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1           **Widespread Nearshore and Shallow Marine Deposition within the Lower Jurassic**  
2           **Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation in the Surat Basin, Australia**

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20 **Keywords:** Precipice Sandstone; Evergreen Formation; Surat Basin; Jurassic; facies analysis;  
21 ichnology; sedimentology; palynology.

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1     **ABSTRACT**

2           In the Surat Basin of eastern Australia, the Lower Jurassic Precipice Sandstone and  
3 Evergreen Formation are a highly prospective reservoir-seal pair for notional future carbon  
4 capture and storage. However, the succession remains poorly constrained from a paleo-  
5 depositional standpoint and this has impacted the capacity to construct predictive reservoir  
6 models. Here we integrate sedimentological, ichnological, and palynological data from ten cores  
7 located across a large region of the northern and central basin to produce conceptual  
8 depositional models.

9           Our analysis shows that the Lower Jurassic Series consists of fifteen recurring sedimentary  
10 facies that are arranged into six facies associations – braidplain, lower delta plain, subaqueous  
11 delta, delta-influenced shoreface, tidally influenced shoreline, and restricted marine shoals. The  
12 facies associations occur in the context of a large scale fluvio-deltaic system that developed  
13 within the basin. These results are supported by ichnological indications of marine and brackish  
14 water, and a coastal suite of palynomorphs including rare dinocysts, acritarchs, and copepod  
15 fragments. The very low abundance of marine palynomorphs are confined to the upper portion  
16 of the Evergreen Formation, and in combination with sedimentological and ichnological results  
17 suggest that marine influence increased through time.

18           The elucidation of marine influenced deposition contravenes all but the most recent facies  
19 interpretations of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation, and suggests that the  
20 paleogeography of the Mesozoic of eastern Australia needs to be reconsidered. Importantly, the  
21 nearshore and shallow marine depositional affinity has important implications for the size,  
22 orientation, and distribution of geobodies when building geologically realistic static reservoir  
23 models for dynamic flow simulation.

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4 **1. Introduction**

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6 2 Facies analysis and paleoenvironmental interpretation are integral for predicting reservoir  
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8 3 performance due to their implications for fluid flow properties (i.e., porosity and permeability;  
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10 4 (Burton and Wood, 2013; Baniak et al., 2014; La Croix et al., 2017) and the continuity and  
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12 5 connectedness of reservoirs and seals (Allen, 1978; Ainsworth, 2005). Facies data are  
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14 6 fundamental inputs to high-resolution static reservoir models (Harding et al., 2005; Mikes and  
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16 7 Geel, 2006; Ringrose and Bentley, 2015), and thus capturing detailed facies information can  
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18 8 reduce uncertainty in the prediction of plume migration and pressure response in CO<sub>2</sub> injection  
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20 9 scenarios.

21  
22 10 Carbon capture and storage (CCS) in subsurface aquifers and depleted hydrocarbon  
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24 11 reservoirs is a growing area of research and investment (Garnett et al., 2014; Neele et al., 2017;  
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26 12 Worth et al., 2017). This is due to its large potential for mitigating emissions from coal- and gas-  
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28 13 fired power generation and for the abatement of climate change (Metz et al., 2005; Agency,  
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30 14 2008). As a result, regional subsurface assessment of the sedimentary basins in Eastern  
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32 15 Australia have identified the Surat Basin as being highly prospective because of its depth,  
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34 16 temperature gradient, the presence of high-quality reservoir-seal pairs and its proximity to large  
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36 17 point-source emissions (Bradshaw et al., 2011; Hodgkinson and Grigorescu, 2013; Garnett et  
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38 18 al., 2014). Within the Surat Basin, the Lower Jurassic Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen  
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40 19 Formation represent the primary reservoir and seal intervals with potential to meet commercial-  
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42 20 scale storage requirements (Bradshaw et al., 2011).

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44 21 The regional-scale geology of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation is not well  
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46 22 understood. This is because they are generally not hydrocarbon bearing strata, particularly in  
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48 23 the deep central regions of the Surat Basin where CCS potential is greatest. Detailed  
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50 24 depositional interpretations are few, hindering modelling efforts to help forecast reservoir  
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52 25 performance and sealing potential. Most past studies have interpreted the Precipice Sandstone  
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54 26 to represent braided river deposits with minimal effects of relative sea level (e.g., Sell et al.,  
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56 27 1972; Exon, 1976; Exon and Burger, 1981; Martin, 1981; Green et al., 1997). More recently, an  
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58 28 argument for marine influence has been put forth based on data from the outcrop belt and one  
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60 29 core located in the northern portion of the basin (Bianchi et al., 2018b; Martin et al., 2018). The  
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62 30 basal Evergreen Formation, on the other hand, has been interpreted as continental meandering  
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64 31 river and freshwater lake deposits (Mollan et al., 1972; Dickins and Malone, 1973; Exon, 1976;  
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66 32 Cosgrove and Mogg, 1985). Uppermost Evergreen Formation deposits have been interpreted  
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68 33 as fluvio-lacustrine (Exon and Burger, 1981; Fielding, 1989, 1990; Cranfield et al., 1994), though  
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70 34 marine incursions have been suggested to explain the presence of oolitic ironstone in the

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1 Westgrove Ironstone Member (Mollan et al., 1969; Mollan et al., 1972; Exon, 1976; Beeston,  
2 1979). Few studies to date have integrated multiple datasets across a large area to gain a  
3 regional perspective of the distribution of paleoenvironments and their representative  
4 sedimentary strata. Such regional integration of facies analysis for the Precipice Sandstone and  
5 Evergreen Formation needs to be revisited to establish an updated view of the depositional  
6 environments as this has not been undertaken for several decades.

7 The aim of this study was to analyse facies by integrating sedimentology, ichnology, and  
8 palynology from the Lower Jurassic- Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation with a  
9 regional perspective in mind. We sought to construct depositional models that fit the large-scale  
10 distribution of facies and which document the progressive changes in environments through  
11 time. We focused on providing evidence of marine-influenced deposition, a topic that is still  
12 debated in the literature and holds important implications for the paleogeography of eastern  
13 Australia during the breakup of Gondwana. The results of this study are important for aiding  
14 sequence-stratigraphic interpretations (e.g., Wang et al., 2019), for predicting facies where data  
15 are sparse or absent (e.g., He et al., 2019), and ultimately to improve reservoir modelling for the  
16 purpose of CO<sub>2</sub> storage in the subsurface (Hodgkinson and Grigorescu, 2013).

## 18 **2. Geological Setting**

### 19 **2.1 Structure and Basin Formation**

20 The Surat Basin lies between latitudes 25° and 33° S, and from longitudes 147° to 152° E,  
21 enveloping an area of ~327, 000 km<sup>2</sup> in Queensland and New South Wales, Australia (Fig. 1).  
22 The Surat Basin is time equivalent to the Eromanga and Clarence-Moreton basins, separated  
23 from them by the Nebine and Kumbarilla ridges (structural highs) to the west and east,  
24 respectively (Power and Devine, 1970; Exon and Senior, 1976; Green et al., 1997). As a  
25 shallow platform depression sitting unconformably above the narrower Bowen and Gunnedah  
26 basins, the Surat Basin partly rests upon Palaeozoic basement rocks, and partly on sedimentary  
27 rocks of Permo-Triassic age. The basin axis trends north-south along the Mimosa Syncline,  
28 roughly corresponding to the Taroom Trough which is the thickest part of the underlying Bowen  
29 Basin (Exon, 1976; Fielding et al., 1990).

30 There are three differing basin formation models of the Surat Basin: 1) thermal subsidence  
31 (Korsch et al., 1989); 2) dynamic platform tilting (Gallagher et al., 1994; Korsch and Totterdell,  
32 2009; Waschbusch et al., 2009); and, 3) intraplate rifting (Fielding, 1996). These differing  
33 interpretations stem from a poorly resolved tectonic history and debate over the intracratonic  
34 (Fielding, 1996; Yago and Fielding, 1996) *versus* pericratonic nature of the basin (Exon, 1976;



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1 Exon and Senior, 1976; Veevers et al., 1982; Gallagher, 1990). Despite the relatively  
2 undeformed nature of its sedimentary fill, several important structural features occur within the  
3 Surat Basin (Fig. 1). The most prominent basement structures are the Auburn Arch in the  
4 southwest, the Yarraman Block in the northeast, and the Texas High in the southeast. These  
5 fault blocks were major sediment sources, but became less exposed as time progressed and  
6 the basin was filled (Green et al., 1997). The sedimentary succession is no longer at its  
7 maximum burial depths because up to 2500 m of sediment have been eroded from the northern  
8 and eastern parts of the basin in the last ~100Ma (Gallagher et al., 1994; Raza et al., 2009).

### 2.2 Sedimentation Cycles and Stratigraphy

11 The 2500 m thick fill of the Surat Basin was delivered in six major pulses (Exon and Burger,  
12 1981). Each cycle broadly equates to a 2<sup>nd</sup> order transgressive-regressive cycle (10–20 Ma),  
13 with three cycles for the Jurassic section, one spanning the Jura-Cretaceous boundary, and two  
14 during the Cretaceous. The cycles are informally known as: (1) the Precipice-Evergreen, (2) the  
15 Hutton-Walloon, (3) the Springbok-Westbourne, (4) the Gubberamunda-Orallo, (5) the Mooga-  
16 Bungil, and (6) the Wallumbilla.

17 Stratigraphic correlation across the Surat Basin has garnered substantial effort over several  
18 decades (Gray, 1968; Power and Devine, 1970; Mollan et al., 1972; Exon, 1976; Green et al.,  
19 1997; Hoffmann et al., 2009; Totterdell et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2019). Yet, a set of  
20 lithostratigraphic terminology that is agreed upon and applied across the basin consistently has  
21 not been established (e.g., Mollan et al., 1972; Exon, 1976; McKellar, 1998). More recently,  
22 workers have focused on packaging rocks according to their age and genetic relationships using  
23 a sequence-stratigraphic framework (Wells et al., 1994; Hoffmann et al., 2009; Totterdell et al.,  
24 2009; Ziolkowski et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2019). The most recent stratigraphic scheme of  
25 Wang et al. (2019) for the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation comprises three 3<sup>rd</sup>-  
26 order sequences (Fig.2; Haq et al., 1987).

### 2.3 Palynology and Biostratigraphy

29 A substantial body of literature exists relating to the palynology of Jurassic–Cretaceous  
30 strata within the Surat Basin. In the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation, as well as  
31 time equivalent units in eastern Australia, palynology has mainly been used to understand the  
32 regional stratigraphy and timing of deposition (Evans, 1962, 1966; Reiser and Williams, 1969;  
33 Price, 1997; McKellar, 1998; de Jersey and McKellar, 2013). Other studies have documented

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4 1 the palynoflora from a taxonomic and paleoclimate point of view (de Jersey and Dearne, 1964;  
5 2 de Jersey and Paten, 1964b, a; de Jersey, 1965; Paten, 1967; Reiser and Williams, 1969;  
6 3 McKellar, 1974, 1998), noting a shift from warmer climates in the Early Jurassic corresponding  
7 4 to the *Callialasporites dampieri* Microflora to cooler climatic conditions represented by the  
8 5 *Microcachryidites* Microflora. This was under palaeolatitudinal control due to the position of the  
9 6 Pangea supercontinent, which was located towards the south pole at the time (McKellar, 1998).  
10 7 More recently, palynology has been applied to detailed paleoenvironmental interpretations with  
11 8 differing views on the (e.g., Ziolkowski et al., 2014) versus marine implications of the palynological  
12 9 suites (e.g., Martin et al., 2018). One problem that has hindered all previous studies, however, has  
13 10 been the relatively limited datasets in terms of number of wells used for analysis; most studies only  
14 11 considered a single well or few wells within a portion of the basin. Nonetheless, past studies set  
15 12 the stage for a regional-scale investigation of the palynology and especially one that combines  
16 13 with insights from sedimentology and ichnology.

### 14 15 **3. Methods**

16 Ten subsurface cores were logged to gain a regional perspective on the depositional  
17 environments and facies evolution of the Precipice–Evergreen succession: Chinchilla 4,  
18 Condabri MB9-H, Kenya East GW7, Moonie 31, Moonie 34, Reedy Creek MB3-H, Roma 8,  
19 Taroom 17, West Wandoan 1, and Woleebee Creek GW4 (Table 1). Cores were predominantly  
20 located in the northern portion of the Surat Basin, and to a lesser extent on the western and  
21 eastern flanks (Fig. 1). Cored intervals ranged from 7 m (Moonie 31) to 295 m thick (Woleebee  
22 Creek GW4). The succession was described in terms of lithology, physical sedimentary  
23 structures, and biogenic structures. Ichnological observations included bioturbation intensity  
24 using the bioturbation index (Taylor and Goldring, 1993), diversity of bioturbation, distribution of  
25 bioturbation between beds, and identification of trace fossils to the ichnogenus level.

26 Sixty-one samples were collected from mudstone or heterolithic (i.e., interbedded  
27 sandstone and mudstone) facies for palynological analysis. Samples were quantitatively  
28 analysed for the first 300 palynomorphs counted with only the presence of subsequent grains  
29 being recorded, but not included in the counts. Notably, counts did not account for reworking  
30 and re-deposition, sediment-gravity processes, windblown sedimentation, or other processes  
31 that might affect the distribution of palynomorphs.

32 To place our sedimentological, ichnological, and palynological observations into context  
33 and to facilitate comparison between wells, we describe the strata using the sequence  
34 stratigraphy of Wang et al. (2019) (Figs. 2 and 3).

## 4. Results and Interpretation

### 4.1 Sedimentary Facies

Fifteen discrete facies were identified from the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation (Table 2). These facies group together into six facies associations interpreted to represent braidplain, lower delta plain, subaqueous delta, delta-influenced shoreface, tidally influenced shoreline, and restricted marine shoal depositional environments. The Precipice Sandstone is overwhelmingly dominated by the braid plain association, whereas the Evergreen Formation comprises a complex mixture of lower delta plain, subaqueous delta, delta-influenced shoreface, tidally influenced shoreline, and restricted marine shoal deposits.

### 4.2 Facies Associations

#### 4.2.1 Facies Association 1: Braid Plain

Facies Association 1 (FA1) predominantly consists of interbedded conglomerate and sandstone (Facies 1 (F1); Fig. 4A) representing lag deposits or channel bases, mud-clast breccia (Facies 2 (F2); Fig. 4B) interpreted as channel bank collapse or channel bases, and coarse-grained planar-tabular cross-bedded sandstone (Facies 3 (F3); Fig. 4C) deposited as the main channel fill (Table 2). Typical complete facies successions comprise F1 passing gradationally upwards into F3, with interspersed layers of 2 (Fig. 4). Individual packages range from 3–7 m, but they are commonly stacked into multi-storied packages up to 80 m thick, with the thickest occur near the axis of the basin along the Mimosa Syncline. The overall coarse grain size and thick cross-bedded layers of F3 suggests deposition under high flow velocities (Fig. 4C). Mud-clast breccias (F2) most commonly located near the base of individual fining-upward units indicates undercutting of the floodplain (Fig. 4B), whereas structureless layers (F1) indicate rapidly deposited sediment (Fig. 4A). The quartz-dominated nature of FA1 suggests that the sediment source area was rich in quartz. The sedimentological evidence and a general lack ichnological features indicates that FA1 was deposited in a braid plain system with abundant sediment supply (Miall, 1977). FA1 reflects the early stages of Surat Basin development as braided rivers flowed across the base-Surat unconformity surface following irregular topographic lows.

#### 4.2.2 Facies Association 2: Lower Delta Plain

Facies Association 2 (FA2) is composed of planar-tabular to cross-bedded sandstone (Facies 4 (F4); Fig. 5A), structureless to planar-parallel laminated sandstone (Facies 5 (F5); Fig. 5B), carbonaceous sandstone and siltstone (Facies 6 (F6); Fig. 5C, D), coal (Facies 7 (F7); Fig.

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4 1 5D), and bioturbated muddy sandstone and sandy mudstone (Facies 8 (F8); Fig. 5F). These are  
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6 2 interpreted to represent distributary channel, levee and crevasse splay, floodplain, peat mire,  
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8 3 and interdistributary bay deposits, respectively (Table 2). The association is characterized by an  
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10 4 overall fining upward succession of F4 passing upward into F5, grading into F6, and capped  
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12 5 with F7 (Fig. 5G). Facies 8 is interspersed at various stratigraphic positions, but is most  
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14 6 commonly above F6. Facies successions vary between 3–13 m thick, with the thickest occurring  
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16 7 towards the basin-centre. Sedimentological characteristics of the sandstone indicate quasi-  
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18 8 steady unidirectional flow in channels (F4; Fig. 5A) with episodic breaching of the channel banks  
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20 9 (F5; Fig. 5B). The thin nature of most channel deposits is interpreted to represent terminal  
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22 10 distributary channels (Olariu and Bhattacharya, 2006). Thin coal deposits (F7; Fig. 5D)  
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24 11 interbedded with carbonaceous siltstone and mudstone (F6; Fig. 5C) suggests a low-energy  
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26 12 environment subject to river flooding. Peat forming environments would have required a  
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28 13 sufficiently high water-table. Trace fossils produced by terrestrial insects or annelids –  
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30 14 *Planolites*, *Taenidium*, and *Naktodemasis* – support the notion of a continental setting (Savrda  
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32 15 et al., 2000). On the other hand, unstructured to crudely structured muddy sandstone and sandy  
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34 16 mudstone (F8; Fig. 5F) suggests slow deposition rates between active zones of sediment  
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36 17 delivery. Synaeresis cracks, rootlets, and a depauperate assemblage of marine burrows  
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38 18 indicate normal to reduced marine salinity, which is consistent with the interpretation of  
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40 19 interdistributary bays (MacEachern et al., 2007). The association between subaerial, freshwater  
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42 20 subaqueous, and marine-influenced subaqueous deposits is taken to indicate that FA2  
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44 21 represents deposition within a lower delta plain setting.  
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#### 41 23 **4.2.3 Facies Association 3: Subaqueous Delta**

42 24 Facies Association 3 (FA3) comprises wave to combined flow ripple laminated mouthbar  
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44 25 sandstone (Facies 9 (F9); Fig. 6A), sand-dominated heterolithics representing the delta front  
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46 26 (Facies 10 (F10); Fig. 6B, C), and muddy heterolithics deposited on the prodelta (Facies 11  
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48 27 (F11); Fig. 6D), arranged into coarsening-upward successions (Table 2). The association varies  
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50 28 in thickness from 3–12 m, though individual facies are seldom thicker than 5 m. Typical facies  
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52 29 successions consists of F11 passing gradationally upward into F10, and capped with F9,  
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54 30 indicating overall progradational facies stacking (Fig. 6E). A dominance of combined flow rippled  
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56 31 sandstone attests the close relationship with a channel system modified by waves and tides.  
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58 32 Interbedded sharp-based mudstones with normal or inverse grading are interpreted to represent  
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60 33 fluid mud deposits (Fig. 6D). Rare navichnia reflect sediment swimming behaviors as organisms  
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62 34 were buried by fluid mud carried in hyperpycnal flows (Bhattacharya and MacEachern, 2009).  
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4 1 Synaeresis cracks combined with a depauperate marine ichnological assemblage indicate  
5 2 mixing of fresh and marine water (Fig. 6B; MacEachern et al., 2005). Finally, micro-faults  
6 3 suggest sediment loading and high deposition rates. The predominance of current generated  
7 4 physical structures, with subordinate wave and tide generated structures suggests a  
8 5 depositional setting dominated by fluvial processes, with secondary waves and tides (Ainsworth  
9 6 et al., 2011). The sedimentological and ichnological characteristics, in concert with the  
10 7 stratigraphic stacking patterns suggest that these deposits accumulated within the subaqueous  
11 8 portion of a delta.  
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#### 19 10 **4.2.4 Facies Association 4: Delta-Influenced Shoreface**

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21 11 Facies Association 4 (FA4), consists of a gradational transition from upper offshore  
22 12 bioturbated sandy mudstone with HCS (Facies 13 (F13); Fig. 7B) to bioturbated muddy  
23 13 sandstone (Facies 12 (F12); Fig. 7A) with wave-ripples and HCS of the lower shoreface,  
24 14 arranged into an upward-coarsening succession (Table 2; Fig. 7C). The association varies from  
25 15 4–12 m thick. Wave and storm-generated physical structures and the increasing proportion of  
26 16 sandstone beds upwards reflects a change from deposition below fairweather wave base to  
27 17 above fairweather wave base where sediment was persistently agitated by wave energy.  
28 18 Interbedding between laminated sandstone and bioturbated mudstone is interpreted to  
29 19 represent alternation between fairweather depositional conditions and storm deposition (Fig.  
30 20 7B). Sharp-based, graded mud beds represent hyperpycnal flows carrying fluid mud from  
31 21 nearby deltas (Bhattacharya and MacEachern, 2009). Highly bioturbated beds contain the most  
32 22 diverse suite of marine trace fossils in the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation (Fig.  
33 23 7A, B) and suggests that the association represents a marine end-member. In consideration of  
34 24 the sedimentological and ichnological characteristics of FA4, the succession is interpreted to  
35 25 represent deposition on a delta-influenced shoreface.  
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#### 48 27 **4.2.5 Facies Association 5: Tidally Influenced Shoreline**

49 28 Facies Association 5 (FA5) consists of mixed sandy and muddy heterolithics with tide-  
50 29 generated structures and uncommon to abundant bioturbation with marine trace fossils (Facies  
51 30 14 (F14); Fig. 8 A, B; Table 2). The association is characterized by fining-upward heterolithic  
52 31 packages of strata (Fig. 8C). The association varies in thickness from 1–5 m. Current and tide-  
53 32 generated physical sedimentary structures dominate the succession (Fig. 8A, B), indicating  
54 33 alternating current directions. Rootlets suggest periodic subaerial exposure. Although  
55 34 bioturbation with marine trace fossils has completely homogenized portions of this facies, some  
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4 1 beds and bedsets remain unburrowed. This is interpreted to indicate alternating physico-  
5 2 chemical environmental stresses in the depositional setting such as periodic subaerial  
6 3 exposure, as well as high and rapidly changing energy conditions (MacEachern et al., 2007).  
7 4 However, the bioturbation signature varies considerably in terms of intensity and distribution,  
8 5 and this might reflect differences in the location of deposition in relation to sources of freshwater  
9 6 influx (i.e., proximal or distal to a river mouth; (cf. Dashtgard, 2011)). Although FA5 is not  
10 7 common in the cored intervals, it demonstrates that tides were an important sediment transport  
11 8 and deposition mechanism, and suggests that parts of the basin were tidally influenced. The  
12 9 presences of tidal indicators also supports the notion of a marine influenced basin although we  
13 10 recognize that rarely tidal structures can be produced by meteorological tides (Ainsworth et al.,  
14 11 2012). FA5 is interpreted to represent deposition on tidal flats adjacent to active distributary  
15 12 channels, receiving some protection from wave fetch and freshwater input into the basin.  
16 13

#### 14 14 **4.2.56 Facies Association 6: Restricted Marine Shoals**

15 15 Facies 6 (FA6) is composed of oolitic ironstone (Facies 15A (F15A); Fig. 9A) and  
16 16 cemented ironstone (Facies 15B (F15B); Fig. 9B; Table 2). Rare horizontal planar parallel  
17 17 lamination or wave ripple lamination occurs in F15A, indicating periodic wave agitation of the  
18 18 sea floor. The absence of bioturbation suggests a physico-chemical environmental stress that  
19 19 precluded infaunal colonization. Facies 15B contains stylolites and is unstructured, suggesting  
20 20 overprinting of the original depositional texture (Fig. 9B). FA6 is nearly always interbedded with  
21 21 FA3, implying a close depositional affinity. Taken together, the characteristics of FA6 is  
22 22 interpreted to represent deposition in a restricted marine environment with freshwater influx,  
23 23 wave agitation, but protected (i.e. “restricted”) from abundant mixing of the water column such  
24 24 that the Fe context could be maintained long enough for mineralization of ooids; the restriction  
25 25 of mixing in the water column is most likely related to geomorphological barriers on the seafloor  
26 26 (cf. Hallam and Bradshaw, 1979), but the effects of embayments cannot be discounted. Hot  
27 27 fluids associated with structural features such as faults and fractures account for the diagenetic  
28 28 overprint observed in the F15B sub-facies.  
29 29

#### 30 30 **4.3 Sequence Stratigraphy**

31 31 In the sequence stratigraphic scheme first introduced by Wang et al. (2019) the  
32 32 Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation consist of 3 sequences from base to top (Fig. 2).  
33 33 The first and third sequences (i.e., SQ1 and SQ3) are defined by a basal unconformity (J10,  
34 34 SB2, J20, J30), contain a transgressive surface (TS1, TS3), a maximum flooding surface

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4 1 (MFS1, MFS3), and are marked by an unconformity at their top. These segment the sequences  
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6 2 into a lowstand systems tract, transgressive systems tract, and highstand systems tract,  
7  
8 3 respectively. However, the second sequence (i.e., SQ2) is relatively thin and possibly  
9  
10 4 incompletely preserved across the basin, and therefore, individual systems tracts were not  
11  
12 5 defined. Thus, SQ2 is described as a single unit. The stratigraphy is composed of the surfaces:  
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14 6 J10 (base-Surat unconformity), TS1, MFS1, SB2, J20, TS3, MFS3, and J30 (top Evergreen)  
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16 7 from base to top.  
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18 8

#### 19 9 **4.4 Palynology**

20 10 Palynological analysis identified a diverse spore-pollen assemblage as well as  
21  
22 11 freshwater algae. In addition, spinose acritarchs, dinocysts, and copepod fragments were also  
23  
24 12 identified in some of the samples. Although copepods can be found in both marine and non-  
25  
26 13 marine settings those identified in these samples were accompanied by spinose acritarchs,  
27  
28 14 thought to indicate brackish to marine influence (Figure 10; Table 3). Six sporomorph ecogroups  
29  
30 15 (SEGs) were interpreted from the microplankton forms based on Abbink (1998) and Abbink et  
31  
32 16 al. (2004). The SEGs consisted of: 1) marine forms, 2) coastal spores, 3) continental spores, 4)  
33  
34 17 coastal pollen, 5) continental pollen, 6) freshwater algae, and 7) fungi. The marine SEG  
35  
36 18 comprised dinoflagellates, acritarchs, and copepod fragments. The coastal spore SEG  
37  
38 19 consisted of the genera *Retitriletes*. The coastal pollen SEG is composed of *Araucariacites*,  
39  
40 20 *Callialasporites*, and *Corollina / Classpollis*. The remainder of spore, pollen, algae, and fungi  
41  
42 21 were interpreted to represent non-marine to freshwater ecogroups. We describe the palynology  
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44 22 by stratigraphic interval to give a sense of how the palynological signature changed through the  
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46 23 vertical succession.  
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#### 49 25 **4.3.1 Lowstand Systems Tract 1**

50 26 Palynological grains from the Precipice Sandstone (i.e., LST 1) were dominated by  
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52 27 coastal pollen and continental pollen, with subordinate proportions of continental spores and  
53  
54 28 coastal spores, and minor freshwater algae (Fig. 11; Table 4). Coastal spores ranged between  
55  
56 29 0% (Taroom 17 and West Wandoan 1) and 14.7% (Condabri MB9-H). Continental spores varied  
57  
58 30 from 6.3% (Taroom 17) and 55.3% (Condabri MB9-H). The proportion of coastal pollen was in  
59  
60 31 the range from 26.3% (Condabri MB9-H) to 85.0% (West Wandoan 1). Continental pollen  
61  
62 32 content was between 2.7% (Condabri MB9-H) and 86.1% (Chinchilla 4). Finally, freshwater  
63  
64 33 algae varied between 0.3% (Taroom 17) and 5.1% (Chinchilla 4). No fungi, dinocysts,  
65  
66 34 acritarchs, or copepod fragments were recovered.

### 4.3.2 Transgressive Systems Tract 1

Grains counted from the lower Evergreen Formation (i.e., TST 1) were dominated by coastal pollen and continental pollen, with lesser amounts of continental spores and coastal spores, and minor freshwater algae (Fig. 11; Table 4). Coastal spores varied from 3.3% (Taroom 17) to 14.7% (Kenya East GW7). Continental spores ranged between 15.3% (Taroom 17) and 46.0% (Kenya East GW7). Coastal pollen proportions were from 14.6% (Kenya East GW7) to 65.3% (Kenya East GW7). Continental pollen content ranged between 8.3% (Condabri MB9-H) and 64.6% (Chinchilla 4). Lastly, freshwater algae varied between 0% (Woleebee Creek GW4) and 5.6% (Kenya East GW7). No fungi, dinocysts, acritarchs, or copepod grains were counted.

### 4.3.1 Highstand Systems Tract 1

Palynology grain counts for HST 1 were dominated by coastal pollen and continental pollen, with subordinate proportions of continental spores and coastal spores, and minor freshwater algae (Fig. 11; Table 4). Coastal spores ranged between 2.3% (Chinchilla 4) and 9.6% (Condabri MB9-H). Continental spores varied from 14.3% (Chinchilla 4) to 34.7% (Condabri MB9-H). The proportion of coastal pollen was in the range from 47.3% (Condabri MB9-H) to 63.5% (Chinchilla 4). Continental pollen content was between 6.7% (Condabri MB9-H) and 84.0% (Chinchilla 4). Freshwater algae varied between 0% (Taroom 17) and 2.0% (Reedy Creek MB3-H). Freshwater algae were only present in Chinchilla 4 at a proportion of 0.3%. No dinocysts, acritarchs, or copepod fragments were recovered.

### 4.3.1 Sequence 2

In Sequence 2 palynological analysis showed that mudstone samples were dominated by coastal pollen, continental pollen, and continental spores (Fig. 11; Table 4). Lesser proportions of coastal spores were observed and only a minor freshwater algae component was noted. No fungi, dinocysts, acritarchs, or copepod fragments were counted. The proportion of coastal spores varied between 4.6% (Woleebee Creek GW4) and 31.3% (Woleebee Creek GW4). Continental spores ranged from 25.05% (Taroom 17) and 52.3% (Condabri MB9-H). Coastal pollen grains comprise 24.7% (Condabri MB9-H) to 51.7% (Woleebee Creek GW4) of samples. Continental pollen consists of 2.3% (Roma 8 and Woleebee Creek GW4) to 41.8% (Reedy Creek MB3-H). Finally, freshwater algae varied between 0.3% (Reedy Creek MB9-H) and 6.0% (Roma 8).



### 4.3.1 Transgressive Systems Tract 3

Transgressive Systems Tract 3 comprised palynology grains dominated by coastal pollen and continental pollen, with lesser continental spores and coastal spores, and minor freshwater algae and marine indicators (i.e., dinocysts, acritarchs, copepoda; Fig. 11; Table 4). Samples consisted of between 1.3% (Chinchilla 4) and 30.0% (West Wandoan 1) coastal spores. Continental spores comprised between 7.0% (West Wandoan 1 and Woleebee Creek GW4) and 32.2% (West Wandoan 1) of samples. Coastal pollen ranged between 23.2% (Chinchilla 4) and 64.3% (Roma 8). Continental pollen varied from 8.0% (West Wandoan 1) and 81.5% (Chinchilla 4). The proportion of freshwater algae grains ranged between 0.9% (Roma 8) and 12.3% (Kenya East GW7). Marine indicators were as high as 6.1% of samples (West Wandoan 1). No fungi were observed.

### 4.3.1 Highstand Systems Tract 3

The palynology of Highstand Systems Tract 3 is dominated by coastal pollen, continental pollen, and continental spores, with lesser amounts of coastal spores (Fig. 11; Table 4). Minor freshwater algae content was observed, with trace indications of marine influence in the form of dinocysts, acritarchs, and copepoda. The proportion of coastal spores ranged from 6.1% (Condabri MB9-H) to 14.2% (Kenya East GW7). Continental spores varied between 15.7% (Roma 8) and 46.8% (Condabri MB9-H). Coastal pollen content is from 21.3% (Kenya East GW7) to 60.9% (Chinchilla 4). Continental pollen proportions vary from 5.8% (Condabri MB9-H) to 75.7% (Chinchilla 4). Freshwater algae comprise between 0.7% (Roma 8) and 5.3% (Roma 8). Finally, marine indicators were as high as 1.0% in Kenya East GW7. No fungi grains were counted.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 The Palynological Signal of Coastal Systems

Our dataset is consistent with the sporomorph ecogroup model proposed by Abbink et al. (2004), especially in the context of the other sedimentological and ichnological observations. In that framework, pollen such as *Corollina / Classopollis* represent flora (Cheirolepidiaceae) that inhabit salt marshes and mangroves at the transition from land to sea (Batten and MacLellan, 1984; Stukins et al., 2013; Galloway et al., 2015). Similarly our analysis would suggest that the pollen *Callialasporites* (Harris, 1979; Vakhrameev, 1991), *Araucariacidites* (Grant-Mackie et al., 2000; Barron et al., 2006), and the spores *Denisporites* (Couper, 1958;

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4 1 *Retallack, 1975, 1997*), and *Retitriletes* (Balme, 1995) have a coastal to marginal marine affinity.  
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6 2 It should be noted that previous workers interpreted a fully terrestrial depositional setting for the  
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8 3 palynomorphs from the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation, and therefore our  
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10 4 interpretation is not agreed upon by everyone (Ziolkowski et al., 2014).

11 5 Although the large proportion of coastal pollen and spores throughout the Precipice–  
12  
13 6 Evergreen succession supports a nearshore depositional interpretation, the suite does not  
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15 7 directly indicate marine influence *sensu stricto*. However, agglutinated foraminifera reported by  
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17 8 Martin et al. (2018) supports the interpretation. There are a few possible mechanisms to explain  
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19 9 the lack of dinocysts, acritarchs, and copepoda within Sequence 1 and Sequence 2. The first is  
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21 10 flushing of the palynomorphs due to abundant freshwater run-off from distributary channels  
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23 11 (Hardy and Wrenn, 2009). A second explanation is low preservation potential due to distributary  
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25 12 channels cannibalizing marine influenced facies as they migrate across a low-accommodation  
26  
27 13 delta plain. This problem remains unresolved, however, and is a potential area of future  
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29 14 research. Finally, marine influence on deposition of Sequence 3 is clearly illustrated by the  
30  
31 15 dominance of coastal pollen and spores and the small proportion of marine palynomorphs.

## 31 17 **5.2 Facies Evolution and Depositional Model**

32 18 Differences in the distribution of facies occur both across the basin and up stratigraphic  
33  
34 19 section through the Precipice–Evergreen succession. The facies evolution displays differences  
35  
36 20 related to along-strike variation as well as proximal to distal relationships. The basin axis occurs  
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38 21 along the Mimosa Syncline (Fig. 1) and contains the thickest and most complete succession,  
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40 22 recorded in wells such as West Wandoan 1 and Woleebee Creek (Table 1). Towards the basin  
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42 23 margins, the succession is thinner, and in some cases the basal part is missing. Wells such as  
43  
44 24 Roma 8, Moonie 31, and Moonie 34 show this relationship (Table 1). However, the same  
45  
46 25 general stratigraphic evolution is observed in all ten wells with each well recording different  
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48 26 proximal to distal positions within the basin. Broadly speaking, from proximal to distal we rank  
49  
50 27 the wells: Roma 8 (Fig. 12), Moonie 31 (Fig. 13), Moonie 34 (Fig. 14), Chinchilla 4 (Fig. 15),  
51  
52 28 Condabri MB9-H (Fig. 16), Kenya East GW7 (Fig. 17), Taroom 17 (Fig. 18), Reedy Creek MB3-  
53  
54 29 H (Fig. 19), West Wandoan 1 (Fig. 20), and Woleebee Creek GW4 (Fig. 21). We describe the  
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56 30 evolution of sedimentary facies in the context of the sequence stratigraphy and display block  
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58 31 models showing the major depositional environments and their stratal stacking relationships  
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60 32 (Figs. 22–24). Notably, we make no attempt to show the specific geographic distribution of  
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62 33 facies; the diagrams are conceptual and intended to show the broad-scale arrangement of  
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64 34 depositional environments through time.

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6 2 **5.2.1 Lowstand Systems Tract 1 (J10–TS1)**

7 3 The base of the Precipice Sandstone is manifest as a sharp, erosive contact overlain by  
8 4 coarse-grained structureless to planar-tabular cross-bedded sandstone (F3) containing rip up  
9 5 clasts (F2) and pebble lags (F1). The entire lowstand systems tract consists of a series of  
10 6 amalgamated (aggradational) small-scale (i.e., 2–6 m thick) fining-upward packages. The  
11 7 succession is thicker and cleaner in terms of mudstone content in West Wandoan 1 (Fig. 20)  
12 8 and Woleebee Creek (Fig. 21), along the axis of the basin. Towards the basin margins the  
13 9 proportion of mudstone interbeds increases slightly, such as in Chinchilla 4 (Fig. 15) and  
14 10 Taroom 17 (Fig. 18). The basal part of the succession is missing in Roma 8 (Fig. 12) which is  
15 11 located near the edge of the basin, as well as in Moonie 31 (Fig. 13) and Moonie 34 (Fig. 14).  
16 12 Up section, facies transition to finer grained sandstone (F4–5) with increasing proportions of  
17 13 mudstone, coal, and heterolithics (F6–11). We interpret this to reflect progressive infilling of  
18 14 basin topography through time, where the basin centre was situated within the middle of a  
19 15 braidplain (FA1) and the basin margins underwent periodic deposition within a lower delta plain  
20 16 (FA2) and subaqueous delta (FA3) (Fig. 22A). Palynological content, which consists primarily of  
21 17 subequal proportions of continental pollen and spores and coastal pollen and spores suggests  
22 18 that the braidplain was situated in the upper delta plain.  
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36 20 **5.2.2 Transgressive Systems Tract 1 (TS1–MFS1)**

37 21 The transgressive systems tract is characterized by an overall fining-upward succession  
38 22 (Fig. 22B). Along the axis of the basin, at West Wandoan 1 (Fig. 20) and Woleebee Creek GW4  
39 23 (Fig. 21) the interval displays a series of small-scale fining-upward packages consisting of  
40 24 cross-bedded sandstones (F4) that transition into heterolithic strata (F9–11). Towards the basin  
41 25 margins, near Chinchilla 4 (Fig. 15) and Taroom 17 (Fig. 18), the succession comprises cross-  
42 26 bedded (F4) and planar parallel laminated (F5) sandstones passing gradationally upward into  
43 27 carbonaceous mudstones (F6) and coal (F7). Bioturbated sandy mudstone and muddy  
44 28 sandstone (F8) occurs sporadically distributed through both successions. All wells across the  
45 29 basin become progressively muddier towards their top. The stratigraphic architecture and facies  
46 30 transitions are taken to represent retrogradational facies stacking. Along the basin axis  
47 31 depositional environments transition from distal lower delta plain (FA2) into the subaqueous  
48 32 delta (FA3). Further up depositional dip, away from the basin centre, lower delta plain (FA2)  
49 33 strata dominate, but with a gradual transition to proximal delta front packages (FA3) recorded.  
50 34 Variations between facies patterns in the most closely spaced wells reflect along-strike variation  
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4 1 in environments. A sub-equal mixture of continental spore-pollen and coastal spore-pollen  
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6 2 suggests deposition consistently occurred in proximity to a marine basin, and the bioturbate  
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8 3 textures in FA2 and FA3 support this notion.  
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### 11 5 **5.2.3 Highstand Systems Tract 1 (MFS1–SB2)**

12 6 Highstand Systems Tract 1 displays a coarsening-upward succession that consists of  
13  
14 7 smaller-scale coarsening- and fining-upward packages (Fig. 22C). Generally, the highstand  
15  
16 8 systems tract is thin (approximately 10–20 m), and is characterized by heterolithic strata (F10–  
17  
18 9 11) overlain by cross-bedded (F4) and combined-flow ripple laminated (F9) sandstones.  
19  
20 10 Towards the basin margins – up depositional dip – facies packages consist of carbonaceous  
21  
22 11 mudstones (F6) and coals (F7) overlying cross-bedded (F4) and planar parallel laminated (F5)  
23  
24 12 sandstone. In wells such as Chinchilla 4, the highstand is composed of moderate to highly  
25  
26 13 bioturbated heterolithics showing alternations in current direction (F14). The facies evolution is  
27  
28 14 interpreted to reflect progradational tacking patterns. In distal depositional positions  
29  
30 15 progradation is manifest as lower delta plain (FA2) strata building outwards atop the  
31  
32 16 subaqueous delta (FA3). In more proximal locations (Roma 8, Moonie 31 and 34),  
33  
34 17 progradational motifs are poorly expressed and difficult to differentiate from autogenic shifts in  
35  
36 18 environments. However, along-strike variation in deposition is clearly evident through the shift  
37  
38 19 from lower delta plain (FA2) to tidally influenced shoreline (FA5) strata, which are recorded  
39  
40 20 between wells displaying the same proximal-distal relationship (i.e., Chinchilla 4 versus Taroom  
41  
42 21 17). A mixture of continental spore-pollen and coastal spore-pollen suggests there was subtle  
43  
44 22 marine influence on deposition, further evidence of which is manifest in the recurrence of marine  
45  
46 23 trace fossils in FA2–FA6.  
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### 49 25 **5.2.4 Sequence 2 (SB2–J20)**

50 26 Sequence 2 rests atop a sharp, and sometimes erosive interface at the top of highstand  
51  
52 27 deposits in Sequence 1. The sequence is thin (25–60 m) suggesting limited accommodation  
53  
54 28 space (Wang et al., 2019). At the basin centre, near Woleebee Creek GW4 (Fig. 21), stacked  
55  
56 29 cross-bedded sandstones (F4) give way to muddy (F11) and heterolithic (F9 and F10) strata  
57  
58 30 with coarsening-upward characteristics. Packages are initially mud prone, becoming sand-  
59  
60 31 dominated gradually up section (Fig. 21). Further up depositional dip, the sections in Chinchilla  
61  
62 32 4 (Fig. 15) and Taroom 17 (Fig. 17) have thicker sandstone successions at their base (Fig. 22A)  
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64 33 and become muddier upward but to a lesser extent (Fig. 22B, C). Finally, in the most proximal  
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66 34 positions, such as Roma 8 (Fig. 12), the succession primarily consists of cross-bedded

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4 1 sandstones (F4) alternating with bioturbated muddy sandstone (F8) and combined-flow ripple  
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6 2 laminated sandstone (F9) with a subtle fining-upward character. Together the stratigraphic  
7  
8 3 stacking and facies evolution suggest the full succession from lowstand through transgression  
9  
10 4 to highstand are recorded in Sequence 2. Marine influenced on deposition is indicated by the  
11  
12 5 presence of substantial proportions of coastal spores and pollen, in concert with bioturbation by  
13  
14 6 marine organisms.  
15

### 16 8 **5.2.5 Lowstand Systems Tract 3 (J20–TS3)**

17  
18 9 The lowstand systems tract in Sequence 3, otherwise known as the Boxvale Sandstone  
19  
20 10 Member (Fig. 2), is marked by an abrupt lithological change from the underlying mudstone  
21  
22 11 across the J20 unconformity . Along the axis of the Mimosa Syncline in West Wandoan 1 (Fig.  
23  
24 12 20) and Woleebee Creek (Fig. 21), the lowstand is characterized by amalgamated cross-  
25  
26 13 bedded (F4) or combined-flow ripple laminated sandstone (F5). The lowstand systems tract  
27  
28 14 thins towards the basin margins where it is composed of cross-bedded sandstone (F4), such as  
29  
30 15 in Taroom 17 (Fig. 18). Up stratigraphic section the strata shift towards heterolithic deposits  
31  
32 16 (F10) in most wells. Distributary channel and mouthbar sandstone deposits display  
33  
34 17 aggradational stacking patterns representing the lower delta plain (FA2) and proximal  
35  
36 18 subaqueous delta facies (FA3), respectively (Fig. 24A). The large spacing between wells is too  
37  
38 19 great to resolve the detail of along-strike variation in facies. However, the c presence of coastal  
39  
40 20 spores and coastal pollen indicate a persistently marine-influenced depositional setting through  
41  
42 21 large portions of the basin. However, very little bioturbation is observed in this interval to aid in  
43  
44 22 the interpretation.  
45

### 46 24 **5.2.6 Transgressive Systems Tract 3 (TS3–MFS3)**

47  
48 25 Transgressive Systems Tract 3 displays an overall fining-upward succession (Fig. 24B)  
49  
50 26 and is also known as the Westgrove Ironstone Member (Fig. 2). In the basin centre, near West  
51  
52 27 Wandoan 1 (Fig. 20) and Woleebee Creek GW4 (Fig. 21), the succession displays small-scale  
53  
54 28 fining-upward packages consisting of combined-flow ripple laminated sandstone (F9) passing  
55  
56 29 upward into heterolithic sandstone and mudstone (F10–11). Interbedded layers of oolitic  
57  
58 30 ironstone (F15) define individual fining-upward packages. In Roma 8 (Fig. 12) at the basin  
59  
60 31 margin, the transgressive systems tract consists of alternations between cross-bedded  
61  
62 32 sandstone (F4), combined-flow ripple laminated sandstone (F9), and heterolithic sandstone and  
63  
64 33 mudstone (F10–11) with interspersed oolitic ironstone (F15). Up stratigraphic section, all cored  
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66 34 intervals become progressively muddier, with fewer sandstone layers. In the context of the

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1 stratigraphy, and considering the vertical and lateral distribution of facies, the succession  
2 displays a retrogradational facies stacking pattern interpreted to be associated with relative sea  
3 level rise. Along the basin axis subaqueous delta (FA3) facies are interbedded with restricted  
4 marine shoals (FA6). Further up depositional dip and away from the basin centre, proximal  
5 subaqueous delta (FA3) to distal lower delta plain (FA2) facies dominate. Along-strike variation  
6 is demonstrated in the shift from lower delta plain (FA2) strata in Reedy Creek MB3-H (Fig. 19)  
7 to delta-influenced shoreface packages (FA5) in Condabri MB9-H (Fig. 16) and Kenya East  
8 GW7 (Fig. 17) at approximately the same stratigraphic level. A low proportion of marine  
9 palynomorphs, including dinocysts, acritarchs, and copepod fragments, as well as ichnological  
10 assemblages composed of marine trace fossils are a strong indication of significant marine  
11 influenced deposition.

12 To explain the mechanisms for iron enrichment and the formation of widespread oolitic  
13 ironstone, we propose that it was due to slight wave and / or tide agitation in a geographically  
14 restricted marine setting. It is most likely that the physical restriction was a topographic low or  
15 trough on the sea floor that prevented mixing of water (Hallam and Bradshaw, 1979; Turner et  
16 al., 2009). It is possible that humic acid assisted in liberating iron from clay minerals that were  
17 later precipitated to form ironstone (Tombacz et al., 2004). A potential contributor may have  
18 been microbes, acting to reduce the iron from clays (Liu et al., 2017). Minor paralic lakes and  
19 bays might also have been conducive depositional settings to accumulate ironstone, being in  
20 connection to the basin and sharing similar chemistry (Veevers and Wells, 1959; Gibson et al.,  
21 1994).

### 22 23 **5.2.7 Highstand Systems Tract 3 (MFS3–J30)**

24 Finally, Highstand Systems Tract 3 is characterized by a coarsening-upward succession  
25 (Fig. 24C) comprising a series of meter-scale coarsening-upward packages that become thicker  
26 up section. The highstand at the basin-centre, near West Wandoan 1 (Fig. 20) and Woleebee  
27 Creek (Fig. 21), is manifest as stacked combined-flow ripple laminated (F9) to heterolithic  
28 sandstone and mudstone (F10–11) packages. At more proximal positions near the basin  
29 margins, the succession is very similar but contains a few cross-bedded sandstone layers (F4)  
30 or tidal heterolithic sandstone and mudstone (F14). Chinchilla 4 demonstrates these facies  
31 relationships (Fig. 15). The progradational stratal stacking patterns in concert with the types of  
32 facies observed, leads to the interpretation that the basin was predominantly occupied by  
33 subaqueous deltas (FA3) at the basin centre, and in more proximal positions was characterized  
34 by lower delta plain (FA2) and tidal shoreline (FA5) environments. Along-strike variation in

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4 1 deposition is not conspicuous at this stratigraphic level, probably due to the wide spacing  
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6 2 between cores. Low proportions of dinocysts, acritarchs, and copepod fragments shows quite  
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8 3 clearly that marine influence was steadily increasing up-section. The most diverse assemblages  
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10 4 of marine traces also occur in this stratigraphic interval.  
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### 6 **5.3 Implications for the Paleogeography of Eastern Australia**

14 7 Relatively few paleogeographic maps of eastern Australia have been published, and  
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16 8 existing interpretations of the Lower Jurassic Series – corresponding to the Precipice Sandstone  
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18 9 and lower Evergreen Formation – show an eastern Australia dominated by “fluvial”, “lacustrine”,  
19  
20 10 and “fluvial-lacustrine” depositional conditions (e.g., Bradshaw and Yeung, 1990; Struckmeyer  
21  
22 11 and Totterdell, 1990; Bradshaw and Yeung, 1992). Notably, the outcrop belt and northern Surat  
23  
24 12 Basin region have been re-interpreted as fluvio-deltaic systems with paleo-flow directions to the  
25  
26 13 east of the Surat Basin (Bianchi et al., 2018b). Our results bolster those of Bianchi et al.  
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28 14 (2018b), and extend the interpretation of nearshore to shallow marine deposition across all of  
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30 15 the northern and central Surat Basin. This suggests that the paleogeography of all Mesozoic  
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32 16 basins of eastern Australia needs to be re-considered, especially in light of the increasing  
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34 17 sedimentological (Bianchi et al., 2018a; Bianchi et al., 2018b; Martin et al., 2018) and  
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36 18 stratigraphic evidence (Wang et al., 2019) of relative sea-level control on deposition.  
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### 36 **5.4 Impact on Reservoir Characterization and Modelling**

38 21 The work presented in this paper suggests that reservoir models of the Precipice–  
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40 22 Evergreen interval should be constructed of flow units that are controlled by geobody  
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42 23 geometries consistent with coastal to shallow marine depositional systems (Bianchi et al.,  
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44 24 2018a). Geometric constraints on geobody size and distribution can be distilled from studies of  
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46 25 distributary channels (Bridge and Tye, 2000; Gibling, 2006), interdistributary bays (Elliott, 1974),  
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48 26 mouthbars (Bhattacharya, 2006), and delta lobes (Howell et al., 2008; Enge et al., 2010). The  
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50 27 differentiation of nearshore and shallow marine facies and environments (e.g., Miall, 1985;  
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52 28 Jorgensen and Fielding, 1996; Lang et al., 2000) means that more accurate and geologically-  
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54 29 realistic facies models can be constructed and used to parameterize flow units. This is  
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56 30 especially applicable to the Transgressive Systems Tract 1 through to Sequence 2 interval  
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58 31 where previous interpretations have potentially overpredicted the lateral extent and connectivity  
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60 32 of sandstone bodies

58 33 In addition to the reservoir modelling implications, facies interpretation also affects the  
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60 34 ways in which reservoir characteristics are mapped and predicted. For example, siderite

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4 1 cements within sandstones might have different occurrence patterns given fluvial (Gibson et al.,  
5 2 1994; Al-Agha et al., 1995) *versus* nearshore and shallow marine depositional interpretations  
6 3 (Machemer and Hutcheon, 1988; Mozley, 1989; Pye et al., 1990; Huggett et al., 2000).  
7 4 Differences in bioturbate textures that are genetically related to the sedimentary environment  
8 5 would also be expected to impact the distribution of porosity and permeability (Pemberton and  
9 6 Gingras, 2005; Gingras et al., 2012; La Croix et al., 2013; La Croix et al., 2017).  
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## 18 8 **6. Conclusions**

19 9 The integration of sedimentological, ichnological, and palynological observations from  
20 10 core has yielded an improved view of the facies characteristics and paleodepositional  
21 11 environments of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation. The major conclusions that  
22 12 can be drawn from this facies analysis are:  
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- 27 14 1) The succession consists of fifteen recurring facies that were observed in ten cores  
28 15 across the north and central portions of the Surat Basin.
- 29 16 2) Facies are arranged into 6 distinct associations representing braidplain, lower delta  
30 17 plain, subaqueous delta, delta-influenced shoreface, tidally influenced shoreline, and  
31 18 restricted marine shoal environments. These associations are interpreted to occur within  
32 19 the context of a large-scale fluvio-deltaic system that occupied the basin.
- 33 20 3) Using a sporomorph ecogroup model to interpret the palynology showed that there is a  
34 21 significant component of coastal pollen and coastal spores which independently support  
35 22 the facies interpretations from sedimentology and ichnology.
- 36 23 4) Increasing marine influence on deposition through time is supported by increased, yet  
37 24 minor proportion of dinocysts, acritarchs, and copepod fragments up-section.  
38 25 Sedimentological and ichnological characteristics suggest increasing marine influence  
39 26 as well.  
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50 28 Our results indicate that the paleogeography of eastern Australia during the Jurassic should  
51 29 be reconsidered to incorporate a greater degree of marine influence – similar deposits might  
52 30 exist in the neighboring Eromanga and Clarence-Moreton Basins. Finally, the updated view of  
53 31 depositional environments has important implications for reservoir characterization and  
54 32 modelling for CO<sub>2</sub> storage; geobody distribution, orientation, and dimensions should utilize  
55 33 nearshore to shallow marine concepts to produce the most geologically-realistic static reservoir  
56 34 models.  
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30 **8. Figure and Table Captions**

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32 **Table 1** – Core locations and intervals logged as part of this study.

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34 **Table 2** – Detailed facies descriptions and interpretations of the nineteen discrete facies  
35 observed in the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation.

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37 **Table 3** – List of the palynomorphs encountered during palynological analysis of the Precipice  
38 Sandstone and Evergreen Formation.

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1 **Table 4** – Summary table of the palynomorph counts for each sample analyzed from the  
2 Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation.

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4 **Figure 1** – The geographic location and major structural elements of the Surat Basin in eastern  
5 Australia. Black dots indicate the location of cored wells that were analyzed in this study. The  
6 dashed black line indicates the location of the lines of section displayed in Figure 3.

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8 **Figure 2** – Stratigraphic nomenclature of the Lower Jurassic in the Surat Basin. The  
9 lithostratigraphy is after McKellar (1998), the sequence stratigraphy is based on Wang et al.  
10 (2019), and the global sea level curve is from Haq et al. (1987). The sequence stratigraphy  
11 consists of three 3<sup>rd</sup> order sequences (SQ1–SQ3), and is sub-divided into systems tracts by the  
12 sequence boundaries J10, SB2, J20, and J30, the transgressive surfaces TS1 and TS3, and the  
13 maximum flooding surfaces MFS1 and MFS3. Notably, SQ2 was not subdivided into systems  
14 tracts due to its very thin preservation across the basin; Sequence 2 represents a relatively  
15 minor stratal package and no systems tracts were defined within it.

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17 **Figure 3** – North-south and west-east oriented cross sections showing the sequence  
18 stratigraphic sub-division of the cored wells. See Figure 1 for location of lines of section.

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20 **Figure 4** – Core photographs of the facies that comprise Facies Association 1 (FA1) –  
21 braidplain. (A) F1, interbedded conglomerate and sandstone from Chinchilla 4, 1063.91 m. (B)  
22 F2, mud-clast breccia in Kenya East GW7, 1152.6 m. (C) F3, coarse-grained cross-bedded  
23 sandstone from Chinchilla 4, 1219.7 m. (D) Litholog from Chinchilla 4 showing the aggrading,  
24 fining-upward sandstone packages that characterizes FA1.

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26 **Figure 5** – Core photographs of Facies Association 2 (FA2) – lower delta plain. (A) F4, fine-  
27 grained cross-bedded to current ripple laminated sandstone from Woleebee Creek GW4,  
28 1518.5 m. (B) F5, planar parallel laminated sandstone from Woleebee Creek GW4, 1297.25 m.  
29 (C) F5, structureless sandstone from Woleebee Creek GW4, 1081.3 m. (D) F6, apparently  
30 structureless mudstone from Roma 8, 1076.5 m. (E) F7, coal from Chinchilla 4, 1107.40 m. (F)  
31 F8, bioturbated muddy sandstone with juxtaposition of roots (Ro) and *Teichichnus* (Te) from  
32 Chinchilla 4, 1003.75 m. (G) Litholog from Condabri MB9-H showing fining-upward channel  
33 packages stacked with coarsening-upward interdistributary bay deposits that comprise FA2.

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**Figure 6** – Core photographs of the constituent facies in Facies Association 3 (FA3) – subaqueous delta. (A) F9, wave-ripple laminated sandstone from Taroom 17, 336.74 m. Note the juxtaposition of roots (Ro) and *Lockeia* (Lo) within the wave ripples (wr). (B) F10, sandstone-dominated heterolithics with *Planolites* (PI) and synaeresis cracks (syn) from Chinchilla 4, 1026.45 m. (C) F10, mixed sandy and muddy heterolithics with *Planolites* and *Lockeia* from Chinchilla 4, 987.70 m. (D) F11, mudstone-dominated heterolithics with combined flow ripples (cf) and *Planolites* (PI) from Roma 8, 1006.25 m. (E) Litholog from Woleebee Creek GW4 displaying the coarsening-upward prodelta to delta front and mouthbar succession that is typical of FA3.

**Figure 7** – Core photographs of Facies Association 4 (FA4) – shoreface – and its primary facies. (A) F12, bioturbated muddy sandstone with wave-ripple to HCS interbeds from Kenya East GW7, 1013.40 m. The facies displays laminated beds interpreted as tempestites (tm), *Palaeophycus* (Pa), *Planolites* (PI), *Teichichnus* (Te), *Phycosiphon* (Ph), and *Scolicia* (Sc). (B) F13, bioturbated sandy mudstone with wave ripples, *Diplocraterion* (Di), *Palaeophycus* (Pa), and *Phycosiphon* (Ph) from Kenya East GW7, 1013.70 m. (C) Litholog from Kenya East GW7 showing the coarsening upwards transition from upper offshore to lower shoreface deposits in FA4.

**Figure 8** – Core photographs of Facies Association 5 (FA5) – tidal shoreline. (A) F14, tidally influenced heterolithics (muddy end-member) with *Planolites* (PI) and *Palaeophycus* (Pa) from Chinchilla 4, 983.80 m. (B) F14, tidally influenced heterolithics (sandy end-member) displaying lenticular bedding (len), synaeresis cracks (syn), as well as *Planolites* (PI) and *Palaeophycus* (Pa) from Taroom 17, 302.70 m. (C) Litholog from Chinchilla 4 displaying the overall fining-upwards nature of deposits in FA5.

**Figure 9** – Core photographs of Facies Association 6 (FA6) – restricted marine shoals. (A) F15A, oolitic ironstone from Chinchilla 4, 1036.87 m. (B) F15B, cemented ironstone from Chinchilla 4, 1030.50 m. (C) Litholog from Kenya East GW7 showing alternating ironstone layers of FA6 alternating with prodelta strata of FA3.

**Figure 10** – Photomicrographs of palynomorph taxa identified from the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen interval. (A) The coastal pollen *Araucariacites australis* from Chinchilla 4, 983.00 m. (B) The coastal pollen *Corollina spp.* from Roma 8, 1041.00 m. (C) The coastal

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- 1 pollen *Callialasporites dampierii* from Chinchilla 4, 983.00 m. (D) The coastal pollen
- 2 *Callialasporites turbatus* from Kenya East GW7, 1023.60 m. (E) The continental spore
- 3 *Stereisporites antiquasporites* from Moonie 31, 1724.25 m. (F) The continental spore
- 4 *Kekryphalospora distincta* from Woleebee Creek GW4, 1356.785 m. (G) The algae
- 5 *Leiosphaeres spp.* from West Wandoan 1, 1011.86 m. (H) The continental spore
- 6 *Cadargasporites baculatus* from Condabri MB9-H, 1461.22 m. (I) The continental spore
- 7 *Sculptisporites moretonensis* from Taroom 17, 397.35 m. (J) The coastal spore *Retitriletes*
- 8 *australoclavetidites* from Woleebee Creek GW4, 1485.44 m. (K) The continental spore
- 9 *Apiculatisporites pristadentatus* from Kenya East GW7, 1181.50 m. (L) The algae *Botryococcus*
- 10 *spp.* from Moonie 31, 1724.25 m. (M) The acritarch *Multiplicisphaeridium spp.* from Woleebee
- 11 Creek GW4, 1336.70 m. (N) Undifferentiated dinocyst from West Wandoan 1, 1011.86 m. (O)
- 12 Copepod fragment from Chinchilla 4, 1017.00 m.

**Figure 11** – The proportion of palynomorphs in each of the wells analyzed organized into their sporomorph ecogroups (SEGs) based on Abbink (1998) and Abbink et al. (2004). D / A / C denotes the proportion of the marine SEG which comprise dinocysts, acritarchs, and copepod fragments.

**Figure 12** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation in Roma 8 from 1059.70 m to 954.00 m. The descriptions include physical sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

**Figure 13** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation in Moonie 31 from 1731.20 m to 1724.60 m. The descriptions include physical sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

**Figure 14** – Detailed lithological description of Moonie 34 from 1780.20 m to 1758.40 m. The descriptions include physical sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

**Figure 15** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen Formation in Chinchilla 4 from 1226.60 m to 983.20 m. The descriptions include physical

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1 sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the  
2 sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

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4 **Figure 16** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen  
5 Formation in Condabri MB9-H from 1528.50 m to 1399.70 m. The descriptions include physical  
6 sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the  
7 sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

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9 **Figure 17** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen  
10 Formation in Kenya East GW7 from 1220.50 m to 973.00 m. The descriptions include physical  
11 sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the  
12 sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

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14 **Figure 18** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen  
15 Formation in Taroom 17 from 500.20 m to 270.80 m. The descriptions include physical  
16 sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the  
17 sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

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19 **Figure 19** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen  
20 Formation in Reedy Creek MB3-H from 1351.70 m to 1150.60 m. The descriptions include  
21 physical sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies,  
22 and the sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

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24 **Figure 20** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen  
25 Formation in West Wandoan 1 from 1237.00m to 953.80 m. The descriptions include physical  
26 sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies, and the  
27 sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

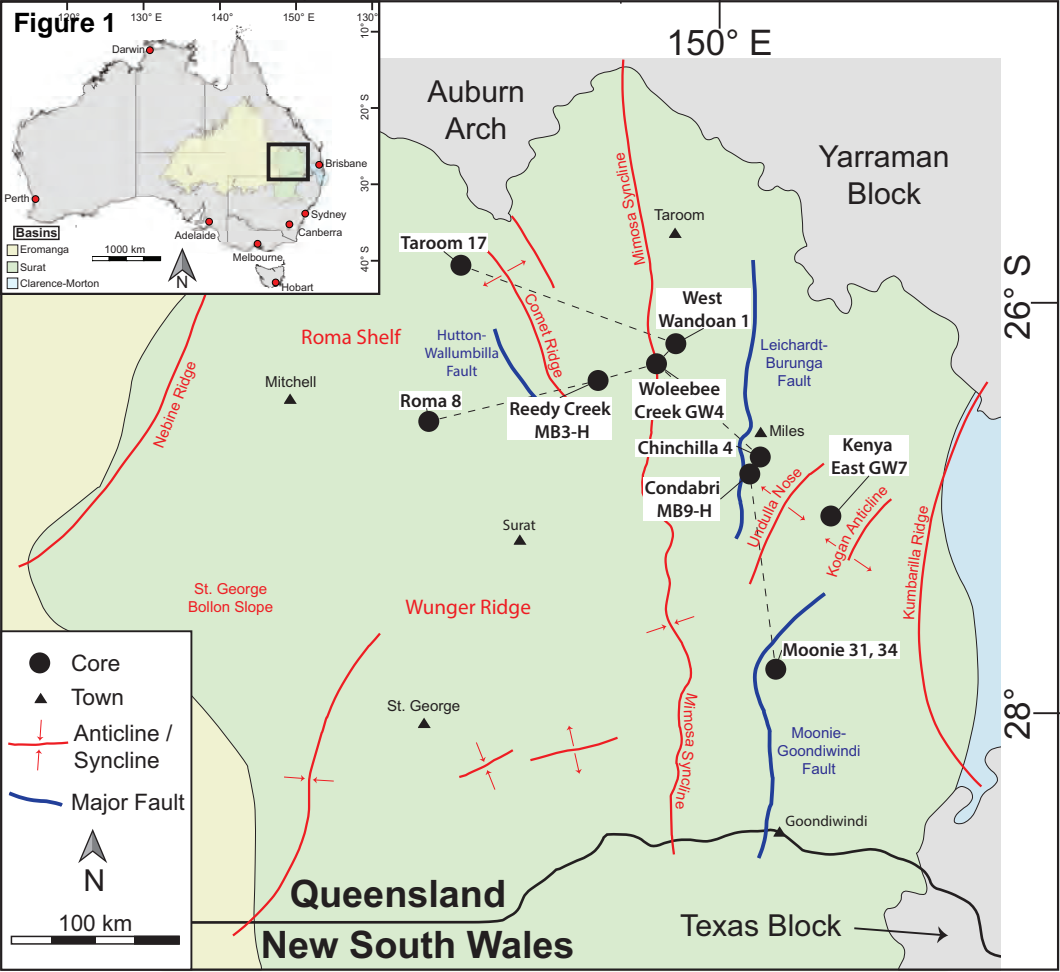
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29 **Figure 21** – Detailed lithological description of the Precipice Sandstone and Evergreen  
30 Formation in Woleebie Creek GW4 from 1573.60 m to 1285.20 m. The descriptions include  
31 physical sedimentary structures and accessories, trace fossils and bioturbation intensity, facies,  
32 and the sequence stratigraphic sub-division of the core.

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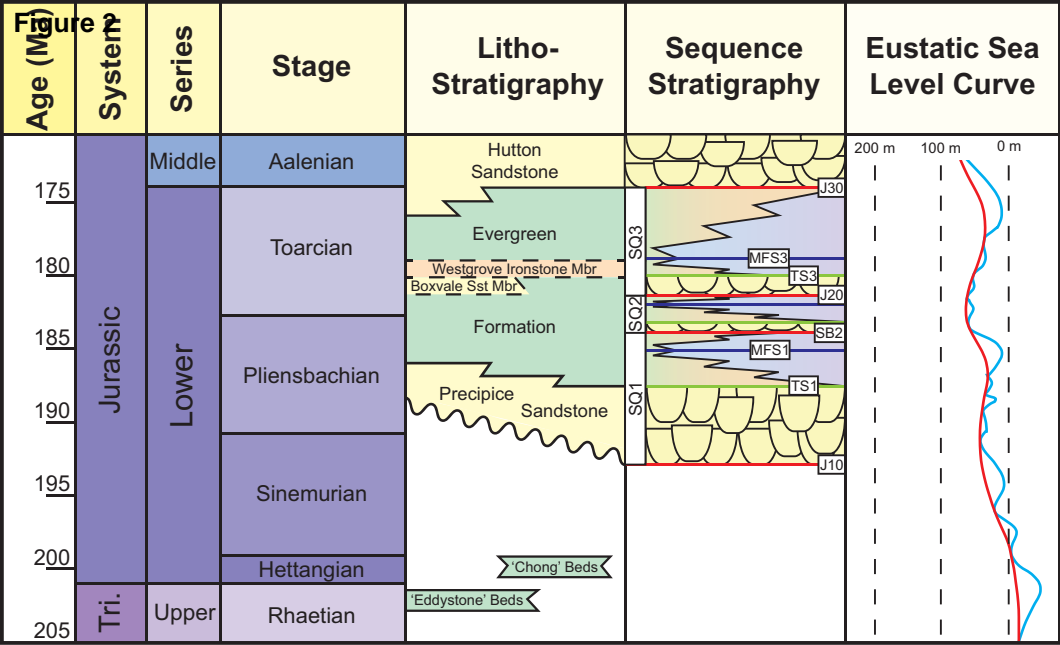
1 **Figure 22** – Depositional block model for Sequence 1 showing the major depositional  
2 environments and their associated facies. The models are sub-divided into the lowstand  
3 (Lowstand Systems Tract 1), transgressive systems tract (Transgressive Systems Tract 1), and  
4 highstand (Highstand Systems Tract 1). No implications for scale or paleogeographic orientation  
5 are intended.

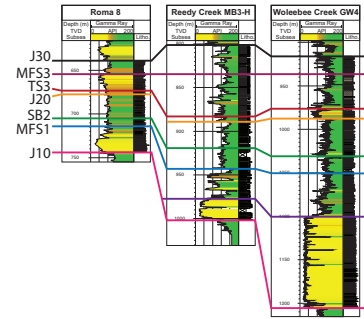
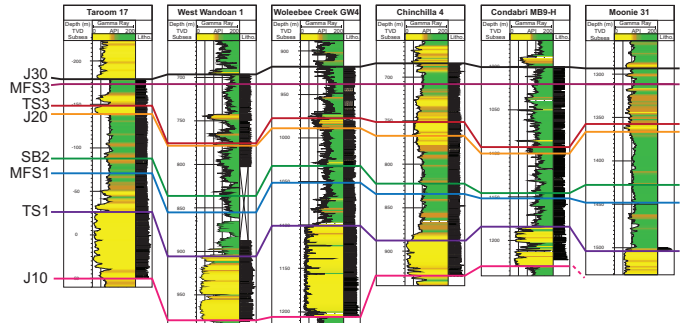
7 **Figure 23** – Depositional block model for Sequence 2 showing the major depositional  
8 environments and their associated facies. The models are sub-divided into a lowstand,  
9 transgressive systems tract, and highstand systems tract; these packages were not defined by  
10 stratigraphic surfaces due to the thin and potentially incomplete preservation of this sequence  
11 across the basin. No implications for scale or paleogeographic orientation are intended.

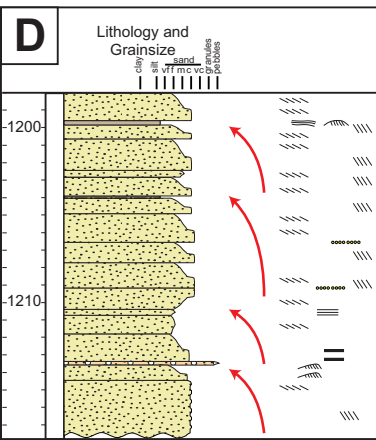
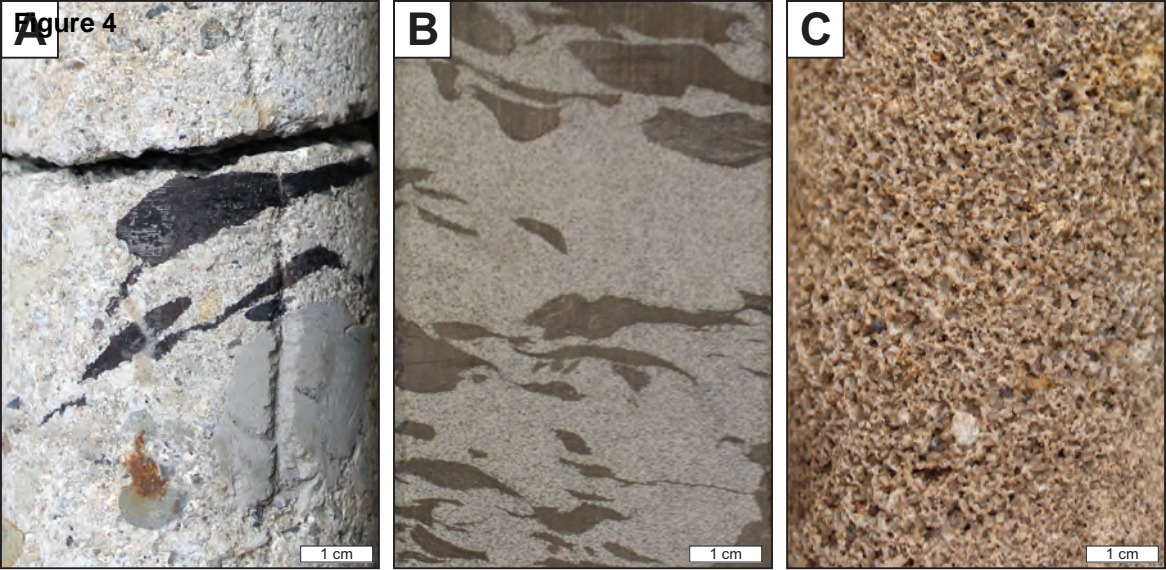
13 **Figure 24** – Depositional block model for Sequence 3 showing the major depositional  
14 environments and their associated facies. The models are sub-divided into the lowstand  
15 (Lowstand Systems Tract 1), transgressive systems tract (Transgressive Systems Tract 1), and  
16 highstand (Highstand Systems Tract 1). No implications for scale or paleogeographic orientation  
17 are intended.











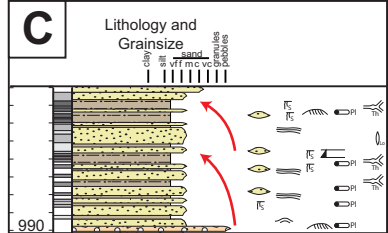
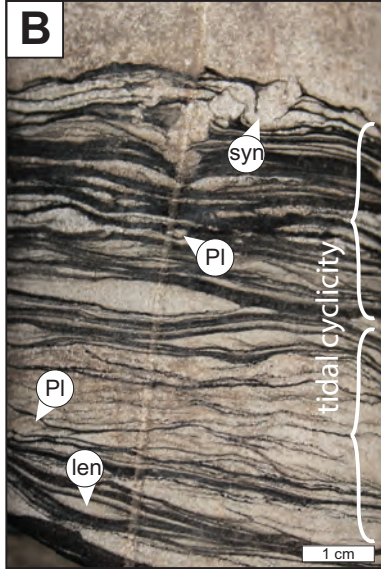






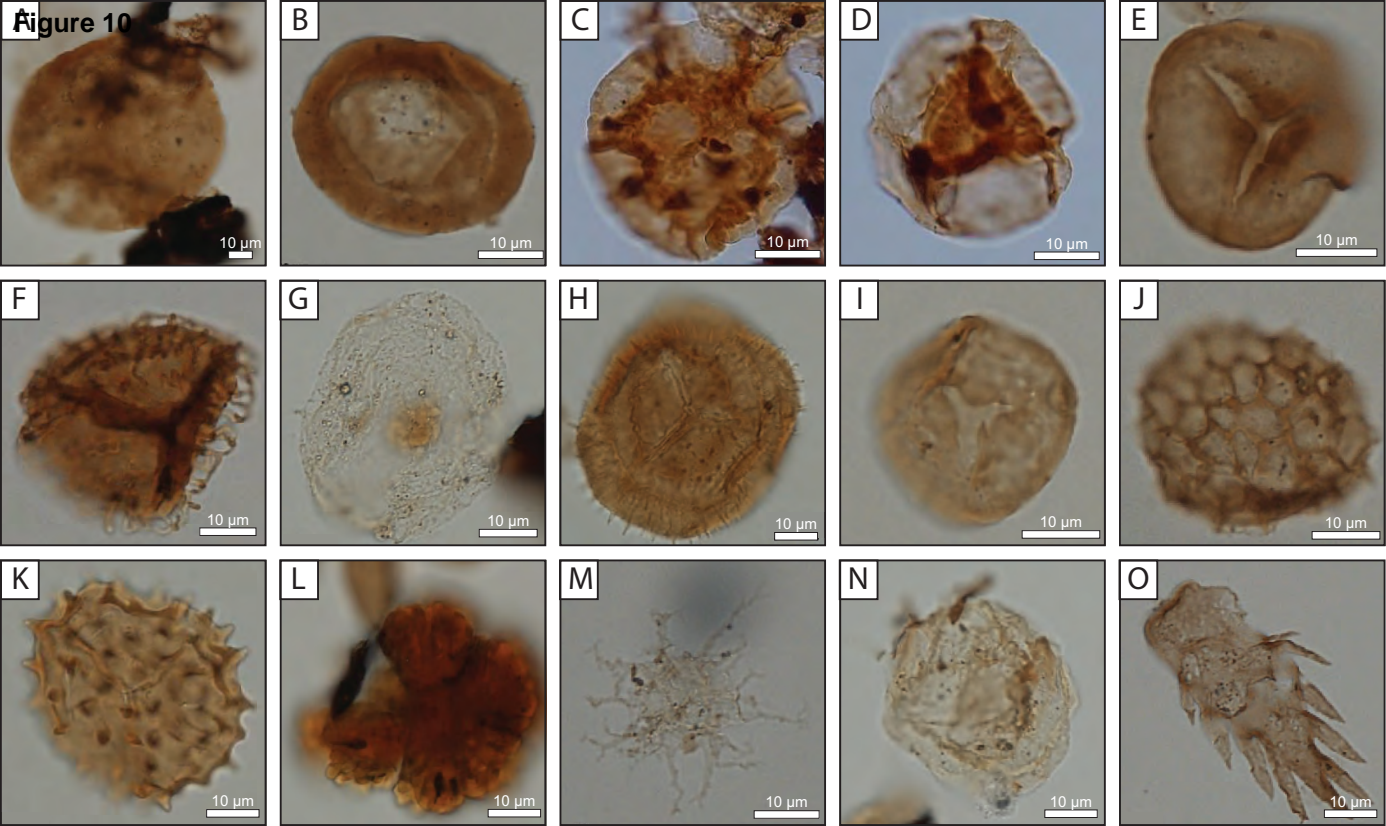


**Figure 8**



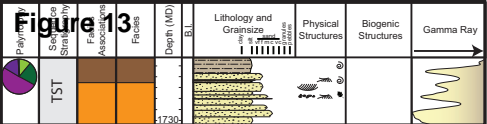




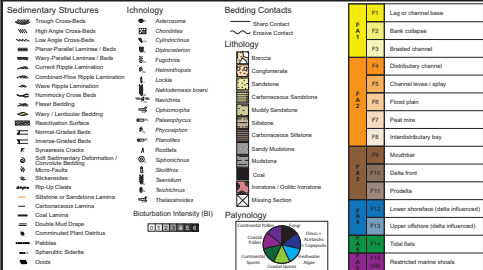




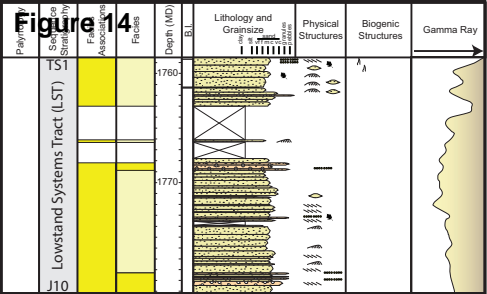




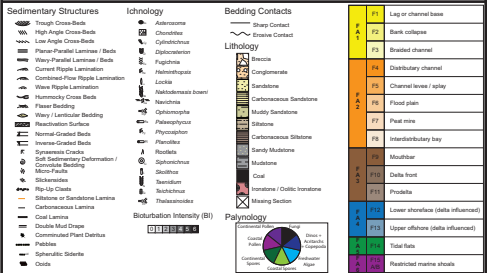
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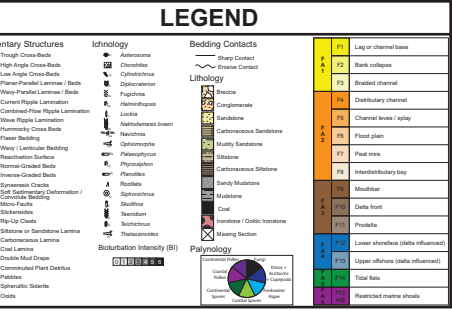
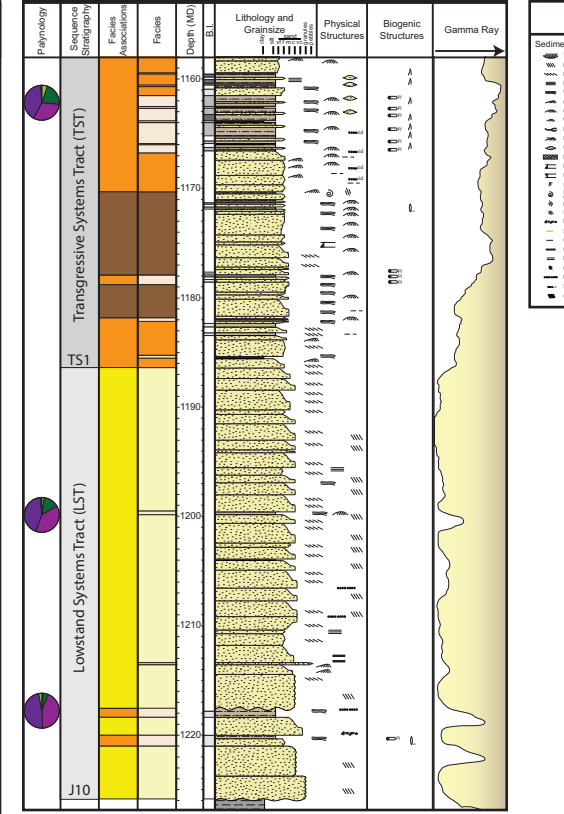
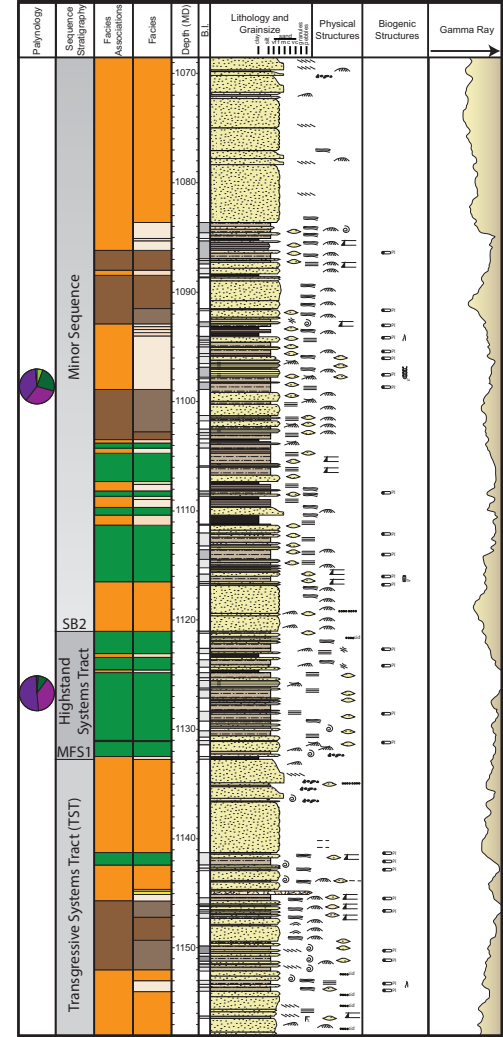
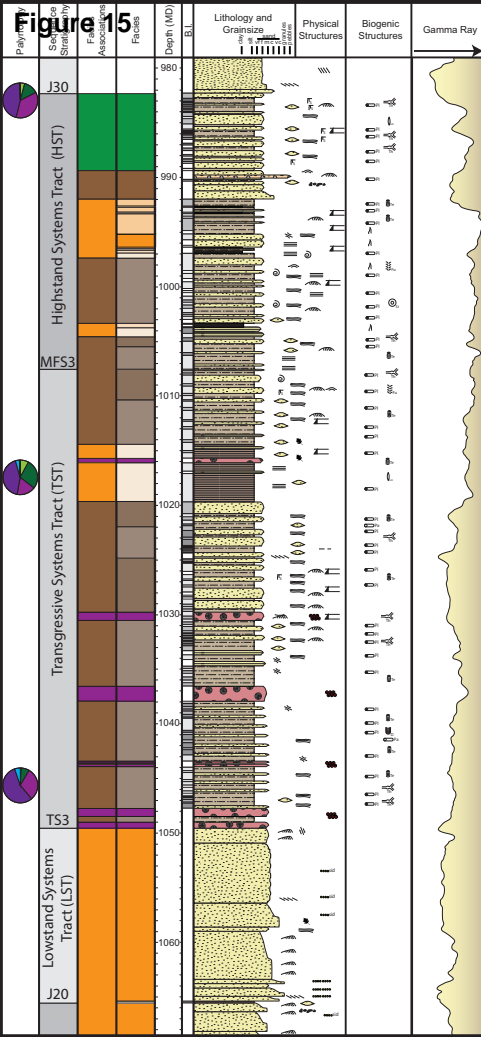


# Figure 14

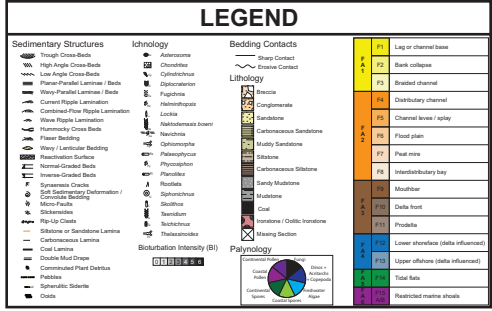
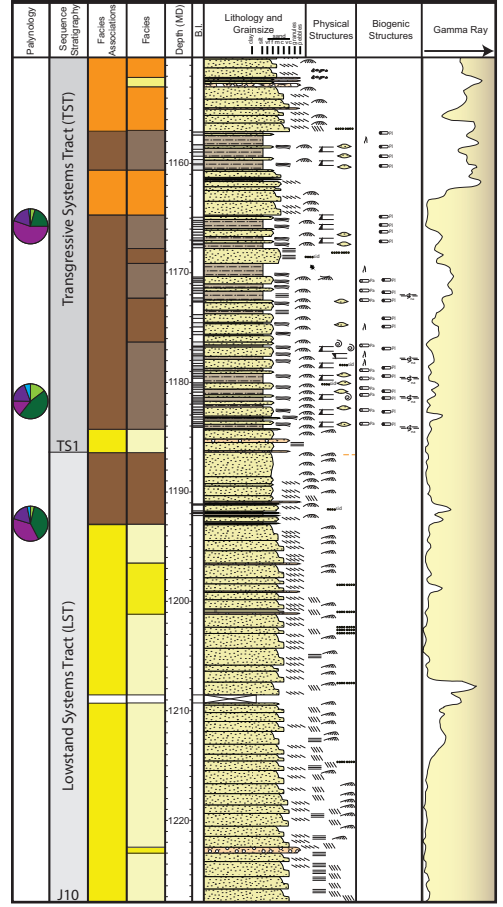
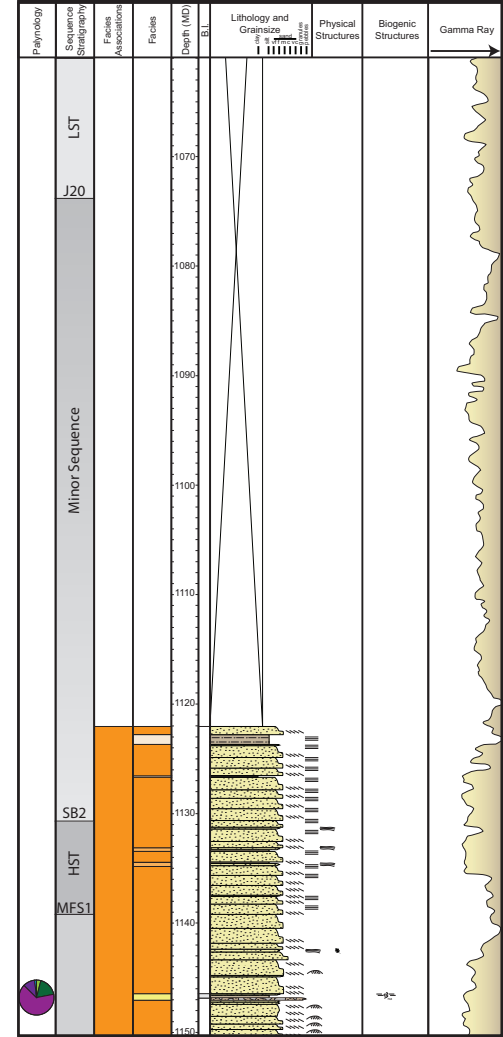
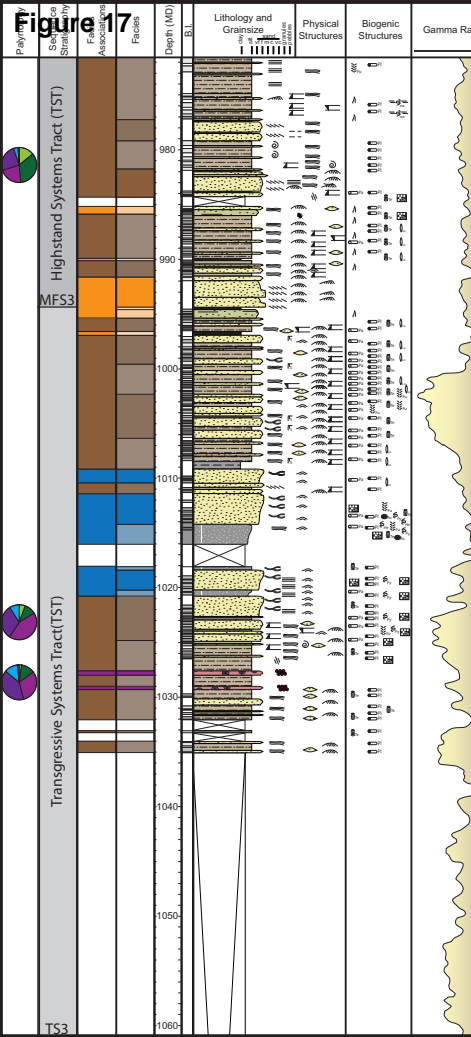


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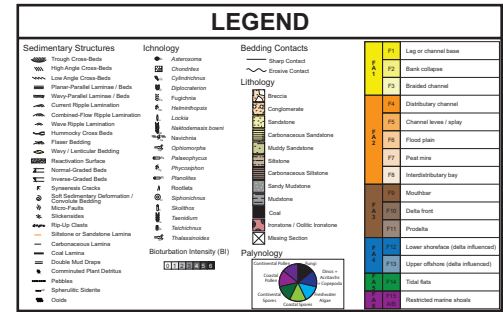
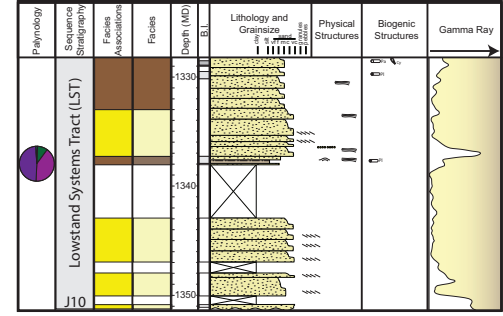
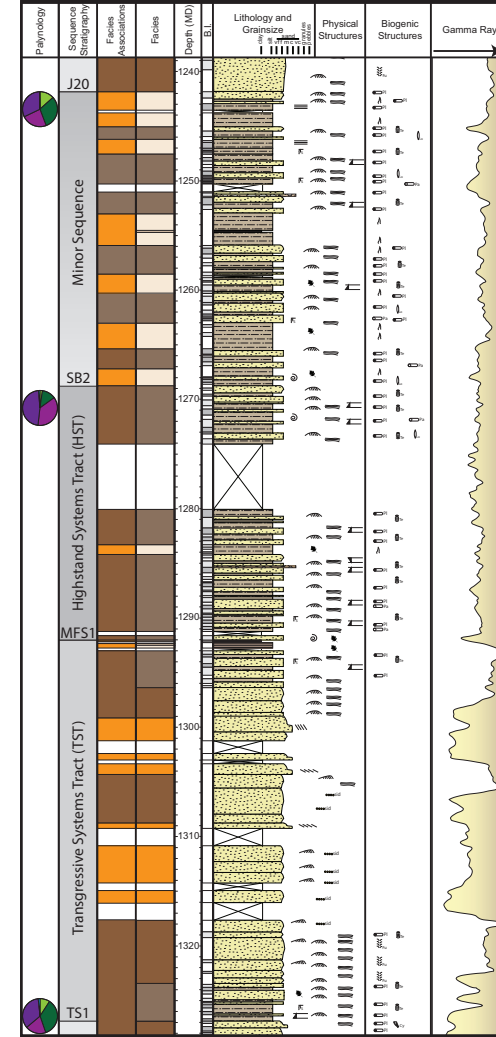
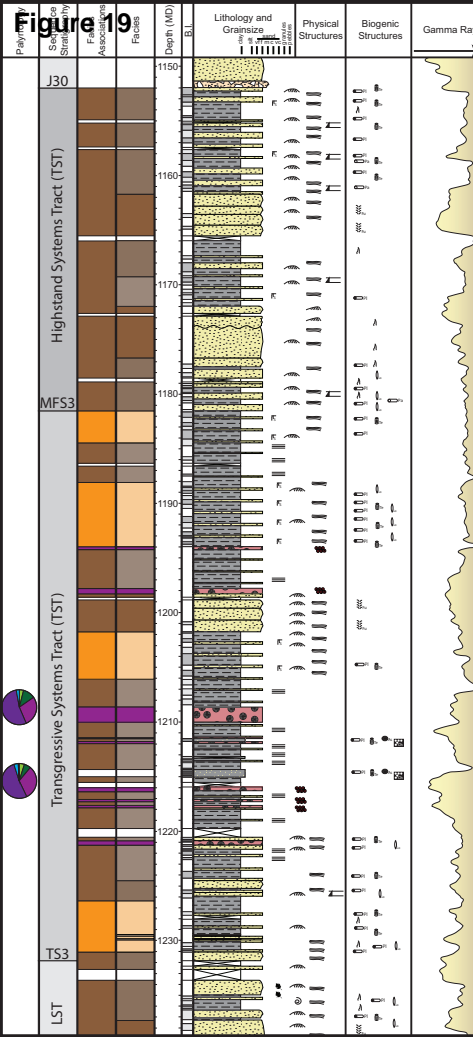


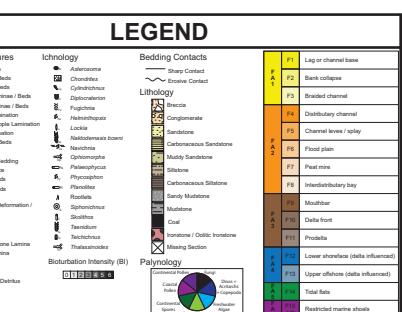
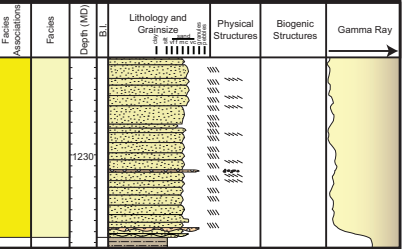
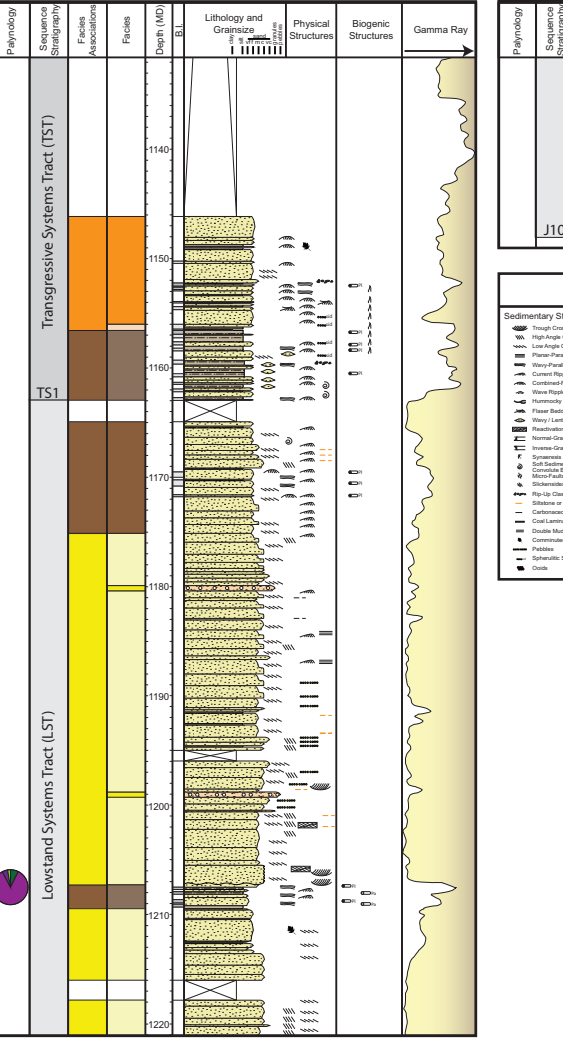
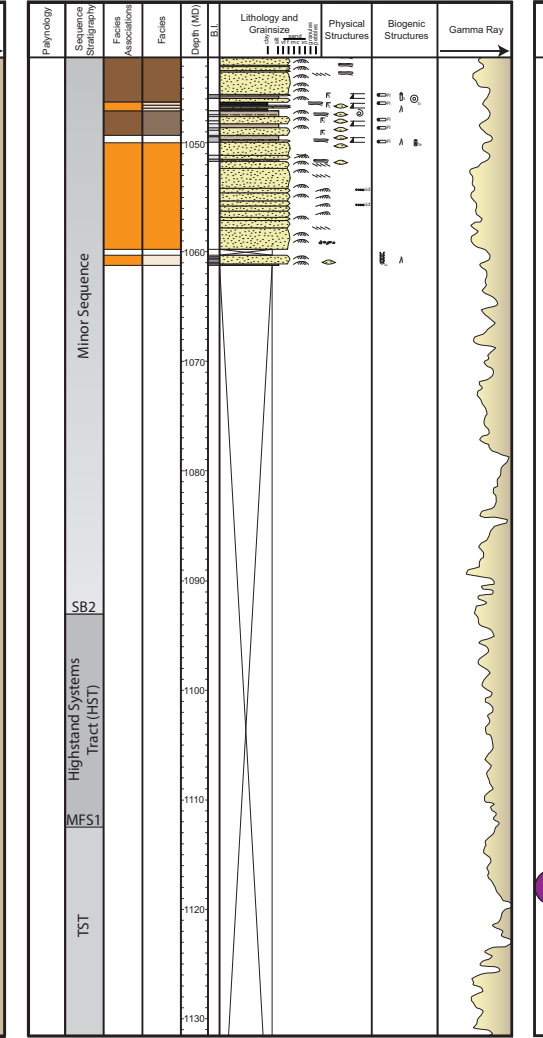
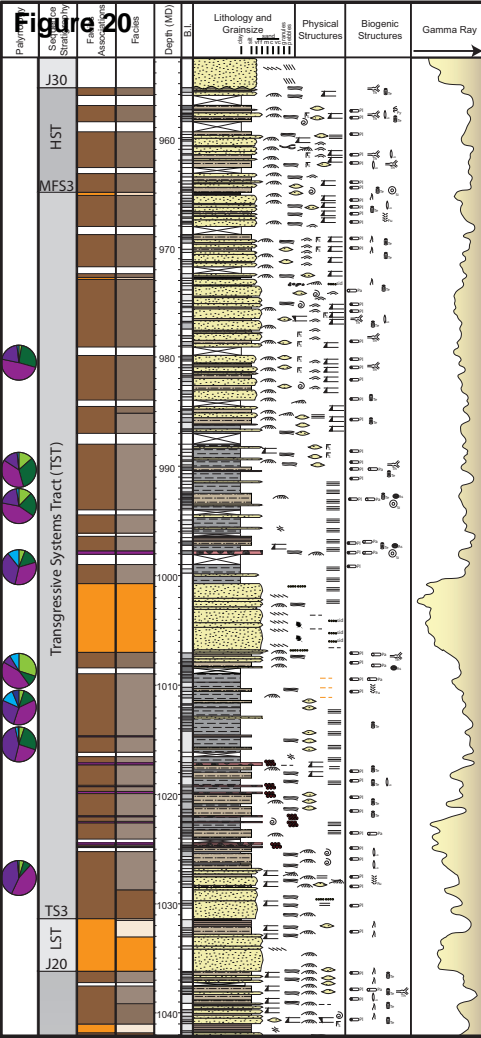


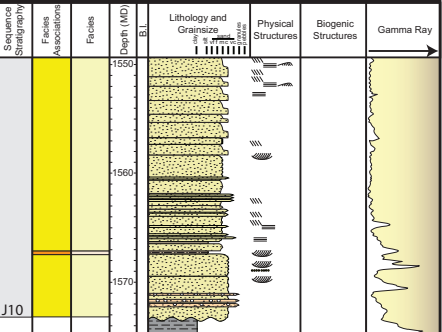
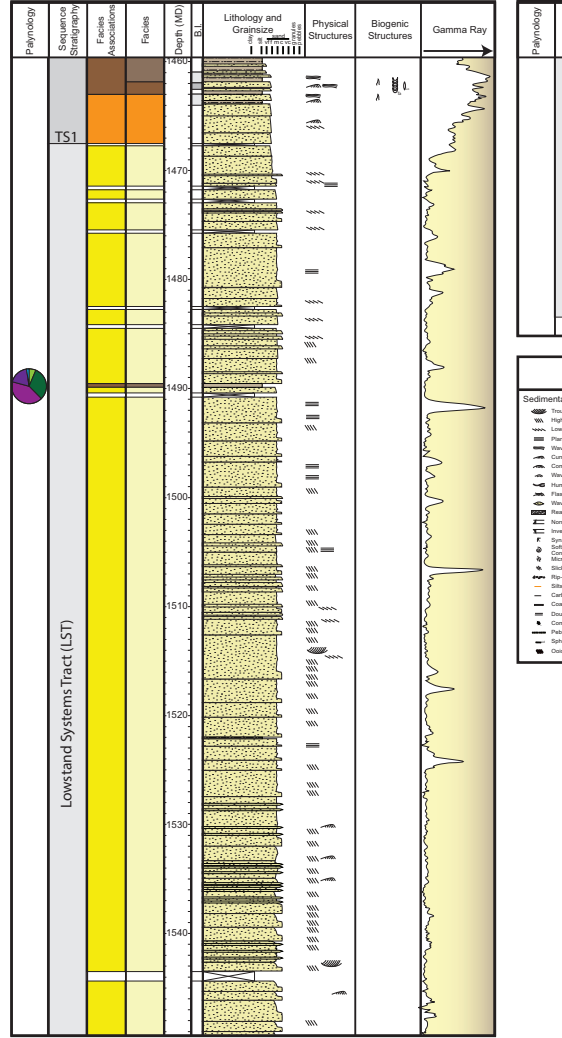
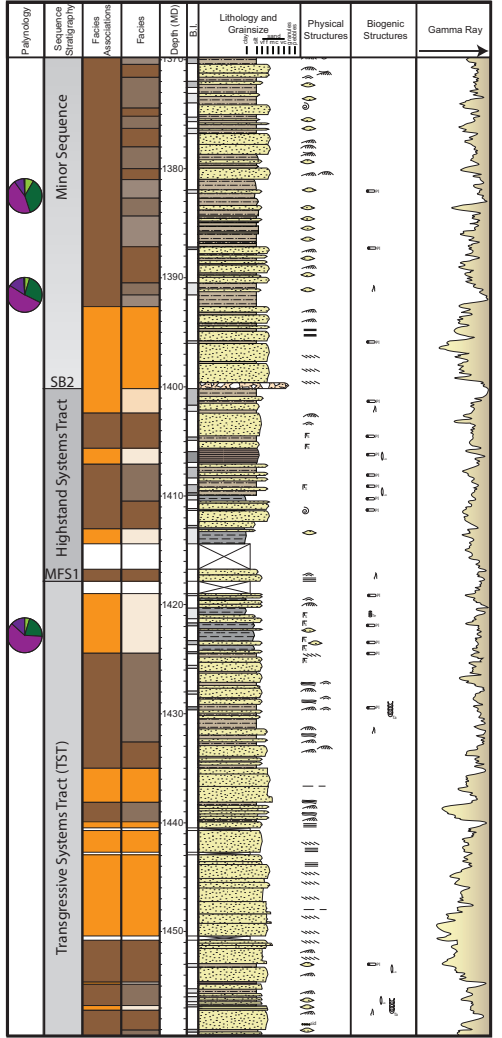
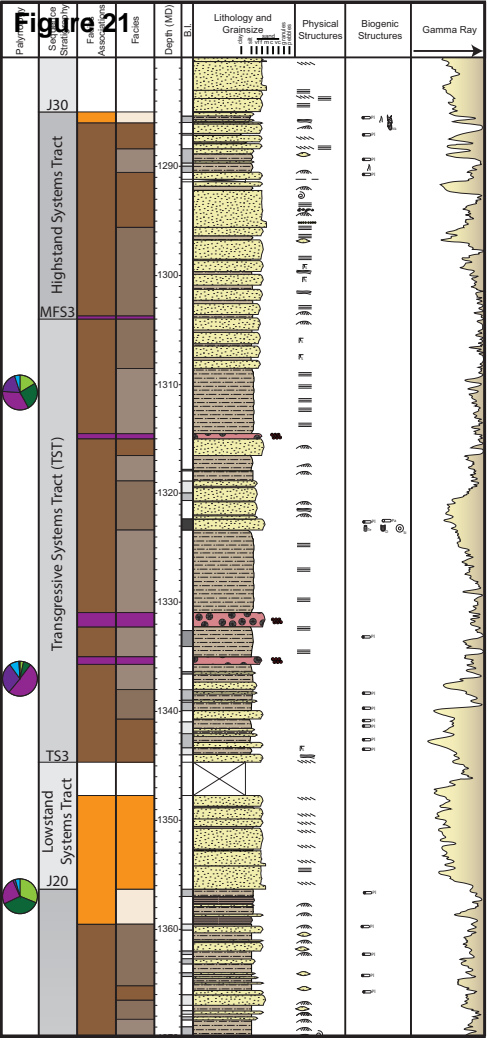












### LEGEND

Sedimentary Structures	Lithology	Bedding Contacts	Biocuration Intensity (BI)
Through Cross-Beds	Alternance	Sharp Contact	0-100
High-Angle Cross-Beds	Channel	Stair-Step Contact	0-100
Low-Angle Cross-Beds	Cylindrical	Cracks	0-100
Planar Parallel Lamination / Beds	Dipolateral		0-100
Wavy/Planar Lamination / Beds	Fingering		0-100
Current Ripple Lamination	Heterogeneous		0-100
Combed/Planar Ripple Lamination	Lentic		0-100
Wave Ripple Lamination	Narrowly bedded		0-100
Heterogeneous Cross-Beds	Narrowly bedded		0-100
Flaser Bedding	Palaeosol		0-100
Wavy / Lenticular Bedding	Palaeosol		0-100
Reaction Surface	Rootlike		0-100
Normal Graded Beds	Phycolite		0-100
Inverse Graded Beds	Rootlike		0-100
Symmetrical Cross-Beds	Symmetrical		0-100
Salt-Sedimentary Channelization / Micro-Faults	Stalactite		0-100
Channel Bedding	Stalactite		0-100
Siltstones	Stalactite		0-100
Rip-Up Clasts	Stalactite		0-100
Siltstone or Sandstone Lenses	Stalactite		0-100
Carbonaceous Lenses	Stalactite		0-100
Coal Lenses	Stalactite		0-100
Duette Mud Clupe	Stalactite		0-100
Combed/Planar Bedding	Stalactite		0-100
Pinholes	Stalactite		0-100
Sphulitic Siltstone	Stalactite		0-100
Clasts	Stalactite		0-100

Channel Type	Channel Features	Channel Position	Channel Shape
J1	Log or channel base		
J2	Bank collapse		
J3	Stratified channel		
J4	Distributary channel		
J5	Channel lower / spaly		
J6	Fluvial plain		
J7	Point mire		
J8	Siltstone		
J9	Carbonaceous Siltstone		
J10	Mudbar		
J11	Interdistributary bay		
J12	Shoofar		
J13	Delta front		
J14	Prodelta		
J15	Lower shoreface (delta influenced)		
J16	Upper shoreface (delta influenced)		
J17	Tidal flats		
J18	Restricted marine strata		

Figure 22

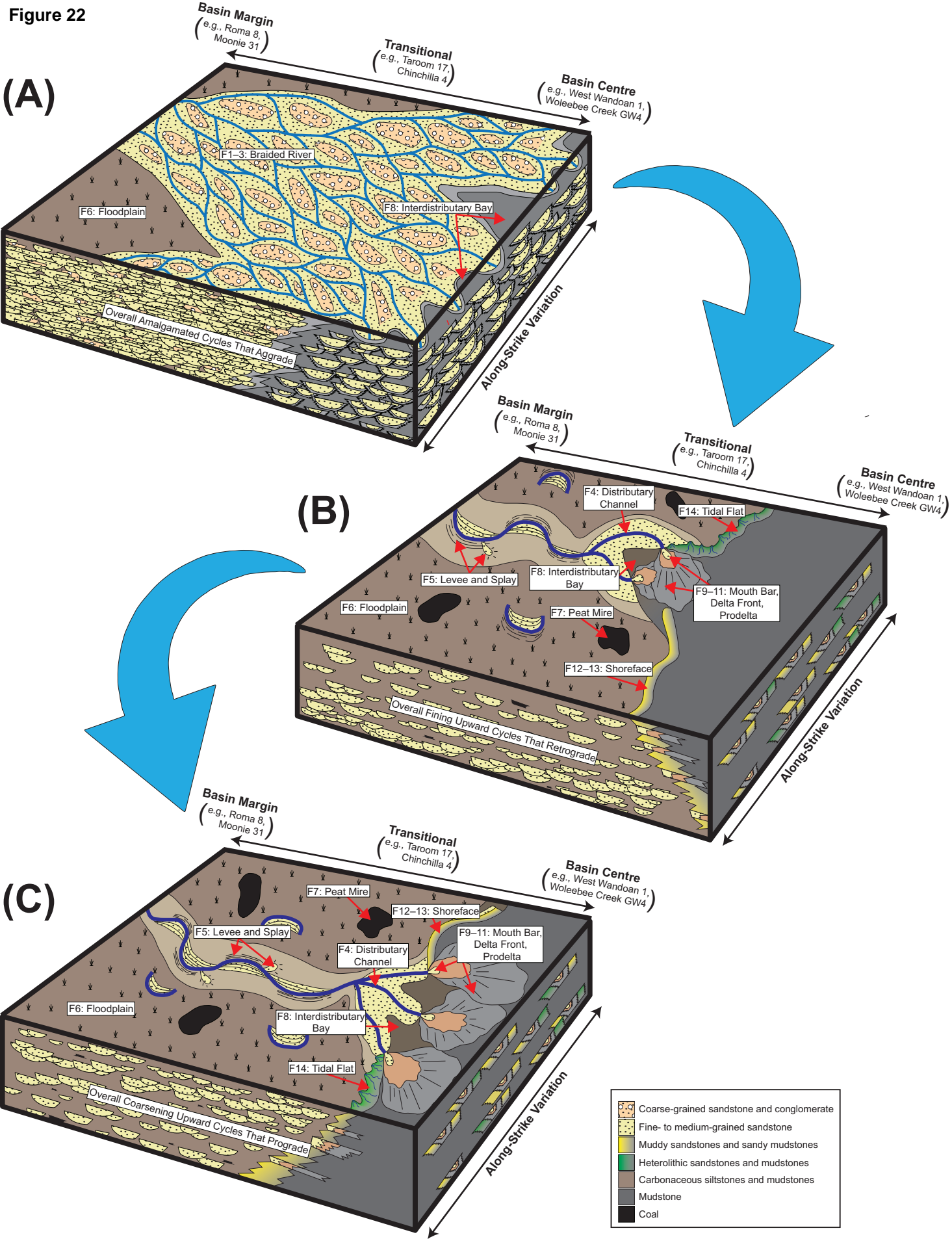
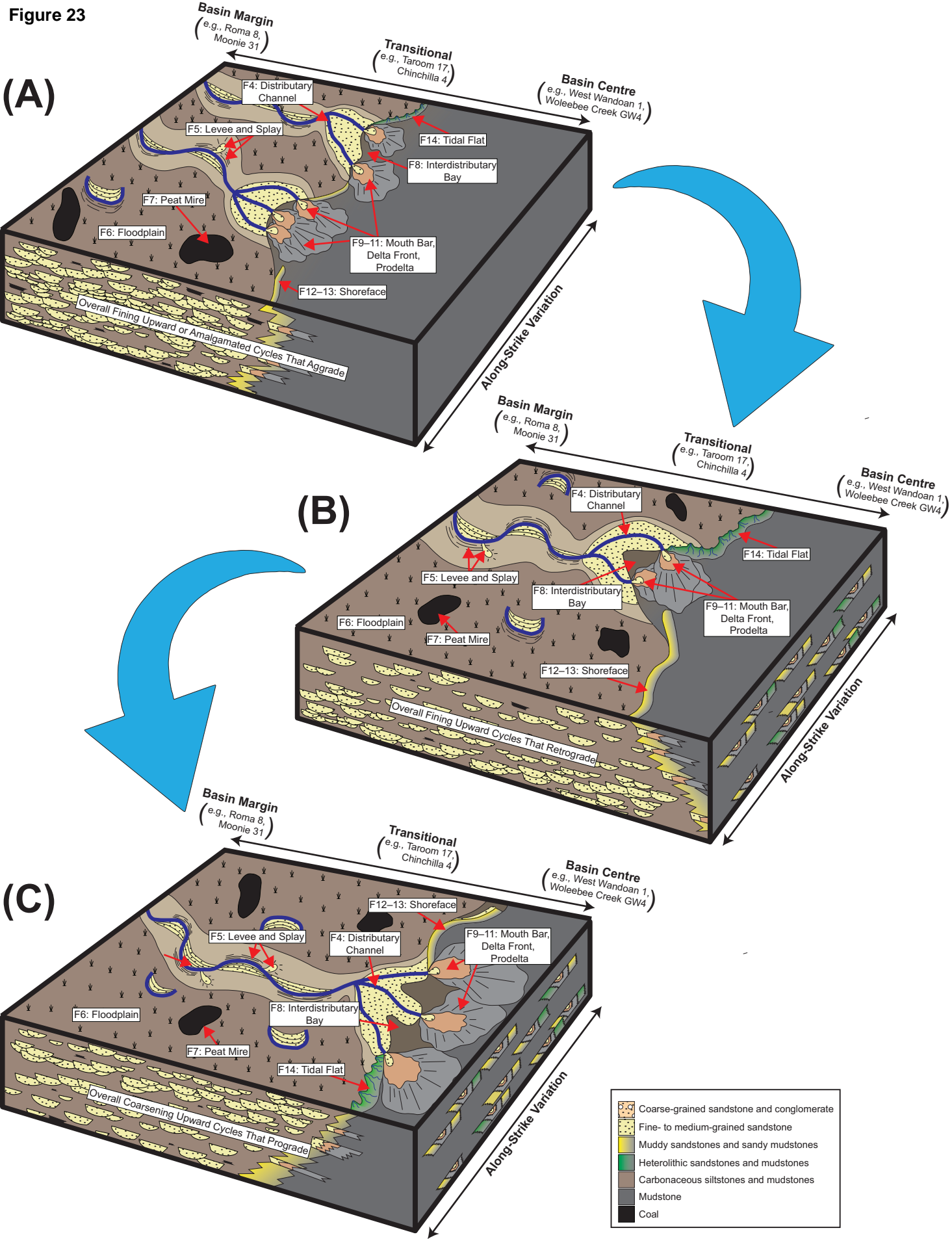




Figure 23



**Figure 24**

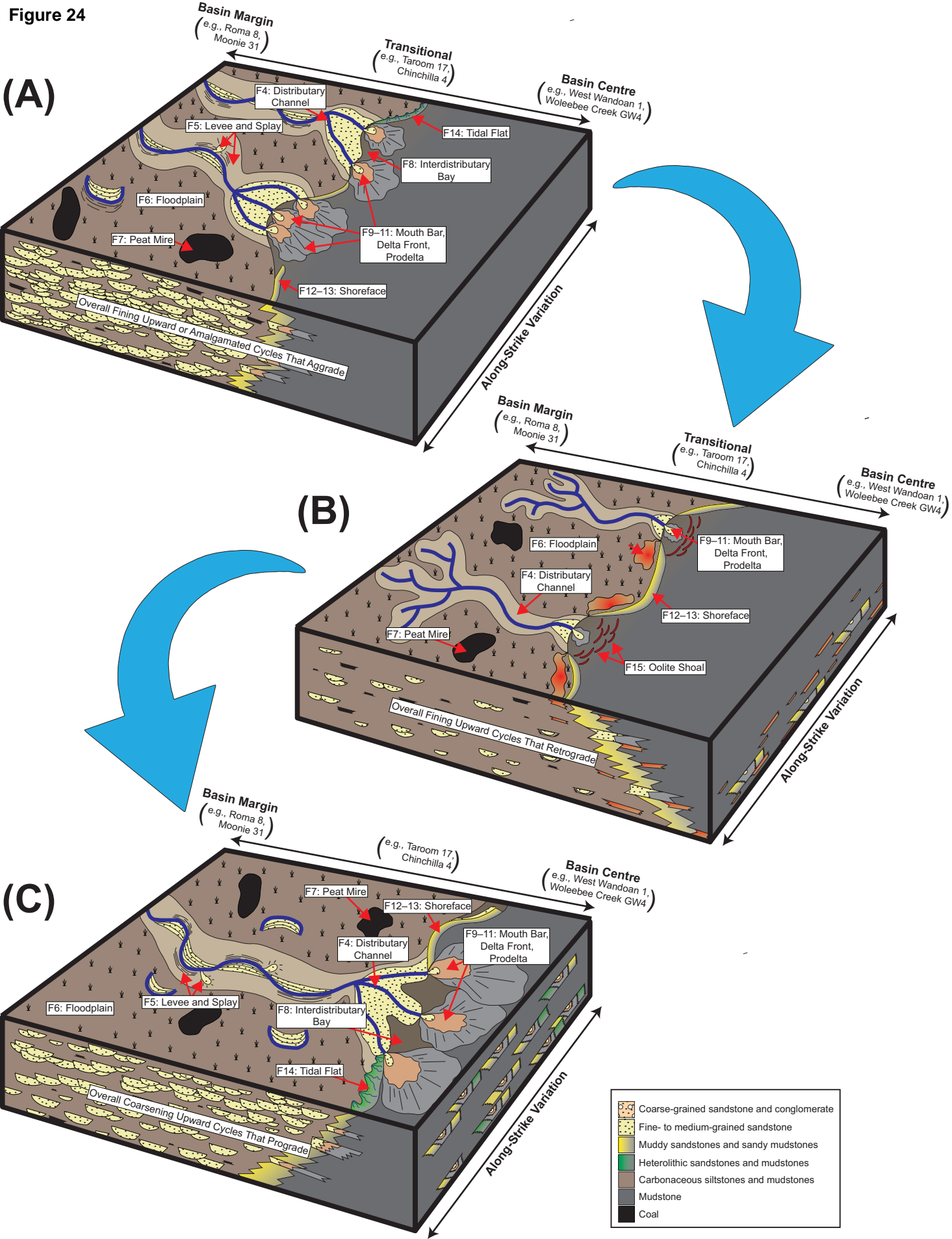


Table 1

Well Name	Latitude	Longitude	Base (m, MD)	Top (m, MD)	Thickness (m)
Chinchilla 4	26°43'7.9721"S	150°12'5.0989"E	1227	979	248
Condabri MB3-H	26°48'32.9400"S	150°10'15.7900"E	1517	1300	217
Kenya East GW7	27°01'44.5100"S	150°34'27.8800"E	1228	972	256
Moonie 31	27°44'42.6577"S	150°15'13.9337"E	1731	1724	7
Moonie 34	27°45'50.6600"S	150°14'27.9384"E	1780	1758	22
Reedy Creek MB3-H	26°21'27.8000"S	149°25'35.8900"E	1351	1149	202
Roma 8	26°33'12.0538"S	148°36'14.4833"E	1060	950	110
Taroom 17 West	25°47'21.0026"S	148°44'57.7232"E	499	271	228
Wandoan 1	26°10'53.8590"S	149°48'44.7444"E	1238	953	285
Woleebee Creek GW4	26°16'54.8917"S	149°42'50.9384"E	1575	1280	295
				<b>Total</b>	<b>1807</b>



Table 2

Facies Association	Facies	Grain Size	Physical Structures	Trace Fossils	Bioturbation Intensity and Distribution	Ichnofacies	Accessories	Sedimentary Environment
FA1: Braid plain	F1: Interbedded conglomerate and sandstone	Medium to very coarse-grained sand; granules to pebbles	Structureless to crudely laminated	None	BI 0	-	-	Lag deposit or channel base
	F2: Mud-clast breccia	Medium to very coarse-grained sand; granules to pebbles (angular)	Structureless to crudely laminated, mud rip-up clasts	None	BI 0	-	-	Channel base or channel bank collapse
	F3: Coarse-grained planar-tabular cross-bedded sandstone	Medium to very coarse-grained sand	Fining-upward, planar tabular cross-beds, rare current ripples, normal graded beds	None	BI 0	-	Rip-up clasts, pebbles, pebble lags	Fluvial channel
FA2: Lower delta plain	F4: Fine-grained planar-tabular grading into current ripple laminated sandstone	Very fine to fine grained sand	Fining-upward, planar tabular cross beds, current ripples	<i>Planolites, Taenidium</i>	BI 0-1, burrowed tops, sporadic distribution	<i>Scoyenia</i>	Carbonaceous detritus, rip-up clasts, pebbles and pebble lags	Distributary channel
	F5: Structureless to planar-parallel laminated sandstone	Fine to medium grained sand	Structureless to horizontal planar-parallel lamination	<i>Planolites</i>	BI 0-1, burrowed tops, sporadic distribution	<i>Scoyenia</i>	Rootlets, siderite horizons, coal fragments, spherulitic siderite	Channel levee or splay
	F6: Structureless, carbonaceous siltstone and mudstone	Very fine silt to coarse silt	Structureless, rare planar parallel or current ripple lamination	<i>Planolites, Taenidium, Naktodemasis</i>	BI 0-1	<i>Scoyenia</i>	Carbonaceous detritus, coal fragments, rare slickensides	Floodplain
	F7: Coal	Macerated plant material	N/A	None	BI 0	-	-	Peat Mire
	F8: Bioturbated muddy sandstone and sandy mudstone	Coarse silt to fine-grained sand	Rare horizontal planar parallel lamination, wavy or lenticular bedding, syaeresis cracks	<i>Planolites, Palaeophycus, navichnia</i> rare <i>Teichichnus</i>	BI 0-3, sporadic distribution	Impoverished <i>Cruziana</i>	-	Interdistributary Bay
FA3: Subaqueous delta	F9: Wave- to combined-flow ripple laminated sandstone	Very fine to fine grained sand	Coarsening-upward, wave or combined-flow ripples, soft sedimentary deformation, thin planar-parallel lamination and graded mudstone beds	<i>Planolites, Teichichnus, Lockeia, fugichnia</i>	BI 0-2, sporadic distribution	Skolithos	Rootlets, carbonaceous detritus, siderite horizons, rare coal fragments	Mouthbar
	F10: Sand-dominated to sub-equal sandy and muddy heterolithics (sandstone and mudstone); 90%>sand>30%	Medium to coarse silt and very fine to fine grained sand	Current to combined flow ripples, wave ripples, soft sedimentary deformation, micro-faults, syaeresis cracks, normal and inverse grading	<i>Planolites, Palaeophycus, Lockeia, Teichichnus, Siphonichnus, fugichnia</i>	BI 0-3, sporadic distribution in mudstone, rare in sandstone	Impoverished Proximal <i>Cruziana</i>	Sideritized horizons	Delta front
	F11: Mud-dominated heterolithics (sandstone and mudstone); 30%>sand>10%	Medium to coarse silt and very fine to fine grained sand	Current to combined flow ripples, horizontal planar-parallel lamination, normal and inverse grading, wavy to lenticular bedding	<i>Planolites, Palaeophycus, Diplocraterion, Teichichnus, Thalassinoides, Siphonichnus, navichnia, rare Asterosoma</i>	BI 0-3, sporadic distribution in mudstone and sandstone	Impoverished Archetypal <i>Cruziana</i>	-	Prodelta
FA4: Delta-influenced shoreface	F12: Bioturbated muddy sandstone with wave-ripple lamination and HCS interbeds	Coarse silt to medium grained sand	Wave ripples, micro HCS, wavy undulatory lamination, normal-graded beds	<i>Asterosoma, Conichnus, Chondrites, Planolites, Scolicia, Teichichnus, Palaeophycus, Phycosiphon, Lockeia, fugichnia</i>	BI 0-5, laminated to scrambled	Proximal <i>Cruziana</i>	-	Lower shoreface
	F13: Bioturbated sandy mudstone with wave-ripple to HCS interbeds	Coarse silt with interstitial very fine to fine grained sand	Rare horizontal planar parallel lamination in muds; micro HCS in sandstone	<i>Asterosoma, Conichnus, Chondrites, Planolites, Teichichnus, Palaeophycus, Phycosiphon, Helminthopsis</i>	BI 0-6, laminated to scrambled	Archetypal <i>Cruziana</i>	-	Upper offshore
FA5: Tidally e-influenced shoreline	F14: Mixed sandy and muddy heterolithics with tide-generated structures (sandstone and mudstone) 90%>sand>10%	Medium to coarse silt and very fine to fine grained sand	Flaser, wavy, lenticular bedding, current to combined flow ripples, syaeresis cracks	<i>Planolites, Palaeophycus, Cylindrichnus, Teichichnus, Diplocraterion, Siphonichnus, navichnia</i>	BI 2-5, sporadic distribution in mudstone and sandstone	Depauperate "Mixed <i>Skolithos-Cruziana</i> "	Carbonaceous detritus, rootlets, rare sideritized horizons	Tidal flats
FA 6: Restricted Marine shoals	F15A: Oolitic Ironstone	Fine- to medium-grained sand	Horizontal planar-parallel lamination, structureless, rare wave ripples	None	BI 0	-	-	Shallow-Restricted marine shoals
	F15B: Cemented Ironstone	N/A	Cemented	None	BI 0	-	Stylolites	Diagenetic overprint related to faults

Table 3

Palynomorph	Type	Palynomorph	Type	Palynomorph	Type
<i>Cymatiosphaera</i> spp.	Achritarch	<i>Podocarpidites ellipticus</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Klukisporites lacunus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Micrhystridium</i> spp.	Achritarch	<i>Protohaploxypinus</i> spp.	Continental Pollen	<i>Klukisporites scaberis</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Multiplicisphaeridium</i> spp.	Achritarch	<i>Trisaccates undiff.</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Klukisporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore
<i>Veryhachium</i> spp.	Achritarch	<i>Vitreisporites pallidus</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Klukisporites variegatus</i>	Continental Spore
Algae spp.	Algae	<i>Vitreisporites signatus</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Krauselisporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore
<i>Bartenia communis</i>	Algae	<i>Anapiculatisporites dawsonensis</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Laevigatosporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore
<i>Botryococcus</i> spp.	Algae	<i>Anapiculatisporites pristidentatus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Leptolepidites</i> spp.	Continental Spore
cf. <i>Peltacystia</i> spp.	Algae	<i>Annulispora folliculosa</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Leptolepidites verrucatus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Cymatiosphaera</i> spp.	Algae	<i>Annulispora microannulata</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Lundbladispora brevicula</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Leiosphaeres</i> spp.	Algae	<i>Antulsporites clavus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Maratthisporites crassibalteus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Micrhystridium</i> spp.	Algae	<i>Antulsporites regius</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Matonisporites crassiangulatus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Multiplicisphaeridium</i> spp.	Algae	<i>Antulsporites regius</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Neorastrickia elongata</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Veryhachium</i> spp.	Algae	<i>Antulsporites saevus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Neorastrickia rugobacula</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Araucariacites australis</i>	Coastal Pollen	<i>Apiculatisporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Neorastrickia suratensis</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Araucariacites fissus</i>	Coastal Pollen	<i>Aratrisporites "miniparvispinosus"</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Neorastrickia taylora</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Callialasporites dampieri</i>	Coastal Pollen	<i>Aratrisporites parvispinosus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Neorastrickia trichosa</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Callialasporites segmentatus</i>	Coastal Pollen	<i>Baculatisporites comaumensis</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Neorastrickia truncata</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Callialasporites trilobatus</i>	Coastal Pollen	<i>Cadargasporites baculatus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Nevesisporites vallatus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Callialasporites turbatus</i>	Coastal Pollen	<i>Cadargasporites granulatus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Obtusisporis modestus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Carollina</i> spp.	Coastal Pollen	<i>Cadargasporites reticulatus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Obtusisporites modestus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Densoisporites</i> spp.	Coastal Spore	<i>Cadargasporites senectus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Osmundacidites</i> spp.	Continental Spore
<i>Densoisporites velatus</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Cadargasporites verrucosus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Osmundacidites wellmanii</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes "net"</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Calamospora</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Perotrilites whitfordensis</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes austroclavatlidites</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Camarozonosporites ramosus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Playfordiaspora velata</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes circolumenus</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Camarozonosporites rudis</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Polycingulatisporites clavus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes clavatoides</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Cibotiumsporites juriensis</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Polycingulatisporites crenulatus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes facetus</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Cingulatisporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Polycingulatisporites mooniensis</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes huttonensis</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Clavatisporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Rogalskiasporites cicatricosus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes nodosus</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Concavissimisporites punctatus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Rugulatisporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes proxiradiatus</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Converrucosisporites pricei</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Sculptisporis moretonensis</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes semimuris</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Converrucosisporites verrucosus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Staplinisporites caminus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Retitriletes watheroensis</i>	Coastal Spore	<i>Coranatispora perforata</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Staplinisporites manifestus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Alisporites grandis</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Cyathidites australis</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Stereisporites antiquasporites</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Alisporites lowoodensis</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Cyathidites minor</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Stereisporites pocockii</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Alisporites similis</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Dictyophyllidites harrisii</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Stereisporites psilatus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Alisporites</i> spp.	Continental Pollen	<i>Foraminisporis caelatus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Striatella jurassica</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Ashmoripollis reducta</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Foraminisporis</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Striatella parva</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Ashmoripollis reducta</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Foraminisporis tribulosus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Striatella seebergensis</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Cycadopites follicularis</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Foveosporites canalis</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Thymaspora ipsviciensis</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Cycadopites</i> spp.	Continental Pollen	<i>Foveosporites moretonensis</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Todisporites major</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Exesipollenites tumulus</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Foveosporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Todisporites minor</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Falcisporites australis</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Gleicheniidites senonicus</i>	Continental Spore	<i>Trilobosporites antiquus</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Falcisporites grandis</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Granulatisporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Verrucosisporites varians</i>	Continental Spore
<i>Falcisporites similis</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Interulobites intraverrucatus</i>	Continental Spore	Copepod fragments	Copepoda
<i>Perinopollenites elatoides</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Ischyosporites crateris</i>	Continental Spore	Dinocyst indet.	Dinocyst
<i>Pinuspollenites parvisaccatus</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Ischyosporites</i> spp.	Continental Spore	<i>Mendicodinium</i> spp.	Dinocyst
<i>Platysaccus queenslandi</i>	Continental Pollen	<i>Kekyphalospora distincta</i>	Continental Spore	Fungal spores	Fungi

Table 4

Well	Total Count	Coastal Spores	Continental Spores	Coastal Pollen	Continental Pollen	Freshwater Algae	Fungal	Dino / Achritarch / Copepoda	Depth	Facies	Sequence Stratigraphy
Chinchilla 4	281	19	63	171	213	3	0	0	983.00	SM4	HST 3
Chinchilla 4	272	29	100	63	156	15	0	1	1017.40	M1	TST 3
Chinchilla 4	303	4	33	135	247	23	0	+	1045.45	SM3	TST 3
Chinchilla 4	276	24	104	137	166	6	0	0	1098.65	SM3	Sequence 2
Chinchilla 4	293	7	42	186	246	2	1	0	1126.70	SM3	HST 1
Chinchilla 4	277	23	92	136	179	4	0	0	1162.08	SM3	TST 1
Chinchilla 4	275	11	66	182	202	4	0	0	1199.64	SM3	LST 1
Chinchilla 4	294	6	26	228	253	15	0	0	1217.60	SM3	LST 1
Condabri MB9-H	295	18	138	115	17	7	0	0	1326.06	M3	HST 3
Condabri MB9-H	300	25	137	116	18	4	0	0	1417.59	SM3	Sequence 2
Condabri MB9-H	300	41	157	74	23	5	0	0	1436.37	SM2	Sequence 2
Condabri MB9-H	300	29	104	142	20	5	0	0	1445.09	SM3	HST 1
Condabri MB9-H	300	19	103	144	25	9	0	0	1461.22	M1	TST 1
Condabri MB9-H	300	44	166	79	8	3	0	0	1501.41	SM1	LST 1
Condabri MB9-H	301	15	117	129	28	6	0	0	1508.70	SM2	LST 1
Kenya East GW7	310	44	107	66	77	13	0	3	981.35	SM3	HST 3
Kenya East GW7	300	17	32	129	95	27	0	0	1023.60	S6	TST 3
Kenya East GW7	300	7	38	93	120	37	0	5	1028.60	M2	TST 3
Kenya East GW7	300	12	54	196	33	5	0	0	1146.70	M1	TST 1
Kenya East GW7	300	13	62	166	54	5	0	0	1165.30	SM3	TST 1
Kenya East GW7	300	44	138	44	57	17	0	0	1181.50	SM3	TST 1
Kenya East GW7	300	11	116	112	52	9	0	0	1192.70	SM2	LST 1
Moonie 31	316	35	69	160	49	3	0	0	1724.25	M1	TST 1
Reedy Creek MB3-H	201	11	32	79	150	8	0	0	1208.35	M1	TST 3
Reedy Creek MB3-H	307	22	28	143	235	18	+	4	1215.17	M1	TST 3
Reedy Creek MB3-H	297	52	120	92	124	1	0	0	1243.30	M1	Sequence 2
Reedy Creek MB3-H	299	11	60	173	221	6	0	0	1270.42	SM2	HST 1
Reedy Creek MB3-H	294	33	128	69	124	6	0	0	1326.26	SM2	TST 1
Reedy Creek MB3-H	300	3	48	205	242	6	0	0	1337.68	SM2	LST 1
Roma 8	300	40	47	121	76	16	0	+	956.70	SM3	HST 3
Roma 8	300	21	87	100	89	2	0	1	967.87	SM3	HST 3
Roma 8	305	8	27	196	71	3	0	0	985.26	SM3	TST 3
Roma 8	300	47	108	120	7	18	0	0	995.85	SM2	Sequence 2
Roma 8	300	34	71	146	44	5	0	0	1011.40	M1	Sequence 2
Roma 8	300	19	68	174	38	1	0	0	1029.15	M1	HST 1
Roma 8	305	37	57	182	28	1	0	0	1041.00	M1	TST 1
Roma 8	301	16	65	185	26	9	0	0	1042.90	SM1	TST 1
Taroom 17	302	46	73	111	61	11	0	0	280.70	M3	TST 3
Taroom 17	301	4	71	182	35	6	0	0	297.65	SM2	TST 3
Taroom 17	300	51	75	88	66	18	0	0	331.37	S4	Sequence 2
Taroom 17	299	9	79	157	54	0	0	0	378.53	SM3	HST 1
Taroom 17	300	10	46	175	68	1	0	0	386.42	SM3	TST 1
Taroom 17	306	17	50	193	41	5	0	0	397.35	SM3	TST 1
Taroom 17	300	22	101	112	63	2	0	0	421.80	M1	TST 1
Taroom 17	300	0	19	252	28	1	0	0	483.25	SM2	LST 1
West Wandoan 1	405	11	108	198	81	7	0	0	980.45	SM2	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	304	41	98	117	43	5	0	0	990.84	SM3	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	327	40	73	142	65	7	0	0	993.51	M3	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	308	18	45	102	110	33	0	0	998.65	SM3	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	300	90	30	130	24	26	0	+	1010.56	SM3	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	307	15	40	114	82	37	0	19	1011.86	SM3	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	349	18	87	83	149	10	0	2	1013.40	M1	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	300	14	21	136	125	4	0	0	1027.61	SM2	TST 3
West Wandoan 1	300	0	22	255	15	8	0	0	1207.61	SM2	LST 1
Woleebee Creek GW4	300	49	77	102	57	15	0	0	1310.60	M2	TST 3
Woleebee Creek GW4	300	10	21	152	87	27	0	3	1336.70	M2	TST 3
Woleebee Creek GW4	299	93	110	76	7	13	0	0	1356.75	SM3	Sequence 2
Woleebee Creek GW4	300	25	110	135	28	2	0	0	1382.25	SM3	Sequence 2
Woleebee Creek GW4	300	14	83	155	45	3	0	0	1391.25	SM2	Sequence 2
Woleebee Creek GW4	300	14	64	182	40	0	0	0	1422.55	M1	TST 1
Woleebee Creek GW4	298	19	93	124	55	7	0	0	1489.55	SM4	LST 1