

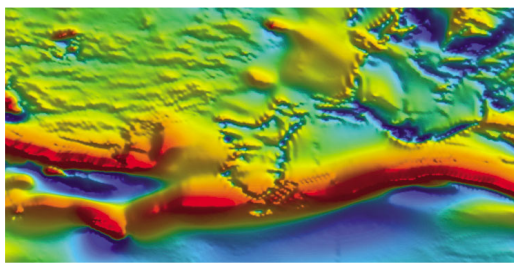


Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

**RECORD 2010/23**

# **GEOHERMAL ENERGY POTENTIAL IN SELECTED AREAS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (BROWSE BASIN)**

by  
**Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd**



**Geological Survey of Western Australia**



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Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd<sup>1</sup>**

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**Perth 2010**



**Geological Survey of  
Western Australia**

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**Notice to the reader**

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# Geothermal Energy Potential in Selected Areas of Western Australia (Browse Basin)

A report prepared for the Department of Mines  
and Petroleum, Western Australia

Report DMP0260909

July 2010



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## Executive summary

Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd (HDR) was commissioned by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP), Western Australia, to appraise the geothermal potential of four basins in Western Australia (the Browse, Bonaparte, Carnarvon and Officer basins) as part of Project DMP0260909.

A total of 74 wells were assessed; comprising 45 wells in the Carnarvon Basin, 17 wells in the Officer Basin, 10 wells in the Bonaparte Basin and two wells in the Browse Basin.

This report focuses on the Browse Basin. Two wells were assessed in detail for heat flow modelling.

The principle findings of this report are:-

- The Browse Basin lies entirely offshore and covers an area of approximately 185,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The limited well penetrations and seismic data in the nearshore shallow water sections of the basin would suggest that current geothermal potential of the Browse Basin is limited.
- The Perth Core Library only holds limited core available for analysis from the Browse Basin. HDR was only able to collect four specimens for rock thermal conductivity measurements. The measured rock thermal conductivities for the specimens ranged between 2.29–4.51 W/mK.
- Heat flow was modelled for two wells. Formations intersected by those wells were not the same formations for which thermal conductivity data were measured. HDR therefore utilised conductivity data from similar lithologies in adjacent basins to assist in deriving values of apparent surface heat flow.
- Apparent surface heat flow values for the two modelled petroleum wells in the Browse Basin were  $30 \pm 3.3$  mW/m<sup>2</sup> and  $51 \pm 6.8$  mW/m<sup>2</sup>. The uncertainties were derived from uncertainty in thermal conductivity. Additional uncertainty is inherent in the results because the temperature data used in the models were also poorly constrained.

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## **Authors**

Jim Driscoll compiled this report, aided by Ben Waining. Graeme Beardsmore reviewed the report and approved its release in its final form.

## **Disclaimer**

The information and opinions in this report have been generated to the best ability of the author, and Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd (HDR) hope they may be of assistance to you. However, neither the author nor any other employee of HDR guarantees that the report is without flaw or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes, and therefore we disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on any information in this publication. Base data utilised in this report were provided by the Department of Mines and Petroleum and HDR is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of these data.

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## 1. Introduction

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) provided Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd (HDR) with basic data packages for 74 wells in the Bonaparte, Browse, Carnarvon and Officer basins (Figure 1), including petroleum and stratigraphic well data, scanned log headers, bottom hole temperatures (BHTs), geological and geophysical reports, and other relevant data. HDR utilised these data and collected rock samples to provide new rock thermal conductivity data to use in the determination of apparent heat flow across the four basins as part of the overall assessment.

HDR was commissioned to utilise the supplied data to address the Scope of Services (Schedule 2; Section 1.2 of the *Request For Quote DMP0260909*) for the following topics:-

- determine depth of basement at the well locations
- verify geothermal data and extrapolate temperature to the basement
- generate isotherm maps at 100°C, 150°C and 200°C
- identify basement lithology from existing geophysical data
- relate basement lithology at depth from the existing data
- calculate the heat generating capacity of the basement rock

HDR was also requested to compile and comment on the adequacy of data on the current *in-situ* stress field in areas of potential Engineered Geothermal System (EGS) interest.

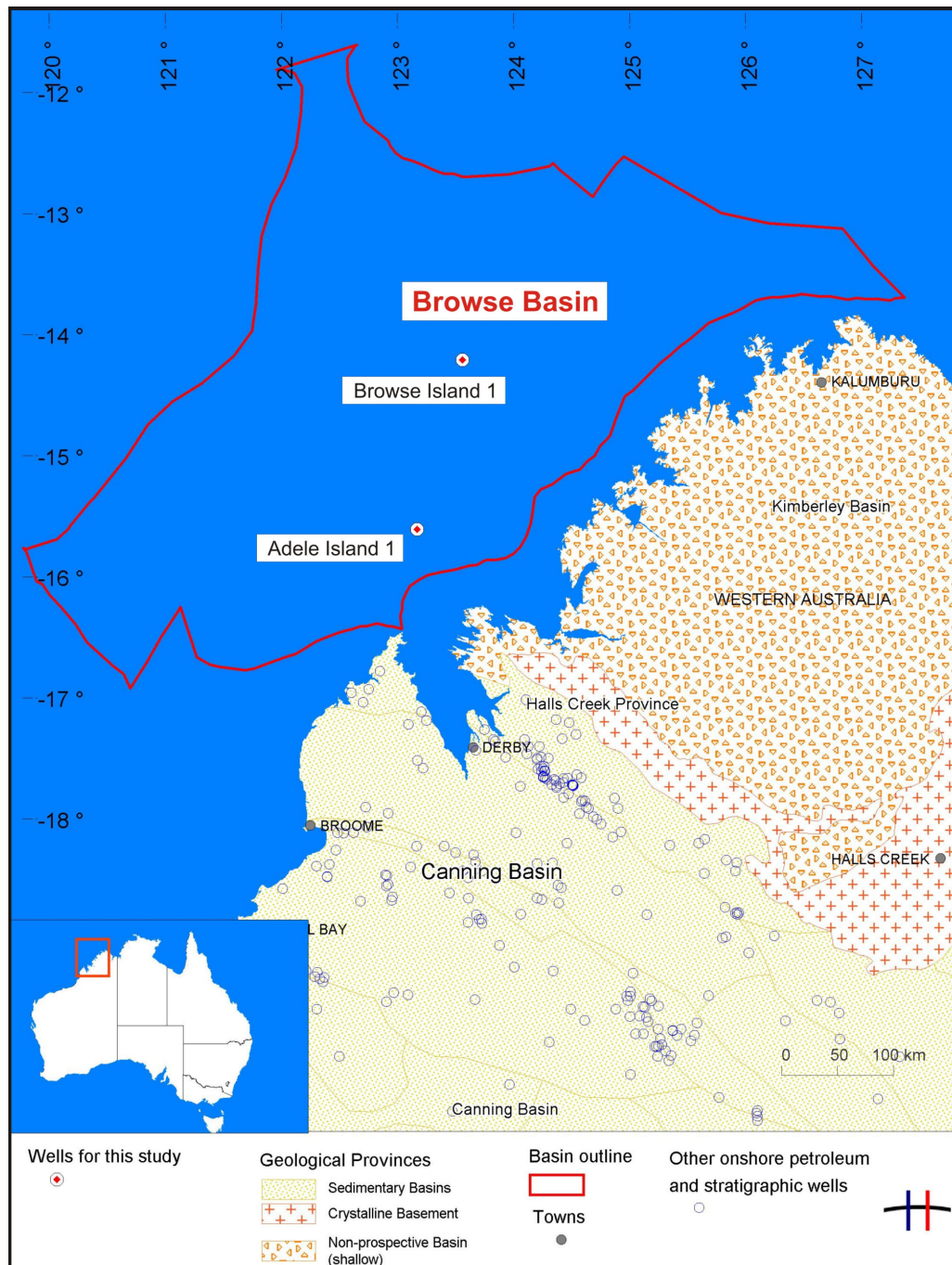
This report focuses on the two wells located within the Browse Basin (Attachment A). Given the limited well coverage, DMP advised that gridding of heat flow data and isothermal depth surfaces would not be required. Furthermore, a review of the EGS potential would also not be required. HDR was therefore only commissioned to supply a basic summary document for the geothermal potential of the Browse Basin.



**Figure 1:** Location of the Bonaparte, Browse, Carnarvon and Officer basins, Western Australia (individual basin polygons modified from Geoscience Australia databases).

## 2. Browse Basin Geological Setting

The northeast-trending Browse Basin (Figure 2) is one of a string of sedimentary basins located off northwestern Australia's margin, collectively referred to as the Westralian Superbasin or North West Shelf, and covers a total area of approximately 185,000 km<sup>2</sup>.



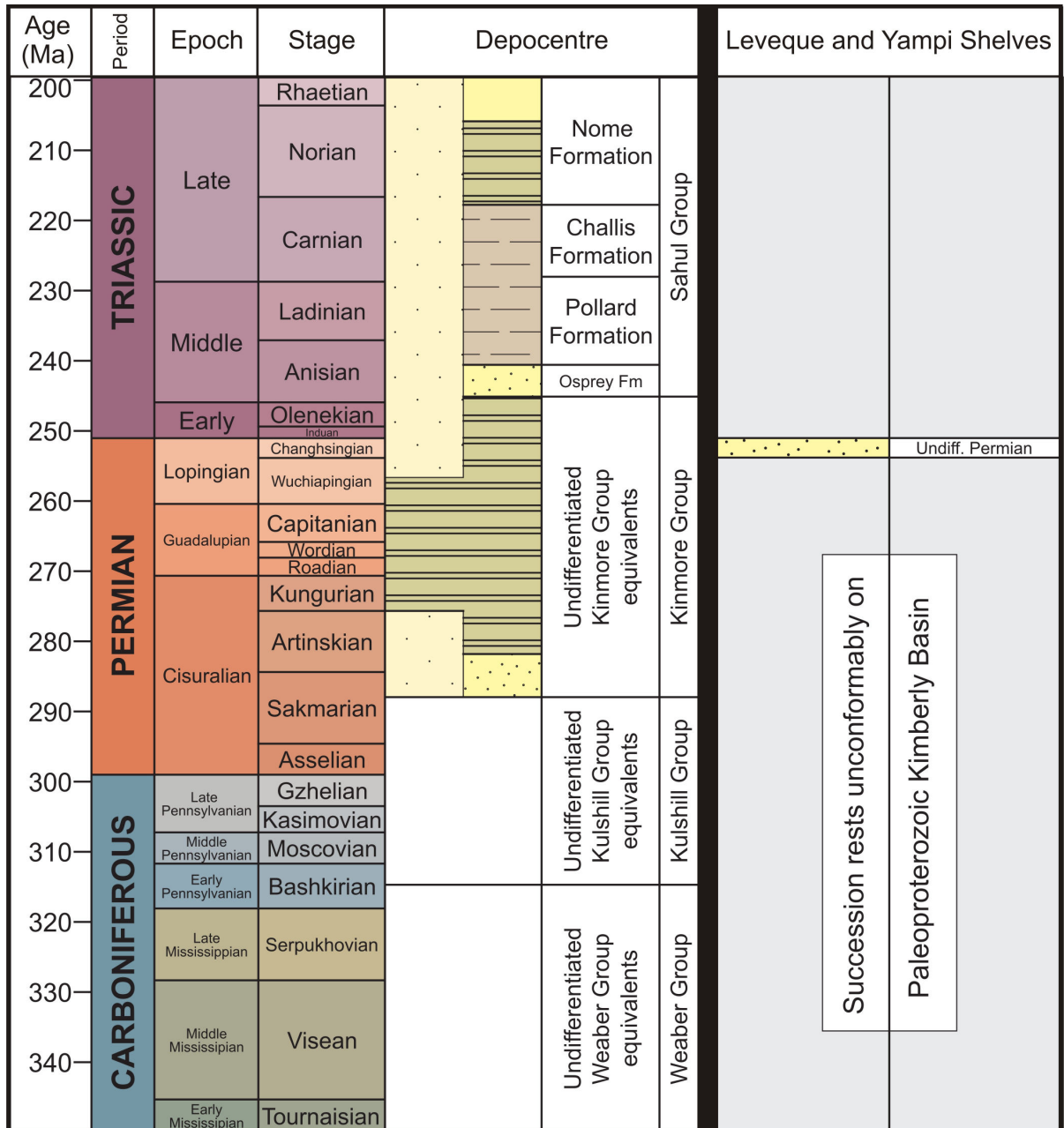
**Figure 2:** Location of the Browse Basin (basin polygon from Geoscience Australia database).



The Browse Basin is located offshore in water depths up to 2,000 m. The two wells that form this study are located on small coral atolls inboard of the main depocentres. The basin contains up to 12 km of sedimentary fill and was initiated as an intracratonic basin in the Late Carboniferous-Early Permian. The stratigraphy of the Browse Basin is summarised on Figures 3 and 4. A more detailed discussion of the structural evolution and stratigraphic succession can be found in Lavering and Pain (1991).

The basin is the focus of ongoing petroleum exploration activities. A number of large undeveloped gas/condensate fields have been identified in the outer and central areas, and small petroleum fields along the eastern margin.





**Figure 4:** Stratigraphy of the Browse Basin Carboniferous to Triassic section (modified from file supplied by Ameer Ghori, DMP).

### 3. Basement Investigations

This section provides information for the following topics:-

For the two wells to be assessed:-

- determine depth of basement at the well locations
- identify basement lithology from existing geophysical data

#### **3.1. Basement depth**

Adele Island-1 penetrated basement at 785 m. The OZ SEEBASEv2 database (FrOG Tech, 2007) was used to estimate the depth-to-basement<sup>1</sup> value of 8,000 m beneath Browse Island-1.

#### **3.2. Basement lithology**

Adele Island-1 intersected a basement of Proterozoic quartzite. The lithology of the basement beneath Browse Island-1 was derived from the continuation of geophysical signatures (gravity and magnetics) from areas of known basement composition (Attachment B).

In this case, the closest well to intersect basement—Rob Roy-1, approximately 75 km northeast of Browse Island-1—penetrated quartzite (metasediments). The gravity and magnetic signatures of basement beneath Browse Island-1 suggest it is of a similar composition to the lithology intersected in Rob Roy 1. Basement data (actual and estimated) for Adele Island 1 and Browse Island 1 is detailed in Attachment C.

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<sup>1</sup> Rounded to the nearest 250 m.

## 4. Heat flow modelling methodology

### 4.1. Introduction

1D conductive heat flow modelling allows for accurate extrapolation of temperature to depth as it honours the thermodynamic principles of heat transfer. The depth to which temperature can be extrapolated depends on the depth to which the assumption of purely vertical conductive heat transfer holds true. The assumption fails if a) there is a component of advective heat transfer via fluid flow, b) there is appreciable lateral conduction of heat, or c) temperatures exceed about 300°C, at which point radiation starts to play a role in heat transfer. This report assumes purely vertical conductive heat transfer with internal heat generation over the modelled depth intervals. HDR was commissioned to investigate the thermal conditions of two wells in the Browse Basin based on existing temperature data. HDR used its proprietary 1D conductive heat flow modelling software to build heat flow models for each well. Required data include downhole temperatures (corrected to approximate equilibrated conditions where sufficient information is available) and thermal conductivity data of intersected formations. Raw temperature and lithological data were provided by the DMP.

### 4.2. Heat flow and limitations of 1D modelling

Surface heat flow is a measure of the flux of thermal power at surface and is a function of the rate of heat generated within the crust plus heat conducted from the mantle.

The principle aim of geothermal exploration is to locate anomalously high temperatures at an economically and technically viable drilling depth. The thermal state of the crust can be expressed at the surface in the form of heat flow units ( $\text{mW/m}^2$ ) and it is generally assumed that heat is transported to the surface by conductive means. In a conductive heat regime the temperature,  $T$ , at depth,  $z$ , is equal to the surface temperature,  $T_0$ , plus the product of heat flow,  $Q$ , and thermal resistance,  $R$ , such that:

$T = T_0 + QR$ , where  $R = z / (\text{average thermal conductivity between the surface and } z)$ .



Consequently, the most prospective regions for geothermal exploration are those that have geological units of sufficiently low conductivity (high thermal resistance) in the cover sequence combined with high heat flow.

Heat flow is the product of temperature gradient and rock thermal conductivity. It is therefore calculated, or modelled, from these two parameters, not directly measured. The modelling of heat flow is a precision skill that requires experience and a detailed understanding of physical conditions in the borehole and the physical properties of the rocks; including advective processes such as ground water flow or borehole convection that may influence bore temperature (such as ground water flow or borehole convection), and the temperature dependence of conductivity.

Heat flow estimates are only as accurate as the data that have been used to generate them. It is therefore important that the temperature and conductivity data used to model heat flow represent as closely as possible the actual thermal conditions.

HDR's 1D conductive heat flow modelling software accounts for heat generation and the temperature dependence of conductivity. However, the results of 1D heat flow modelling should be treated with caution when extrapolating data spatially over considerable distance as thermal properties almost certainly change with facies variation laterally.

#### ***4.3. Verification of well temperatures***

Temperature interpolations and extrapolations based solely on reported well temperatures measured during the drilling process are liable to underestimate the true virgin rock temperature of the formations at depth due to the cooling effect of circulating drilling mud. To ensure the most accurate thermal modelling, corrections (such as Horner Plots) are applied to time series data recorded during logging processes.

The Horner Plot method corrects the bore hole temperature for the cooling effect of the drilling process using the parameters of recorded bore hole temperature, the time

elapsed since the last fluid circulation, and the time between the end of drilling and the cessation of fluid circulation. The accuracy of the correction depends on the reliability and accuracy of the reported temperatures and times. More than one recorded temperature from the same depth, but at different times, is required for a Horner Plot.

Temperatures reported in the well completion reports of the two wells in the Browse Basin were assessed and, where sufficient information was found, Horner corrections were applied using the methodology of Hermanrud *et al.* (1990). The corrected temperatures were used in the thermal models for these wells. For other temperature data it was not possible to apply corrections. Uncertainty values were ascribed to each temperature datum, as detailed in Section 5.2.

Temperature data used for each well model, and the status of those data (corrected or uncorrected), are itemised with the individual heat flow models in Appendix 1.

#### **4.4. Surface temperatures**

Ground surface temperature is an important constraint for heat flow models defined by limited downhole temperature data. Average surface temperature for each well was estimated from mean annual air temperature data reported by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for the Browse Basin (Kuri Bay weather station). Ground surface temperature was assumed to be 3°C hotter due to surface insulation, following the findings of Howard and Sass (1964). Uncertainty was assumed to be  $\pm 1.5^\circ\text{C}$ . Estimated ground surface temperatures for each well are shown within the individual heat flow models (Appendix 1).

#### **4.5. Rock thermal conductivity measurement**

Thermal conductivity is the physical property that controls the rate at which heat energy flows through a material in a given thermal gradient. In the S.I. system of units, it is measured in watts per metre-Kelvin (W/mK). In the earth, thermal conductivity controls the rate at which temperature increases with depth for a given heat flow. The thermal conductivity distribution within a section of crust must be

known in order to calculate crustal heat flow from temperature gradient data, or to predict temperature distribution from a given heat flow.

HDR undertook steady-state thermal conductivity measurements of four representative samples from lithologies of the Browse Basin using HDR's portable electronic divided bar apparatus. Samples came from core stored at the DMP core library in Perth. The full conductivity report is provided in Appendix 2 and a summary of measurements is provided in Attachment D.

The limited number of specimens measured reflects the limited core available for testing.

#### **4.6. Rock thermal conductivity estimation**

Since the well completion reports and DMP formation tops database only record ages and lithologies in the two wells, and none of the samples from formations tested in HDR's thermal conductivity analysis were intersected by these two wells, it was necessary for HDR to allocate thermal conductivity values based on similar aged lithologies in the adjacent Carnarvon and Canning basins. As rock thermal conductivity is highly dependent upon lithology, an uncertainty of 20% was assigned to each uncertainty to reflect this.

Thermal conductivity values for each Browse Basin formation used in the 1D heat flow models are shown in Table 1 and Attachment E.

**Table 1:** Thermal conductivities by formation for the Browse Basin, as used for 1D heat flow modelling in this report. The full HDR thermal conductivity report is included as Appendix 2 of this report.

Formation	Conductivity (W/mK)	Uncertainty ± (W/mK)
Miocene/Pliocene 1st (?Barracouta/Oliver Fm)	1.68	0.34
Upper Cretaceous glauconitic sst/slt/mst (?Puffin/ Prudhoe Fm)	2.26	0.45
Lower Cretaceous sst (?Echuca Shoals Fm)	2.83	0.57
Upper Jurassic glauconitic sst/slt/dolomite (?Upper Vulcan Fm)	2.70	0.54
Upper Jurassic glauconitic sst/slt/lignite (?Upper Vulcan Fm)	1.15	0.23
Proterozoic quartzite	6.00	1.20

#### 4.7. Estimating basement heat generation

Heat generation is most effectively estimated from the analytical measurement of uranium, thorium and potassium within rock samples. As it was not possible to obtain basement samples for analytical measurement, HDR assessed the heat generation of rocks within and adjacent to the Browse Basin using data from the Geoscience Australia geochemical data base (OZCHEM, 2007). Heat generation values estimated from these data have been incorporated into the 1D heat flow models for this study.

As no geochemical data were available for the Browse Basin, data from the Kimberley region and Halls Creek Orogen were utilised as proxies, assuming that similar rocks may partly comprise the basement of the Browse Basin. Heat generation ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^3$ ) was estimated using an assumed rock density and the isotopic abundance method as described in Beardsmore and Cull (2001). Individual results for metasedimentary rocks are listed in Attachment F.

Median heat generation results for metasedimentary rock samples adjacent to the Browse Basin are shown in Table 2. The median values are based on a relatively small number of samples, and are likely to change with further geochemical sampling of basement rocks beneath the Browse Basin. The data suggest that the heat generating potential of metasedimentary rocks around the Browse Basin is not greatly elevated.

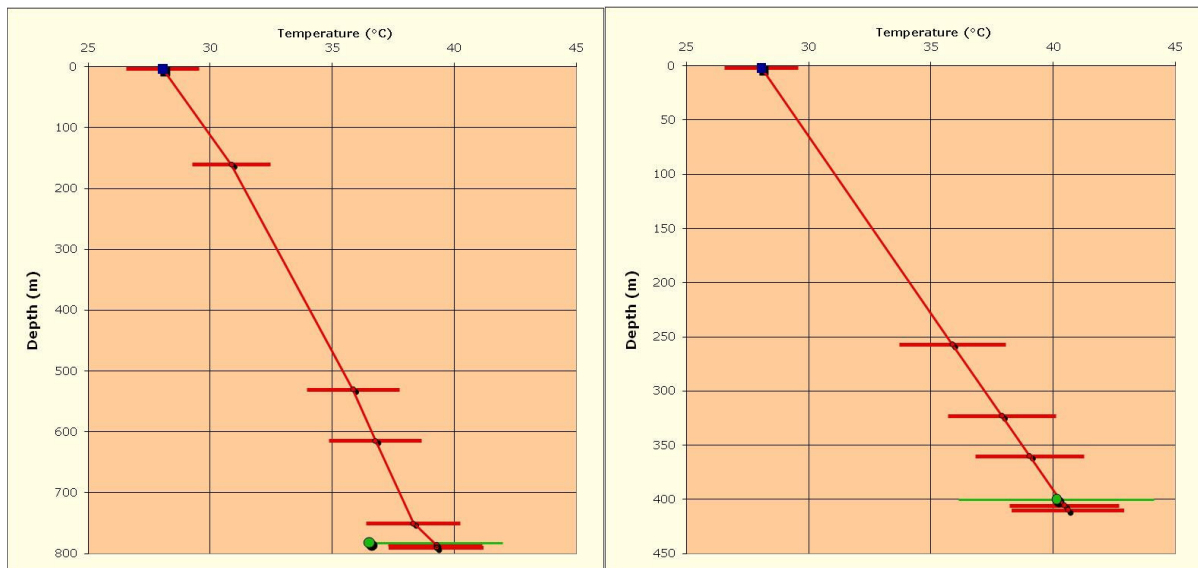
**Table 2:** Summary of heat generation estimates for metasedimentary rocks around the Browse Basin

Lithology	Number of samples	Assumed density ( $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ )	Heat generation ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^3$ ) Range	Heat generation ( $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^3$ ) Median
Metasedimentary	3	2.48	1.22–6.38	3.45

## 5. Heat flow modelling

### 5.1. Estimated heat flow

HDR constructed 1D conductive heat flow models (Figure 5) for the two wells in the Browse Basin (the individual details of these thermal models are shown in Appendix 1). A summary of heat flow results, and the relative reliability ranking of these data, is shown in Attachment G. HDR incorporated temperature data, rock thermal conductivity data and heat generating potential estimates to model heat flow in the two wells. Heat flow was adjusted until the predicted temperature profile best fit the reported temperature datasets.



**Figure 5:** 1D heat flow models for the Adele Island-1 (left) and Browse Island-1 (right) petroleum wells. The green circles represent individual temperature data; the green lines represent the degree of uncertainty; the red line is the predicted temperature profile for a heat flow of  $30 \pm 3.3 \text{ mW/m}^2$  and  $51 \pm 6.8 \text{ mW/m}^2$ , respectively.

### 5.2. Reliability of heat flow data

Modelled heat flow is highly dependent upon the quality and quantity of temperature data. For each temperature datum, an uncertainty range was estimated based on the type of datum and the information known about it. The Horner corrected value from Browse Island-1 was assigned a relatively narrow uncertainty range centred on the corrected value. The uncorrected BHT value from Adele Island-1, however, was

assigned a zero uncertainty on the 'negative' side and a much larger uncertainty on the 'positive' side to reflect the fact that this measurement very likely understated the true temperature conditions. Heat flow models were constructed so that predicted temperature profiles passed as near as possible through the mid-point of the error bars on the temperature data.

Modelled heat flow values were ascribed a relative reliability ranking based on a qualitative assessment of the well temperature data (Table 3 and Attachment G).

**Table 3:** Reliability ranking scheme for the two wells modelled in the Browse Basin

Reliability Ranking	Most Reliable Temperature Data
1	One BHT datum
2	Several BHT data
3	One DST or Horner corrected temperature
4	Several DST or Horner corrected temperatures
5	Both DST and Horner corrected temperatures

## 6. Conclusions

The measured rock thermal conductivities for the four core samples collected range between 2.29–4.51 W/mK. Apparent heat flow values for the two Browse Basin wells were  $30 \pm 3.3$  mW/m<sup>2</sup> and  $51 \pm 6.8$  mW/m<sup>2</sup>. The limit of just two data points over the entire Browse Basin makes it impossible to draw any firm conclusions about the broader distribution of heat flow across the region.

The limited well penetrations and seismic data in the shallow water sections of the Browse Basin would suggest that the potential to exploit geothermal energy in the Browse Basin remains highly uncertain.

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**Attachment A: Wells in the Browse Basin that form this study.**

Well Name	Area	Well ID	Well Status	Total Depth (m)	Deviated well?	Age at Total Depth	Lithostratigraphic Unit	Datum	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)
Adele Island 1	Leveque Shelf	W001086	Petroleum	789.5	N	Proterozoic	Quartzite	GDA94	-15.511099	123.158219
Browse Island 1	Caswell Sub-basin	W001490	Stratigraphic	405.5	N	Pliocene	Argillaceous lst	GDA94	-14.111149	123.550458

### Attachment B: Basement lithology and depths for all wells in the Browse Basin that intersected basement.

Well Name	Datum	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	TD (m)	Basement type	Depth to Basement (m)
Adele Island 1	GDA94	-15.511099	123.158219	789.5	Quartzite	785
Capsule 1/ST1	GDA94	-13.655464	124.506232	1089	Gabbro	1087
Cilia 1	GDA94	-13.594924	125.074506	498	Rhyodacite	497
Cornea 1	GDA94	-13.695665	124.492046	830	Porphyritic dacite	827.8
Cornea 1B	GDA94	-13.698648	124.494902	980	Quartzite	978
Cornea South 1	GDA94	-13.763531	124.461452	847	Rhyolite	825.9
Cortex 1	GDA94	-13.669817	124.790733	462.5	Quartzite	432.5
Hammer 1	GDA94	-13.663217	124.515428	944	Granite (SWC); Rhyolite (cuttings)	917
Intrepid 1	GDA94	-12.932569	125.848940	1394	Granite (minor quartz veining)	1381
Leveque 1	GDA94	-15.751918	122.006186	899.5	Gabbro	895.8
Londonderry 1	GDA94	-13.613356	124.513087	1145	Metasomatised, strongly porphyritic rhyodacite	1135
Retina 1	GDA94	-13.352069	125.198051	611	Rhyolite	596
Rob Roy 1	GDA94	-13.969584	124.200463	2286	Quartzite	2255.5
Stroma 1	GDA94	-13.779439	124.562635	674	Granodiorite	673
Strumbo 1	GDA94	-13.228039	125.497814	728	Rhyolite	705
Tear 1	GDA94	-13.580525	124.593720	887	Rhyolite	847

**Attachment C:** Basement (predicted and actual) lithology and depths for the wells in this study.

Well Name	Well ID	Total Depth (m)	Basement Lithology	Basement Depth (m)	Depth to Basement Beneath Total Depth (m)	Datum	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)
Adele Island 1	W001086	789.5	Quartzite	785	-	GDA94	-15.511099	123.158219
Browse Island 1	W001490	405.5	Metasediment	8000	7594.5	GDA94	-14.111149	123.550458

### Attachment D: Summary of measured rock thermal conductivity data for the Browse Basin (see Appendix 2).

Sample	Well	Depth from (m)	Depth to (m)	Conductivity (W/mK)	Uncertainty $\pm$ (W/mK)	Formation	Lithology
DIR146	Calliance 1	3776.0	3776.3	3.33	0.15	Montara Formation	heterolithic fine-grained yellow/buff sst and dark grey slt; highly bioturbated; occasional reddish brown nodules/diagenetic overprint?
DIR147	Brecknock 2	3786.8	3787.0	4.51	0.10	Plover Formation	yellow fine-grained sst
DIR148	Calliance 1	3797.2	3797.4	2.82	0.12	Plover Formation	grey slt; mottled [bioturbated]
DIR149	Brecknock 2	3825.7	3825.9	2.29	0.17	Nome Formation	dark grey slt; highly fractured [healed? Doubtful drilling induced?]

**Attachment E:** Formation conductivities for the Browse Basin used in the 1D heat flow models. Notes refer to other reports generated by HDR for this same project.

Formation	Conductivity (W/mK)	Uncertainty $\pm$ (W/mK)	Notes
Miocene/Pliocene 1st (?Barracouta Formation/Oliver Formation)	1.68	0.34	Use HDRa (2010): Gippsland Limestone
Upper Cretaceous glauconitic sst/slt/mst (?Puffin Formation/Prudhoe Formation)	2.26	0.45	Use HDRb (2010): Windalia Sandstone Member - Muderong Shale - Winning Group
Lower Cretaceous sst (?Echuca Shoals Formation)	2.83	0.57	Use HDRb (2010): Birdrong Sandstone - Winning Group
Upper Jurassic glauconitic sst/slt/dolomite (?Upper Vulcan Formation)	2.70	0.54	Use Driscoll et al., 2009: Alexander Formation
Upper Jurassic glauconitic sst/slt/lignite (?Upper Vulcan Formation)	1.15	0.23	Use HDRb (2010): Dingo Claystone
Proterozoic quartzite	6.00	1.20	Use Beardsmore & Cull, 2001

**Attachment F:** Estimated heat generation for metasedimentary rock samples adjacent to the Browse Basin. K<sub>2</sub>O, U and Th data from OZCHEM (2007).

Region	Province	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Datum	Lithname	Description	K <sub>2</sub> O by weight %	K (ppm)	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Average assumed density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Heat generation from isotopic abundance ratios (μW/m <sup>3</sup> )
-	Halls Creek Orogen	-17.485641	125.360307	GDA94	sediment	clastic sediment	2.11	17500	2	9	2.48	1.22
Kimberley Region	Kimberley Basin	-17.121569	125.364118	GDA94	conglomerate	clastic sediment	1.31	10900	5	78	2.48	6.38
Kimberley Region	King Leopold Orogen	-16.530348	123.707906	GDA94	arkose	arkose	0.39	3200	8	23	2.48	3.45
Median												3.45

**Attachment G:** Modelled heat flow values and estimates of reliability for wells in the Browse Basin.

Well Name	Total Depth (m)	Basement Lithology	Depth to Basement (m)	Depth from Total Depth to Basement (m)	Datum	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	DST Temp Data (y/n)	Horner Temp Data (y/n)	Overall Reliability (1 lowest to 5 highest)	Heat Flow (mW/m <sup>2</sup> )	Uncertainty ± (mW/m <sup>2</sup> )
Adele Island 1	789.5	Quartzite	785	-	GDA94	-15.511099	123.158219	n	n	1	30	3.3
Browse Island 1	405.5	Metasediment	8000	7594.5	GDA94	-14.111149	123.550458	n	y	3	51	6.8

# Appendix 1

## Heat flow models and temperature data used for two wells in the Browse Basin Report DMP0260909

HDR

July 2010

An appendix to the report - Geothermal Energy Potential in Selected Areas of Western Australia (Browse Basin); prepared for the Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia.



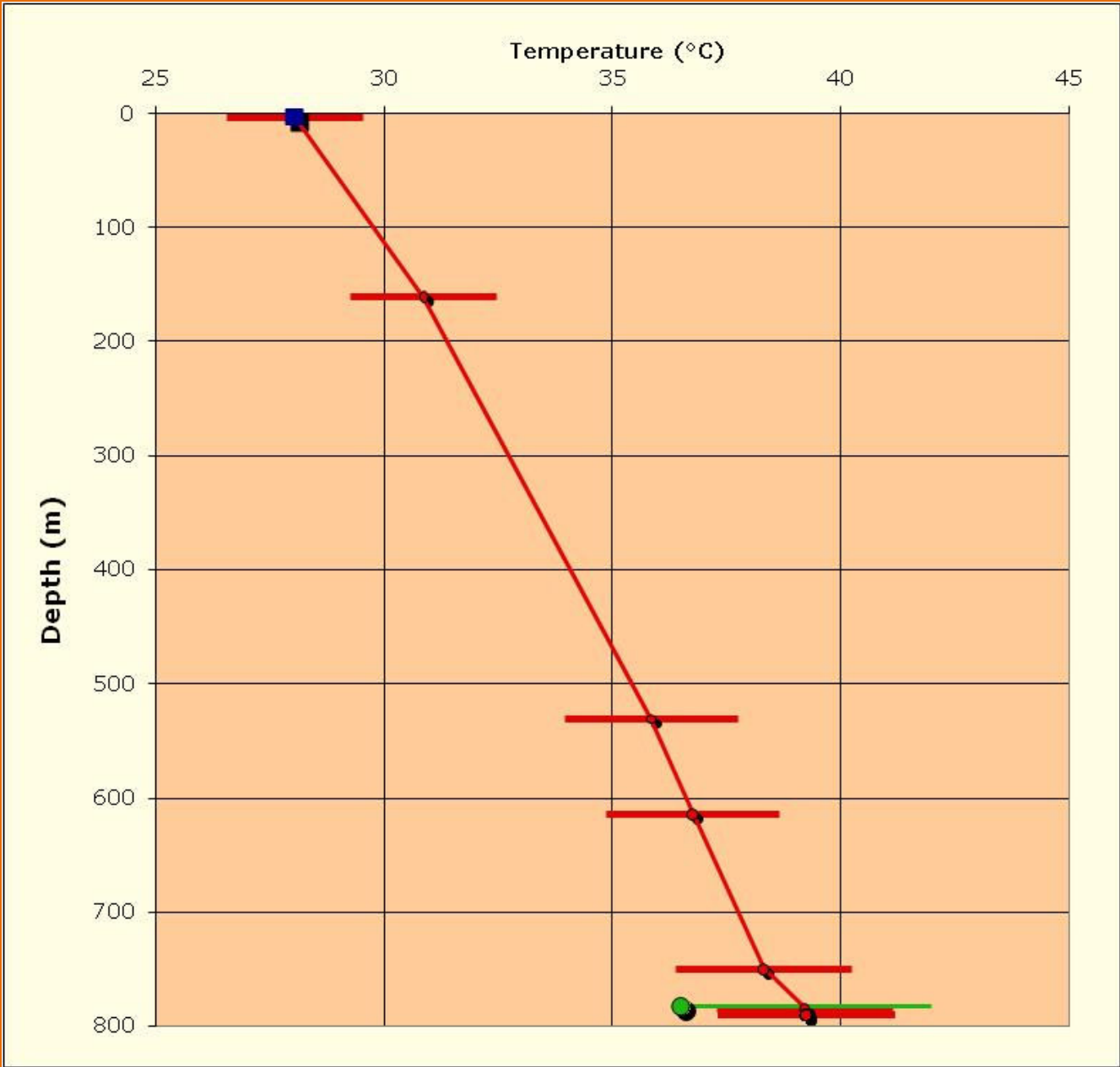


Number of layers	7	Up to 50	Heat flow:	30 ± 3.3 mW/m <sup>2</sup>
"Depth" to ground level	3	"KB height"		
Total Depth (m)	790	From drilling datum		
Surface temp. (°C)	28.05	Adele Island 1		
Uncertainty in surface T	1.5	±°C		

Formation Name	Top (m)	Cond @ 30°C (W/mK)	A (μW/m <sup>3</sup> )	Thickness (m)
1 Miocene/Pliocene 1st (?Barracouta/Oliver Fm)	3	1.68 ± 0.34	0	157
2 Upper Cretaceous glauconitic sst/slt/mst (?Puffin/Prudhoe Fm)	160	2.26 ± 0.45	0	370
3 Lower Cretaceous sst (?Echuca Shoals Fm)	530	2.83 ± 0.57	0	84
4 Upper Jurassic glauconitic sst/slt/dolomite (?Upper Vulcan Fm)	614	2.70 ± 0.54	0	136
5 Upper Jurassic lignite/sst (?Upper Vulcan Fm)	750	1.15 ± 0.23	0	35
6 Proterozoic quartzite	785	6.00 ± 1.20	0	4.5
7 Proterozoic quartzite	789.5	6.00 ± 1.20	0	0.5

Downhole temperature data (°C):				
Depth (m)	Value	-uncert	+uncert	Comment:
782	36.5	0	5.474	BHT from Temp Log [time since circ. unknown]



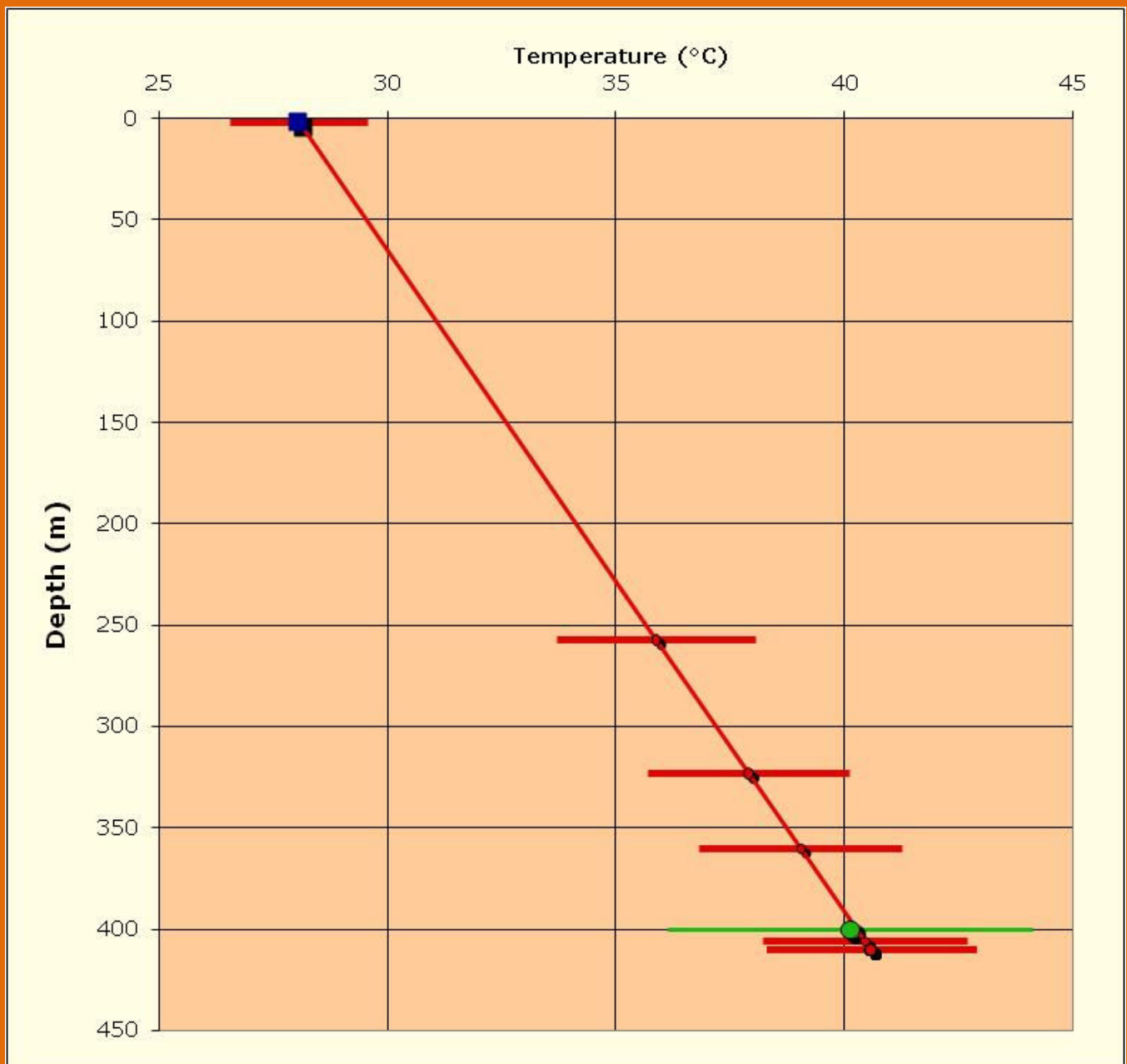
Adele Island 1

Number of layers	5	Up to 50	Heat flow:	51 ± 6.8 mW/m <sup>2</sup>
"Depth" to ground level	1.5	"KB height"		
Total Depth (m)	410	From drilling datum		
Surface temp. (°C)	28.05	<b>Browse Island 1</b>		
Uncertainty in surface T	1.5	±°C		

	Formation Name	Top (m)	Cond @ 30°C (W/mK)	A (μW/m <sup>3</sup> )	Thickness (m)
1	Pleistocene 1st (?Barracouta Fm)	1.5	1.68 ± 0.34	0	255.5
2	Pleistocene marl (?Barracouta Fm)	257	1.68 ± 0.34	0	66
3	Pleistocene 1st (?Barracouta Fm)	323	1.68 ± 0.34	0	37
4	Pliocene argillaceous 1st (?Barracouta Fm)	360	1.68 ± 0.34	0	45.5
5	Pliocene argillaceous 1st (?Barracouta Fm)	405.5	1.68 ± 0.34	0	4.5

#### Downhole temperature data (°C):

Depth (m)	Value	-uncert	+uncert	Comment:
399.83	40.12	4	4	Horner [3 values]



**Browse Island 1**



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## Appendix 2

### Thermal conductivity of core samples DIR089-DIR207

An appendix to the report Geothermal Energy  
Potential in Selected Areas of Western Australia  
(Browse Basin)

Prepared for the Department of Mines and Petroleum ,  
Western Australia

July 2010



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## Executive Summary

The Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) commissioned Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd (HDR) to measure the thermal conductivity of 119 rock specimens collected from the DMP Perth Core Library and Geoscience Australia Canberra Core Library in April 2010. These specimens came from the Bonaparte, Browse, Carnarvon and Officer basins. Measurements were made on the specimens using a steady state divided bar apparatus calibrated for the range 1.4–9.8 W/mK. Up to three samples were prepared from each specimen to investigate variation in thermal conductivity over short distance scales and to determine mean conductivity and uncertainty. All values were measured at a standard temperature of 30°C. The uncertainties are dependent upon sample quality and preparation method..

HDR considers the following points to be important:

- While the specimens were chosen to represent the cored geological sections from which they came, there is no guarantee that the sections themselves are typical of the overall geological formations.
- It is to be expected that the thermal conductivity of a given formation will vary from place to place if the porosity of the formation varies.
- Thermal conductivity of rocks is sensitive to temperature. This should be kept in mind when developing models of in situ thermal conductivity.

### Disclaimer

The information and opinions in this report have been generated to the best ability of the author, and Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd hope they may be of assistance to you. However, neither the author nor any other employee of Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd guarantees that the report is without flaw or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes, and therefore we disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

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## 1. Introduction

Thermal conductivity is the physical property that controls the rate at which heat energy flows through a material in a given thermal gradient. In the S.I. system of units, it is measured in watts per metre-kelvin (W/mK). In the Earth, thermal conductivity controls the rate at which temperature increases with depth for a given heat flow. The thermal conductivity distribution within a section of crust must be known in order to calculate crustal heat flow from temperature gradient data, or to predict temperature distribution from a given heat flow.

The Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) commissioned Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd (HDR) to undertake heat flow modelling in the Bonaparte, Browse, Carnarvon, and Officer basins. HDR collected 119 specimens<sup>1</sup> from the DMP Perth Core Library and Geoscience Australia Canberra Core Library in April 2010 (Table 1). Thermal conductivity measurements were made on these specimens using a steady state divided bar apparatus calibrated for the range 1.4–9.8 W/mK.

Thermal conductivity is sensitive to temperature (e.g. Vosteen and Schellschmidt, 2003<sup>2</sup>), in general decreasing as temperature increases. The measurements contained in this report were made within  $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  of  $30^\circ\text{C}$ .

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<sup>1</sup> In this report the word “specimen” refers to a raw piece of rock delivered to HDR, while “sample” refers to part of a specimen prepared for conductivity measurement. In general, three samples are prepared from each specimen.

<sup>2</sup> Vosteen, H.-D. and Schellschmidt, R. (2003). Influence of temperature on thermal conductivity, thermal capacity and thermal diffusivity for different types of rock. *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*, 28, 499–509.



**Table 1.** Specimens presented for thermal conductivity measurement.

Well	Basin	Formation	Lithology	Depth From (m)	Depth To (m)	Depth From (')	Depth To (')	HDR sample ID
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Toolonga Calcilutite	light grey marl	73.70	73.92			DIR089
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Birdrong Sandstone	light brown carbonaceous fine-grained sst	172.70	172.85			DIR090
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Kopke Sandstone	grey light brown sst with finely laminated	212.70	212.85			DIR091
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Kopke Sandstone	red bed sst finely laminated, similar to DIR091 but red	404.40	404.55			DIR092
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Kopke Sandstone	red/green/grey mottled slt/cst - differing oxidising regimes	475.40	475.50			DIR093
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Faure Formation	bioturbated grey/red/brown cst	564.60	564.80			DIR094
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Coburn Formation, Dirk Hartog Group	blue/grey (light and dark laminations) dolomitic cst	616.70	616.85			DIR095
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Coburn Formation, Dirk Hartog Group	blue/grey (light and dark laminations) dolomitic cst	685.50	685.65			DIR096
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Yaringa Formation, Dirk Hartog Group	blue/grey (light and dark banding) dolomitic cst/slt	794.40	794.65			DIR097
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Ajana Formation, Dirk Hartog Group	blue/grey (light and dark laminations) dolomitic cst	893.75	893.90			DIR098
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Marron Member, Ajana Formation	dark blue/grey cst	920.30	920.45			DIR099
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Marron Member, Ajana Formation	pale tan cst with numerous grey salt patches	951.70	951.90			DIR100
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Tumblagooda Sandstone	dark brown/red slt beds [10% of cored interval]	1011.40	1011.65			DIR101
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Tumblagooda Sandstone	pale pink to pink-red medium-grained to granule sst [90% of cored interval]; predom quartz and orthoclase grains	1030.00	1030.20			DIR102

Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Windalia Sandstone Member	sst [friable]	150.80	151.00			DIR103
Coburn 1	Carnarvon	Muderong Shale	mst	166.30	166.50			DIR104
GSWA Ballythanna 1	Carnarvon	Keogh Formation	medium-grained to granule sst common cross beds	35.90	36.10			DIR105
GSWA Ballythanna 1	Carnarvon	Ballythanna Sandstone Member	light tan fine-grained to medium-grained sst [50% of cored interval]	131.90	132.05			DIR106
GSWA Ballythanna 1	Carnarvon	Ballythanna Sandstone Member	fine-grained sst with common carbonaceous flaser interbeds, whisps and slumped layers; pyritic; bioturbated [50% of cored interval]	292.30	292.43			DIR107
GSWA Ballythanna 1	Carnarvon	Callytharra Formation	dark grey very fossiliferous shale	358.75	358.90			DIR108
GSWA Ballythanna 1	Carnarvon	Lyons Group	fine-grained sst cream coloured	397.55	397.70			DIR109
GSWA Ballythanna 1	Carnarvon	Lyons Group	light grey fine-grained sst with common flaser beds of dark grey silt	453.40	453.55			DIR110
GSWA Ballythanna 1	Carnarvon	Lyons Group	dark grey interbedded silt/fine-grained sst	461.70	461.85			DIR111
Giralia 1	Carnarvon	Billidee Formation	dark grey silt, fine-grained sst heterolithic	682.10	682.22			DIR112
Giralia 1	Carnarvon	Cordalia Formation	dark grey cst?	919.00	919.10			DIR113
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Coolkilya Sandstone	tan grey medium-grained sst			1530'	1530' 9"	DIR114
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Baker Formation	reddish brown medium-grained sst			2005'	2005' 9"	DIR115
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Nalbia Sandstone	brown medium-grained sst, occasional bioturbation			2015' 6"	2016' 3"	DIR116
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Wandagee Formation	dark brown silt/sst, heavily bioturbated			2210'	2210' 6"	DIR117
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Cundlego Formation	dark grey/light grey sst, finely laminated, pin stripe laminations [50% of cored interval]			2817'	2817' 9"	DIR118

Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Cundlego Formation	dark brown slt/sst, heavily bioturbated [50% of cored interval]			2819' 6"	2820' 3"	DIR119
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Bulgadoo Shale	brown slt			4163' 6"	4164' 3"	DIR120
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Mallens Sandstone	dark grey/light grey sst, finely laminated, pin stripe laminations [25% of cored interval]			4711'	4711' 6"	DIR121
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Mallens Sandstone	dark brown slt/sst, heavily bioturbated [75% of cored interval]			5104'	5104' 9"	DIR122
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Coyrie Formation	brown sst, minor bioturbation			5484' 3"	5484' 10"	DIR123
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Coyrie Formation	pale pink/tan sst, no bioturbation			5537' 3"	5538'	DIR124
Linda 2	Carnarvon	Dingo Claystone	dark grey cst/slt with thin stringers of light grey slt/sst - lenticular bedding	2814.80	2815.05			DIR125
Kennedy Range 1	Carnarvon	Moogooloo Sandstone	light tan grey coarse-grained sst with minor carbonaceous flecks			6606'	6606' 9"	DIR126
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Nannyarra Sandstone	green grey mottled sst/slt	781.70	781.95			DIR127
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gneudna Formation	light grey fine-grained sst with rare slt flasers, some slumping in adjacent core	773.90	774.10			DIR128
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gneudna Formation	green-grey to light grey calcareous? Sst; highly fossiliferous	759.55	759.70			DIR129
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gneudna Formation	light blue/grey lst with common stylolites	669.35	669.55			DIR130
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gneudna Formation	dark green/grey slt/cst	616.90	617.10			DIR131
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gneudna Formation	dark green/grey slt/cst; highly fossiliferous	617.65	617.90			DIR132
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gneudna Formation; Point Maud Member	tan coloured lst; vugs/borings rare [10% of cored interval]	551.75	551.95			DIR133
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gneudna Formation; Point Maud Member	tan coloured lst; ubiquitous vugs/borings [90% of cored interval]	467.00	467.20			DIR134

GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Munabia Formation	light grey fine- to medium-grained sst with common flaser slt beds [~29 m = 34% of cored interval]	213.20	213.45			DIR135
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Munabia Formation	dark green/grey mst, mottled [~56 m = 66% of cored interval]	246.25	246.40			DIR136
Quail 1	Carnarvon	Yindagindy Formation	dark blue/grey calcareous mst			8649'	8649' 9"	DIR137
Quail 1	Carnarvon	Quail Formation	reddish brown medium-grained sst			7319'	7319' 9"	DIR138
Onslow 1	Carnarvon	Mungaroo Formation	grey mottled slt			3781' 3"	3782'	DIR139
Onslow 1	Carnarvon	Mungaroo Formation	pale grey/buff sst			4279' 9"	4280' 6"	DIR140
Onslow 1	Carnarvon	Locker Shale	light brown sst			5706'	5706' 9"	DIR141
Onslow 1	Carnarvon	Locker Shale	dark grey shale			6631'	6631' 9"	DIR142
Learmonth 2	Carnarvon	Learmonth Formation	cream medium-grained sst			5375'	5375' 9"	DIR143
Pluto 3	Carnarvon	Brigadier Formation	dark grey sly, highly bioturbated, thin wisps of fine-grained sst	3056.70	3057.00			DIR144
Pluto 3	Carnarvon	Brigadier Formation	heterolithic fine-grained yellow/buff sst and dark grey slt; occasional bioturbation	3067.20	3067.50			DIR145
Calliance 1	Browse	Montara Formation	heterolithic fine-grained yellow/buff sst and dark grey slt; highly bioturbated; occasional reddish brown nodules/diagenetic overprint?	3776.00	3776.30			DIR146
Brecknock 2	Browse	Plover Formation	yellow fine-grained sst	3786.80	3787.00			DIR147
Calliance 1	Browse	Plover Formation	grey slt; mottled [bioturbated]	3797.20	3797.40			DIR148
Brecknock 2	Browse	Nome Formation	dark grey slt; highly fractured [healed? Doubtful drilling induced?]	3825.70	3825.90			DIR149
Yowalga 2	Officer	Kanpa Formation	reddish finely laminated interbedded slt/sst; thick quartz veins			2796'	2796' 9"	DIR150
Yowalga 2	Officer	Kanpa Formation	cream to light grey finely laminated interbedded slt/sst			3242'	3242' 9"	DIR151

Bonaparte 1A	Bonaparte	Point Spring Sandstone	salmon pink medium-grained sst			576' 4" / 578' 4"	576' 8" / 578' 8"	DIR152
Bonaparte 1A	Bonaparte	Tanmurra Formation	grey silt			689' 8"	690'	DIR153
Bonaparte 2	Bonaparte	Milligans Formation	heterolithic fine-grained light grey sst and dark grey silt; slumping features; wispy silt in the sst			3948' 4" / 3940' 4"	3948' 8" / 3940' 8"	DIR154
Bonaparte 1A	Bonaparte	Burt Range Formation	heterolithic fine-grained cream sst and greenish grey silt			9267' 4" / 9263' 4"	9267' 8" / 9263' 8"	DIR155
Bonaparte 1A	Bonaparte	Cockatoo Group	?grey quartzite			10476' 4"	10476' 8"	DIR156
Laminaria East 1	Bonaparte	Frigate Shale	grey shale	3249.70	3249.90			DIR157
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Gearle Siltstone	dark grey friable mst	66.00	66.30			DIR158
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Windalia Radiolarite	grey mst, not dense	127.75	127.95			DIR159
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	Carnarvon	Windalia Sandstone Member	green silt to fine-grained sst; glauconitic	157.30	157.45			DIR160
Turtle 1	Bonaparte	Bonaparte Formation	grey fine- to medium-grained sst	2488.20	2488.50			DIR161
Turtle 1	Bonaparte	Keyling Formation	sst, oil impregnated; no non oil sands within core	929.00	929.30			DIR162
Turtle 1	Bonaparte	Keyling Formation	heterolithic dark grey silt/light grey sst; wispy silt	932.45	932.70			DIR163
Turtle 1	Bonaparte	Treachery Shale	interbedded light grey sst and dark grey silt	1441.65	1441.85			DIR164
Turtle 1	Bonaparte	Kuriyippi Formation	light grey sst	1599.65	1599.95			DIR165
Turtle 1	Bonaparte	Kuriyippi Formation	light grey sst and dark grey silt; mottled/bioturbated	1601.50	1601.75			DIR166
Turtle 1	Bonaparte	Kuriyippi Formation	grey diamictite?	1612.00	1612.30			DIR167
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Lennis Sandstone	partially friable yellow medium-grained sst	165.90	166.10			DIR168
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Paterson Formation	buff to tan medium-grained sst	127.05	127.20			DIR169
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Paterson Formation	matrix supported pebble cgl; coarse-grained sst matrix	116.15	116.40			DIR170
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Unnamed Sandstone	reddish brown medium-grained sst	294.25	294.60			DIR171

GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Paterson Formation	light grey slt	106.70	107.00			DIR172
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Table Hill Volcanics	reddish grey basalt	284.70	284.90			DIR173
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Wahlgu Formation	red cst	367.80	368.00			DIR174
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Wahlgu Formation	red medium-grained sst	351.80	352.00			DIR175
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Wahlgu Formation	dark brown cst chips	431.50	431.70			DIR176
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Steptoe Formation	grey dolomite	504.65	504.85			DIR177
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Steptoe Formation	dark brown cst chips	603.80	604.00			DIR178
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Steptoe Formation	red sst	568.30	568.50			DIR179
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Kanpa Formation	grey dolomite	651.40	651.70			DIR180
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Kanpa Formation	light grey sst	743.50	743.80			DIR181
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Kanpa Formation	mst	805.90	806.10			DIR182
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Hussar Formation	interbedded mst/slt/sst	931.00	931.30			DIR183
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Hussar Formation	sst	1122.10	1122.40			DIR184
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Hussar Formation	mst	1091.10	1091.30			DIR185
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Hussar Formation	dolomite	1075.90	1076.20			DIR186
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Hussar Formation	mst/slt	1223.30	1223.55			DIR187
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Browne Formation	halite	1309.65	1309.80			DIR188
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Browne Formation	dolomite, slt	1409.40	1409.55			DIR189

GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Browne Formation	dolomite, slt	1403.75	1403.95			DIR190
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Lefroy Formation	heavily fractured maroon to grey slt	1531.70	1531.90			DIR191
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Basement	basalt	1603.60	1603.80			DIR192
GSWA Empress 1A	Officer	Basement	dark grey/black finely laminated silty shale	1558.90	1559.20			DIR193
Boondawari 1	Officer	Mundadjini Formation	red cst	302.20	302.40			DIR194
Boondawari 1	Officer	Spearhole Formation	red sst	613.30	613.50			DIR195
Boondawari 1	Officer	Spearhole Formation	red slt/cst	612.35	612.60			DIR196
Boondawari 1	Officer	Table Hill Volcanics	dolerite	1365.40	1365.60			DIR197
Boondawari 1	Officer	Brassey Range Formation	interbedded red slt/sst	834.60	834.80			DIR198
Boondawari 1	Officer	Spearhole Formation	red slt	349.60	349.80			DIR199
BMR Browne 1	Officer	Bejah Claystone	salmon pink to cream cst with frequent pink-purple mottling; very light and almost porcelaneous			30' 11"	31' 7"	DIR200
BMR Browne 1	Officer	Samuel Formation	dark grey to yellow-grey laminated cst, slt and fine-grained sst; sulphurous, occasional bioturbation, micaceous, glauconite?			325'	325' 6"	DIR201
BMR Browne 1	Officer	Samuel Formation	reddish-brown to ochre slt, cst with finely laminated interbeds of whippy fine-grained sst			192' 1"	192' 7"	DIR202
BMR Neale 1A-1B	Officer	Wanna Formation	tan fine-grained sst; occasional reddish brown mottling; feint cross-bedding			369' 11"	369' 11"	DIR203
BMR Neale 1A-1B	Officer	McFadden Formation	grey to tan/grey fine-grained sst			327'	327' 7"	DIR204
BMR Neale 1A-1B	Officer	McFadden Formation	brick red slt			308'	308' 9"	DIR205
BMR Throssell 1	Officer	Kanpa Formation	grey cst with abundant gypsum crystal; chicken-wire appearance?			200'	200' 10"	DIR206

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BMR Glenburgh 9	Carnarvon	Madeline Formation	dark grey slt, cst; rare fossiliferous [graptolite?]			192'	192' 6"	DIR207
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## 2. Methodology

Three sample preparation methods were undertaken to measure the thermal conductivity of specimens DIR089—DIR207, depending on specimen quality and quantity. In this report these three methods are referred to as ‘Whole rock’, ‘Hollow cell, whole rock’, or ‘Hollow cell, matrix’. Up to three samples were prepared from each specimen to investigate variation in thermal conductivity over short distance scales and to determine mean conductivity and uncertainty.

Where possible, three prisms were cut from each core specimen, each approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of the sample in thickness, and each sample was ground flat and polished. These are indicated on Table 2 by the description ‘Whole rock’.

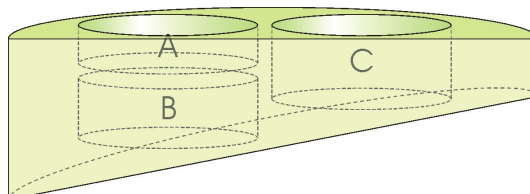
In cases where the core specimens were of a relatively unconsolidated lithology (such as clays, muds, and marls) showing significant susceptibility to deterioration during saturation, samples were prepared using hollow cells. These are indicated on Table 2 by the description ‘Hollow cell, whole rock’.

In cases where the core specimens were either crushed or highly fragmented, making it impossible to measure the sample in its whole-rock state, thermal conductivity was measured as a matrix within a hollow cell with water. In such cases, the net conductivity of the rock matrix was calculated from the gross conductivity of the rock-water aggregate. These are indicated on table 2 by the description ‘Hollow cell, matrix’. Colloquially, these samples are referred to as ‘chips’ or ‘cuttings’.

All samples were evacuated under >95% vacuum for a minimum of three hours.

Samples were then submerged in water prior to returning to atmospheric pressure. Saturation continued at atmospheric pressure for a minimum of twelve hours, and all samples were left submerged in water until just prior to conductivity measurement.

**Figure 1.** The average conductivity of samples in series (e.g. A and B) is found using the harmonic mean. The average conductivity of samples in parallel (e.g. A and C) is found using the arithmetic mean.



Samples were then measured for thermal conductivity measurement in a divided bar apparatus<sup>3</sup>. The thermal conductivity was measured along the long axis of the core provided for all samples prepared either as 'Whole rock' or 'Hollow cell, whole rock'. Values were measured at a standard temperature of 30°C ( $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ). Harmonic mean conductivity (Figure 1) and one standard deviation uncertainty were calculated for each specimen. Results are presented in the next section.

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<sup>3</sup> Divided bar apparatus: An instrument that places an unknown sample in series with a standard of known thermal conductivity, then imposes a constant thermal gradient across the combination in order to derive the conductivity of the unknown sample.

### 3. Results

Table 2 displays the thermal conductivity for each individual sample, and the harmonic mean conductivity and standard deviation for each specimen. All values are for a standard temperature of 30°C. The uncertainty for individual samples is approximately  $\pm 2\%$  for non-friable whole rock samples (based on the instrument precision of the divided bar apparatus). Uncertainties for thermal conductivity measurements are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Thermal conductivity of samples at 30°C, with well name, depth, uncertainty, sample type, and harmonic mean and uncertainty<sup>4</sup> for each specimen.

Well	Depth From (m)	Depth To (m)	Depth From (')	Depth To (')	Uncertainty (%)	Sample type	HDR sample ID	Conductivity (W/mK), harmonic mean, standard deviation		
Coburn 1	73.70	73.92			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR089	A	1.51	1.48 $\pm$ 0.03
								B	1.46	
								C	1.48	
Coburn 1	172.70	172.85			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR090	A	2.49	2.47 $\pm$ 0.06
								B	2.51	
								C	2.40	
Coburn 1	212.70	212.85			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR091	A	3.26	3.12 $\pm$ 0.19
								B	3.22	
								C	2.91	
Coburn 1	404.40	404.55			3.5	Whole rock	DIR092	A	3.57	3.64 $\pm$ 0.07
								B	3.64	
								C	3.70	
Coburn 1	475.40	475.50			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR093	A	1.67	1.61 $\pm$ 0.06
								B	1.61	
								C	1.55	
Coburn 1	564.60	564.80			3.5	Whole rock	DIR094	A	2.12	2.14 $\pm$ 0.08
								B	2.08	
								C	2.22	
Coburn 1	616.70	616.85			3.5	Whole rock	DIR095	A	3.37	3.50 $\pm$ 0.17
								B	3.69	
								C	3.45	
Coburn 1	685.50	685.65			3.5	Whole rock	DIR096	A	2.48	2.53 $\pm$ 0.04
								B	2.55	
								C	2.55	
Coburn 1	794.40	794.65			3.5	Whole rock	DIR097	A	3.08	3.16 $\pm$ 0.08
								B	3.17	
								C	3.24	

<sup>4</sup> Uncertainty of the thermal conductivity for each specimen is one standard deviation of the measured values.

Coburn 1	893.75	893.90			3.5	Whole rock	DIR098	A	2.34	2.48 ± 0.15
								B	2.48	
								C	2.65	
Coburn 1	920.30	920.45			3.5	Whole rock	DIR099	A	1.93	2.00 ± 0.12
								B	1.95	
								C	2.15	
Coburn 1	951.70	951.90			3.5	Whole rock	DIR100	A	3.99	3.93 ± 0.57
								B	3.42	
								C	4.55	
Coburn 1	1011.40	1011.65			3.5	Whole rock	DIR101	A	2.55	2.65 ± 0.10
								B	2.70	
								C	2.72	
Coburn 1	1030.00	1030.20			3.5	Whole rock	DIR102	A	2.99	2.90 ± 0.14
								B	2.98	
								C	2.75	
Coburn 1	150.80	151.00			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR103	A	2.60	2.56 ± 0.04
								B	2.57	
								C	2.52	
Coburn 1	166.30	166.50			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR104	A	1.64	1.75 ± 0.15
								B	1.93	
								C	1.70	
GSWA Ballythanna 1	35.90	36.10			3.5	Whole rock	DIR105	A	3.28	3.24 ± 0.50
								B	2.80	
								C	3.79	
GSWA Ballythanna 1	131.90	132.05			3.5	Whole rock	DIR106	A	3.15	3.18 ± 0.05
								B	3.17	
								C	3.24	
GSWA Ballythanna 1	292.30	292.43			3.5	Whole rock	DIR107	A	3.22	3.21 ± 0.19
								B	3.02	
								C	3.40	
GSWA Ballythanna 1	358.75	358.90			3.5	Whole rock	DIR108	A	1.61	1.70 ± 0.08
								B	1.74	
								C	1.75	
GSWA Ballythanna 1	397.55	397.70			3.5	Whole rock	DIR109	A	3.17	3.08 ± 0.07
								B	3.03	
								C	3.05	
GSWA Ballythanna 1	453.40	453.55			3.5	Whole rock	DIR110	A	2.87	2.67 ± 0.17
								B	2.63	
								C	2.55	
GSWA Ballythanna 1	461.70	461.85			3.5	Whole rock	DIR111	A	2.69	2.56 ± 0.16
								B	2.38	
								C	2.62	

Giralia 1	682.10	682.22			3.5	Whole rock	DIR112	A	2.51	2.60 ± 0.30
								B	2.97	
								C	2.39	
Giralia 1	919.00	919.10			3.5	Whole rock	DIR113	A	1.91	1.98 ± 0.18
								B	1.87	
								C	2.19	
Kennedy Range 1			1530'	1530' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR114	A	2.99	2.86 ± 0.11
								B	2.79	
								C	2.81	
Kennedy Range 1			2005'	2005' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR115	A	3.51	3.51 ± 0.05
								B	3.46	
								C	3.55	
Kennedy Range 1			2015' 6"	2016' 3"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR116	A	2.98	2.99 ± 0.07
								B	3.06	
								C	2.93	
Kennedy Range 1			2210'	2210' 6"	5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR117	A	1.84	1.77 ± 0.14
								B	1.62	
								C	1.87	
Kennedy Range 1			2817'	2817' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR118	A	3.13	2.93 ± 0.17
								B	2.84	
								C	2.84	
Kennedy Range 1			2819' 6"	2820' 3"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR119	A	2.40	2.23 ± 0.15
								B	2.14	
								C	2.16	
Kennedy Range 1			4163' 6"	4164' 3"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR120	A	1.23	1.27 ± 0.13
								B	1.18	
								C	1.43	
Kennedy Range 1			4711'	4711' 6"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR121	A	2.83	2.75 ± 0.14
								B	2.59	
								C	2.84	
Kennedy Range 1			5104'	5104' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR122	A	2.53	2.64 ± 0.15
								B	2.82	
								C	2.60	
Kennedy Range 1			5484' 3"	5484' 10"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR123	A	2.37	2.29 ± 0.07
								B	2.25	
								C	2.26	
Kennedy Range 1			5537' 3"	5538'	3.5	Whole rock	DIR124	A	2.96	3.04 ± 0.09
								B	3.15	
								C	3.02	
Linda 2	2814.80	2815.05			15	Hollow cell, matrix	DIR125	A	1.42	1.15 ± 0.18
					5	Whole rock		B	1.09	
								C	0.99	
								D	1.18	

Kennedy Range 1			6606'	6606' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR126	A	4.63	4.76 ± 0.13
								B	4.80	
								C	4.87	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	781.70	781.95			3.5	Whole rock	DIR127	A	2.44	2.50 ± 0.14
								B	2.40	
								C	2.66	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	773.90	774.10			3.5	Whole rock	DIR128	A	3.22	3.37 ± 0.13
								B	3.48	
								C	3.42	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	759.55	759.70			3.5	Whole rock	DIR129	A	2.14	1.80 ± 0.30
								B	1.81	
								C	1.55	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	669.35	669.55			3.5	Whole rock	DIR130	A	2.52	2.49 ± 0.05
								B	2.43	
								C	2.51	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	616.90	617.10			3.5	Whole rock	DIR131	A	1.75	1.93 ± 0.25
								B	1.86	
								C	2.22	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	617.65	617.90			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR132	B	0.64	0.64 ± 0.00
								C	0.64	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	551.75	551.95			3.5	Whole rock	DIR133	A	4.00	3.93 ± 0.08
								B	3.85	
								C	3.93	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	467.00	467.20			3.5	Whole rock	DIR134	A	4.03	3.80 ± 0.29
								B	3.92	
								C	3.49	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	213.20	213.45			3.5	Whole rock	DIR135	A	2.72	2.55 ± 0.18
								B	2.59	
								C	2.36	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	246.25	246.40			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR136	B	1.45	1.42 ± 0.04
								C	1.40	
Quail 1			8649'	8649' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR137	B	2.43	2.45 ± 0.03
								C	2.47	
Quail 1			7319'	7319' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR138	A	4.82	4.97 ± 0.24
								B	4.87	
								C	5.25	
Onslow 1			3781' 3"	3782'	5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR139	A	2.09	2.02 ± 0.09
								B	1.96	
								C	0.00	
Onslow 1			4279' 9"	4280' 6"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR140	A	3.06	2.91 ± 0.17
								B	2.73	
								C	2.96	

Onslow 1			5706'	5706' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR141	A	3.16	3.08 ± 0.09
								B	2.98	
								C	3.11	
Onslow 1			6631'	6631' 9"	5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR142	A	1.23	1.19 ± 0.08
								B	1.25	
								C	1.10	
Learmonth 2			5375'	5375' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR143	A	3.27	3.42 ± 0.33
								B	3.23	
								C	3.83	
Pluto 3	3056.70	3057.00			3.5	Whole rock	DIR144	A	1.32	1.35 ± 0.09
								B	1.45	
								C	1.28	
Pluto 3	3067.20	3067.50			3.5	Whole rock	DIR145	A	2.38	1.84 ± 0.45
								B	1.50	
								C	1.78	
Calliance 1	3776.00	3776.30			3.5	Whole rock	DIR146	A	3.47	3.33 ± 0.15
								B	3.18	
								C	3.35	
Brecknock 2	3786.80	3787.00			3.5	Whole rock	DIR147	A	4.47	4.51 ± 0.10
								B	4.43	
								C	4.62	
Calliance 1	3797.20	3797.40			3.5	Whole rock	DIR148	A	2.72	2.82 ± 0.12
								B	2.80	
								C	2.95	
Brecknock 2	3825.70	3825.90			3.5	Whole rock	DIR149	A	2.48	2.29 ± 0.17
								B	2.24	
								C	2.16	
Yowalga 2			2796'	2796' 9"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR150	A	2.37	2.56 ± 0.18
								B	2.61	
								C	2.71	
Yowalga 2			3242'	3242' 9"	5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR151	A	2.77	2.93 ± 0.24
								B	3.11	
Bonaparte 1A			576' 4"/ 578' 4"	576' 8"/ 578' 8"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR152	A	3.14	2.94 ± 0.32
								B	3.16	
								C	2.59	
Bonaparte 1A			689' 8"	690'	3.5	Whole rock	DIR153	A	2.20	2.19 ± 0.02
								B	2.17	
								C	2.20	
Bonaparte 2			3948' 4"/ 3940' 4"	3948' 8"/ 3940' 8"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR154	A	4.24	3.92 ± 0.58
								B	4.39	
								C	3.32	

Bonaparte 1A			9267' 4" / 9263' 4"	9267' 8" / 9263' 8"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR155	A	1.77	1.73 ± 0.06
								B	1.76	
								C	1.66	
Bonaparte 1A			10476' 4"	10476' 8"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR156	A	5.67	5.09 ± 0.51
								B	4.67	
								C	5.04	
Laminaria East 1	3249.70	3249.90			3.5	Whole rock	DIR157	A	1.26	1.24 ± 0.03
								B	1.21	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	66.00	66.30			15	Hollow cell, matrix	DIR158	A	1.21	1.19 ± 0.03
								B	1.21	
								C	1.16	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	127.75	127.95			3.5	Whole rock	DIR159	A	1.40	1.31 ± 0.10
								B	1.35	
								C	1.20	
GSWA Barrabiddy 1A	157.30	157.45			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR160	A	1.81	1.79 ± 0.05
								B	1.74	
								C	1.82	
Turtle 1	2488.20	2488.50			3.5	Whole rock	DIR161	A	4.20	4.11 ± 0.08
								B	4.05	
								C	4.08	
Turtle 1	929.00	929.30			3.5	Whole rock	DIR162	A	2.59	2.60 ± 0.05
								B	2.65	
								C	2.56	
Turtle 1	932.45	932.70			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR163	A	2.34	2.38 ± 0.05
								B	2.36	
								C	2.44	
Turtle 1	1441.65	1441.85			3.5	Whole rock	DIR164	A	2.14	2.29 ± 0.31
								B	2.67	
								C	2.13	
Turtle 1	1599.65	1599.95			3.5	Whole rock	DIR165	A	3.17	3.19 ± 0.05
								B	3.24	
								C	3.15	
Turtle 1	1601.50	1601.75			3.5	Whole rock	DIR166	A	2.32	2.35 ± 0.09
								B	2.45	
								C	2.28	
Turtle 1	1612.00	1612.30			3.5	Whole rock	DIR167	A	2.71	2.87 ± 0.39
								B	2.66	
								C	3.35	
GSWA Empress 1A	165.90	166.10			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR168	A	2.71	2.56 ± 0.14
								B	2.53	
								C	2.44	



GSWA Empress 1A	127.05	127.20			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR169	A	2.28	2.19 ± 0.10
								B	2.21	
								C	2.09	
GSWA Empress 1A	116.15	116.40			3.5	Whole rock	DIR170	A	3.32	3.27 ± 0.07
								B	3.22	
GSWA Empress 1A	294.25	294.60			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR171	A	2.49	2.44 ± 0.05
								B	2.38	
								C	2.44	
GSWA Empress 1A	106.70	107.00			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR172	A	2.47	2.49 ± 0.05
								B	2.44	
								C	2.54	
GSWA Empress 1A	284.70	284.90			3.5	Whole rock	DIR173	A	1.55	1.57 ± 0.02
								B	1.58	
								C	1.58	
GSWA Empress 1A	367.80	368.00			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR174	A	2.21	2.26 ± 0.07
								B	2.31	
GSWA Empress 1A	351.80	352.00			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR175	A	3.07	3.05 ± 0.05
								B	2.99	
								C	3.09	
GSWA Empress 1A	431.50	431.70			15	Hollow cell, matrix	DIR176	A	1.61	1.55 ± 0.21
								B	1.75	
								C	1.34	
GSWA Empress 1A	504.65	504.85			3.5	Whole rock	DIR177	A	4.68	4.61 ± 0.23
								B	4.80	
								C	4.36	
GSWA Empress 1A	603.80	604.00			15	Hollow cell, matrix	DIR178	A	1.43	1.43 ± 0.16
								B	1.29	
								C	1.60	
GSWA Empress 1A	568.30	568.50			3.5	Whole rock	DIR179	A	3.04	2.96 ± 0.12
								B	3.03	
								C	2.83	
GSWA Empress 1A	651.40	651.70			3.5	Whole rock	DIR180	A	3.87	4.02 ± 0.25
								B	4.32	
								C	3.90	
GSWA Empress 1A	743.50	743.80			3.5	Whole rock	DIR181	A	2.13	3.02 ± 0.99
								B	3.71	
								C	3.95	
GSWA Empress 1A	805.90	806.10			3.5	Whole rock	DIR182	A	2.78	2.41 ± 0.34
								B	2.10	
								C	2.44	
GSWA Empress 1A	931.00	931.30			3.5	Whole rock	DIR183	A	3.97	4.18 ± 0.19
								B	4.34	
								C	4.25	

GWSA Empress 1A	1122.10	1122.40			3.5	Whole rock	DIR184	A	4.34	4.24 ± 0.25
								B	4.44	
								C	3.97	
GWSA Empress 1A	1091.10	1091.30			3.5	Whole rock	DIR185	A	1.78	1.78 ± 0.36
								B	2.22	
								C	1.50	
GWSA Empress 1A	1075.90	1076.20			3.5	Whole rock	DIR186	A	5.65	5.54 ± 0.11
								B	5.53	
								C	5.43	
GWSA Empress 1A	1223.30	1223.55			3.5	Whole rock	DIR187	A	2.14	2.18 ± 0.06
								B	2.16	
								C	2.25	
GWSA Empress 1A	1309.65	1309.80			3.5	Whole rock	DIR188	A	5.65	5.25 ± 0.37
								B	5.25	
								C	4.92	
GWSA Empress 1A	1409.40	1409.55			3.5	Whole rock	DIR189	A	2.60	2.68 ± 0.12
								B	2.82	
								C	2.63	
GWSA Empress 1A	1403.75	1403.95			5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR190	A	2.13	2.09 ± 0.06
								C	2.04	
GWSA Empress 1A	1531.70	1531.90			3.5	Whole rock	DIR191	A	1.65	1.61 ± 0.04
								B	1.57	
								C	1.62	
GWSA Empress 1A	1603.60	1603.80			3.5	Whole rock	DIR192	A	2.34	2.30 ± 0.05
								B	2.25	
								C	2.30	
GWSA Empress 1A	1558.90	1559.20			3.5	Whole rock	DIR193	A	2.09	2.05 ± 0.05
								B	2.08	
								C	1.99	
Boondawari 1	302.20	302.40			3.5	Whole rock	DIR194	A	4.37	4.45 ± 0.09
								B	4.55	
								C	4.44	
Boondawari 1	613.30	613.50			3.5	Whole rock	DIR195	A	1.47	1.43 ± 0.04
								B	1.40	
								C	1.43	
Boondawari 1	612.35	612.60			3.5	Whole rock	DIR196	A	4.80	4.81 ± 0.09
								B	4.90	
								C	4.73	
Boondawari 1	1365.40	1365.60			3.5	Whole rock	DIR197	A	2.18	2.25 ± 0.07
								B	2.32	
								C	2.26	
Boondawari 1	834.60	834.80			3.5	Whole rock	DIR198	A	4.19	4.45 ± 0.30
								B	4.42	
								C	4.79	

Boondawari 1	349.60	349.80			3.5	Whole rock	DIR199	A	2.22	2.17 ± 0.08
								B	2.08	
								C	2.23	
BMR Browne 1			30' 11"	31' 7"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR200	A	1.34	1.33 ± 0.01
								B	1.31	
								C	1.33	
BMR Browne 1			325'	325' 6"	5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR201	A	1.32	1.30 ± 0.04
								B	1.25	
								C	1.34	
BMR Browne 1			192' 1"	192' 7"	5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR202	A	1.27	1.25 ± 0.03
								B	1.23	
BMR Neale 1A-1B			369' 11"	369' 11"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR203	A	2.52	2.60 ± 0.08
								B	2.68	
								C	2.61	
BMR Neale 1A-1B			327'	327' 7"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR204	B	1.73	2.16 ± 0.81
								D	2.87	
BMR Neale 1A-1B			308'	308' 9"	5	Hollow cell, whole rock	DIR205	A	1.59	1.59 ± 0.05
								B	1.55	
								C	1.64	
BMR Throssell 1			200'	200' 10"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR206	Specimen not measured		
BMR Glenburgh 9			192'	192' 6"	3.5	Whole rock	DIR207	A	1.50	1.53 ± 0.05
								B	1.58	
								C	1.50	

## 4. Discussion and Conclusions

### 4.1 Bonaparte Basin

The range of thermal conductivity values from the Bonaparte basin is from 1.24–5.09 W/mK, shown by specimens DIR157 and DIR156 respectively, which is a variability of up to a 79% from mean basin conductivity of 2.84 W/mK. The standard deviation between all 13 samples representing the Bonaparte basin is approximately  $1.04\sigma$ .

### 4.2 Browse Basin

The range of thermal conductivity values from the Browse basin is from 2.29–4.51 W/mK, shown by specimens DIR149 and DIR147 respectively, which is a variability of up to a 39% from the mean basin conductivity of 3.24 W/mK. The standard deviation between all four samples representing the Browse basin is approximately  $0.82\sigma$ .

### 4.3 Carnarvon Basin

The range of thermal conductivity values for the Carnarvon basin is from 0.64–4.97 W/mK, shown by specimens DIR138 and DIR132 respectively, which is a variability of up to a 97% from the mean basin conductivity of 2.52 W/mK. The standard deviation between all 61 samples representing the Carnarvon basin is approximately  $0.89\sigma$ .

### 4.4 Officer Basin

The range of thermal conductivity values for the Officer basin is from 1.25–5.54 W/mK, shown by specimens DIR202 and DIR186 respectively, which is a variability of up to 103% from the mean basin conductivity of 2.73 W/mK. The standard deviation between all 40 samples representing the Officer basin is approximately  $1.17\sigma$ . Thermal conductivity of specimen DIR206 was not measured due to poor sample quality.

The following additional points must be considered if extrapolating the results in this report to *in situ* formations:

1. The samples upon which the thermal conductivity measurements were made are only several square centimetres in surface area. While the specimens were chosen to represent the geological sections from which they came, there is no guarantee that the sections themselves are typical of the overall geological formations. This is especially true for heterogeneous formations. This introduces an unquantifiable random error into the results.
2. Porosity exerts a primary influence on the thermal conductivity of a rock. Water is substantially less conductive than typical mineral grains<sup>5</sup>, and water saturated pores act to reduce the bulk thermal conductivity of the rock. Gas-filled pores reduce the bulk conductivity even more dramatically. Results reported in this document are whole-rock measurements. No adjustments were made for porosity. It is to be expected that the thermal conductivity of a given formation will vary from place to place if the porosity of the formation varies (conductivity decreases with increasing porosity).
3. Thermal conductivity of rocks is sensitive to temperature<sup>2</sup>, typically decreasing at a rate of around 0.16% per °C. This should be kept in mind when developing models of *in situ* thermal conductivity.

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<sup>5</sup> Beardsmore, G.R. and Cull, J.P. (2001). *Crustal heat flow: A guide to measurement and modelling*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 324pp.

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