



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

Spelling and other useful stuff 2014–15



**Geological Survey of
Western Australia**



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Western Australia**

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Spelling and other useful stuff

This guide contains an alphabetical list of selected style points and the spelling, punctuation and abbreviation styles preferred by the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA). The purpose of this guide is to promote consistency in GSWA publications and to avoid repetitious decision making. Use the Glossary of geology (5th edition) 2011, for spelling of geological terms not listed in this guide.

A

AAG	Association of American Geologists
AAPG	Association of American Petroleum Geologists
a/an	Use 'a' before words that start with a consonant sound and 'an' before words that start with a vowel sound, e.g. a horizon, an hour, a hotel
abbreviation of elements	Use only in compound words or as adverbs where they are commonly accepted, e.g. 'Ca-metasomatism', 'K-feldspar'; see also 'Geochemistry' in Guide for authors/editors
Aboriginal people	Not 'Aborigines'
about, approximately, in the order of	'About' is nearly always better, but use 'approximately' if fairly accurate figures are being given or when in brackets, e.g. (~15%). 'In the order of' should be used only with an established order of intensity, magnitude, or velocity — it should not be substituted for 'about'
acid/acidic	Adjective used in igneous petrology for a rock with >63 wt% SiO ₂ (cf. 'basic', 'intermediate', 'ultrabasic'); synonymous with 'silicic'; not synonymous with 'felsic', 'sialic'. Do not use it together with 'mafic' or 'ultramafic' when making petrologic comparisons
acknowledgements	Mostly confined to external people or companies who have significantly contributed to the manuscript.

	If an author feels a GSWA colleague's contribution was significant, co-authorship, or at least 'With a contribution from ...' should be considered
Act	Use italics for acts, e.g. The <i>Mining Act 1978</i>
affiliations	For example, format as: 'Geological Survey of South Australia, PO Box 1264, Adelaide SA 5001'. When listing international affiliations add the country at the end
AFTA	Apatite fission track analysis
AFTD	Apatite fission track data
age	Time at which event occurred, interpreted using geological information and dates. Do not use when reporting an analytically determined value. See date
age dating	Do not use. Use 'isotopic dating' or 'geochronology'
age reference	Use: 'of Ordovician age' not 'Ordovician age'
AGSO	Australian Geological Survey Organisation (former term; now Geoscience Australia, GA)
alternate/alternative	To 'alternate' is to take turns; an 'alternative' is an option, e.g. Google+ is an alternative to Facebook; heavy showers alternated with brief intervals of sun
approximately	See about . Do not use 'circa' for anything other than dates
aeolian	Archaic; use 'eolian'
affect	A verb; do not confuse with the noun 'effect'
AHD	Australian height datum
aircore	
airphoto	Alternative to 'aerial photograph'
algal	Do not use when meaning is 'cyanobacterial', 'microbial', or 'stromatolitic', e.g. 'microbial limestone', 'cyanobacterial mat'. See also blue-green algae
Albany–Fraser Orogen	
alkalis	

along-strike	As an adjective but ‘along strike’ when not attributive
although	Use instead of ‘but’
AMD	Acid mine drainage
among, amongst	Use ‘among’
AMSL	Above mean sea level
amygdales	Preferred to ‘amygdules’
a number of	Avoid. Use ‘rare’, ‘a few’, ‘several’, ‘common’, ‘many’ or ‘abundant’
analyse	
and/or	Avoid. ‘Or’ or ‘and’ alone may suffice to make the meaning clear; ‘or both’ may be added
and others	For references, use ‘et al.’
ANSIR	Australian National Seismic Imaging Resource
apatite fission track analysis	Abbreviation is AFTA
apatite fission track data	Abbreviation is AFTD
aphyric	Refers to a rock that contains no visible phenocrysts
API	American Petroleum Institute (gravity measurement of oil)
appear to be	Avoid; use ‘appear’
appendices	
ARC Linkage project	
Archean	Preferred usage following the ICS-IUGS (International Commission on Stratigraphy and International Union of Geosciences) international stratigraphic chart 2013 (Gradstein et al., 2013). Older than 2500 Ma. Neoproterozoic (2800–2500 Ma), Mesoproterozoic (3200–2800 Ma), Paleoproterozoic (3600–3200 Ma), Eoproterozoic (4000–3600 Ma), Hadaean (4540–4000 Ma) replace informal use of ‘early’ and ‘late’
are indications of	Avoid; use ‘indicate’
arenite	Use only for sandstone unit with <10% matrix. Not synonymous with ‘sandstone’

argillite	Avoid; use ‘siltstone’ or ‘mudstone’
artefact	Preferable to ‘artifact’
as a result of	Avoid; use ‘because’
ASCI	
ASEG	Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists
as long as	Avoid; use ‘if’
as well as	Avoid; use ‘and’
ASX	Australian Securities Exchange
AusIMM	Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
autobreccia autobrecciated	
axial plane	‘Axially planar’ as an adjective, e.g. axially planar cleavage

B

back-arc	
backshore	
back-to-back (attrib.)	
banded iron-formation	‘Iron formation’ on its own is not hyphenated
barite	
base metals, base metal deposit	Institutionalized phrase, thus, no need to add hyphens in compound modifier
basic	Adjective used in igneous petrology for a rock with $45 < \text{SiO}_2 < 52$ wt% (cf. ‘acidic’, ‘intermediate’, ‘ultrabasic’; not synonymous with ‘mafic’ or ‘femic’)
Basin	Capitalized when a named basin or basins, i.e. Perth Basin, Edmund and Collier Basins
batholith	Use lower case in a unit name; ‘batholith’ is a structural, not a stratigraphic, term
beach ridge	

beachrock	
bedding plane	But ‘bedding-plane view’
bedform	
bedrock	
beds	Not acceptable in a formal name as ‘beds’ or ‘Beds’. If necessary, upgrade the unit to a formal name (with definition, type section). For regolith maps where mapping isn’t done, use the lower case ‘beds’ instead, with quotation marks
below-ground (adj.)	
belt	All belts are in lower case, as in Yandal greenstone belt, Whim Creek greenstone belt. See fold belt
benefitting	
BGS	British Geological Society
BIF	Preferred to ‘banded iron-formation’ where its use is repeated in a text, unless it is used in a less scientific article
billion years	Use for expressing interval of time. For dates, use ‘Ga’ in preference to 10 ⁹ years
black-and-white banded chert	
blowout	
blue-green algae	Do not use when ‘cyanobacteria’ is meant (previously ‘blue-green algae’). Unless the meaning is specific, use ‘microbial’
bluish-green	But not hyphenated when modified by an adverb, e.g. ‘pale bluish green’, ‘dark blue green colour’
BMR	Bureau of Mineral Resources (subsequently Australian Geological Survey Organisation, AGSO, now Geoscience Australia, GA)
bore	May be used as a synonym for ‘borehole’, or to refer to borehole and surface pumping equipment
boresite	
borehole	

borehole line	Not ‘boreline’
bottomhole	
BP	Before present
breakup	
brownfields	
bureaus	
but	‘although’ is preferable
byproduct	

C

c.	Abbreviation of ‘circa’ (not ca); applicable only to dates that are not precise (e.g. c. 2680 Ma; use 2.7 Ga if still less precise). Not to be used for other units of measurement and not a synonym for ‘approximately’. Always has a space after, not italicized
Ca-metasomatism	
Cainozoic	Archaic; use ‘Cenozoic’
calc-alkaline	An adjective, not a noun, e.g. ‘calc-alkaline rock’
calc-silicate	An adjective, not a noun, e.g. ‘calc-silicate rock’
cannot	Not ‘can not’
caprock	
carbon-14	
CBL	Cement-bond log
CD-ROM	
central Australia	
cement-bond log	Abbreviate to CBL
Cenozoic	Comprises Paleogene + Neogene + Quaternary; does not replace Tertiary. Quaternary will continue to be used by GSWA, to encompass the Holocene and Pleistocene until international usage is clarified

centre line

CET Centre for Exploration Targeting

cf. (compare)

chemical symbols Spell out chemical name in text, e.g. ‘the rock is calcium rich’, but use symbols with chemical assays, e.g. ‘65 ppm Sr’. See also ‘Geochemistry’ in Guide for authors/editors

chondrite-normalized

claypan

cliff-foot slope

coalfield

coarsening-upward An adjective, not a noun, e.g. ‘coarsening-upward unit’, but ‘a unit coarsens upwards’

coastline Avoid; use ‘coast’. Exception is for phrases that describe the line on a map ‘the coastline on ROEBOURNE...’

columnar-jointed lava flow

comagmatic

commonly Refers to something that is common in a spatial sense, e.g. ‘elongate and locally flat pebbles are commonly aligned’. Do not use ‘frequently’ (see **time words**)

company names Can omit Pty Ltd or NL in text after first mention if it does not create confusion, but in references need to cite correct name (see References, Open-file and other company reports)

compare Use ‘compare to’ when suggesting similarity of one thing to an unlike other, e.g. comparing a basalt to a sandstone. Use ‘compare with’ when estimating degrees of similarity between entities of the same kind, e.g. this granite with that granite. The book ‘Right Words’ by Stephen Murray-Smith puts it nicely ‘...in other words, use “compare with” if an argument is involved, “compare to” if no argument is intended.’

compass directions	North-northeast, not north-north-east or NNE; also 285°, not N75°W (see also ‘dip and strike’). Do not use superfluous directions in terms such as ‘east–west dykes’, ‘northeast–southwest faults’, etc. The preference is ‘easterly trending dykes’ or ‘northeast-trending faults’. An exception is north–south compression, or tension. Avoid hanging hyphens if possible, e.g. ‘east-northeast- and northeast-dipping strata’ can be written ‘east-northeasterly and northeasterly dipping strata’, but ... ‘fine- to coarse-grained sandstone’. ‘North-northeasterly trending’ to avoid two or three hyphens. Use ‘east-southeast to west-northwesterly trending’
complementary	Means completing or fitting together
complimentary	Means flattering or free
comprise	This verb is never followed by the preposition ‘of’; it is synonymous with ‘consists of’ and is not synonymous with ‘contain’ or ‘include’. Correct usage of ‘comprise’ is in the sense that the whole comprises the parts not the other way round, as in ‘The pegmatite comprises quartz, feldspar, mica, and tourmaline’
concave-up	
conodont colour-alteration index	
conventional	Allowed (unconventional is not to be used)
convex-up	
cooperation	
coordinate	See MGA coordinates
coordination	
core (or drillcore)	Always use in the singular sense, not as a plural, e.g. ‘The core contains free gold’
core library	The formal name of the Kalgoorlie core library is the ‘JH (Joe) Lord Core Library and Operational Base’. When referring to the core library by itself, use ‘JH (Joe) Lord Core Library’. Can use Joe Lord Core Library in promotional and advertising material.

	The formal name for the Carlisle facility is the Perth Core Library
core-stone	
CRC LEME	Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration
crop out	Avoid; use ‘outcrop’, or ‘are exposed’
cross-beds, cross-bedding, cross-bedded	
crosscut	
cross-folds	
crossplot	
cross-section	
cross-lamination, cross-stratification	
crossed nicols/polars	But cross-polarized light; see plane-polarized light
crude oil sample	
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSV file	Comma separated variable file
currency	Use ‘A\$’ as recommended by the Reserve Bank of Australia; US\$
Curtin University	Replaces ‘Curtin University of Technology’
cutoff	
cyanobacteria	Prefer ‘microbial organisms’ — less specific term

D

dam site	
data	Plural (i.e. ‘data are’, ‘These data show’)
databank	
database	
data points	

dataset	
date	Isotopically determined dates may include an uncertainty and be written thus, 2683 ± 7 Ma. An analytically determined estimate of age (applies to one analysis ‘point’ or sample, e.g. ‘The sample yielded a U–Pb date of 2870 Ma’). See age . Most dates are determined using isotopic systems, and the specific decay system involved should be written with an en rule (U–Pb date, ^{40}Ar – ^{39}Ar date). A forward slash is used to refer to specific isotope ratios ($^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$)
dated	Use ‘dated at ...’ not ‘dated to ...’
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, now Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPW)
department, the	When referring to DMP
depth to basement	
diamond drillcore	For core material obtained through a diamond drillbit; not ‘diamond core’
different	Use ‘different from’, not ‘different to’ or ‘different than’
dip and strike	Use 35° for dip (and specify the dip direction — 35°N); use 045° instead of 45°NE for strike
disk	
distinguish between	Avoid; use ‘distinguish’
DMP	Not ‘the DMP’
domal	Avoid; use ‘domed’ or ‘domical’
dome-and-basin	
double letters	Use ‘focusing’, ‘faceted’, ‘targeted’ but ‘benefitting’, ‘formatting’
downdip	
downhole	
download	
down-plunge	

downsection

downthrown

downwarp

drillbit

Can use ‘diamond bit’

drill chips

drillcore

drillhole

drillstring

drillsite

dry-gas generating

dunefield

dyke

E

e.g.

Early/Late v. Lower/Upper Early/Late are purely time terms such as in ‘...fossils of Early Jurassic age’ and therefore associated with eras, periods, and epochs. Lower/Upper are time-rock (chronostratigraphic) adjectives and used with systems, series, and stages to indicate their place in the geological column. As the Glossary of Geology puts it, ‘Lower Jurassic rocks are of Early Jurassic age’. Upper Devonian (rocks or strata thereof) may well be missing in a succession, but the Late Devonian is never absent. That period must, of course, have existed, and in this example is represented by the hiatus. Use capitals only if the periods are formally divided (e.g. there is no Late Proterozoic and no Middle Cretaceous)

Earth

earthfill

Eastern Goldfields

But ‘northern Eastern Goldfields’ or ‘NE Goldfields’

Ediacaran Period

635–541 Ma, part of the Neoproterozoic

effect	A noun; do not confuse with the verb ‘affect’
EIS	Exploration Incentive Scheme
elements	Can use symbols (Au) as nouns but not as adjectives
email	
en echelon	Do not italicize
end-product	
enquire	Avoid; use ‘inquire’
ENS	Explanatory Notes System
Eoarchean	See Archean
colian	Not ‘aeolian’
epidotitic	Preferred to ‘epidotic’
EPIRB	Emergency position indicating radio beacon
et al.	Preferred to ‘and others’; do not italicize
etc.	Avoid
even-textured	Do not use. Use ‘equigranular’
extremity	Avoid; use ‘limit/edge/end’

F

FAD	First appearance datum
farm out	
farm in	But ‘farm-in’ partner
farther	Refers to length or distance as the comparative of ‘far’. Use when describing physical distance, e.g. How much farther? See also further
feldspar	
feldspar-phyric	See also K-feldspar-phyric
felsic	A mnemonic adjective for feldspar + feldspathoid + quartz; applied to igneous rocks. Refers to the modal mineralogy only (cf. ‘mafic’, ‘ultramafic’; not a synonym for ‘acidic’, or ‘salic’)

ferromagnesian	Should apply only to minerals, not rocks (use ‘mafic’). Not synonymous with ‘mafic’
few	For countable entities, use ‘fewer’ not ‘less’
fieldwork	
(Fig. 1)	Abbreviated as shown when in parentheses. Note ‘Figs’ has no full stop; in text and in parentheses ‘Figs 1, 2’
Figure 1	In full in body text and in figure captions (where it is followed by a full stop). When referring to a figure or table in another publication, this distinction is conveyed by using a lower case ‘f’ or ‘t’
fine-grained sandstone	But ‘The sandstone is fine grained’. See also very fine grained sandstone
fining-downward	Preferred phrase is ‘coarsening-upward’
fining-upward fining-upward sequence	But the succession fines upward (sedimentary successions more commonly fine upward than downward; preferred phrase is ‘fining upward’)
first vertical derivative	1VD
flood-out	
floodplain	
floodwater	
flow banding	But ‘flow-banded lava’
fluviodeltaic	
fluvioglacial	
fluviolacustrine	
focused, focusing	
fold belt	Lower case except where formalized (e.g. Edmund Fold Belt)
follow-up (adj.)	‘Follow-up sampling’
follow up (noun)	‘Follow up was recommended’
footslope	
footwall	

for a period of	Avoid; use ‘for’
fore-arc	
foredune	
foreset	
foreshore	
formatting	
found	Avoid ‘The rocks are found at...’. Rephrase as ‘The rocks are exposed at....’ Or, for example, use ‘defined’, ‘recorded’, ‘are’, ‘are developed’
four dimensional	4D
four-wheel drive	or 4WD
fracking	Avoid; use ‘hydraulic fracturing’
free-air gravity	
fresh rock	
freshwater	
front-end (attrib.)	
further	Means ‘to a great degree’, ‘additional’, or ‘additionally’. It refers to time or amount, e.g. I would like further questions. See also farther
G	
gamma-ray log	
GA	Geoscience Australia
Ga	Abbreviation for years $\times 10^9$ (giga anna or billion years). Can also be used to refer to an interval of time
gas chromatography	But ‘gas-chromatography parameters’
gasfield	
gas–oil generation index	Abbreviation is GOGI
gas-prone rock	
gave rise to	Avoid; use ‘led to’ or ‘caused’

generally	Refers to something that is extensive but not universal; as in ‘The area is generally covered by colluvium’. In scientific writing, the term is superfluous or can be replaced with a more specific term, e.g. ‘commonly’ or ‘typically’
geographic names	For those ending in a possessive ‘s’, the apostrophe is usually not used. The ‘s’ may, or may not, be dropped depending on local usage. For topographic and general geographic names, the plurals are upper case, e.g. the Robe and Ashburton Rivers, Byro and Landor Homesteads
geological names	Where two or more formal geological names with the same generic element are combined in the same expression, the pluralized element remains upper case, e.g. the Parmelia and Yarragadee Formations, the Darling and Urella Faults. When Volcanics is used as a formation name, although it is singular in sense, it causes less confusion and reads better if used as a plural, e.g. ‘The Table Hill Volcanics are...’ or rephrase as ‘The rocks of the Table Hill Volcanics are...’
GeoMap.WA	A GSWA-built desktop GIS application to visualize, interrogate and print geoscience and resource information. Spell in full for legal trade name
Geoscience Australia	GA (formerly Australian Geological Survey Organisation, AGSO; and, Bureau of Mineral Resources, BMR)
GeoVIEW.WA	Online GIS mapping tool to visualize, interrogate, search and print geoscience and resource information. Spell in full for legal trade name
giga cubic metres	Not cubic gigametres – Gm ³
GIS	Geographic Information System
glacigene	Not ‘glaciogene’
glaciodeltaic	
glaciofluvial	Avoid; use ‘fluvioglacial’
glaciomarine	
gold mine	

gnamma hole	Aboriginal term for ‘rockhole’
GPS	Global Positioning System
grabens	Plural of ‘graben’
graded bedding	
grain size	But ‘grain-size interval’
granite	A plutonic rock consisting essentially of quartz (between 20 and 60%), alkali feldspar, and sodic plagioclase in variable amounts with mica and hornblende or both. Use ‘monzogranite’ or ‘syenogranite’ for specific QAPF compositions
granite–greenstone terrane	With en rule
granitic rock	Used for rock of general granitic composition and texture; not synonymous with ‘granite’
granitoid	Do not use. The term is ambiguous because in the IUGS scheme it can be used as a synonym for ‘granite’, or in a more restricted sense to rocks ranging from alkali granite to tonalite
greater than	>100 (no space)
greenfields	
greenstone belt	
greenschist	
greenschist facies conditions	
grey-scale	
greywacke	Avoid; use ‘wacke’ or more specific terms, e.g. ‘lithic wacke’, ‘feldspathic wacke’, ‘quartz wacke’
groundwater	
GSA	Geological Society of Australia
GSWA	In references, use ‘Geological Survey of Western Australia’ (not ‘Western Australia Geological Survey’). Not ‘the GSWA’
gypseous	Resembling gypsum
gypsiferous	Containing gypsum

H

halfway

hand-sorted

hand specimen

hangingwall

hardcopy

hardpan

hard-rock aggregate

has proved to be Avoid; 'is'

have been found to be Avoid; use 'can be'

headwaters

heat-flow data

heavy mineral sands

heavy mineral sands mine Institutionalized phrase, no hyphenation

hematite

herringbone

high-grade (adj.) 'High-grade ore'

high field strength elements Referred to as HFSE

high heat flow

high-Mg basalt Only use if chemistry is known, otherwise use 'komatiitic basalt'

high tide

high-tide mark

high-water mark

hillcrest

hole-deviation data

Holocene Replaces the term 'Recent'

Homestead Capitalize for proper noun, e.g. 'Byro Homestead' and 'Byro and Lander Homesteads'

homogeneous

however

Used where the simpler ‘although’ is meant, e.g. ‘There is an abundance of epidote, however, other evidence of metamorphism has not been found’ is wrong. The author means ‘There is an abundance of epidote, although other evidence of metamorphism has not been found’. Recommend ‘although’ in preference to ‘but’. Use of ‘however’ will carry a connotation of ‘nevertheless’, in which case it will either start a sentence and be followed by a comma (However, ...) or be found mid-sentence, still followed by a comma, but now preceded by a semicolon (...; however, ...)

**hydrocarbon-generation
history**

**hyphenating compound
words**

Words such as ‘phenocryst’ and ‘megacryst’ when used together should not be abbreviated. ‘Phenocrysts and megacrysts are found in ...’ Similarly, rather than ‘monzo- to syenogranite’, use the words in full, e.g. ‘monzogranite to syenogranite’

I

ice sheet

i.e.

ill-defined (adj.)

immediately

Use carefully as can have a time connotation. When in doubt, use alternatives such as ‘just’ or ‘directly’ ‘...just north of Sandstone’ or ‘...directly overlying the Cooya Pooya Dolerite’

imply/infer

To imply is to signify or to suggest; to infer is to draw a conclusion from

in agreement with

Avoid, use ‘agree’

in contrast

Avoid ‘by contrast’

infill

in-depth (adj.)

in-house (adj.)

in situ

institutionalized phrase

A set phrase commonly used in the mining industry, e.g. heavy mineral sands, heavy mineral sands mine

in the vicinity of

Avoid; use ‘near’, ‘about’ or ‘proximal to’

information

Singular, e.g. ‘The information is ...’

inquire

Not ‘enquire’

interdune

interfinger

intermediate

Adjective used in igneous petrology for a rock with $52 < \text{SiO}_2 < 63$ wt% (cf. ‘acidic’, ‘basic’, ‘ultrabasic’). Do not pair with ‘felsic’ or ‘mafic’

internet

interpretive

intertidal

into and in to

Slightly different meanings, as in ‘we turned into the carpark’ and ‘we went in to the exhibition’. See **on to** and **onto**

intra-oceanic arc

IOCG

iron oxide–copper–gold. Write in full in the first instance; subsequent instances, use ‘IOCG’

iron formation

Not hyphenated, except when preceded by ‘banded’, ‘granular’, or ‘siliceous’

iron ore, iron ore deposit

Institutionalized phrase, no hyphenation

iron ore mining

iron ore railways

iron oxide minerals

is (are) characterized by

Avoid; use ‘has’ or ‘resembles’

-ize/-ise

Use ‘z’. Some exceptions to this are advertise, advise, apprise, analyse, comprise, compromise, demise, despise, devise, enterprise, excise, exercise, improvise, incise, premise, revise, realise, supervise, surmise, surprise, televise, verbalise, otherwise, precise

J

JORC Code

The Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) sets out minimum standards, recommendations, and guidelines for public reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources, and Ore Reserves. The first edition was published in 1989 and the JORC Code is revised and updated periodically. See **mineral resources** and **ore reserves**

JORC-compliant

Said of mineral resources or reserves; do not use even if original references used this term

judgement

Jurassic–Cretaceous extension

K

K-feldspar, K-feldspar-phyric

ka

Thousand years abbreviation in ‘date’ form. See also **Ga, Ma**

kankar

kaolinized/kaolinitized

Use ‘kaolinized’ when rock is strongly altered to clay broadly referred to as kaolin (may be mixture of related clay types); use ‘kaolinitized’ to mean alteration (e.g. of alkali feldspar) to specific clay mineral (kaolinite); map legend narratives typically use ‘kaolinized’

keywords

The author and project manager must ensure that correct and appropriate keywords are included in a manuscript. Editing and Publishing ensures adherence to the Australian Geoscience, Minerals and Petroleum Thesaurus (GeMPeT). Hardcopies and digital versions of the thesaurus are in the library, Editing and Publishing and at <www.dmp.wa.gov.au/gempet>. Broadterms (general rather than narrower concepts) are added in Pubstats after publication to enable internet users to search the online catalogue

Kimberley region

km²

km-thick unit

Hyphen should appear between the unit and the adjective, e.g. 10 km-thick unit, not '10-km thick unit'

L

LAD

Last appearance datum

lakebed

lake floor

Landgate

The Western Australian Land Information Authority (formerly Department of Land Information)

landmass

Landsat TM

Landsat Thematic Mapper

landslide

land use

And 'land use planning', except where the sense is affected by the lack of a hyphen

large-scale (adj.)

**last appearance datum/
first appearance datum**

Referred to as LAD/FAD

lateritization

latitude and longitude

Of a point: latitude 22°S, longitude 117°E; of an area: latitudes 22°S and 23°S, and longitudes 117°E and 118°E. Do not use decimals when referring to latitudes and longitudes, e.g. use 22°30'S, not 22.5°S'; 22°47'30"S, 116°21'40"E. However, when extracting from WAROX the decimal form is used (93.27365°E)

layered mafic intrusions

layout

lens-shaped, lenticular

Avoid 'lensoid' or 'lensic'

lesser

Use 'lesser amounts of' plagioclase, rather than 'lesser plagioclase' (which suggests it is inferior in some way)

lie/lay	'Lay' something down, people and rocks lie down by themselves; for rocks use 'lie' (present), 'lay' (past), 'lain' (past participle)
limesand	
limited	Avoid; use 'confined' or 'restricted'
lithology	To quote from Glover (1992), AIG Handbook 1 'Lithology, like petrography, means the description or study of rocks, on the basis of their minerals, mineral interrelationships and other features. Lithology is used at the scale of outcrop or hand specimen, whereas petrography is generally applied to discussion involving thin sections.' Alternatives are 'rock type', and 'sample', depending on the context, not 'rocks'
located	Avoid (superfluous), e.g. The homestead is on the cliff
lower greenschist facies metamorphism	
low field strength elements	
low-grade (adj.)	
lower level platform	
low-water spring tide	
lutetium–hafnium	

M

Ma	Abbreviation for million years (mega annus) when referring to a date. Also used to refer to an interval of time
mafic	A mnemonic adjective for dark-coloured igneous rocks composed of minerals rich in iron and magnesium. 'Mafic' refers to the modal mineralogy (cf. 'felsic', 'ultramafic'; not a synonym for 'femic' or 'basic'). Do not use for minerals (use 'ferromagnesian'); only for rocks. Not synonymous with 'ferromagnesian'

major element analysis	
man-made	
mantle source component	
mantle source region	Add hyphen if there is an extra modifier, e.g. ‘depleted-mantle source region’
map sheet	
mean sea level	
megacrystic	Hyphenate with phenocryst mineralogy, e.g. ‘feldspar-megacrystic granodiorite’
MERIWA	Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia (now Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia)
Mesoarchean	See Archean
Mesoproterozoic	Instead of Middle Proterozoic; see Proterozoic subdivisions
meta	Prefix — forms one word for all metamorphosed lithologies (e.g. ‘metarhyolite’, ‘metagabbro’) except when prefix is followed by a vowel (e.g. ‘meta-arkose’). ‘Metapsammite’ and ‘metapelite’ are not acceptable (see psammite and pelite) or where there is an additional qualifier, so ‘metamorphosed quartz gabbro’ not ‘metaquartz gabbro’, ‘meta-igneous’
metasediment	Use ‘metasedimentary rock’
metre/meter	Use ‘metre’ for unit of distance; use ‘meter’ to refer to any device that measures something (also ‘diameter’ or ‘perimeter’)
MGA coordinates	Convert all local or old AMG grids into GDA94 (MGA) coordinates, using easting and northing coordinates. There are no spaces or commas in the coordinates. MGA coordinates should always be used in brackets, not as a locality name in a sentence, e.g. ‘The unit outcrops 2 km northeast of White Springs Well (MGA 720720E 7704155N)’ not ‘The unit outcrops at MGA 720720E 7704155N’
mg/L	not mgL ⁻¹ (milligrams per litre)

mid-	Always hyphenated with years, e.g. ‘mid-2001’; also when modifying other terms, such as ‘mid-amphibolite facies’
mid-amphibolite facies conditions	
mid-ocean ridge basalt	
Mid West region	
migmatize	
million years	Preferred term for 10 ⁶ years in ‘date’ form is Ma (mega anna; see also Ga, ka). See billion years
mine	Do not use upper case M for named mine, e.g. Mount Belches mine, New Celebration mine (or just ‘New Celebration’) unless formalized by mine owner
mineable, mineability	
MINEDEX	DMP’s mines and mineral deposits information database. When quoting estimates of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves from MINEDEX, please ensure that the original source of the estimate(s) is included. Remember that MINEDEX is a database that is a compilation of estimates prepared by industry, and resource or reserve estimates should not be attributed in such a way that infers the primary compilation was done by MINEDEX, GSWA, or the department. See JORC Code, mineral resources and ore reserves
mineral assemblages	Use an en rule between mineral names and in brackets for minerals that are only present in some samples, e.g. quartz–plagioclase–mica(–tourmaline)
mineral/petroleum exploration well	
mineral resources	Under the JORC Code, Mineral Resources are subdivided, in order of increasing geological confidence, into Inferred, Indicated, and Measured categories, and any reporting of Mineral Resources must specify one or more of these categories, as estimations. The words ‘ore’ and ‘reserves’ must not

	be used in stating mineral resource estimates as they imply technical feasibility and economic viability. See JORC Code and ore reserves
mineralization, mineralized	Use ‘occurrence’ or ‘deposit’ for new mines
mine site	
<i>Mining Act 1978, The</i>	
MVT deposit	Mississippi Valley-type deposit
Moho	Short form of ‘Mohorovičić discontinuity’
monomictic	Does not mean the same as ‘oligomictic’; both terms are needed, also ‘polymictic’
Mount/Mt	Use ‘Mount’ in text where this is meant, to avoid confusion with the abbreviation for ‘megatonnes’ (Mt). Acceptable to use ‘Mt’ in tables. Leave as ‘Mt’ if official term
MORB-normalized	Mid-ocean ridge basalt
movement (structural)	Used for an event recognized locally, whereas transpressional or extensional events are usually recognized regionally; terms have changed over time as more data is collected
MRIWA	Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (formerly MERIWA)
MSA	Mineral systems approach
MSWD	Mean square weighted deviation
MT	Magnetotelluric
mud clasts	
mudcrack	
mudflats	
mud logging	
multi-disciplinary	
multi-element	
m.y.	Do not use. Million years as a time span. Use ‘Ma’ for both dates and time intervals
myriad	Not ‘myriad of’

N

NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
nearshore	
nationwide	
Neoarchean	See also Archean
Neoproterozoic	Instead of ‘Late (or Upper) Proterozoic’; see Proterozoic subdivisions
no.	Abbreviation for ‘number’
nondeposition	
non-source-rock sample	
non-vegetated	
normalized trace element pattern	
northwest	
north-northwest	
North West region	
North West Shelf	
number	Abbreviation is no. (see no. above) except when part of a formal name, e.g. ‘Bore No. 2’. When using numbers such as ‘2nd edition’ or ‘8th Geological Convention’, do not use superscripts; write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th. Default settings in MS Word automatically superscript these, so you will have to undo this or change your settings
numerals	Numbers with four digits in body text should have no space, e.g. 1966 m, not 1 966 m, 2096 Ma not 2 096 Ma. However, use a space in tables, and for numbers greater than 9999 in text, e.g. 13 462. Numbers with five or more digits have a space 23 420, 6 740 332. Use numerals for numbers over ‘nine’ in text. No space is used when citing eastings and northings

O

observed	Redundant in most cases; rephrase
occasionally	Usually means ‘locally’; can use ‘in places’ (see time words). Can use ‘commonly’
occurs	This term is overused. Use a more appropriate verb: is, is exposed, is present, outcrops, be, exist, appear(s), pervade, happen, adjacent, forms, consists of, lie(s), overlies, intergrown with, is identified, is encountered, occupies, extends, and constitutes
often	Use only for expressions relating to time, e.g. ‘Phenocrysts are often corroded’ should be changed to ‘Many phenocrysts are corroded’ (see time words)
oil-generating potential	See petroleum-generating potential
oil-generative window	
oilfield	
oil-to-oil correlation	
oligomictic	Does not mean the same as ‘monomictic’; both terms are needed, also ‘polymictic’
online	
onlaps	
onshore, offshore	
on-site	
on to and onto	Slightly different meanings, as in ‘we drove on to the beach’ (i.e. in that direction) and ‘we drove onto the beach’ (i.e. into contact with it; see into and in to)
opaline	Use with silica (e.g. opaline silica) and chalcedony (opaline chalcedony); avoid ‘real opal’
opalized	Avoid ‘opalinized’; refers to alteration of rock or mineral to, or replacement by, cryptocrystalline silica
opencut	
open-file (adj.)	

openhole	
openpit	
orebody	
ore reserves	Under the JORC Code, an Ore Reserve is the economically mineable part of a Measured or Indicated Mineral Resource, including dilution and losses that may occur during mining. Any reporting of Ore Reserves must specify one or both of the ore reserve categories of ‘Probable’ or ‘Proved’, as estimations. See JORC Code and mineral resources
organic-rich shale	
organization	Referred to in the singular (‘it’, ‘its’, not ‘they’, ‘their’)
orient, oriented	Avoid ‘orientate’, ‘orientated’
orogeny	Plural is ‘orogenies’
outcrop	May be used as a noun (The outcrop...) or verb (...outcrops at...). Can also use ‘exposure’ (see crop out)
overlie, overlying	Superposition of units; not ‘overlay’, ‘overlying’

P

paleo	Prefix; no hyphenation
paleo heat flow	
Paleoarchean	See Archean
Paleocene	
paleochannel	
Paleogene	
Paleoproterozoic	
paleovalley	
Paleozoic	

parallel to	e.g. ‘The gneiss unit is parallel to the overlying foliated eclogite’
parallel with	e.g. ‘We can draw a close parallel with another example.’ Avoid ‘paralleling’, ‘paralleled’
PDF	Portable document format
pelite, pelitic	Metamorphic rock term referring to siltstone/mudstone protolith. The prefix ‘meta’ is not necessary and pelite is not acceptable as a sedimentary term. Do not use as a noun (pelite). See also psammite, psammitic
percent	Use the symbol % if attached to a number, e.g. 50%, not 50 percent, <5%
Permo-Carboniferous/ Permo-Triassic	Avoid; use ‘Permian–Carboniferous’ or ‘Permian–Triassic’ or the specific Series or Stage names
personal communication	Abbreviated to written comm. including initials and date in parenthesis, e.g. (AF Trendall, 1989, written comm., 24 April)
pertaining to	Avoid; use ‘about’
Perth Metropolitan region	
PESA	Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia
petroleum generation– migration–accumulation	
petroleum-generating potential	See oil-generating potential
petroleum supersystem	For ‘Larapintine Petroleum Supersystem’
PGE	Platinum group elements (not PGEs)
PGM	Sometimes used as the abbreviation for platinum group metals. Use ‘platinum group elements’ (PGE)
PhD	Also MSc, BSc, DipEd
phosphorus	
photo-interpretation	
photo-lineament	

photomosaic	
photo-pattern	
Pilbara region	
pipeline	
plagioclase-phyric	
plagioclase-porphyritic andesite	
plane-polarized light	
plateaus	
platinum group elements	PGE, not PGEs
platy	
pmd*CRC	Predictive Mineral Discovery Cooperative Research Centre
podsolized	
porcelanous	
porphyritic	Hyphenated with phenocryst mineralogy, e.g. 'feldspar-porphyritic monzogranite'
possessive 's'	'Jones's' (singular), 'All the Joneses' houses' (plural), 'geologists' work' (plural)
post-date	
post-depositional	
postgraduate	
post-wellhead	
pothole	
ppb	
ppm	
Precambrian	
pre-competitive	
pre-date	Not 'predate' which means 'to hunt and feed on prey'

predominant	Avoid; use ‘chief’, ‘main’, ‘major’, ‘prime’ or ‘principal’
pre-mining	
pre-1914	But ‘pre-World War I’, ‘pre-Mount Roe Basalt’ (preferably rephrase)
prerequisite	
primitive mantle source	
primitive mantle values	
primitive mantle-normalized trace element plot	
primordial mantle-normalized PGE plot	
program	
Proterozoic subdivisions	Use ‘Paleoproterozoic’ instead of ‘Early’ (or Lower) Proterozoic’, ‘Mesoproterozoic’ instead of ‘Middle Proterozoic’, ‘Neoproterozoic’ instead of ‘Late (or Upper) Proterozoic’. But these are not synonymous. Follow the ICS-IUGS (International Commission on Stratigraphy and International Union of Geosciences) time chart 2013 as shown in Gradstein et al. (2013) for exact subdivisions. Do not write ‘Meso–Neoproterozoic’; always write in full
protocontinental	
provided that	Avoid; use ‘if’
psammite, psammitic	Metamorphic rock term referring to sandstone protolith. The prefix ‘meta’ is unnecessary and psammite is not acceptable as a sedimentary term. Do not use as a noun (psammite). See pelite , pelitic
pump-test	
pyrolysis-gas chromatography	Referred to as ‘PGC’
pyrolyzable	

Q

quantity of	Avoid
quartz arenite	
quartzite	Metamorphic term (orthoquartzite); not to be used for strongly cemented, metamorphosed quartz sandstone
quartzofeldspathic	
quartz-phyric	
Quaternary	GSWA uses this term to encompass the Holocene and Pleistocene; younger than, but not part of, the Neogene
query (?)	Should precede doubtful entity, e.g. ‘?Permian’, ‘?garnet’. For rules relating to the use of queries in fossil names, see ‘Citing fossil names’ section in Guide for authors.
quotation marks	Use single quotation marks, e.g. ‘quote’. Double quotation marks should be used for quotes within quotes

R

rainwater	
range	When ‘range’ is used, the prepositions ‘from’ and ‘to’ must also be used. The use of ‘range’ requires two limits so don’t write ‘ranges up to...’. If only the upper limit is stated then use ‘reaches a maximum of..’ or ‘is as much as...’
rapakivi feldspars	Or ‘rapakivi granite’ (no need for rapakivi-textured)
rare earth elements	REE (not REEs)
ratios	In the text, ratios should be expressed with a colon (4:1), not spelt out (4 to 1; four to one). Also, be aware that a ratio is not synonymous with a fraction. The following usage should be avoided ‘Mg/(Mg+Fe) ratios range from 0.51 to 0.58’ (here the term ‘values’ would be better)

re	Prefix generally not hyphenated (but see re-sorted)
Recent	Avoid; use 'Holocene'
redbeds	
REE	Rare earth elements (singular and plural); avoid 'REEs'
referred to as	Avoid; use 'called' or 'known as'
relic/relict	These terms are not synonymous. Refer to the AGI Glossary of Geology for correct usage
represent	Avoid if possible. Commonly used in the sense of 'Something represents an extension of ...' or 'This facies represents deposition in a fluvial setting'. Most geological usage is simply 'is' or 'is interpreted as'
re-sort	When the meaning is 'to sort again'
resources and reserves	See JORC Code , mineral resources , and ore reserves
retro-arc	
reworking	
ripple marks	
rock-chip sampling	
rock codes	All rock codes in text should be italicized and in parentheses. However, rock codes on figures should appear as on the map. New regolith codes are italicized anyway, but the context in text will define whether it is a rock or regolith code. Rock codes should not be used as nouns in the text
Rock-Eval, Rock-Eval pyrolysis	
rock-extract samples	
rockfill	
rockhole	
rockslide	
rock type	

rubidium–strontium

rudite

Avoid; use ‘conglomerate’ or ‘breccia’

runoff

S

salic/sialic

Former refers in a general way to Si–Al-rich minerals; latter refers to parts of the Earth comprising dominantly felsic minerals, such as continental crust

salt lake

salt pan

saltwater

sand dune

sandplain

S–C fabrics

Use en rule for S–C (with upper case);
S = schistosity; C= cisaillement (Fr. for ‘shear’)

scales (comparison of)

Smaller scale maps show more area of ground on the same amount of paper. Thus, 1:250 000 is a smaller scale than 1:100 000 (the scale is actually a fraction and 1/250 000 is less than 1/100 000)

seabed

sea floor

sea-floor spreading

sea level

sea-level changes (attrib.)

sea stacks

seawater

sections

Cross sections should be presented as viewed from the south, except where they trend between 357° and 0°, when they should be presented as viewed from the east. East or north will therefore be at the right-hand end of a section

sedex-type deposit	Sedimentary exhalative mineral deposit
sediments	Use only if unconsolidated; otherwise use 'sedimentary rocks'
sedimentary succession	Not 'sedimentary sequence', as 'sequence' is commonly understood to be used in a sequence stratigraphic context
self-contained petroleum system	
semi	Prefix most often used without hyphen
semipelitic	
semiprecious	
sequence	Avoid; use 'succession'
shallow-marine (attrib.)	
shallow-water (attrib.)	
shelf deposit	See also shelves
shaly	
sheetwash	
shelves	
shoreline	
shotpoint	
SHRIMP	Sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe
SI units	Separated by a space from the numerical value (with no full stops), except for symbols for degree, degree Celsius, minute, and second, e.g. 20 l, 12 km, 22 m, but 112°, 35°C, 22°30'S
silicic	Avoid; use 'acidic'
siliciclastic	
situated	Avoid (superfluous), e.g. The homestead is on the cliff
slaty	
small-scale (adj.)	

soft-sediment deformation

**source-rock facies
classification**

source-rock potential

source-rock sample

southwest

Southeast Asia

**South West Division/
region/Terrane**

South West Highway

South West Mineral Field

spillway

**spinifex-textured
komatiites**

‘Spinifex-textured komatiites’ but ‘coarse olivine (sheath)-spinifex textures’; ‘pyroxene-spinifex textures’; ‘olivine spinifex-textured komatiite’

standalone

State

Use when referring to a State, e.g. Western Australia, New South Wales

statewide

Station

Capitalize for pastoral stations and railway stations

strandline

stratabound

stratigraphic names usage

Superseded names should be defined as such in their first usage in a document, and then placed in inverted commas thereafter wherever it may be ambiguous as to whether they are currently accepted or not (see the Chief Geoscientist and Terrane Custodians Intranet page for the latest rock codes list and the Geoscience Australia stratigraphic units database at <www.ga.gov.au/oracle/stratnames_info.jsp>)

stratotype	
structural and tectonic events	All terms of structural and tectonic events with specific names should be capitalized, e.g. ‘Prices Creek Movement’, ‘Fitzroy Movement’, ‘Meda Transpression’, ‘Capricorn Orogeny’, ‘Musgrave Orogeny’, exception is ‘Gondwana break up’
stubby	Do not use. When referring to crystal shape, use ‘equant’
sub	Prefix generally not hyphenated, e.g. ‘subaerial’, ‘subangular’, ‘subaqueous’, ‘subcontinental lithosphere mantle (SCLM)’, ‘subdivide’, ‘subglacial’, ‘subgroup’, ‘submillimetre-scale’, ‘subtidal’, ‘subrounded’, ‘subduction’ (but ‘sub-basin’)
subcrop	The area within which a formation is directly beneath an unconformity; a ‘subsurface outcrop’. Does not mean ‘to exist in the subsurface’, nor a ‘poor surface exposure’
subparallel	
sulfate	
sulfide	
sulfur	
sulphur	Avoid; use ‘sulfur’
supergroup	
supercontinent	
superficial	
supersede	
surficial	
syn	Prefix generally not hyphenated, e.g. ‘syntectonic’, ‘synmetamorphic’, ‘syndepositional’

T

Table	Capitalized when referring to, or captioning, tabulation (except in reference to ‘other works’). See also Figure
targeted, targeting	
taxonomic nomenclature	See Citing fossil names under Methods of citation (GSWA guide for authors)
TD	Total depth
TDS	Total dissolved solids
tectonic units	Only the tectonic units shown on the most recent Tectonic units of Western Australia map should be used as the GSWA standard for tectonic units. Only valid units in ENS should be used
tectono-magmatic	
tectono-metamorphic	
tectono-stratigraphic	
tectono-thermal	
tenses	‘Authors concluded’; ‘the figures show’, i.e. past tense for authors; present tense for book, map, figure
terrain	A tract or region of the Earth’s surface considered as a physical feature, an ecological environment, or a site of some planned human activity
terrane	A fault-bounded body of rock of regional extent, characterized by a geological history different from that of contiguous bodies of rock
Tertiary	Not currently recommended by IUGS. Use Cenozoic, Paleogene or Neogene, or more specific subdivisions of these depending on age control, unless use of ‘Tertiary’ is warranted by context
the department	When referring to DMP
the effect of	Avoid
thin section	But ‘thin-section view’
three dimensional	Use ‘3D’

time frame	
time span	Within a single stratigraphic division write ‘Middle–Late Devonian’ (not Mid–Late or Middle to Late)
time scale	
time window	
time words	Words such as ‘usually’, ‘frequently’, ‘often’, ‘while’, ‘since’, ‘occasionally’ denote time and can be confusing if used to denote place or state. Rephrase the sentence to avoid use. Examples such as always (everywhere), frequently, often (commonly, many of), now and then (here and there), occasionally (locally), since (inasmuch as), sometimes (in places, some of), usually (commonly, most of), when (where), while (although, whereas). Use ‘typically’ instead of ‘generally’
TM	Transverse magnetic
TMI	Total magnetic intensity
to be/to do	Can be omitted
tonnage	
topographic names	See geological names
topset	
total of	Can be omitted
townsite	
township	
trace element analysis	
trace element-enriched	
trackways	As in ‘arthropod trackways’
trademarks	The use of registered trademarks is not encouraged. Crown Law has advised that there is no need to include symbols such as ©, ®, or TM after company or product names
TSF	Tailings storage facility
tufflava	

typically Refers to something that applies to most members of a class, e.g. ‘the granite is typically medium grained’. See **time words**

U

ultrabasic Adjective used in igneous petrology for rocks with <45 wt% SiO₂ (cf. ‘acidic’, ‘basic’, ‘intermediate’). Not a synonym for ‘ultramafic’

ultra-high-grade metamorphism

ultra-high temperature

ultramafic Said of an igneous rock when mafic minerals total >90% of the modal mineralogy; not a synonym for ‘ultrabasic’

un Prefix generally not hyphenated

underexplored

units of measurement Space between numbers and their units, e.g. 15 km, not 15km (but...15% and 15°C). For GSWA petroleum reports, original units will be metric; retain all significant figures in oil and gas estimates, ‘9.6982 billion litres’

unconventional* gas ***Do not use.** Where a collective term is to be used, refer to ‘shale and tight gas’. Where it is more appropriate to be specific, refer to shale oil, onshore activities. When discussing hydraulic fracture stimulation, the term ‘fracking’ can be included, for example: ‘For shale and tight gas, the rock formations need to undergo hydraulic fracture stimulation (also known as fracking) to release the gas and enable recovery.’ However, try to avoid using the term ‘fracking’

unnamed

updip

upper-level platform

URL	Uniform resource locator. Display in the style of <www.dmp.wa.gov.au>. Do not use 'http://'
US	United States (adjective and noun)
usually	'Usually' has a temporal connotation for something that is customary or regular but not universal (it should not be confused with generally), e.g. 'cyclones and thunderstorms usually occur between November and April'. See time words
utilized	Avoid; prefer 'used'
UWA	The University of Western Australia

V

valley-fill deposits	
vein banding	
vermin-proof fence	
very fine grained sandstone	Not hyphenated because the fine is itself modified by an adverb
vicinity of	Avoid. Sometimes used unnecessarily for 'about', 'proximal' or 'nearly'. See also 'in the vicinity of'
vitritine reflectance data	
VMS	Volcanogenic massive sulfide
VHMS	Volcanic-hosted massive sulfide
volcanicity	
volcaniclastic	
volcanics	Avoid; use 'volcanic rocks'. See geological names
volcanism	
volcanogenic	
volcanology	
volcano-sedimentary	
vug, vuggy	

W

wacke	A clastic sedimentary rock with >10% matrix. Use instead of 'greywacke'
WACHEM	Geochemistry database
WA:ERA	Western Australian Energy Research Alliance
wallrock	
WAMEX	DMP's Western Australian mineral exploration database
WAPIMS	DMP's Western Australian petroleum and geothermal information management system
WARIS	Western Australia Regional Initiatives Scheme
WAROX	GSWA's Western Australian field observation database
washout	
WASM	Western Australian School of Mines
water bore	
watercourse	
water-cut	
water depth	
waterhole	
waterlevel	
watermark	
watertable	
water well	
wave-cut platform	
web	
web-based (adj.)	
web browser	
website	

well	Common petroleum industry nomenclature (see AGI Glossary of Geology); drillhole also acceptable for petroleum manuscripts and maps
wellbeing	
well-defined (adj.)	
wellhead	
well-rounded (adj.)	
west Pilbara	
Western Australia	Not ‘West Australia’ or West Australian’. Write in full
whether or not	Usually can be shortened to ‘whether’
while/whilst	Avoid ‘whilst’. For clarity use ‘while’ to mean ‘at the time that’, but not to mean ‘although’, ‘whereas’, ‘and’ or ‘but’
whole-rock geochemistry	
whose	Formerly considered to be necessarily personal; permissible in phrases such as ‘. . . those basalts whose MgO contents are 10%’
wind-blown sand	
wireline	
with the result that	Avoid; use ‘so that’
worldwide	
written communication	To be obtained and used instead of personal communication. In text mention as (FH Clark, 2002, written comm., 24 April)
wt% (no space)	For ‘weight percent’, e.g. 48 wt% (space between value and unit)

X

X-ray

Further details of geological publications and maps produced by the Geological Survey of Western Australia can be obtained by contacting:
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