

Filling in the missing link. Lets locate is the immersion program that completes the pipeline for students wanting to know more about working in the Surveying and Geospatial industry

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SUMMARY

Attracting students into the geospatial industry has been the perennial problem for government and industry alike. Once attracted to surveying or spatial how does a school student learn more about the industry, gain some skills and then connect with educational opportunities and employers. Further down the track how will they be supported and mentored along their study and early career path. This is the pipeline for students into a surveying or spatial career. Many students engage with a range of a short-term activities that raise awareness of the surveying and geospatial industry. A missing link in the pipeline has been providing an opportunity for those students who are curious to know more and giving them an opportunity to learn, gain skills, connect with industry and understand their education opportunities. Lets Locate is an immersion program that fills in the missing link which leverages student curiosity and interest to give the students a real taste of what surveying and geospatial. Students are immersed in the industry for up to 5 days. Students, gain awareness of necessary industry practical skills. At the end of the program the students get the opportunity to connect with local industry employers, a range of Vocational Education providers and Universities and industry organisations. A notable point is that Lets Locate brought together the geospatial industry peak organisations such as Institute of Surveyors NSW, Surveying Careers, Geospatial Council of Australia, the ACT Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information and VET providers, such as CIT and TAFE NSW, to collaborate on the delivery of the first pilot in Canberra in early October 2024. The first pilot in Canberra focussed on Surveying and the basic skills a person needs to work with surveying companies and inspire them with the technology we use as part of our normal work. The NSW pilot is likely to be in Sydney in 2025. Lets Locate Canberra will again run the surveying program in late 2025 and, in a first, intends to run a Geospatial immersion program in mid-2025. As part of making our industry more sustainable and build capacity, the aim is to use the pilot program learnings to develop a package to assist people deliver the immersion program in any location such as an Australian capital city, large regional centre or a country town or even another country.

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