

NSW CO₂ Storage Assessment Program



Stage 2

Exploration activities are set to begin in the Darling Basin to assess carbon storage and geothermal energy resources.

What is happening?

The Department of Regional NSW will be undertaking exploration activities across selected areas of Cobar and the Central Darling. Exploration will determine the suitability of Darling Basin geology for carbon storage and geothermal energy production.

Three exploration wells will be drilled on private properties in these areas. Data acquired will also strengthen our understanding of the water and mineral resources of this region.

Why is this happening?

Previous studies in this region identified sandstones that may be suitable for carbon storage. Further exploration is planned in the Central Darling Basin to improve our understanding of this initial discovery.

The data collected will be used to build more accurate geological models of the region, which will enable a more robust assessment of resource in the region.



When and where will exploration activities occur?

Exploration activities will occur for approximately six months from September 2022.

Three exploration wells will be drilled on private properties with the Department of Regional NSW's existing exploration licenses (EL8065 and EL8066). More information about this licence can be found by searching for the title at minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au

Who is managing exploration activities?

Exploration activities will be managed by the Geological Survey of NSW. Data obtained from the Program will be made publicly available and will be a valuable source of information for government, industry and researchers.

What exploration activities are occurring?

Three exploration wells will be drilled in the Pondie Range, Poopelloe Lake and Yathong troughs of the Darling Basin. Each well will be drilled to approximately 1,800 m depth and core extracted.

Tests will be conducted both down the well and on the extracted core. The resultant data will improve understanding of the geology and resources of the Darling Basin.

What is carbon capture and storage?

Carbon capture and storage is a process which stops carbon dioxide (CO₂) from entering the atmosphere. CO₂ emissions are captured from large industrial facilities – such as power generation, hydrogen production, and steel and cement manufacturing – and transported through pipelines to be permanently stored in geological formations deep underground.

Is the survey exploring for coal seam gas or petroleum?

No, the survey is not being used to explore for coal seam gas or petroleum.

Rehabilitation

Once exploration activities are complete, the well is sealed with concrete. The drill rig and any infrastructure within the drill site are removed and rehabilitation of the drill site begins. This involves replacing topsoil to help seed germination. Rehabilitation will return the site to pre-drilling condition and to the satisfaction of the landholder and Department of Regional NSW.

More information

regional.nsw.gov.au/co2-storage-assessment-program

Contact

Tully Matthews
Manager –CINSW
0488 093 957
ccs.info@regional.nsw.gov.au