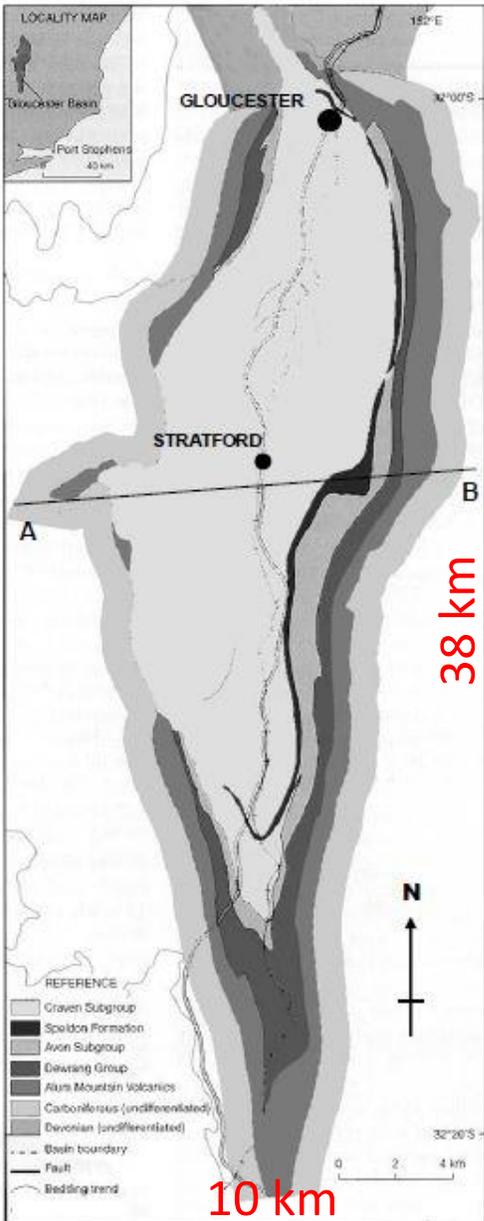


## **SPE-198331-MS**

# **Assessment of Fault Zone Properties for CSG Development Areas**

J. Underschultz, S. Mukherjee, A. Wolhuter, H. Xu, E. Banks, S. Noorduijn and J. McCallum

## Gloucester Basin Overview



Permian Age Strata

Group	Subgroup	Formation	Approx Thickness	Coal seams	
Gloucester Coal Measures	Craven Subgroup	Crowthers Road Conglomerate	350 m		
		Leloma or Woods Road Formation	585 m	Linden Bindaboo Deards	
		Jilleon or Bucketts Way Formation	175 m	Cloverdale Roseville Fairbairns Lane	
		Wards River Conglomerate			
		Wenhatcha Formation			
			Speldon Formation		
	Avon Subgroup	Dog Trap Conglomerate			
		Waukivory Creek Formation	328 m	Avon Triple Rombo Glen Road Valley View Parkers Road	
	Dewrang Group		Mammy Johnsons Formation	300 m	Mammy Johnsons
			Weismantel Formation	20 m	Weismantel
		Duralie Road Formation	250 m		
		Alum Mountain Volcanics		Clareval Basal coal seam	

CSG potential

Alluvium (100's mD)

Fractured bedrock (10's mD)

Bedrock (< 1 mD)

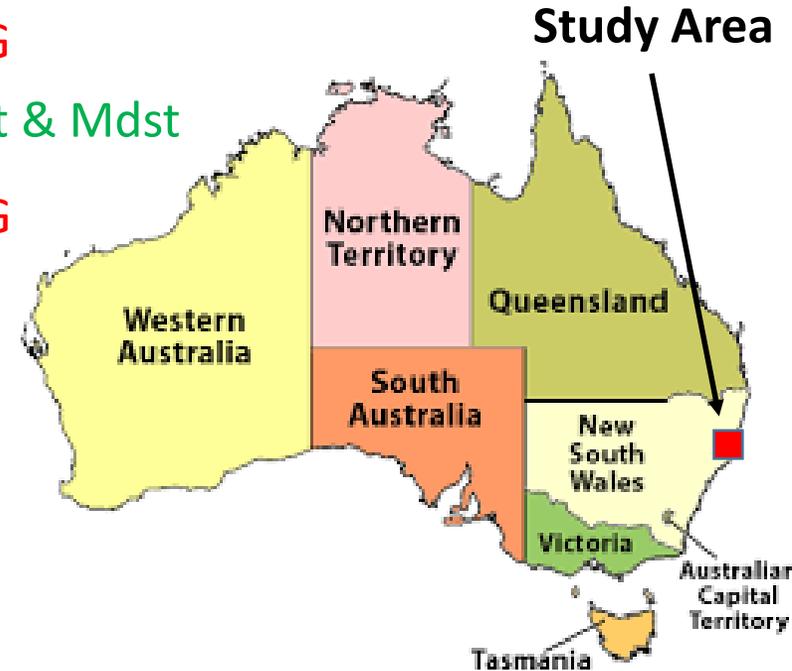
↕ 250m CSG

Marine SSt & Mdst

↕ 200m CSG

after Ward et al., 2001; Ogier-Halim, 2010

Devonian and Carb volcanics and sed



## Gloucester Basin Overview

Gloucester Hydrogeology upper aquifer system?

Note that the shallow aquifer flow system is driven by high topography on the eastern and western edges of the basin with an axial drainage to the north and south coincident with surface drainage

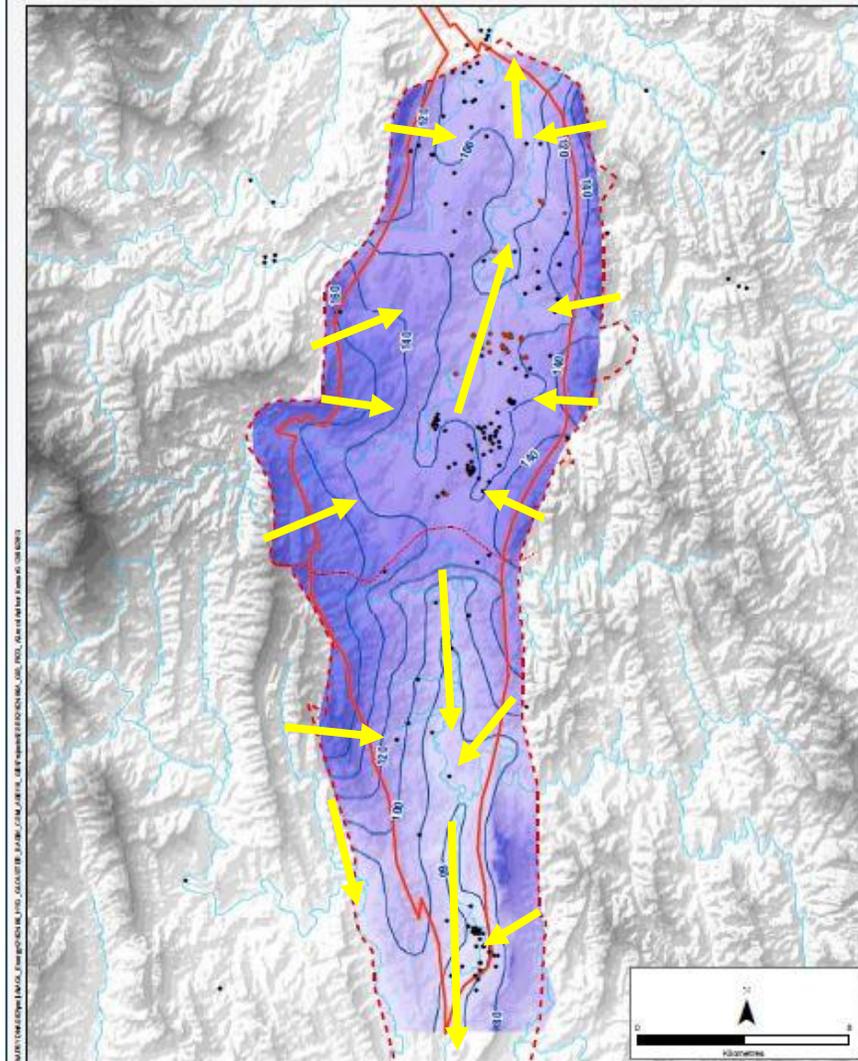
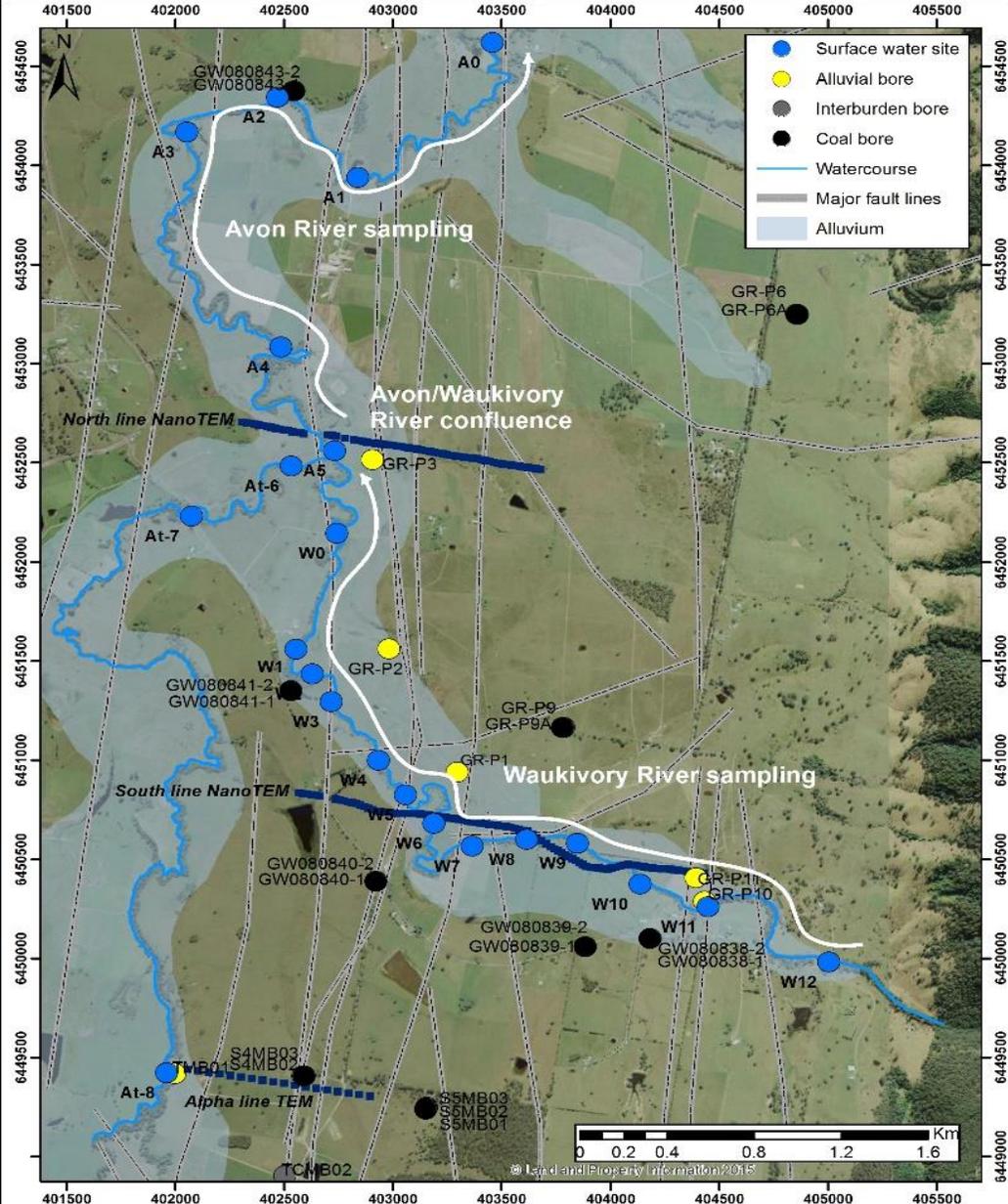


Figure 5.9  
 Interpreted regional groundwater contours

From Parsons-Brinkerhoff (2013)





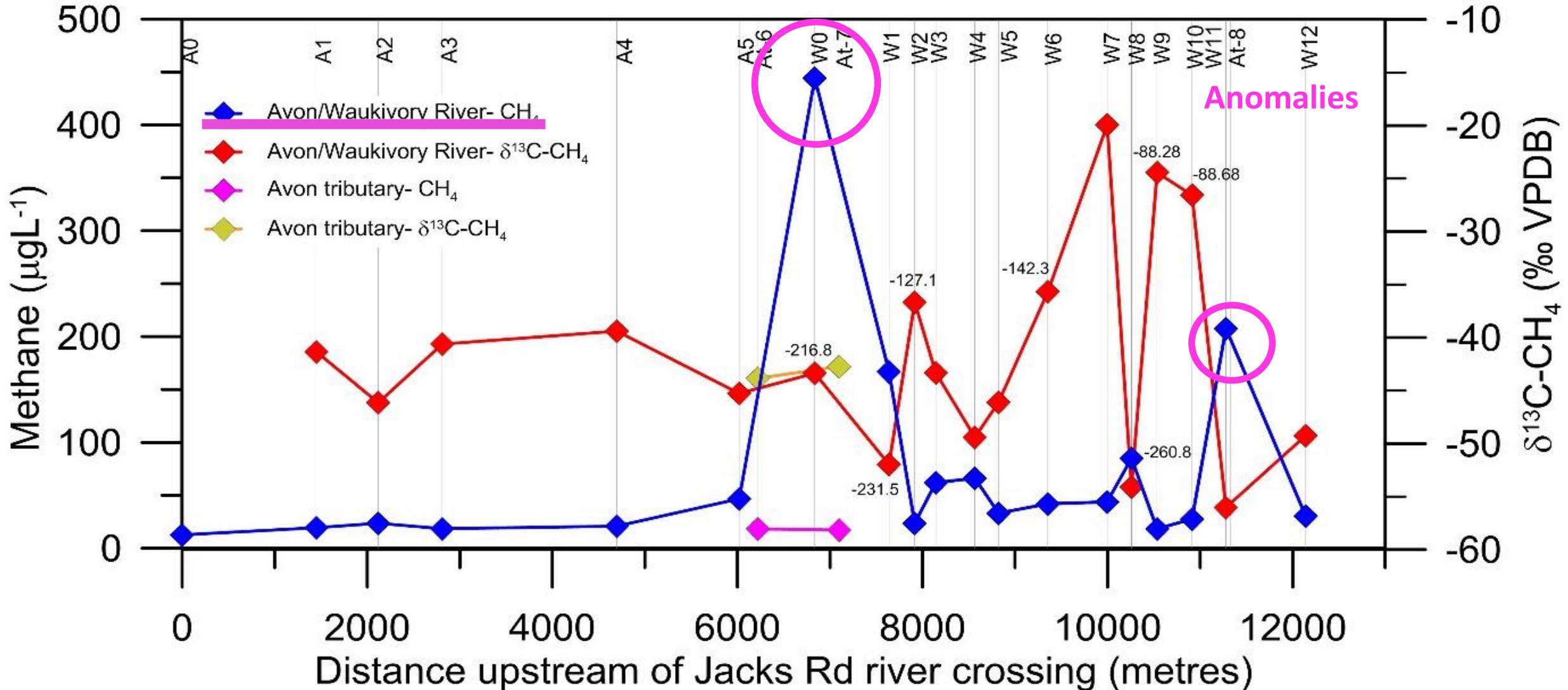


## Field Sampling Program

- Surface water sampling:
  - T, pH, DO, radon 222,  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  major ions and stable isotopes of water
- Groundwater sampling:
  - Ne, Xe, Kr, Ar,  $^4\text{He}$ , radon 222,  $\text{CH}_4$ , major ions and stable isotopes of water
- Time Domain Electromagnetic (TEM) surveys
- Atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  sampling

**$^4\text{He}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  and TEM proved to be most diagnostic**

### Selected Field Sampling Results



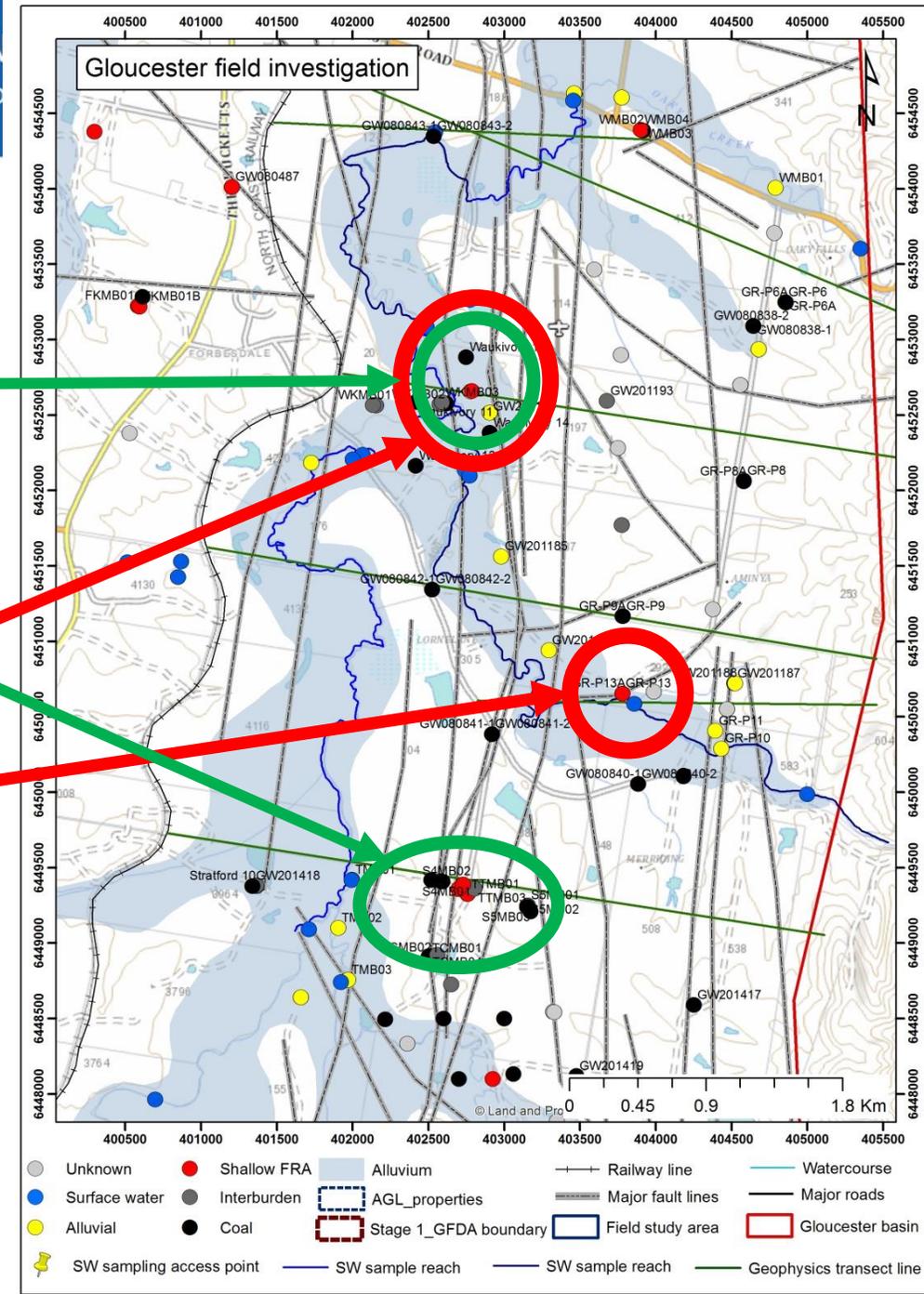
# Field Site and Subsurface Results Overlain

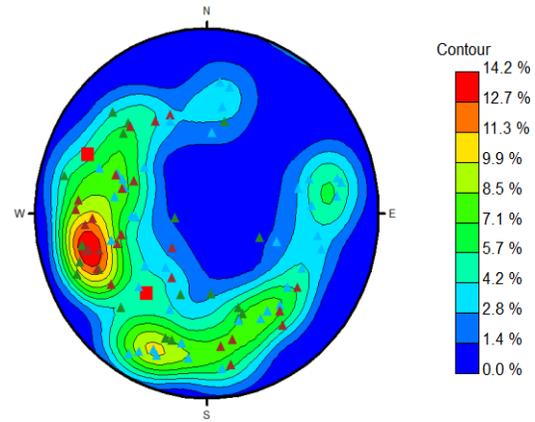
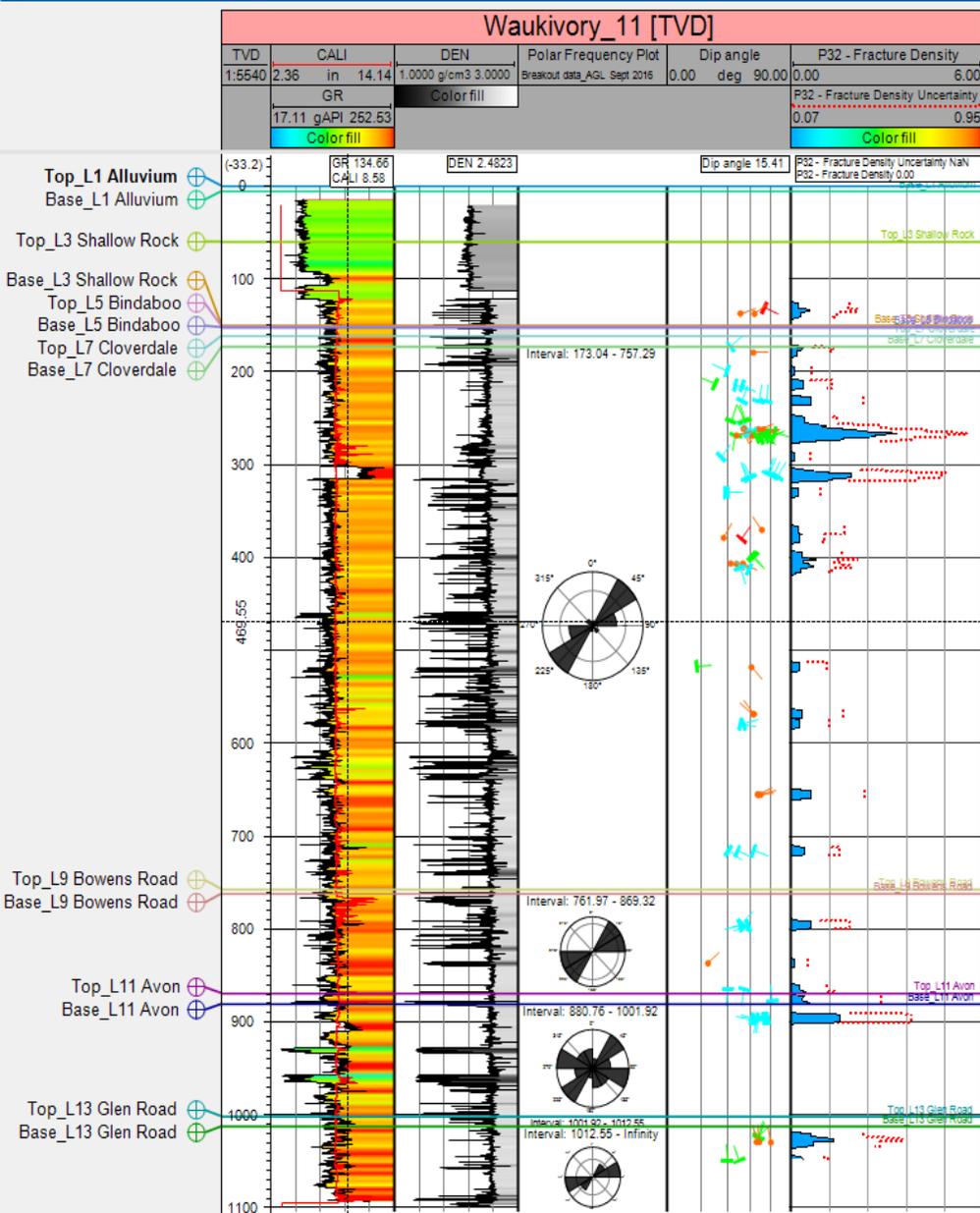
Sub-Surface Anomalies

- TDS
- Head

Surface Anomalies:

- He
- CH<sub>4</sub>

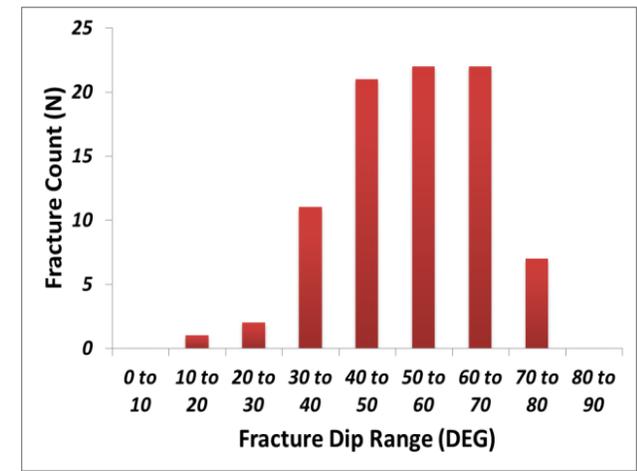




Stereonet contour of faults and fractures dip azimuth in Waukivory11 well

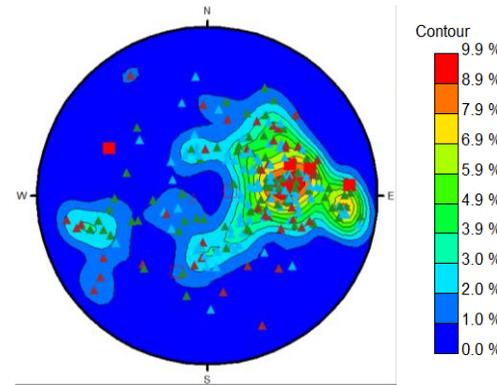
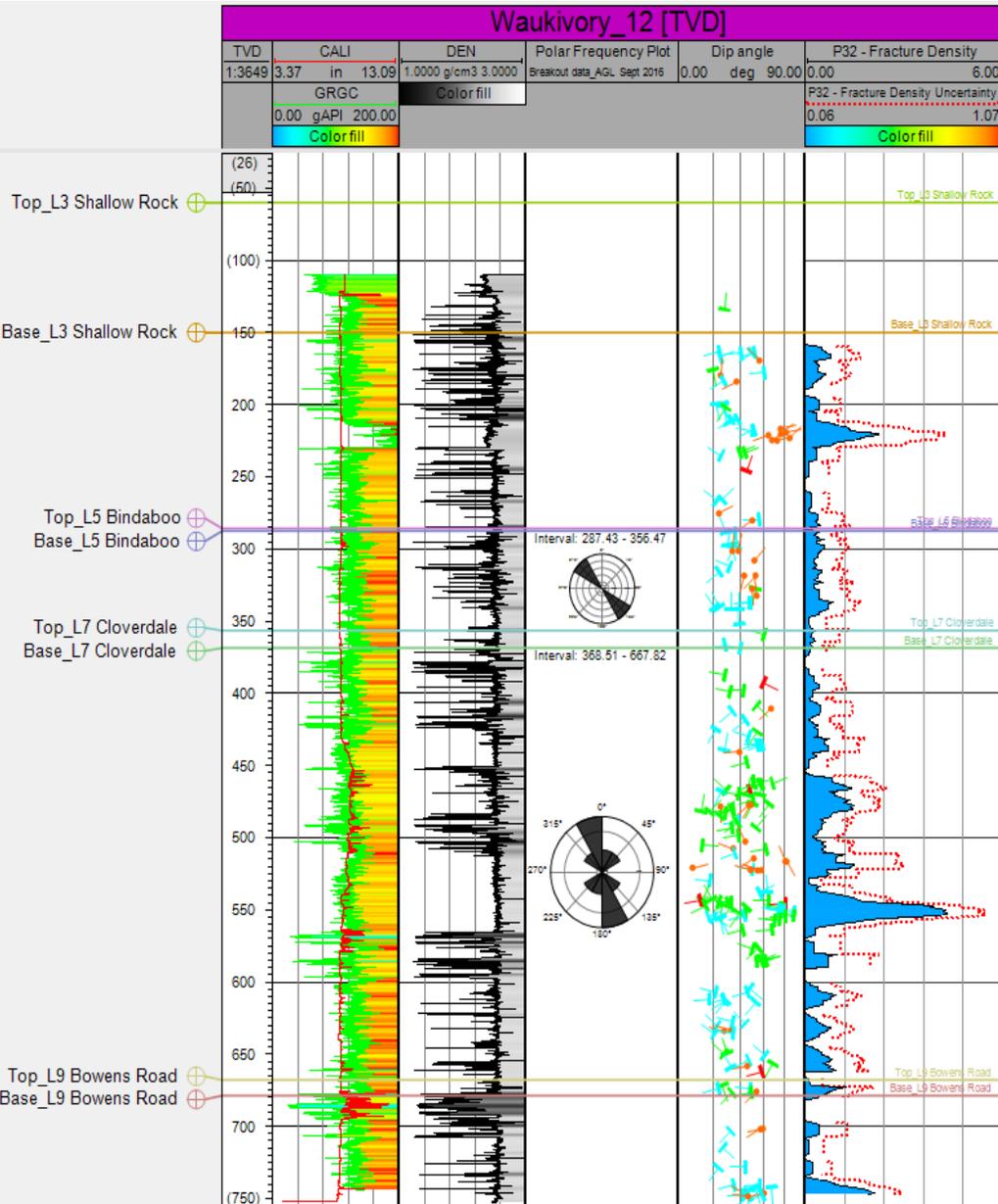
- ▲ Conductive Fracture (19/19)
- Fault (2/2)
- ▲ Mixed Fracture (26/26)
- ▲ Resistive Fracture (40/40)

Waukivory11 Shmax and fracture distribution along depth



Waukivory11 fracture dip range vs fracture count

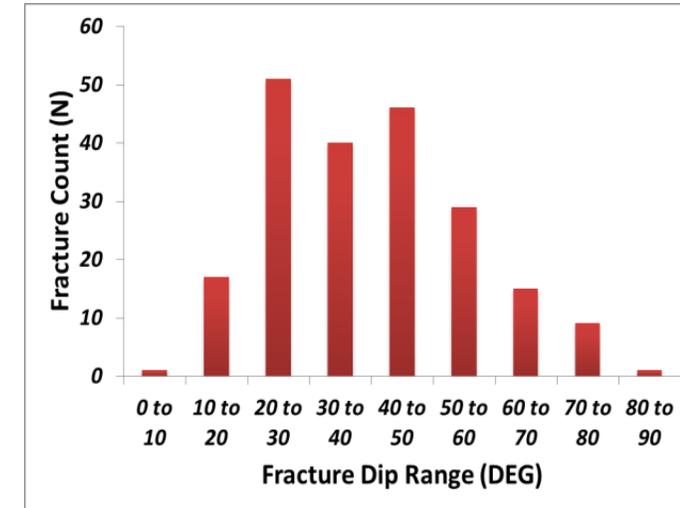
Compression and Low Fracture Density: no anomaly



(b) Stereonet contour of faults and fractures dip azimuth in Waukivory12 well

- ▲ Conductive Fracture (77/77)
- Fault (6/6)
- ▲ Mixed Fracture (44/44)
- ▲ Resistive Fracture (96/96)

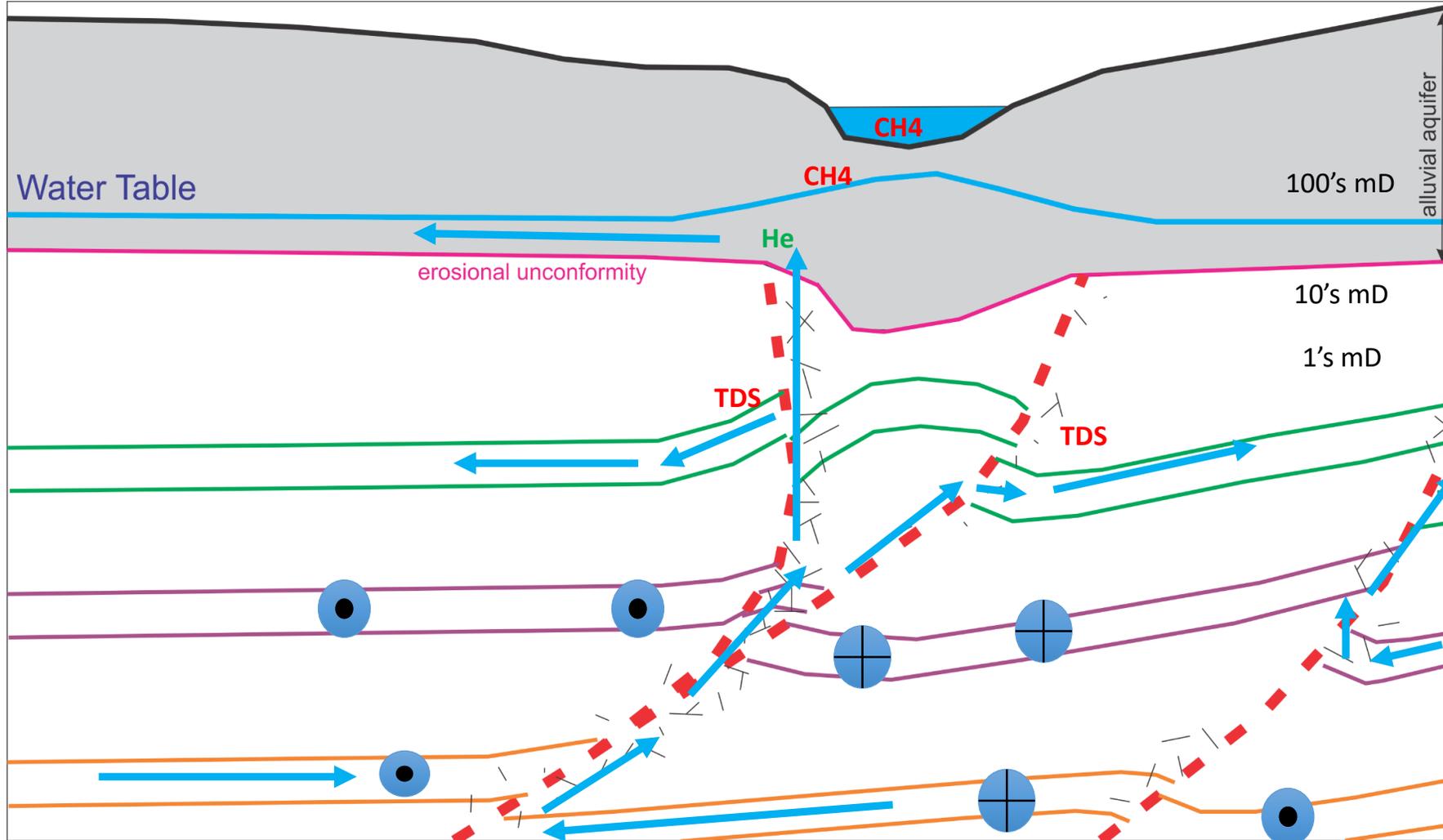
(a) Waukivory12 Shmax and fracture distribution along depth

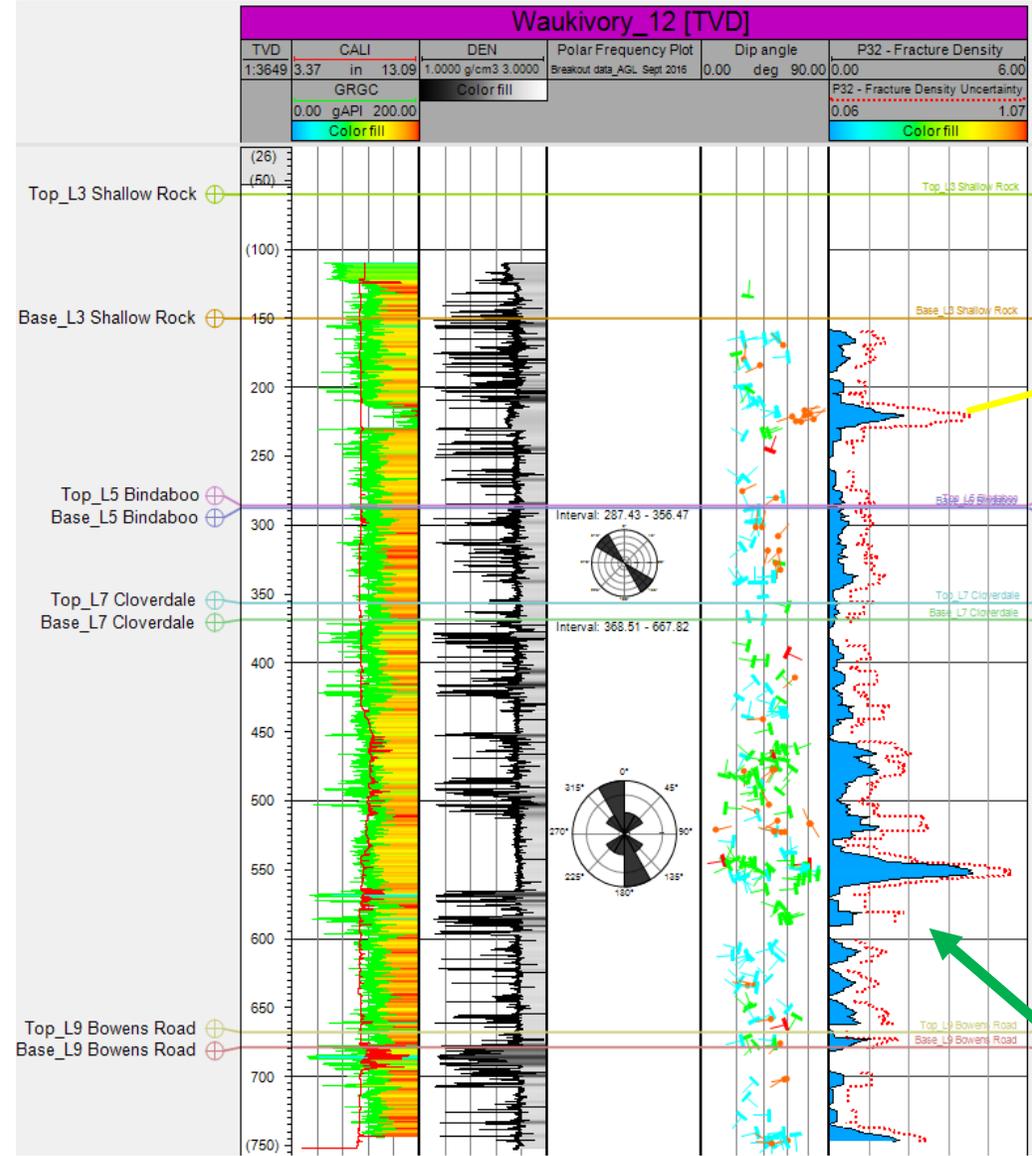


(c) Waukivory12 fracture dip range vs fracture count

Dilation and High Fracture Density near an anomaly

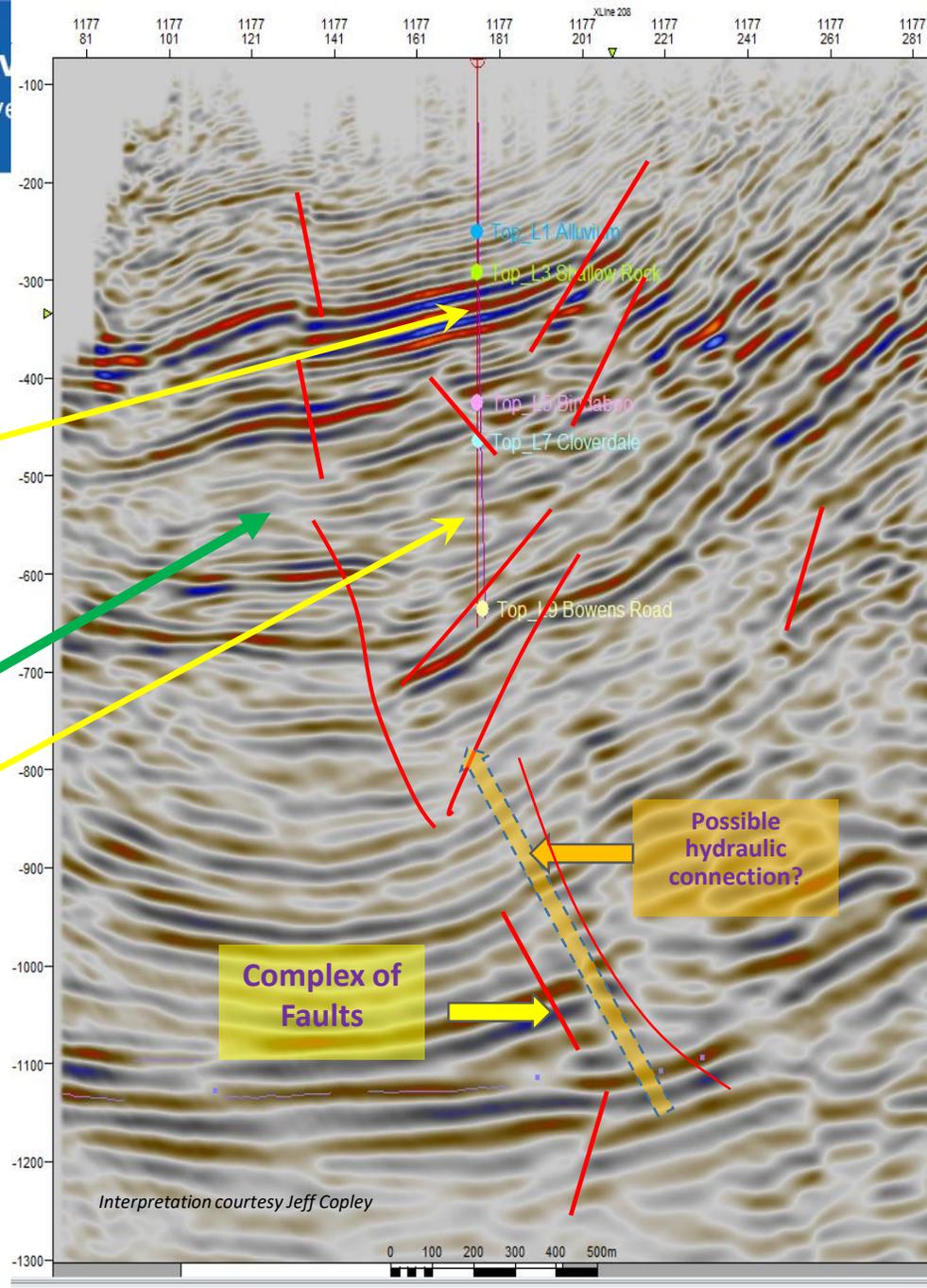
## Conceptual Hydrogeological Model



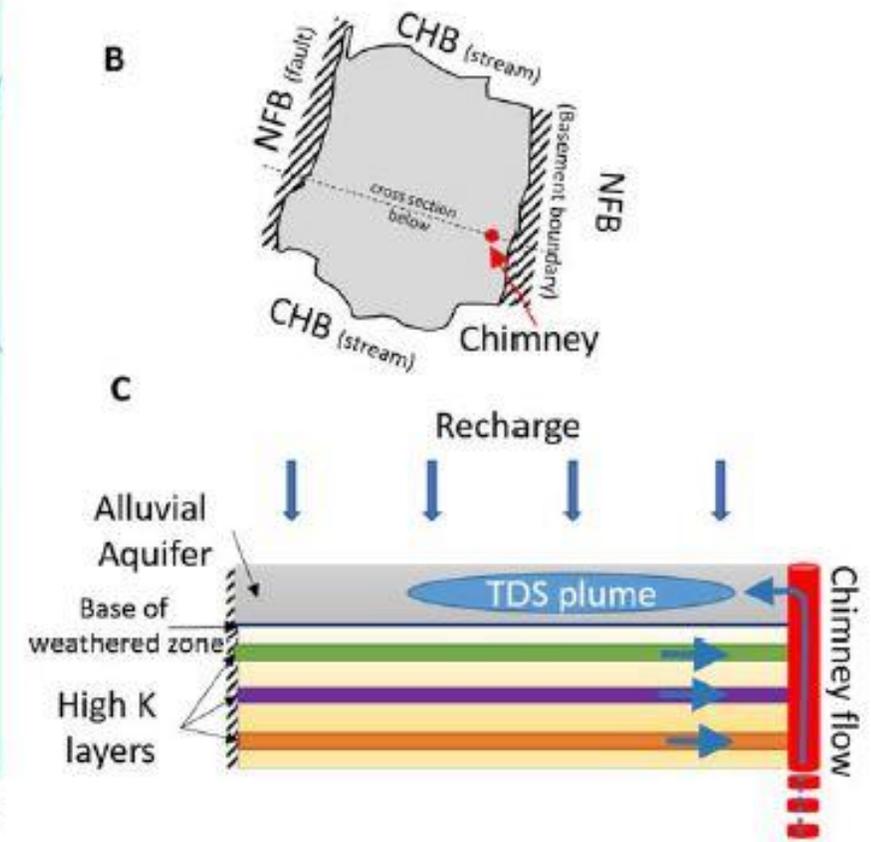
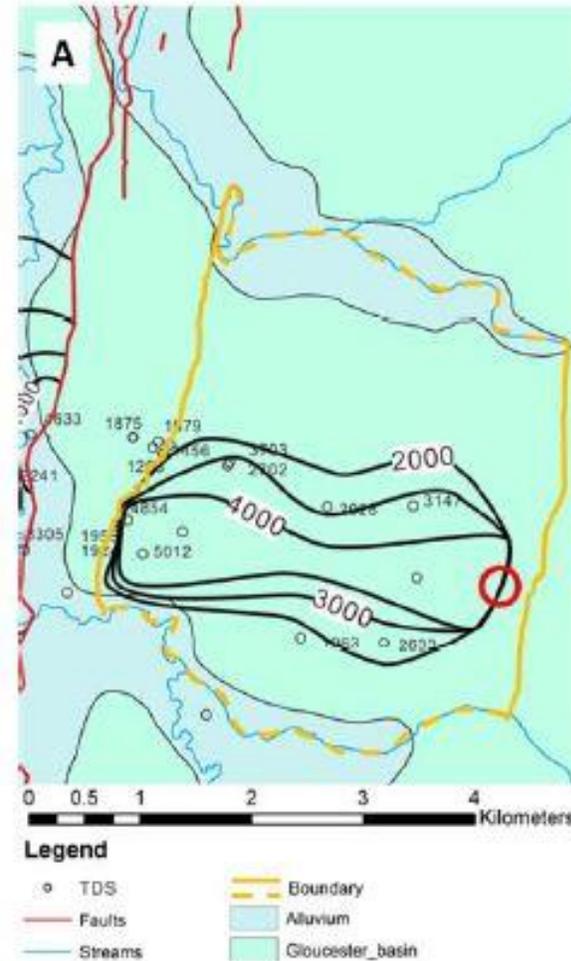
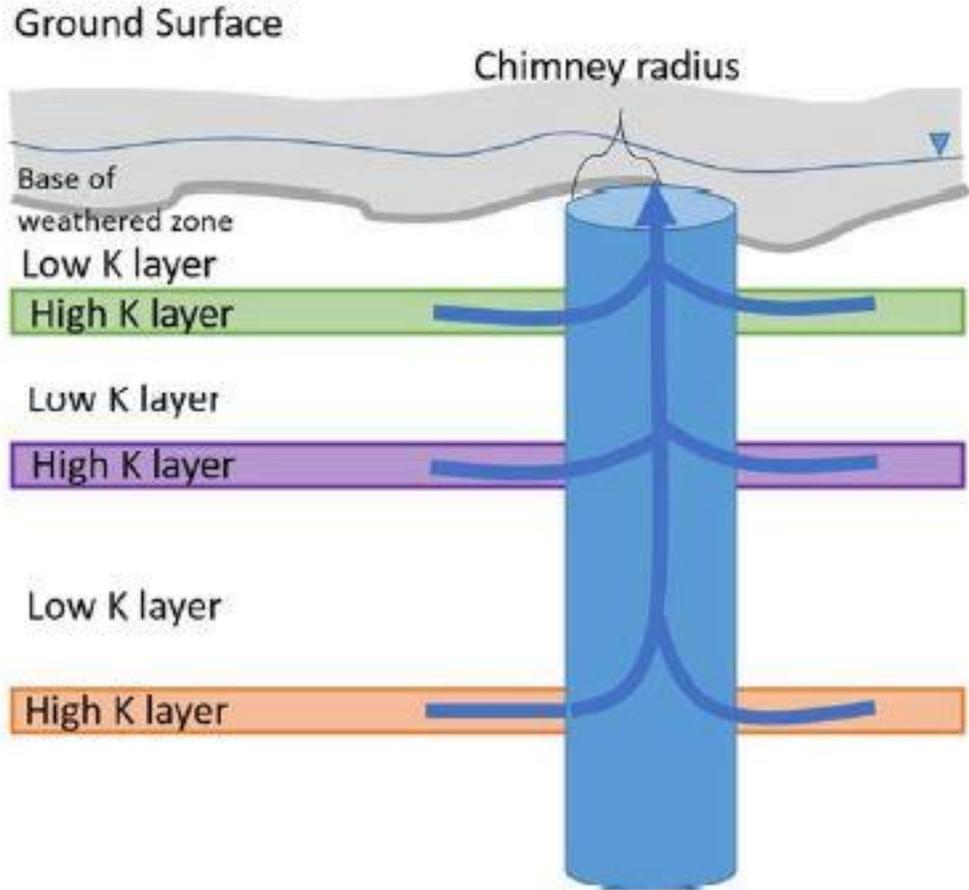


**Northern Anomaly:  
 shallow Strick slip  
 flower structure**

**Northern Anomaly:  
 corresponds to high  
 density dilatant  
 fractures**



## Total Dissolved Solids Modelling



Calibration with Chimney  $k = \sim 13\text{mD}$   
 Or  $\sim 13\text{x}$  host rock  $k$ .

## Take Away Messages

### What we saw:

- Changes in water chemistry are subtle
- Upward hydraulic gradients and hydraulic head discontinuities help identify fault zone hydraulic character
- TDS can help characterise the flow systems near faults e.g. previous slide.
- Damage zone enhanced permeability is key to locating up fault fluid flow in a block of 1 mD permeability rock volume

### What we deduced:

- With subsurface hydro, surface hydro, and in-situ stress and strain we believe we know what to look for in the seismic expression for vertical leakage conditions
- We included these characteristics in a groundwater flow model to calibrate a permeability to be enhanced by about 1 order of magnitude in dilatant faults.

**This gives us some measure of predictability for fault zone permeability from just the seismic volume in areas devoid of other data**

## Acknowledgements / Thank You / Questions

The authors would like to acknowledge the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Office of Water Science for funding the project “Research to improve treatment of faults and aquitards in Australian regional groundwater models to improve assessment of impacts of CSG extraction”. The authors would also like to acknowledge the CSIRO who were project manager and whose many staff provided critical technical review. In particular we would like to thank Dr Dirk Mallants.



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