

Review paper: The 10th March 1970 M_w 5.0 Calingiri surface rupturing earthquake, Australia

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Abstract

The 10th March 1970 moment magnitude (M_w) 5.0 Calingiri earthquake surface rupture is 3.3 km long with a maximum vertical displacement of 0.4 m. The fault as defined by surface measurements is a shallow-dipping reverse fault (~ 20° east) with a probable shallow hypocentre (< 1 km). This is consistent with published hypocentral depths, though large uncertainties exist within the seismological data. The finest-resolution geological map available for the epicentral area (1:250 000) indicates the presence of granitic gneiss and migmatite outcrops within a few kilometres of the surface rupture with foliations striking sub-parallel to the surface rupture trace but with near-vertical dips. The rupture is subparallel to linear geophysical anomalies suggesting a bedrock structural control to faulting. There is no evidence to suggest prior Pleistocene surface rupture along the Calingiri scarp, although no detailed palaeoseismic investigations have been conducted.

This document presents a review of available literature related to the 1970 Calingiri surface rupturing earthquake. It includes newly digitised data related to the rupture and new interpretations of controls on fault rupture. It supplements a manuscript reviewing all Australian surface rupturing earthquakes, submitted to Geosciences in August 2019.

Please contact authors on the content presented herein; we welcome constructive feedback.

36 **1. Geology**

37 **1.1 Regional**

38 The 1970 Mw 5.0 Calingiri earthquake is one of a series of historical surface rupturing earthquakes
 39 (1968 Meckering, 1970 Calingiri, 1979 Cadoux, 2008 Katanning, and 2018 Lake Muir) (Dawson et
 40 al., 2008; Gordon and Lewis, 1980; Lewis et al., 1981) hosted within the South-West Seismic Zone
 41 (SWSZ) in southern Western Australia (Doyle, 1971). The SWSZ resides predominately within the
 42 Yilgarn Craton (*Figure 1*), an assemblage of predominately Archean granitoid-greenstone rocks
 43 (Wilde et al., 1996).

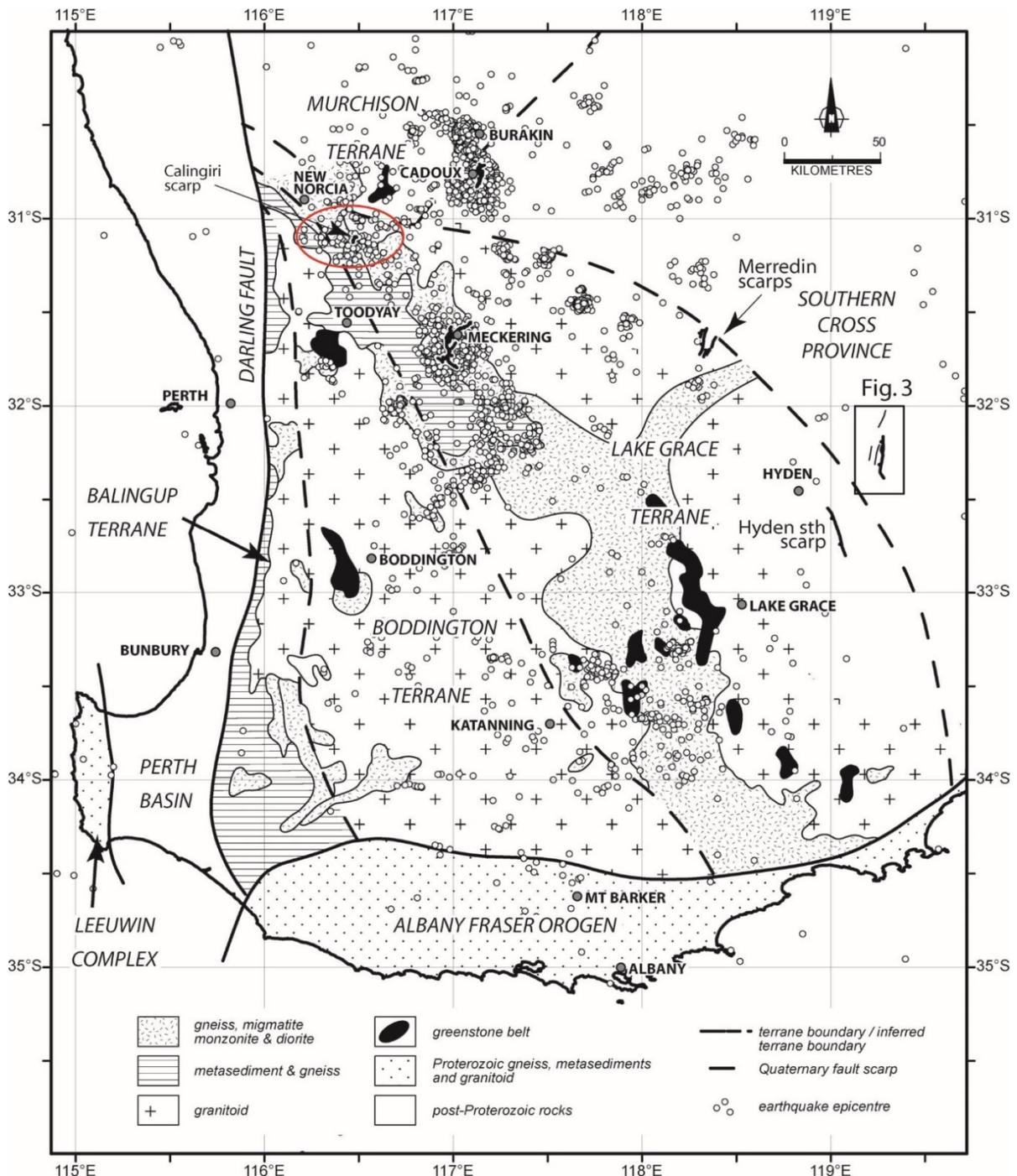


Figure 1: Regional geology surrounding the Calingiri earthquake and SWSZ. Figure 2 from Clark et al. (2008)

44 The SWSZ extends roughly NW-SE within a region of the Yilgarn Craton consisting of poly-
45 deformed and metamorphosed crystalline basement (*Figure 1*). The SWSZ extends across three
46 tectono-stratigraphic terranes; the Boddington Terrane, Lake Grace Terrane and Murchison Terrane
47 (Dentith and Featherstone, 2003; Wilde et al., 1996). Due in part to few basement outcrops, the
48 boundaries between terranes are poorly constrained. Gravity data show that the boundary between the
49 Boddington and Lake Grace Terranes is a major east-dipping geological structure (Clark et al., 2008;
50 Dentith and Featherstone, 2003), interpreted as a large thrust zone based on dating and metamorphic
51 facies analysis across the two terranes (Wilde et al., 1996). Historic seismicity generally aligns with
52 this structure, and occurs on the eastern side of it (Dentith and Featherstone, 2003).

53 The Calingiri earthquake occurred in the northern area of the Jimperding Metamorphic Belt (*Figure*
54 *1*), within the Lake Grace Terrane, but close to the mapped boundaries with the Boddington and
55 Murchison Terranes. The Jimperding belt consists of “repeatedly deformed granitoids, gneisses, belts
56 of metasedimentary rocks, small greenstone belts and remnants of layered basic intrusions” (Dentith
57 and Featherstone, 2003).

58 1.2 Local bedrock

59 No bedrock outcrops were mapped near the Calingiri scarp by Gordon and Lewis (1980). They do
60 describe “vertically foliated Archean migmatites and metasediments” to the west of Calingiri,
61 “equigranular granite” to the north-east of the town, and “a few” dolerite dykes and quartz veins. The
62 Western Australia Geological Survey 1:250,000 geological map (Wilde et al., 1978) (*Figure 3*) shows
63 basement outcrops of banded migmatite and granitic gneiss in the rupture area with the majority of
64 foliation trending towards the NE, coincident with strike of rupture. The dips of planar fabric elements
65 within these surface outcrops are near-vertical in most locations, whereas dips of the faults underlying
66 the rupture are $\sim 20^\circ$ (Section 3.2.3.). The surface rupture strikes subparallel to a magnetic anomaly,
67 and the edge of a minor gravitational anomaly *Figure 2*.

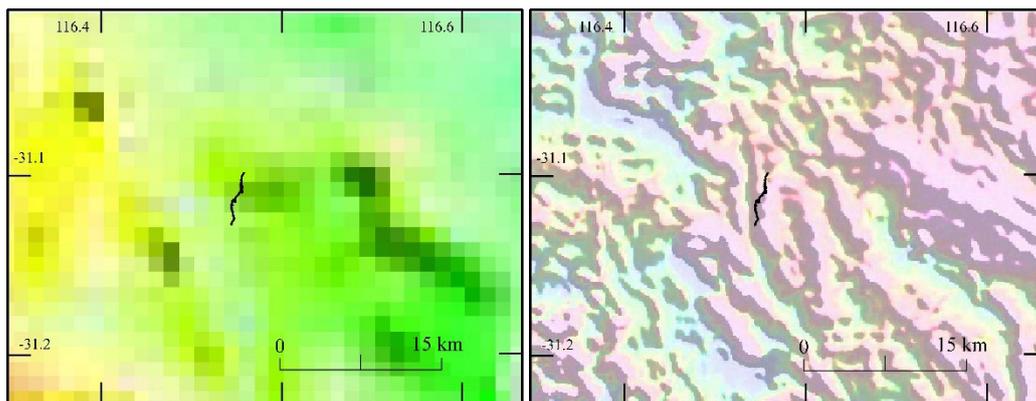


Figure 2: Calingiri scarp (black lines) relative to magnetic intensity and bouguer gravity anomaly maps. National bouguer gravity anomaly map: <http://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/101104>; National total magnetic intensity map: <http://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/89596>

68 1.3 Surficial deposits

69 Authors investigating the event do not describe the local geology or surface sediments in detail. The
70 available 1:250,000 geological map of the area (Wilde et al., 1978) shows the rupture associated with
71 “Cenozoic laterite” and “quartzose duricrust” (*Figure 3*).

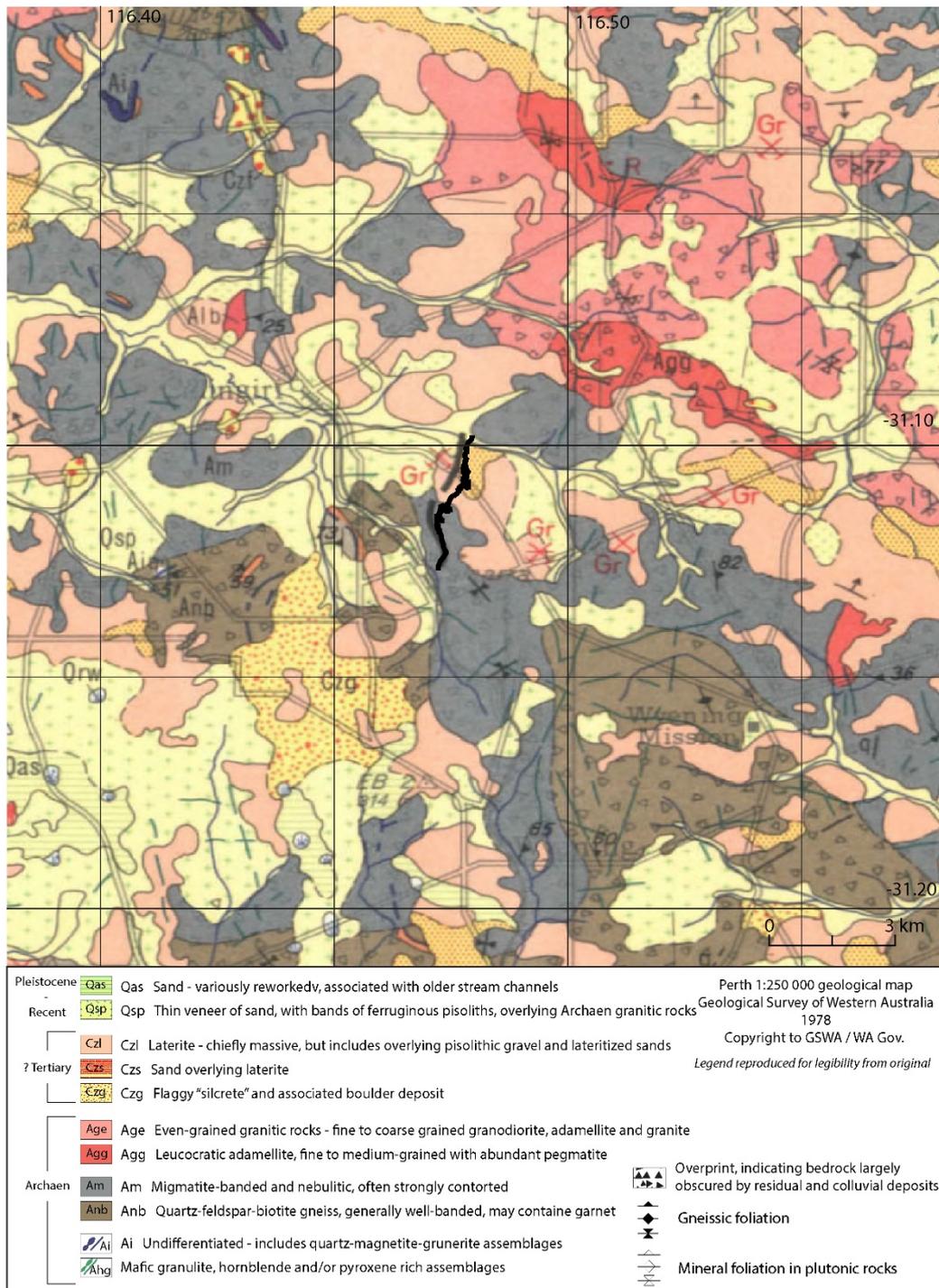


Figure 3: Crop of Perth 1:250 000 geological map sheet (Wilde et al., 1978) showing basement and surface sediments around the Calingiri surface rupture. Full map and legend available from: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Geological-Survey/GSWA-publications-and-maps-1399.aspx>

72 2. Seismology

73 2.1 Epicentre and magnitude estimates

74 No relocation of the epicentre has taken place, with the current Geoscience Australia (GA) online
 75 catalogue location the same coordinates as the original reported location (Gregson, 1971) (Table 1).
 76 The location is on the footwall 700 m from the surface rupture though uncertainty may be in the order
 77 of $\pm 1 - 10$ km, so the true epicentre is likely on the hanging-wall of the surface rupture (Figure 4).
 78 The GA NSHA18 catalogue (Allen et al., 2018) epicentre is located ~ 5 km NE of the other epicentres,

79 it is not known how this was derived (*Figure 4*). No uncertainties are published regarding the
 80 Calingiri epicentre location in the original reports on the event.

81 This paper prefers the magnitude (M_w) of the recently published NSHA18 catalogue (Allen et al.,
 82 2018) as they conduct a thorough and consistent reanalysis of Australian magnitude values,
 83 particularly to address inconsistencies in the determination of historic magnitude values. Prior to this
 84 reanalysis, the magnitude of the Calingiri earthquake was reported as 5.7 – 6.2 using various local
 85 magnitude formula (M_L). These almost one magnitude unit higher than the revised NSHA18
 86 magnitude, which has implications for any previous scaling relationships incorporating older
 87 magnitudes.

88 *Table 1 : Published epicentre locations, depths and magnitudes*

Reference	Agency	Latitude	± (km)	Longitude	± (km)	Depth	± (km)	M1		M2		M3	
GA_online	GA	-31.11		116.47		1		5.7	Mw	5.9	ML	5.5	mb
Everingham and Parkes (1971)	Mundaring Observatory	-31.11		116.47		1		5.7	M	6.2	M	5.1	MS
Gordon and Lewis (1980)	Mundaring Observatory	-31.11		116.47		1		6.2	ML	5.7	M		
Allen et al (2018)	NSHA18	-31.092		116.512		15		5.03	Mw	5.9	ML		

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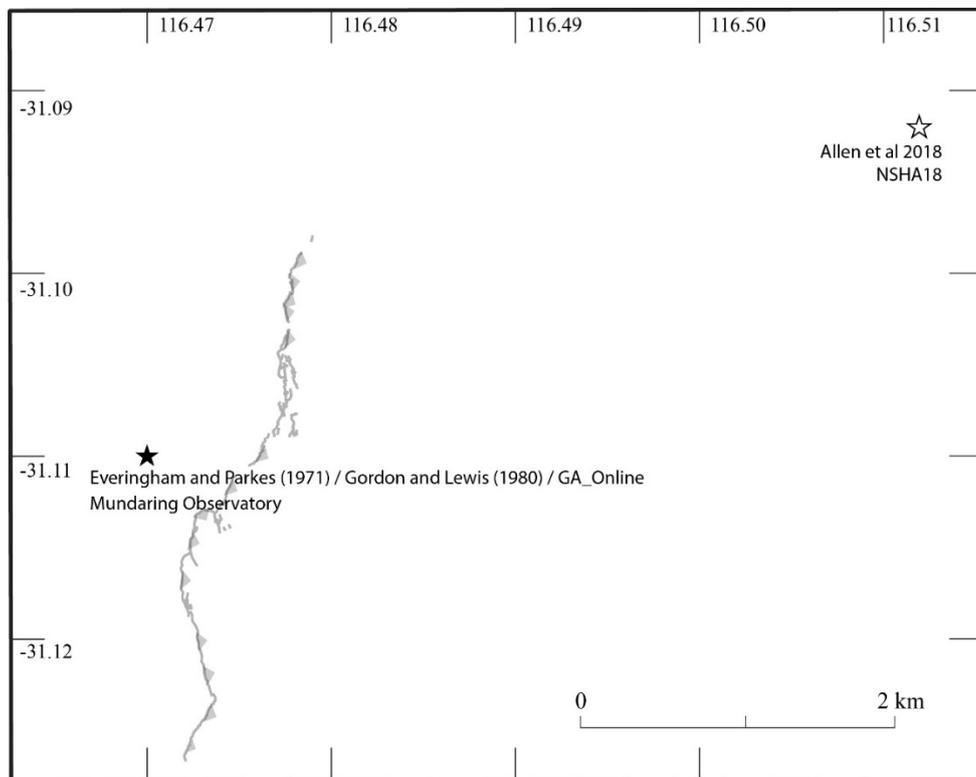


Figure 4: Published epicentre locations around the surface rupture

90

2.2 Focal mechanisms

91 Fitch et al. (1973) published the only focal mechanism for the Calingiri rupture, a lower hemisphere
 92 solution which shows a reverse mechanism with a dextral component to movement along a preferred
 93 plane trending 056° and dipping 50° to the east (based on surface rupture) (*Figure 5*). Gordon and

94 Lewis (1980) report sinistral movement on a fault striking 337° and dipping 76°E based on the Fitch
 95 et al. (1973) solution, however this plane of the focal mechanism actually describes a sinistral west
 96 dipping fault. As noted by Leonard et al. (2002), the Fitch et al. (1973) solution is based on short
 97 period instrument recordings, has uncertainties of $120 - 100^\circ$ and was constrained by their solution for
 98 the Meckering earthquake.

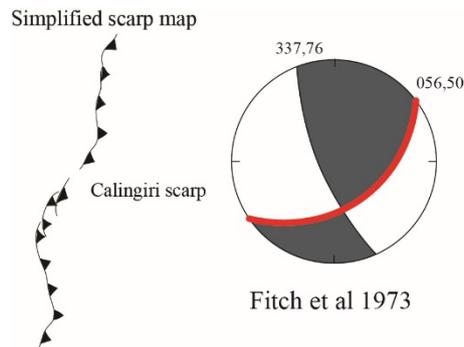


Figure 5: Published focal mechanism, preferred rupture plane from the publication highlighted in red.

99 **2.3 Depth**

100 Gregson (1971) report a depth of 1 km derived by the USGS, also the depth used in Everingham and
 101 Parkes (1971) and Gordon and Lewis (1980). Fitch et al. (1973) report a depth of 15 km in their focal
 102 mechanism solution, too deep to have produced a surface rupture.

103 **2.1 Foreshock / aftershocks**

104 The Calingiri area experienced three (assumed to be M_L) > 4.0 earthquakes prior to the 1968
 105 Meckering earthquake, which triggered increased seismicity in the region. In 1952 an earthquake (of
 106 unspecified magnitude) is reported to have caused structural damage to a new school building, with an
 107 epicentral location determined 13 km north of the township (Gordon and Lewis, 1980). In 1955 the
 108 Mundaring Observatory reported a magnitude 4.7 earthquake approximately 19 km north of the town,
 109 while in 1963 a magnitude 4.9 event was located 13 km north (Gordon and Lewis, 1980). Calingiri
 110 experienced seventeen events between M_L 2.6 - 4.4 from October 1968 (the Meckering earthquake) to
 111 November 1969 (the Calingiri mainshock occurred 4 months later) (Everingham and Gregson, 1971;
 112 Gordon and Lewis, 1980; Gregson, 1971).

113 One temporary seismometer was deployed by Mundaring Observatory, but the instrument failed and
 114 recorded no earthquakes (Gregson, 1971). Following the Calingiri mainshock only nine aftershocks
 115 are recorded in the area, with magnitudes ranging from M_L 3.0 - 4.0. The Mundaring Observatory
 116 reports foreshocks down to magnitude M_L 2.6, so we consider this to represent the catalogue
 117 completeness value for this area at this time. Therefore, the Calingiri event shows a lack of immediate
 118 aftershock activity, with a M_L 3.8 recorded in July (4 months after the mainshock), 3.1 in October (7
 119 months) and the largest aftershock with M_L 4.0 occurring in December 1970 (9 months). No events $>$
 120 M_L 2.6 were recorded in the area from 1973 - 1980. Given this aftershock temporal distribution,
 121 Gordon and Lewis (1980) consider the Calingiri mainshock as an aftershock to the larger Meckering
 122 event, though this is not consistent with current methods for determining maximum distances of
 123 aftershocks (e.g. those used in Allen et al. (2018)).

124 **3. Surface Rupture**

125 **3.1 Authors / map quality**

126 The Calingiri rupture is located on a pastoral property 152 km drive north of Perth. The first
 127 descriptions of the Calingiri surface rupture come from seismological reports from the Mundaring
 128 Geophysical observatory, located 120 km south of the rupture (Everingham and Gregson, 1971;

129 Gregson, 1971). The only published detailed mapping of the rupture is a 1:10,000 map in Gordon and
 130 Lewis (1980) with mapping conducted 1 - 2 months after the rupture. The rupture trace from this map
 131 is reproduced in the GA Neotectonics Features database (Clark, 2012). Gordon and Lewis (1980) note
 132 that farming had removed surficial evidence of rupture, though some sections of are still visible in
 133 Google and Bing satellite imagery. The rupture trace from the GA Neotectonics Features and sections
 134 visible in Google and Bing satellite imagery do not align (e.g. -31.12, 116.47) due to datum
 135 transformation issues and simplification of fine-scale morphology in the original map.

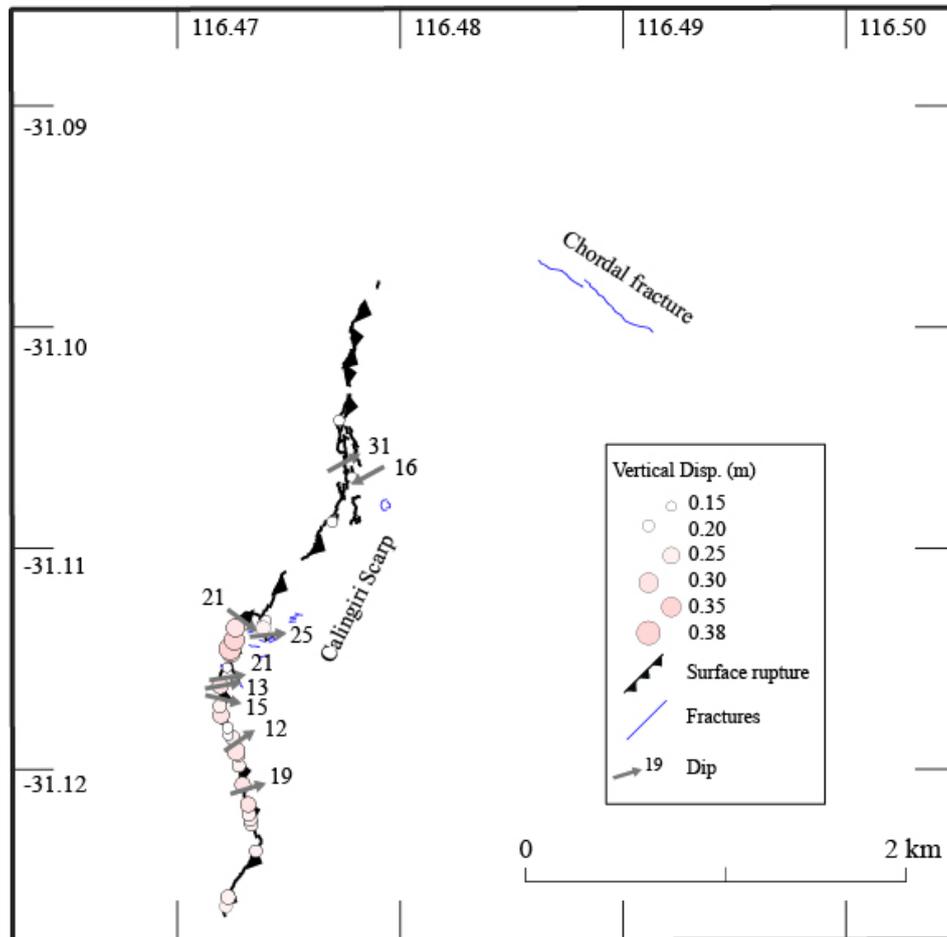


Figure 6: Map of the Calingiri scarp, fractures, vertical offset measurements, and dip measurements (data digitised from Gordon and Lewis (1980))

136 3.2 Length and shape

137 Initial reports describe a 5 km long rupture (Everingham and Gregson, 1971; Gregson, 1971),
 138 however Gordon and Lewis (1980) describe 3.3 km long scarp, and this is the length reported in
 139 subsequent publications (Figure 7b). This length results from measuring the rupture from north to
 140 south along a straight line. Applying a criteria which simplifies ruptures to straight traces and defines
 141 distinct faults where mapped primary rupture has gaps/steps > 1 km and/or where strike changes by >
 142 20° for distances > 1 km (e.g. (Quigley et al., 2017)) results in the same length (explored in more
 143 detail in King et al. (2019) (in review)). The length of the causative fault, assuming a relatively
 144 straight plane, is likely to be slightly longer than the simplified 3.3 km long trace, as the fault will not
 145 have ruptured to the surface along its full length.

146 Figure 7c maps portions of the scarp where more than two vertical displacement measurements of
 147 greater than 0.2 m occur within a distance of 1 km (data from Gordon and Lewis (1980)). Given
 148 granitic basement cosmogenic erosion rates in equivalent arid settings of Australia of 0.3 – 5 m/Myr
 149 (Bierman and Caffee, 2002), 0.2 m of scarp height would be removed within 35 – 660 kyrs, leaving

150 ~1 km of rupture still visible in the landscape. This indicates that the feature is unlikely to be
 151 persistent in the landscape over the time frame typical of the recurrence interval observed on nearby
 152 faults in the SWSZ (e.g. Hyden, Dumbleyung (Clark et al., 2008; Estrada et al., 2006)). In this
 153 calculation we do not account for erosion rates of any duricrust which may overlie granitic bedrock,
 154 for differential erosion rates across the rupture topography, or increased erosion from past climatic
 155 changes or modern processes.

156 The mapped surface rupture trace by Gordon and Lewis (1980) shows discontinuous segments of 50 –
 157 500 m in length with breaks up to 150 m (*Figure 6, Figure 7*). It has an overall shape that is slightly
 158 concave, with concavity defined by short (< 500m) oblique linear segments. Longer Australia surface
 159 ruptures (e.g. Meckering, Cadoux) have similar deviations of strike orientation across short distances
 160 (e.g. < 500 m).

161 A 600 m long secondary scarp (the ‘Calingiri Chordal Fault’) is mapped on the hanging-wall ~1 km
 162 away from the northern tip of the main rupture (*Figure 6, Figure 7*). Gordon and Lewis (1980) report
 163 that the property owner observed this scarp six weeks following the main rupture and stated that it had
 164 not been visible on multiple previous visits to the field. This scarp is mapped as a series of en echelon
 165 extensional fractures and may better be described as secondary extensional fractures related to
 166 hanging-wall relaxation rather than a primary rupture, although its possible genesis from an
 167 aftershock cannot be dismissed.

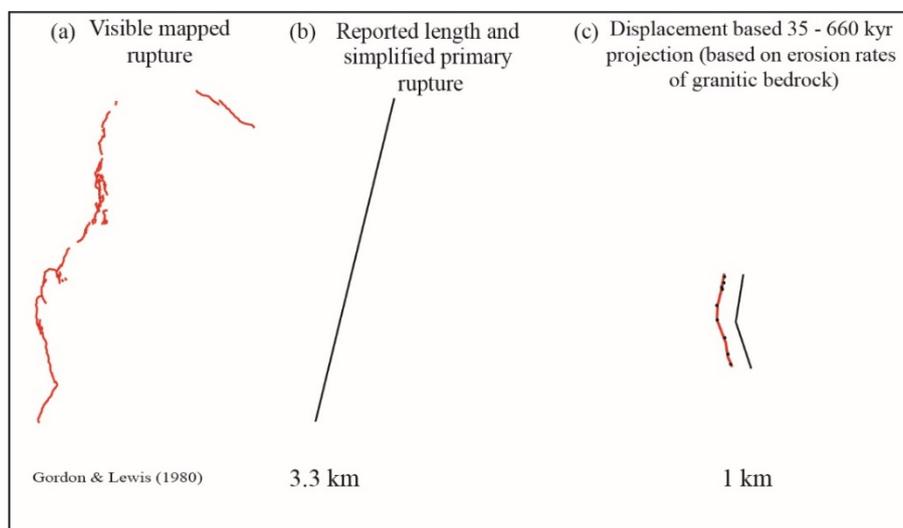


Figure 7: Various measures of length for the Calingiri rupture and underlying fault as described in the text.

168 **3.3 Strike**

169 The rupture trends towards 011° on average, with deviations along its length describing trends
 170 between 346 – 030°. The secondary extensional fracture (‘chordal fault’) trends toward 306°.

171 **3.4 Dip**

172 Gordon and Lewis (1980) show dip measurements along the rupture ranging from 12 - 31° on their
 173 map of the rupture (*Figure 6*), with an average of 19°. The report mentions shallower dips of 10°
 174 measured where the rupture crosses a stream and drain. They relate dip variations to surficial
 175 sediment competency. They calculate an overall dip of 40° east based on slip (horizontal and vertical
 176 components of displacement).

177 The only reported seismologically derived dip comes from Fitch et al. (1973) who find a 50° dip on
 178 the east dipping plane (*Figure 5*). As previously described, Gordon and Lewis (1980) identify the
 179 incorrect plane of the Fitch et al. (1973) solution and describe the dip as 76° NE, which matches the

180 SW dipping plane. The Fitch et al. (1973) solution for dip has uncertainties as described for the focal
 181 mechanism.

182 **3.5 Morphology**

183 The southern section of the Calingiri scarp generally shows a single discrete rupture with short step-
 184 overs or ramp structures (Gordon and Lewis, 1980). The northern section is characterized by single
 185 discrete ruptures or pressure ridges, often discontinuous over short distances, or with multiple
 186 duplexing discrete ruptures. As with the Meckering scarp, Gordon and Lewis (1980) note that the
 187 rupture morphology seemed related to surficial sediments, low compression ridges in sandy soil and
 188 larger discrete ruptures in lateritic soils.

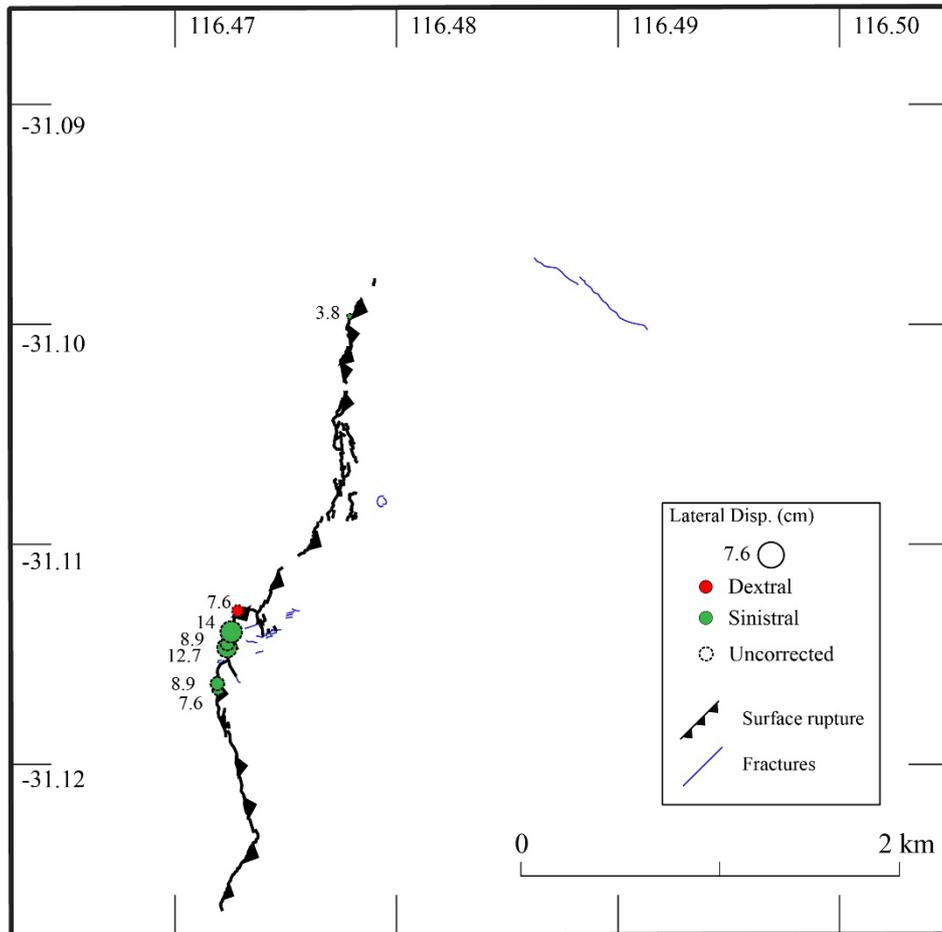


Figure 8: Lateral displacement measurements (in cm) digitised from Gordon and Lewis (1980). Uncorrected measurements (all measurements) are offsets measured from features (fences, roads, etc) not perpendicular to the strike of surface rupture.

189 **3.6 Kinematics**

190 Gordon and Lewis (1980) describe the Calingiri fault as a sinistral thrust, recording predominately
 191 sinistral movement where measurements were taken of offset features (Figure 8). All measurements
 192 are uncorrected for the horizontal angle between the rupture and offset feature, so true lateral offset is
 193 unknown (e.g. if not perpendicular, lateral offset may appear greater or less than true offset).
 194 Stepovers and fractures in the central and southern sections of rupture support a sinistral
 195 compressional step, though the breaks between segments in the northern section show a dextral
 196 extensional sense of movement, and step overs in the northern segment could be either dextral
 197 compression or sinistral extension.

198 **3.7 Displacement**

199 Vertical and lateral offset along the rupture is mapped in plate 6 of Gordon and Lewis (1980), but no
 200 description exists for how these measurements were obtained, so we cannot estimate measurement
 201 uncertainty. No levelling profiles were published for this rupture, and no surveying along the scarp is
 202 described in published sources. The digitised data (methods in Appendix A) show an asymmetrical
 203 along-rupture displacement envelope concentrated on the southern scarp, with maximum offset in the
 204 central most arcuate section of rupture (Figure 9). Only three offset measurements are recorded along
 205 the northern section of scarp, though the text describes offsets of 7 – 8 cm along the majority of the
 206 scarp.

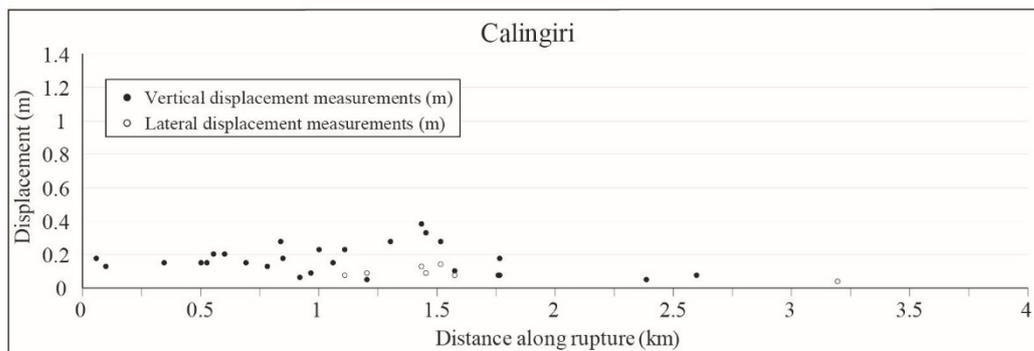


Figure 9: Vertical and lateral displacement measurements along the Calingiri scarps, digitised from (Gordon and Lewis, 1980). Methods described in Appendix A

207 **3.8 Environmental damage**

208 Based on length and maximum offset, the Calingiri surface rupture fits an ESI-07 scale measure of
 209 IX, while fractures/cracking as described by Gordon and Lewis (1980) fits ESI V-VI (Michetti et al.,
 210 2007). No other environmental damage is specifically documented that falls within the ESI-07 scale.
 211 Gordon and Lewis (1980) note a single location where circular extensional cracking surrounded a
 212 small tree, similar to descriptions of the Meckering rupture (Gordon and Lewis, 1980) and Petermann
 213 rupture (King et al., 2018). Gordon and Lewis (1980) describe cracking identified near the Calingiri
 214 rupture that appeared infilled and many years old, they suggest this may relate to the 1968 Meckering
 215 earthquake based on the observed infill and level of degradation.

216 **4. Paleoseismology**

217 No palaeoseismic investigations of the Calingiri rupture have been published. Gordon and Lewis
 218 (1980) report scattered quartz fragments and thicker soil horizons in holes dug on the footwall
 219 compared to several “missing” soil horizons on the hanging-wall, which they interpreted as supportive
 220 evidence for past movement along a pre-existing fault. This evidence is circumstantial and could be
 221 explained by several processes including differential weathering across lithological contacts or faults,
 222 or a soil catena along the low relief hillslope which is coincident with the historic rupture.

223 **4.1 Slip rate**

224 There is no evidence geological or geomorphic evidence to support prior rupture along the Calingiri
 225 fault. The rupture is either the first neotectonic event, or the recurrence interval is sufficiently long
 226 that all relief relating to prior event(s) was eroded prior to 1979 (e.g. 35 – 660 kyrs as discussed in
 227 Section 3.2.1). If recurrence is assumed, vertical relief generation rates are limited by very low
 228 bedrock erosion rates of < 5 m/Myr (Belton et al., 2004; Bierman and Caffee, 2002).

229 **5. Summary**

230 **5.1 Relationship to Geology**

231 The Western Australian Geological Survey 1:250,000 map (Wilde et al., 1978) shows migmatite and
 232 gneissic basement in the rupture area, with foliation measurements varying between $140^{\circ}/90^{\circ}$,
 233 $060^{\circ}/90^{\circ}$, $180^{\circ}/73^{\circ}$ and $030^{\circ}/59^{\circ}$. While variable, these measurements show some similarity to
 234 surface rupture segments striking between $340 - 030^{\circ}$. The total magnetic intensity map shows a
 235 potentially folded structure striking NW at the rupture location (Figure 2), consistent with strongly
 236 deformed metasediments within the Jimperding Metamorphic Belt, including along the 1968
 237 Meckering rupture (Dentith et al., 2009). The rupture generally strikes in the same direction as the
 238 western limb of this structure.

239 5.2 Relationship to Seismology

240 The only focal mechanism for the Calingiri earthquake (Fitch et al., 1973) shows a dextral component
 241 of slip on the east dipping plane with a strike of 056° which is oriented $20 - 40^{\circ}$ clockwise relative to
 242 the trend of the surface rupture. Gordon and Lewis (1980) misinterpret the focal mechanism
 243 suggesting sinistral movement on a fault striking 337° . The surface rupture step-overs and gaps show
 244 both dextral and sinistral senses of movement. Gordon and Lewis (1980) present predominately
 245 sinistral measurements, with some dextral offset also recorded (Figure 8, Figure 9). Uncertainties
 246 exist on the accuracy of the focal mechanism (see Section 2.2), and lateral offset measurements are
 247 uncorrected and therefore may be inaccurate.

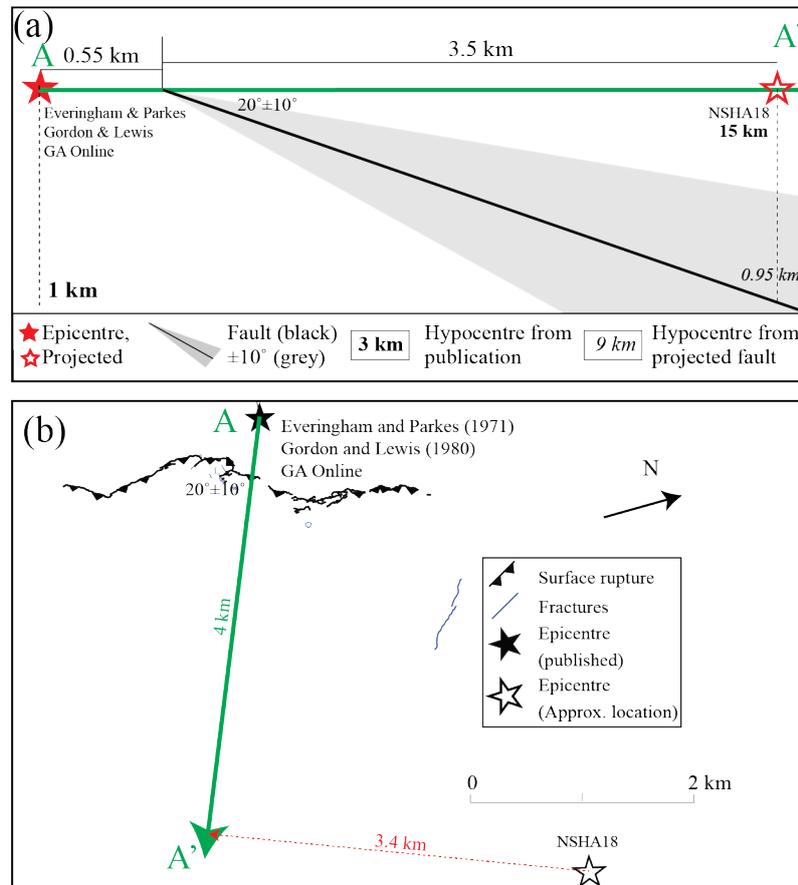


Figure 10: Cross section across the Calingiri rupture showing epicentre locations as projected onto the cross section, depth of epicentres as published (bold) and depth to projected fault plane (italics) from surface dip data (from Gordon and Lewis (1980))

248 A cross section using measured dips from Gordon and Lewis (1980) shows how published epicentres
 249 relate to the rupture at depth (Figure 10). The NSHA18 epicentre projects to approximately 1 km
 250 depth based on simplified fault geometry. The uncertainty bounds on the footwall epicentre may be up
 251 to 10km which could place it on the hanging-wall fault plane with potential depths $0 - 3.5$ km (on a

252 20° dipping fault). Using the 40° preferred dip from Gordon and Lewis (1980) gives a depth range of
253 0 – 8 km. This is in line with other historic surface rupturing earthquakes where seismological
254 modelling shows centroid and hypocentral depths < 6 km (Fredrich et al., 1988; McCaffrey, 1989;
255 Vogfjord and Langston, 1987).

256

257 **Acknowledgements**

258 This research was funded by the Australian Research Council through Discovery Grant
259 #DP170103350. T. King received funding through the Australian Government Research Training
260 Program Scholarship. We would like to acknowledge the Yued of the Noongar people of south-west
261 Western Australia as the traditional custodians of the land on which this surface rupture occurred, and
262 where the data described in this paper were collected. The authors declare no conflict of interest.

263

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340 **Appendix A**

341 **Methods for digitising vertical displacement data**

342 The only offset measurements published for the Calingiri scarp are mapped along the scarp in Plate 6
343 of Gordon and Lewis (1980). This map was georeferenced against satellite imagery based on the
344 locations of roads, fences, and train tracks. The locations and vertical offset were recorded into a new
345 point shapefile. A simplified rupture trace was created for the scarps, and a short script¹ was used in
346 QGIS attribute manager field calculator to extract the distance of each vertical offset measurement
347 along the simplified rupture trace. The shape file was extracted into a final CSV with x-y coordinates,
348 vertical offset measurements, and distance along rupture data.

349 Dip data were digitised into a point shape file from a georeferenced version of Plate 5 from Gordon
350 and Lewis (1980).

¹ line_locate_point(geometry:=geometry(get_feature('Line', 'id', '1')), point:=\$geometry)