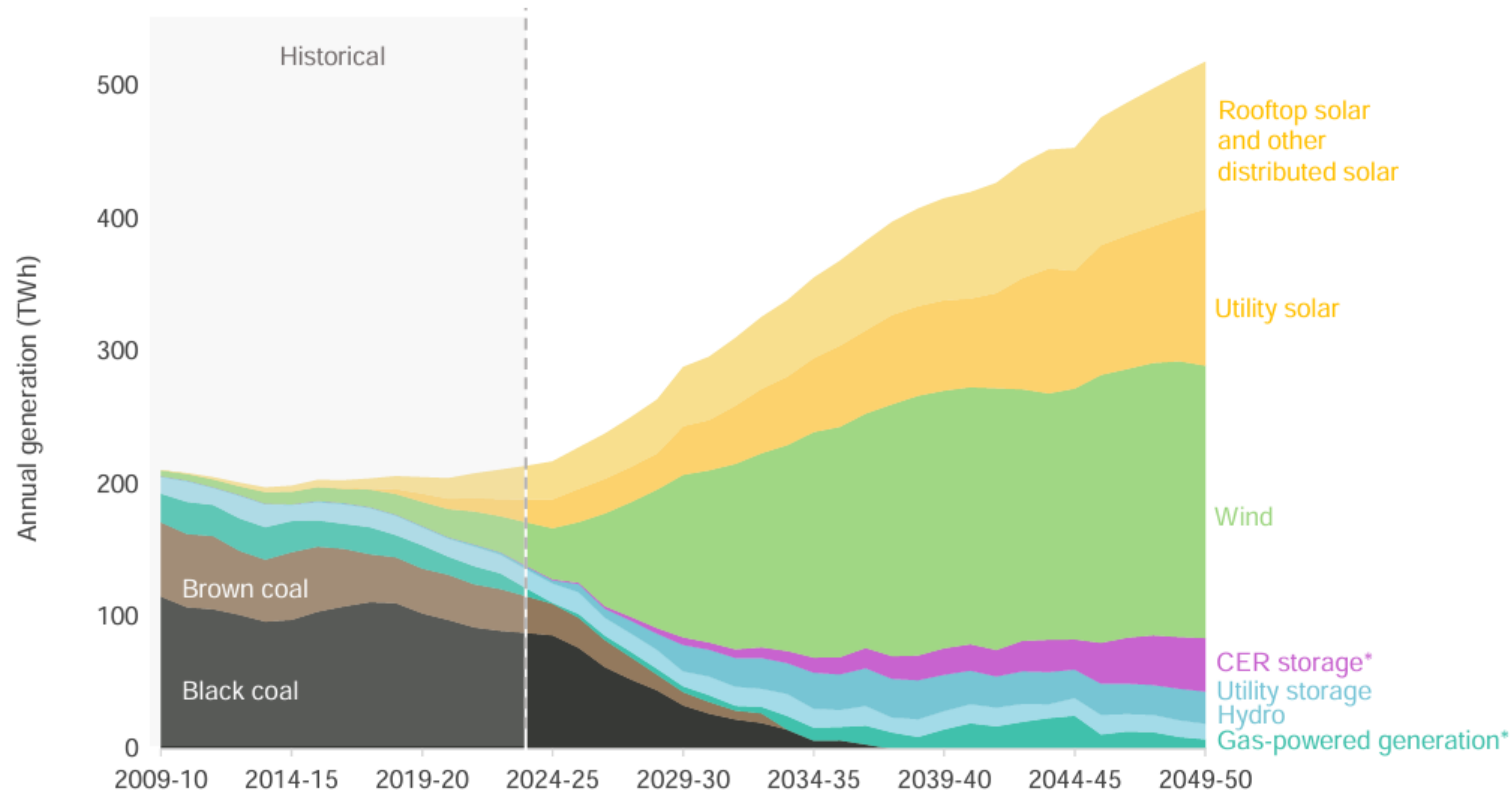
<http://solargis.info>

SolarGIS © 2015 GeoModel Solar



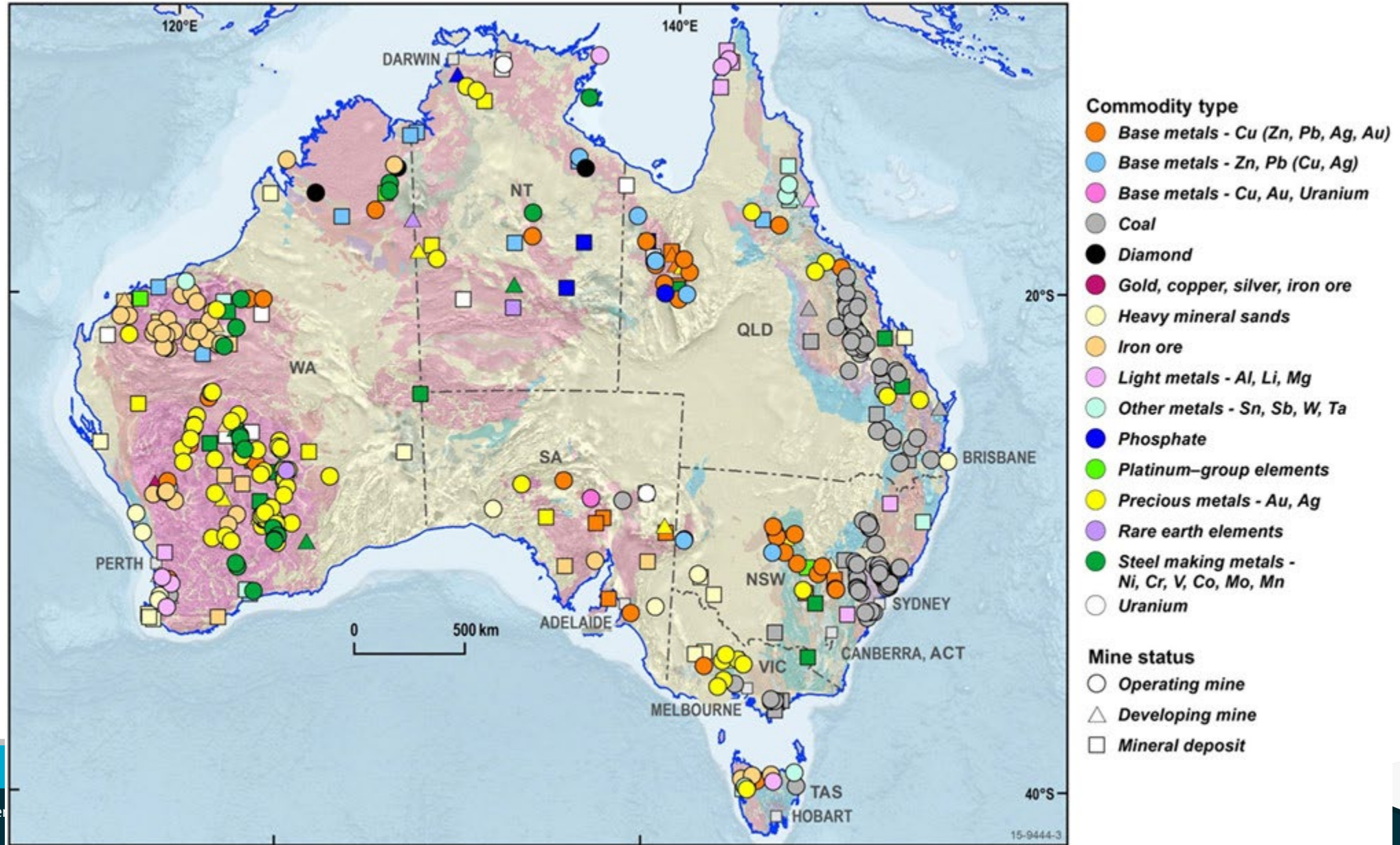
Integrated System Plan for Australian Electricity Generation

Figure 9 Generation mix, NEM (TWh, 2009-10 to 2049-50, Step Change)

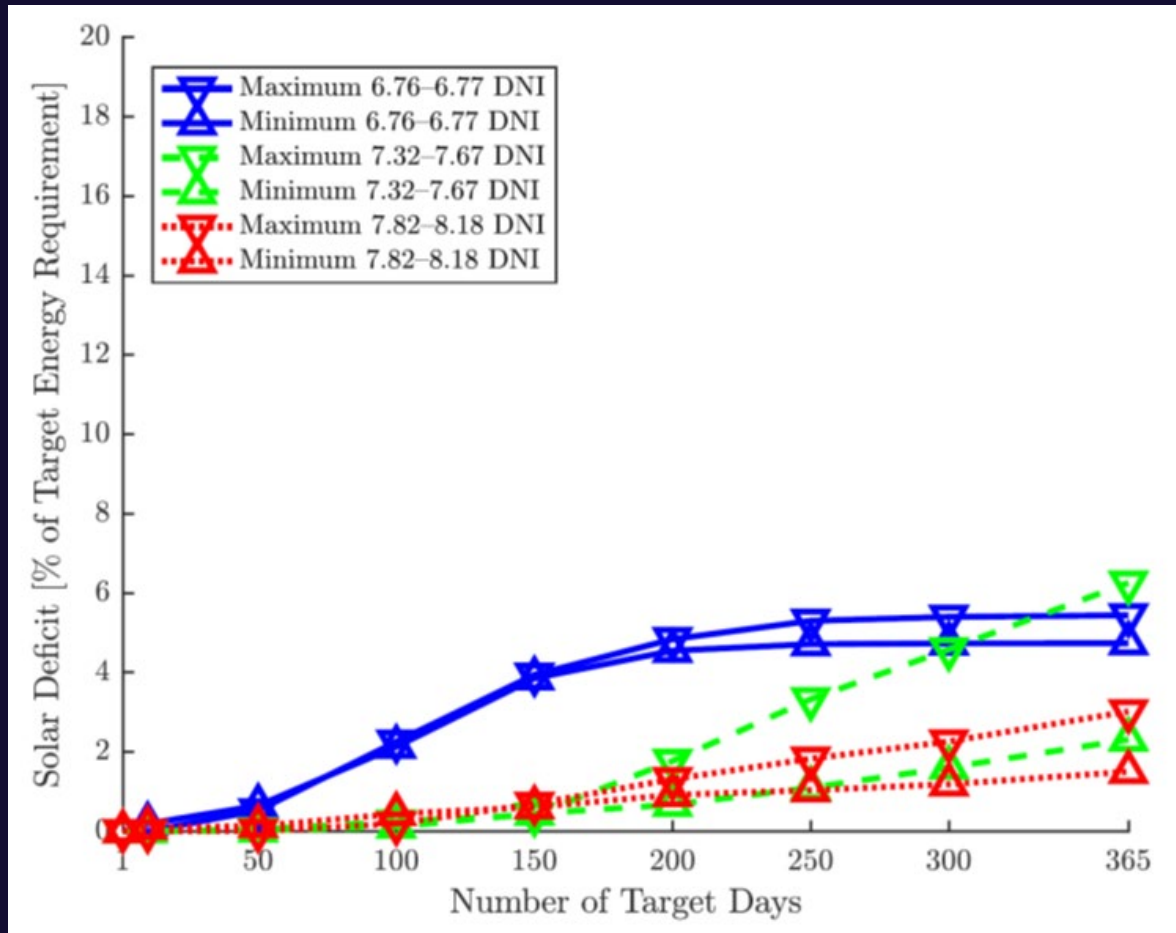


Notes: Annual generation for 2023-24 has been estimated for the full financial year.
The forecasted gas-powered generation includes some potential hydrogen and biomass capacity.
"CER storage" are consumer energy resources such as batteries and electric vehicles.

Major mining and mineral deposits in Australia



CSP with natural gas backup



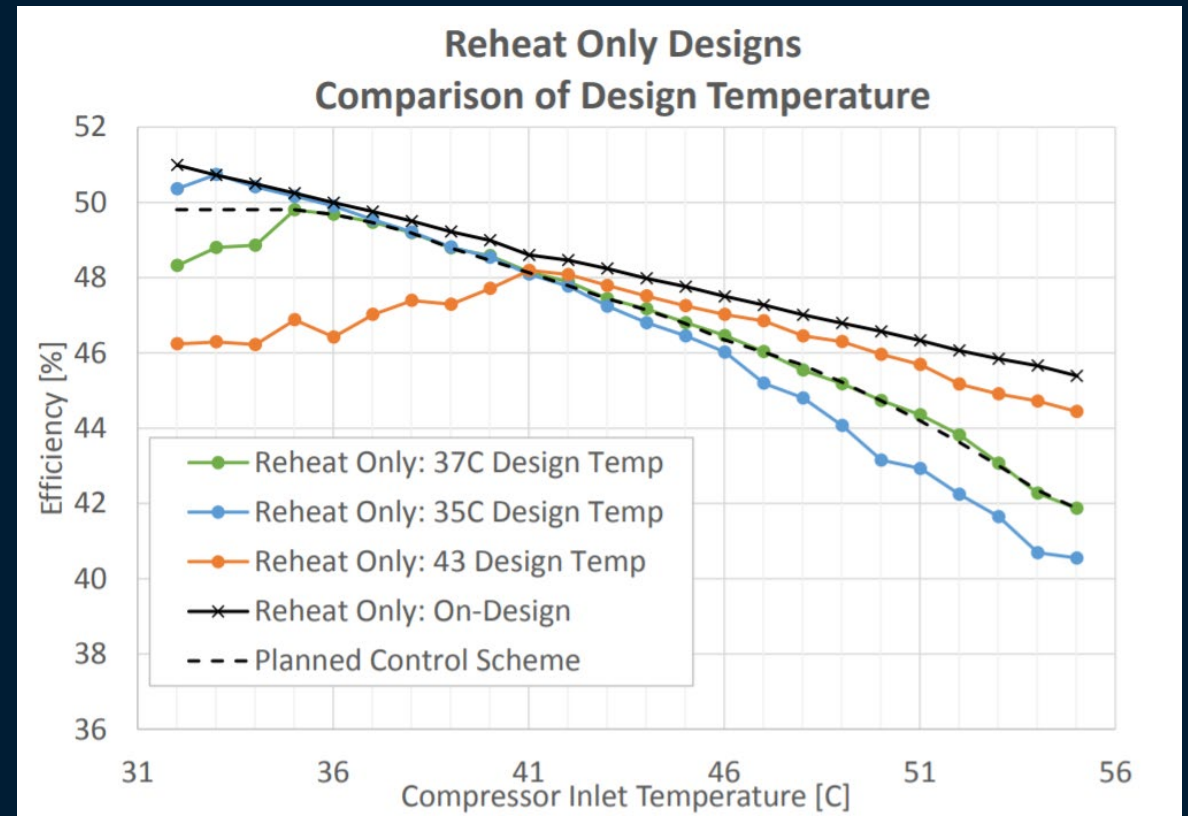
Yagi, Sioshansi, Denholm. *Solar Energy*, 191, 2019, 686

- A CSP plant with 12 hours of storage can provide 365 day capacity with 2-5% of the fuel consumption of a natural gas plant

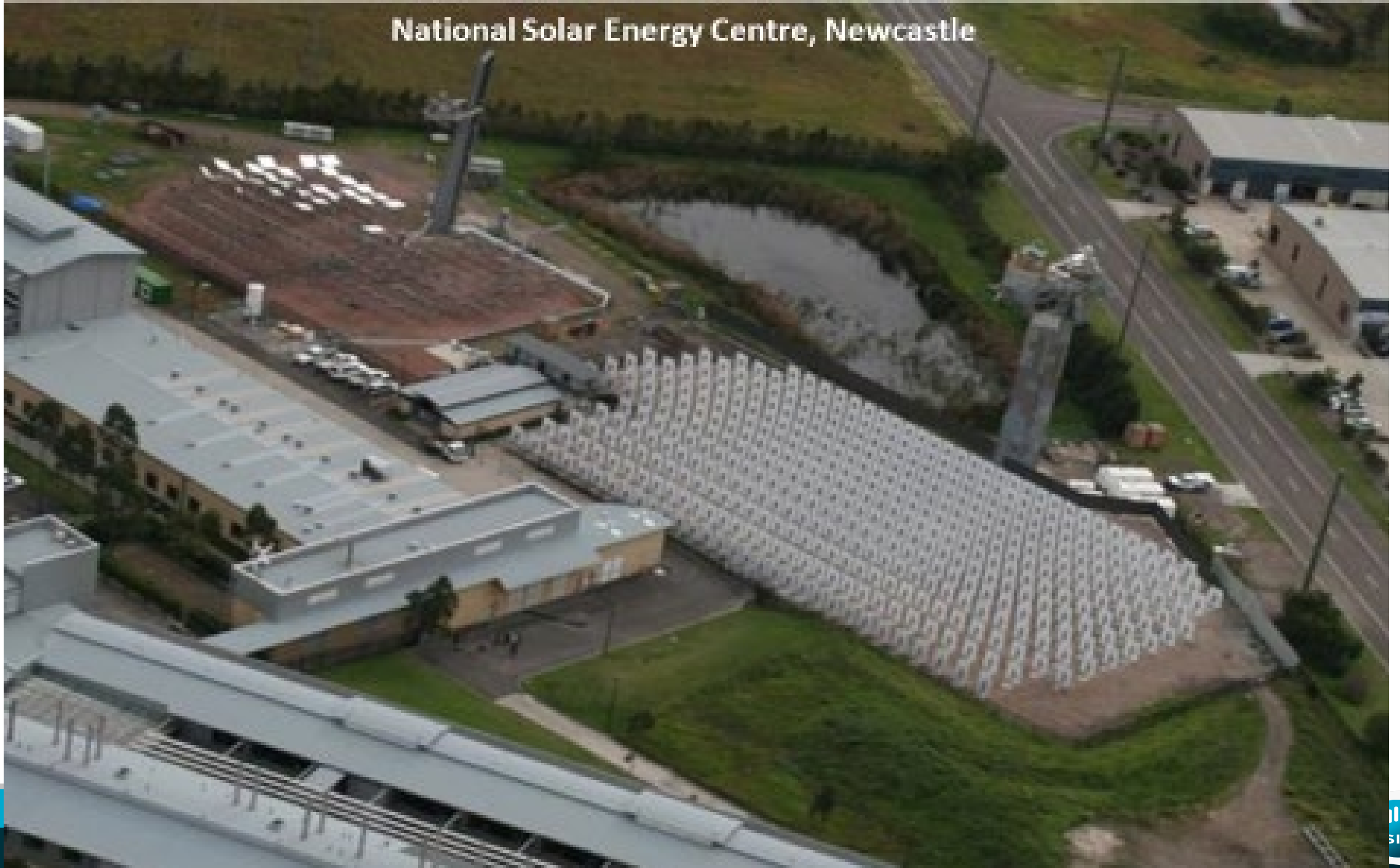


Performance at high T_{ambient}

- $s\text{CO}_2$ cycles will ideally operate at or near the critical point in order to reduce compressor work
- With dry cooling, high ambient temperatures + the air cooler initial temperature difference can see $\text{CIT} > 50^\circ\text{C}$, well away from T_{critical}
- Solution?
 - Have a design point configuration based on a higher CIT
 - CIP (inventory management) can be used to optimise efficiency when $T_{\text{ambient}} + \text{ITD}$ is above the design point CIT



National Solar Energy Centre, Newcastle



Next gen CSP in Australia

CSP hybrids

- variety of configurations with PV or gas

Receivers

- Higher temperatures
- Receivers using single phase HTF (particles, Na)
- Volumetric receivers (air)

Thermal storage

- Higher storage temperatures (energy density)
- Thermochemical systems (displacing gas use, or making green fuels)

End use

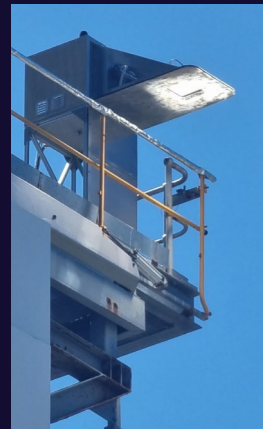
- Advanced power cycles - s-CO₂
- Industrial process heat



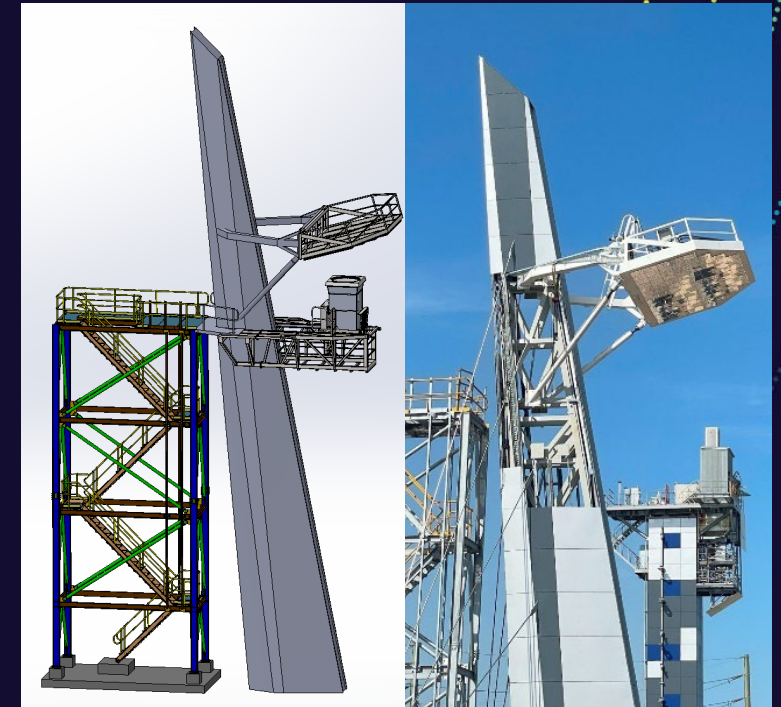
Particle receiver 800 °C



Sodium Receiver 740 °C



Sparc Hydrogen



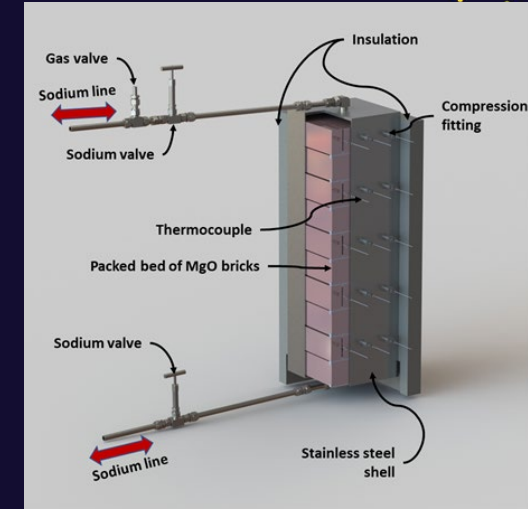
Beam-down thermochemical H₂

TES options for Na

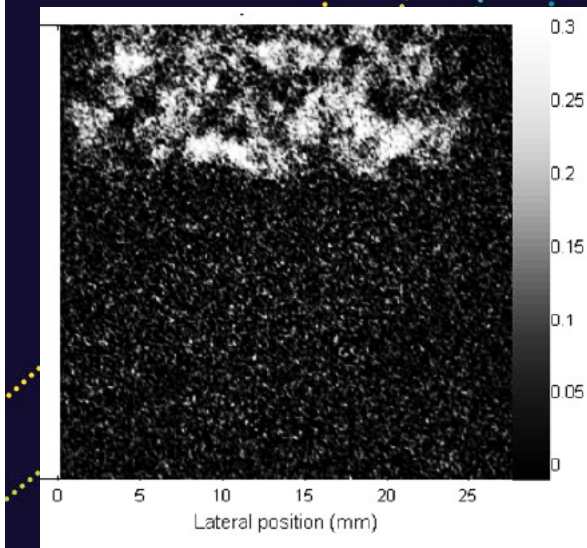
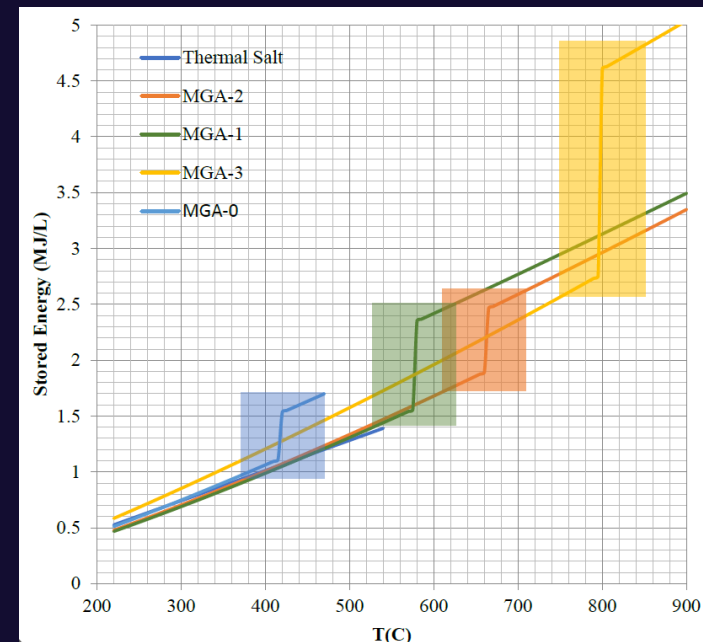
- ASTRI is developing sodium-cooled receivers for $\approx 650-700^{\circ}\text{C}$ operation, thus conventional nitrate molten salts are not suitable for TES
- sCO_2 turbine cycles prefer a limited ΔT across PHX thus some level of phase change can be advantageous
- Aim to demonstrate sodium receiver on CSIRO solar tower in 2024.
- Followed by a demonstration of TES + sCO_2 turbine



Courtesy Graphite Energy



Courtesy ANU



Courtesy MGA Thermal

In summary for sCO₂

Heat recovery
at smaller
mine sites
where gas/
diesel is
expensive

Used as the
power block
for CSP
projects

As successes
emerge larger
miners (larger
MW) will want
a slice of the
action

Behind-the-
meter
solutions as
industry
electrifies

More
conventional
large-scale
grid-
connected
electricity
projects

Thank you

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