

Earthquakes in NSW?

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Mittagong NSW

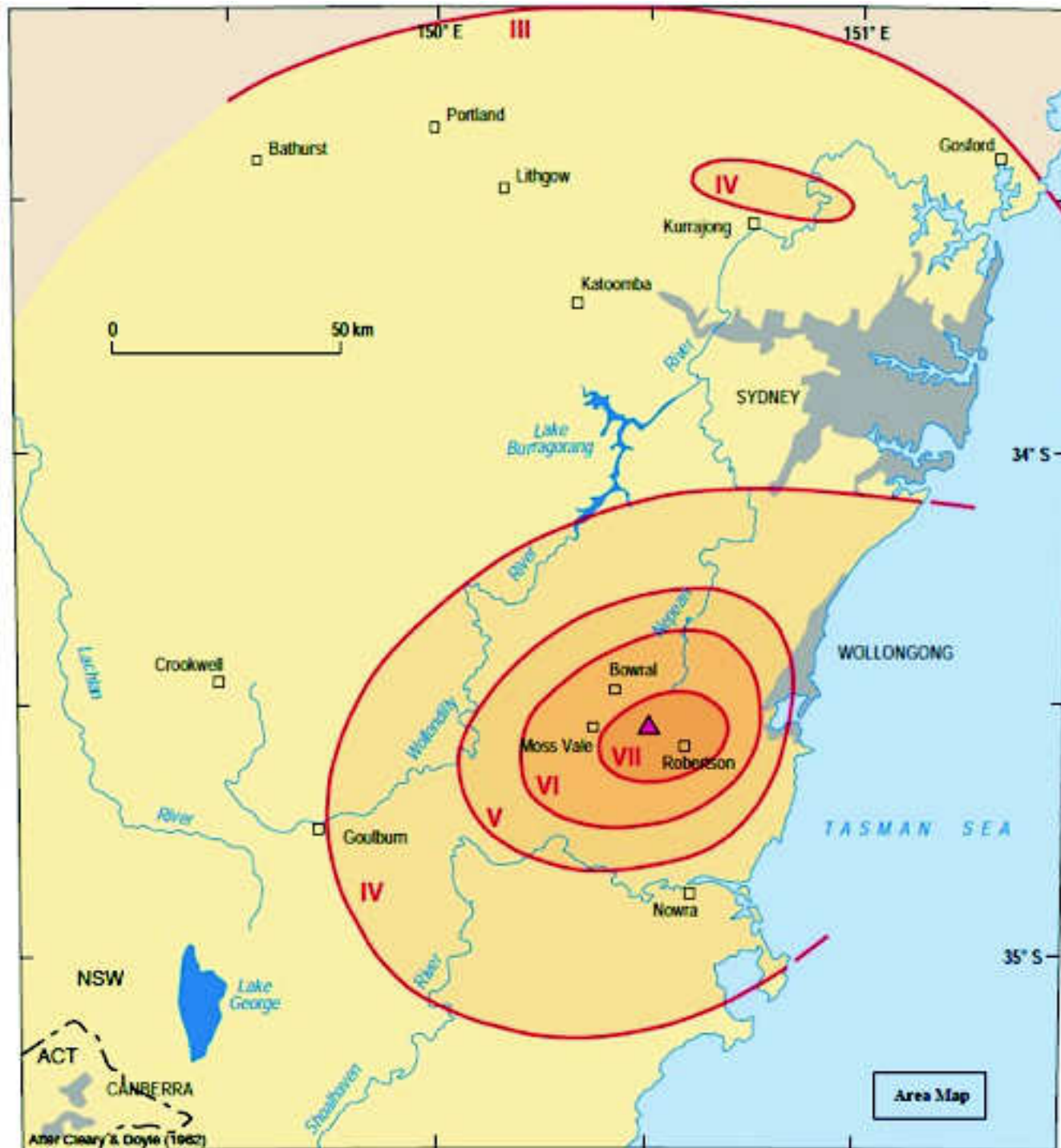
- First event on record
- Largest event and most intense/damaging
- Most recent

Largest Earthquake

There were two earthquakes
near Mittagong of
magnitude 5.6 in
1961 and 1973

Robertson-Bowral earthquake 22 May 1961 at 07:40 EST DAMAGE (EMA) \$4.1M

New South Wales was visited by an earthquake which, according to press reports, was felt over a region of some 50,000 square miles, extending from the Snowy Mountains to Newcastle and inland to Dubbo and Narrandera. The earthquake caused significant damage to buildings in the Moss Vale-Robertson-Bowral area, blockage of the Macquarie Pass road through rockfalls, and some power failures; it was noted for the sharpness with which it was felt in Sydney, where minor damage was done and considerable alarm caused. (Cooney, 1962)



Picton earthquake
10 March 1973 at 05:09 EST

Damage (EMA) \$2.8M

17 Insurance claims were made in Mitagong

Most recent earthquake

11 December 2003 at 09:19 pm

Magnitude 4.0

Epicentre near Bowral

No damage reported but felt Sydney and Canberra

Earthquake Forecast #4

Emergency managers and the public in NSW and Victoria should be prepared for a large magnitude 6 earthquake, such an event is overdue!

Recommendation

- The local councils should dust off the emergency management plans, and seek advice on local foundation conditions
- Schools, hospitals and ambulance stations should be checked to ensure their robustness to earthquake shaking, keeping in mind the lessons of Newcastle 1989
- A set of strong motion motion accelerographs ought to be installed in the region to monitor the strong shaking in the next earthquake
- If there are any 'special' structures in the region they too should be monitored, at least to check their natural period and damping should a response analysis be required.