

Eastern Victoria Geoscience Initiative

The Geological Survey of Victoria (GSV) in collaboration with Geoscience Australia will undertake a deep seismic reflection and gravity survey of eastern Victoria in the first half of 2018.

The survey is part of a long-term program to build knowledge of Victoria's underlying geological 'architecture'.

The survey will add to Victoria's geological database and contribute to future scientific research. It will assist with the mapping of earth resources and the identification of potential natural hazards, such as earthquakes.

THE SURVEY

The survey is part of a greater collaborative scientific research project across southeast Australia in Victoria and New South Wales: the Southeast Lachlan Crustal Scale Transect. Project partners are GSV, Geoscience Australia, the Geological Survey of New South Wales and AuScope Limited.

The focus of the survey is geology; the rock types, faults and their distribution. The area to be surveyed is not prospective for gas or petroleum.

The survey is low impact and will not affect the environment or physical infrastructure.

SURVEY ROUTES

The survey will be conducted from February to June 2018 along two lines as shown on Map 1 (blue lines):

- Starting south of Benalla and travelling approximately 280 kilometres eastwards towards Tom Groggin.
- Starting north of Benambra and travelling approximately 180 kilometres south eastwards near Bendoc and into New South Wales.

The survey will travel across private properties and Crown land, through national parks and along local roads. Towns the survey will travel through are Molyullah, Edi, Merriang, Rosewhite, Kancoona, Eskdale, Upper Gundwring, Runny Creek, Ovens, Myrtleford, Benambra, Wulgulmerang, Wulgulmerang East, Deddick Valley and Bendoc.

The survey will also travel through the Alpine, Snowy River and Errinundra national parks.



Map 1. Geological survey routes – 2018 survey in blue lines

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FIRST SEISMIC SURVEY OF EASTERN VICTORIA

This will be the first time the geology of eastern Victoria is surveyed at great depth.

The most recent surveys of this type were conducted by GSV in central Victoria in 2006 and western Victoria in 2009 (see Map 1).

The survey of eastern Victoria will add to the public geological database. It will contribute to future scientific research, which may include but not be limited to further geological mapping, determining the age and chemistry of the rocks, earth resource studies and natural hazard assessments.

A unique aspect of this survey is that eastern Victoria is seismically active – the strongest earthquake in the state in recent decades occurred in 2012 in the region, recording a magnitude of 5.4 at Moe and damaging local buildings. Eastern Victoria includes significant infrastructure such as dams, power stations, powerlines, pipelines and major roads. The survey will help build understanding of the region's seismic hazard potential.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Property owners and public land managers were consulted during November and December 2017 as the Eastern Victoria survey route was being planned.

Access to properties may require the temporary removal of infrastructure such as fences to allow the Vibroseis trucks to travel along the survey route.

Land Access Arrangements will be established with individual landowners, leaseholders and public agencies before the survey starts. Any fencing or other infrastructure removed for the survey will be replaced once the survey is complete.

Partial road closures and traffic management will be in place during the course of the survey. Some sections of tracks within national parks may be closed with diversions in place. Permits from Parks Victoria, VicRoads and local councils will be in place. Road traffic measures will be communicated before and during the survey.

A GSV community engagement officer will be based in Ovens leading up to and during the survey.

MORE INFORMATION

Fact Sheet: Understanding deep seismic reflection

For further information visit earthresources.vic.gov.au/evgi

or call the Customer Call Centre on 136 186