



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

# Australia's Geospatial Foundations

Supporting a  
connected world

**Melissa Harris PSM**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Geoscience Australia

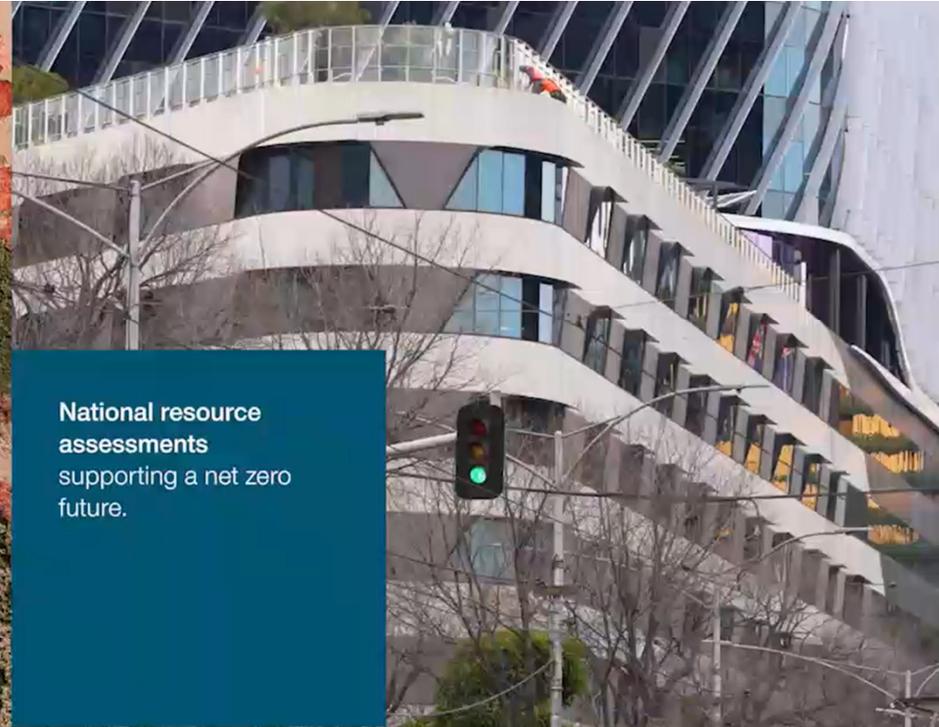
*Presented at the FIG Working Week 2025  
6-10 April 2025 in Brisbane, Australia*



© Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2025

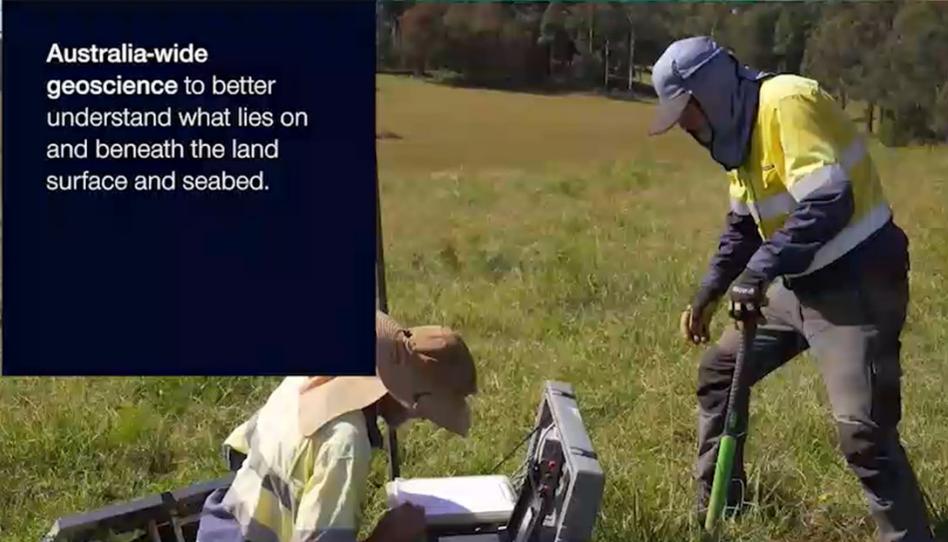
# Resourcing Australia's Prosperity

Resourcing Australia's Prosperity will map Australia's resources, focusing on critical minerals, strategic materials and groundwater systems, which are all essential for the net zero transition. The initiative will also map offshore areas of Australia, pointing the way to sites for carbon capture and storage, as well as possible sites for offshore wind.



National resource assessments supporting a net zero future.

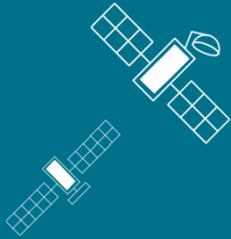
Australia-wide geoscience to better understand what lies on and beneath the land surface and seabed.





Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

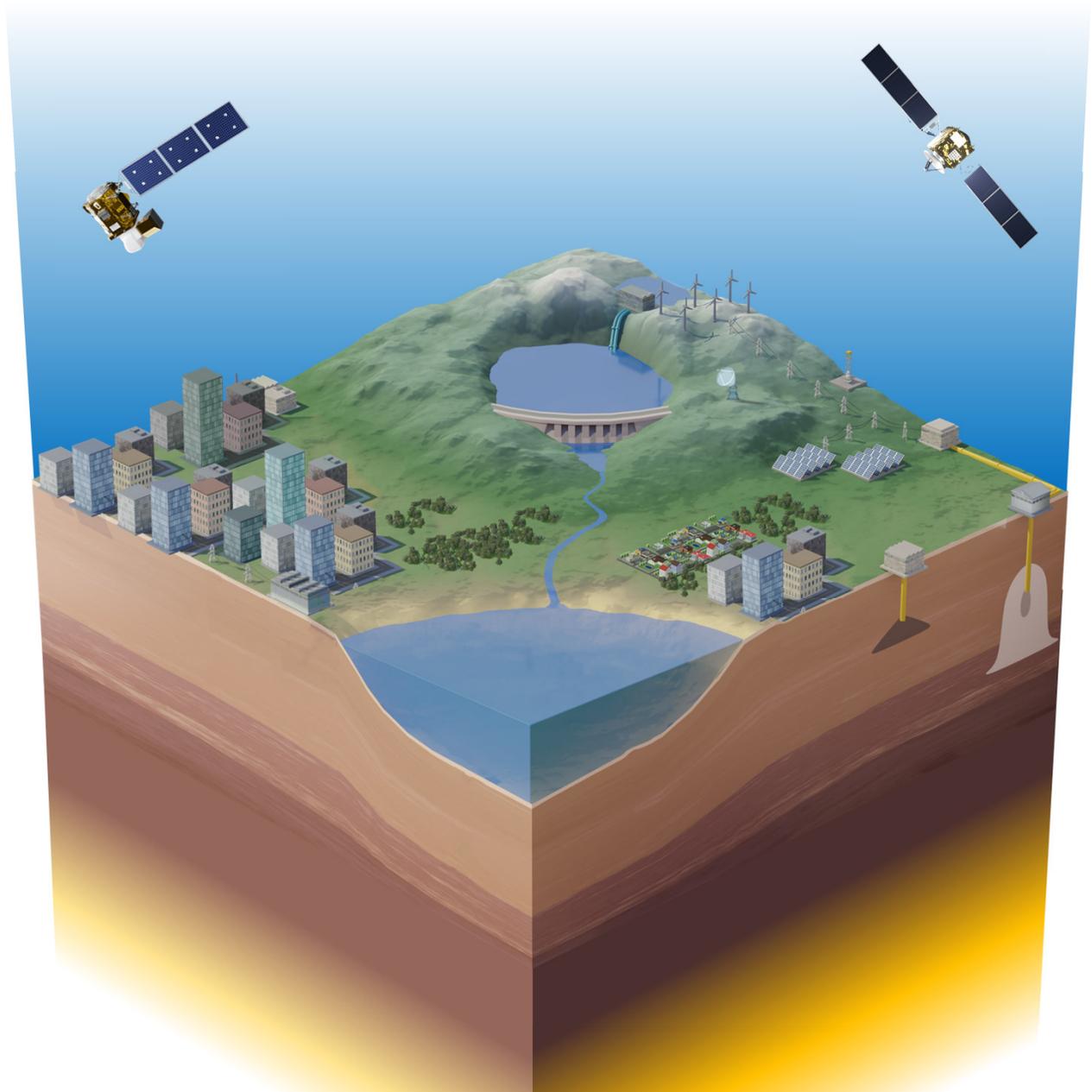
**In outer space** we play a crucial role in managing space technologies.



**On land** we map topography, surface water, infrastructure, buildings, land boundaries, and more.



**Below land** we map mineral, energy and groundwater resources, earthquake activity among others.



## Geoscience Australia manages

 **23** PB

of data and growing at a rate of  
a petabyte a year supporting  
over 170 Australian Government  
programs.



# Space and spatial integration



## Space

Space provides data for spatial applications

## Spatial

Spatial applications underpin the value of space capabilities



An Australian Government Initiative

---

# DIGITAL ATLAS OF AUSTRALIA







Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Community  
Safety

## Supporting Australia's emergencies



National Seismic  
Hazard Assessment



Tropical Cyclone  
Scenario Selector



Tsunami inundation  
modelling



# National Earthquake Alerts Centre (NEAC)

Based in Canberra, the NEAC is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to monitor earthquakes in Australia and abroad.

**24/7** 

On average Australia experiences approximately 100 earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or larger every year.



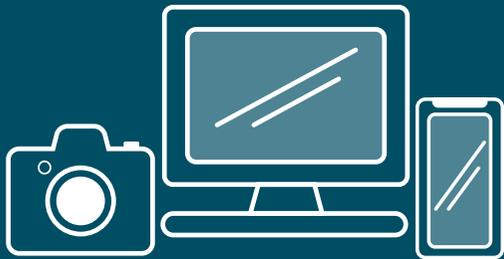
# Managing our marine jurisdictions



**Australia's marine jurisdiction accounts for around 4% of the global ocean.**



# Minerals for Australia's future



More than 40 metals and rare earths are used to produce a single smart phone and similar technologies.





Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Resourcing Australia's  
Prosperity

# Mapping Australia's resources for a sustainable future



© Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2025

Earth sciences for Australia's future | [ga.gov.au](http://ga.gov.au)



## Geoscience Australia is delivering

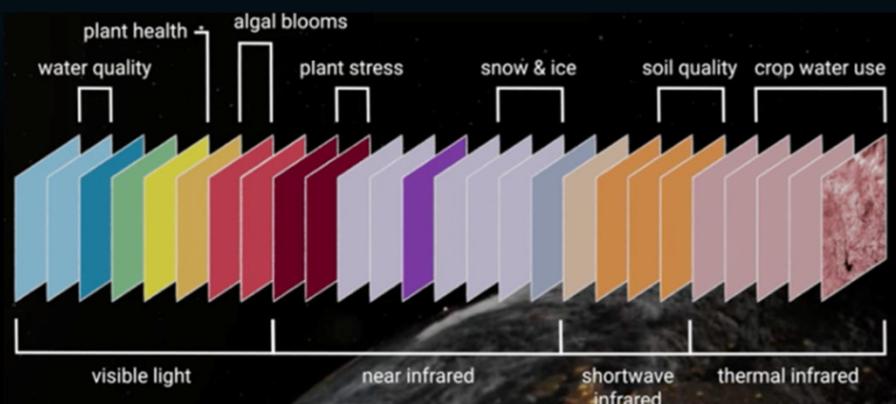


significant Australian Government  
investment in space through  
**Positioning, Navigation and Timing,  
and Earth observation.**



## New capabilities

- ✓ Improved revisit frequency
- ✓ Higher spatial resolution
- ✓ Additional spectral bands
- ✓ Ensure continuity of the archive
- ✓ Science-grade mission data



## New science

Information on crop health & productivity, water quality and bushfire impact.

Analysing small agricultural fields, water availability in farm dams and forest disturbance.

Emerging applications in water quality, soil/mineral mapping, drought resilience, hazard monitoring, snow and ice monitoring.

50-year time series record of change over all lands and coasts.

Builds trusted information products, provide quality assurance, and unlock the value of commercial EO.



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Digital Earth  
Australia

Creating free and open satellite  
data products for the benefit  
of Australia.

30  
years



of satellite imagery and data.

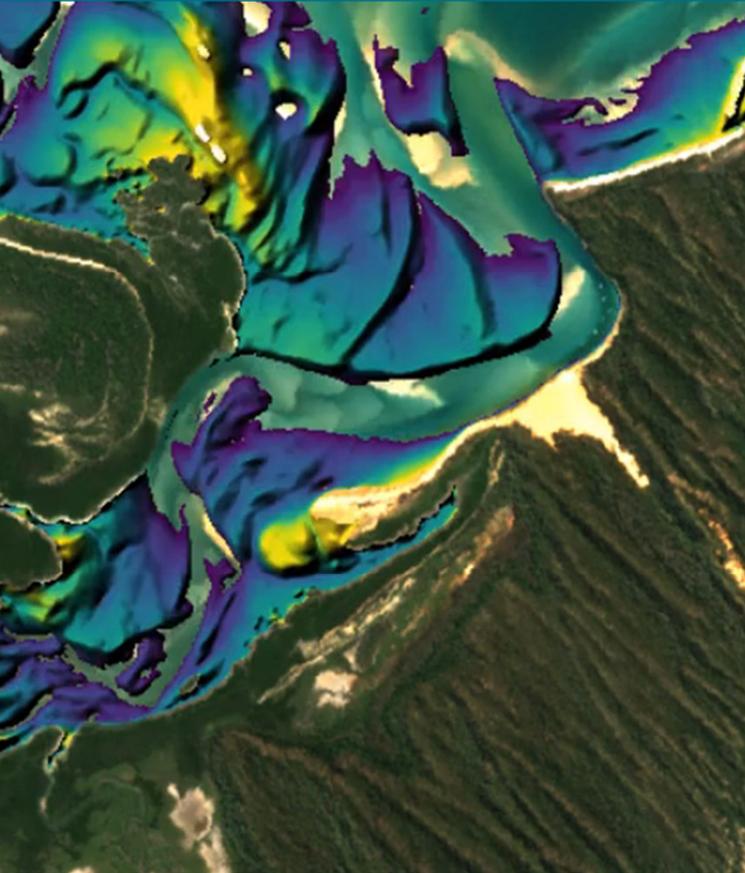


© Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2025

Earth sciences for Australia's future | [ga.gov.au](http://ga.gov.au)

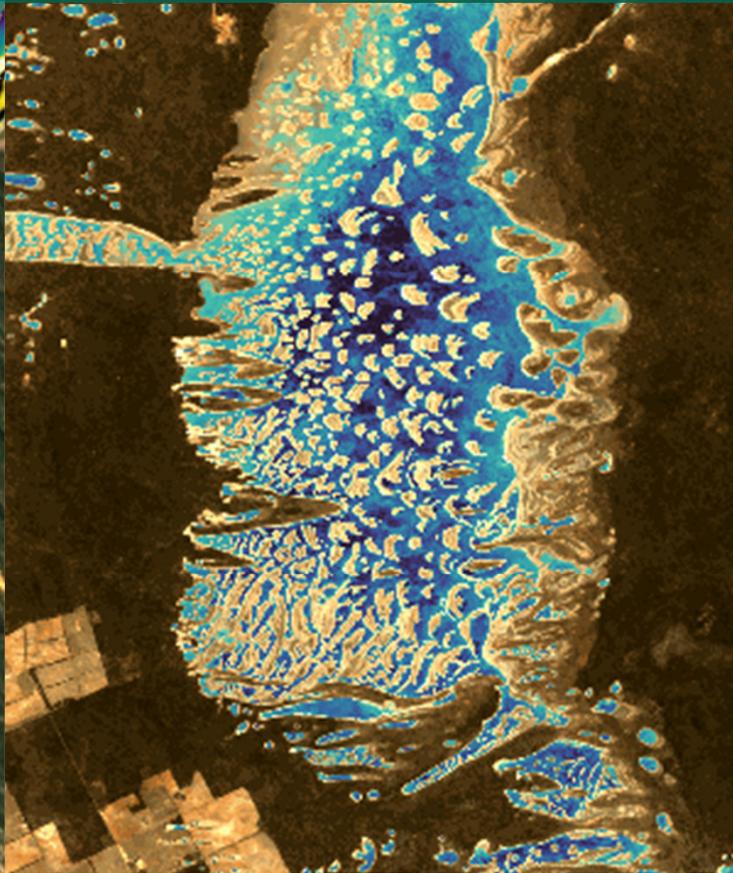
## Coastline monitoring

**Image:** Cape Capricorn, Queensland showing the changing 3D shape of the coastline over the past seven years.



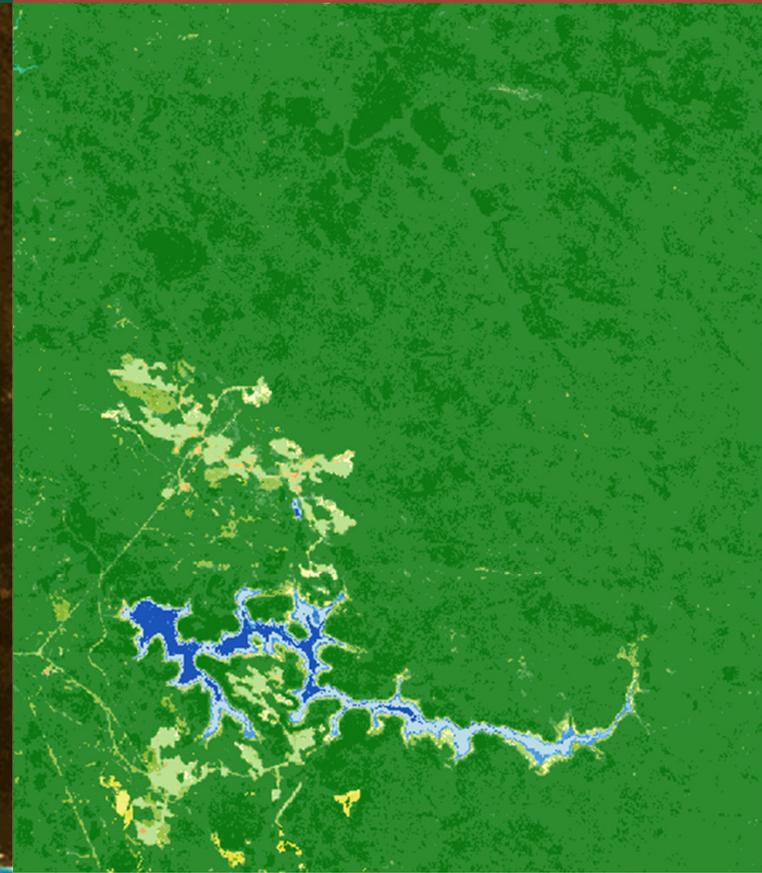
## Environment sector

**Image:** Annual Water Observation Statistics over Lake Dundas, WA, 1988 to 2023.



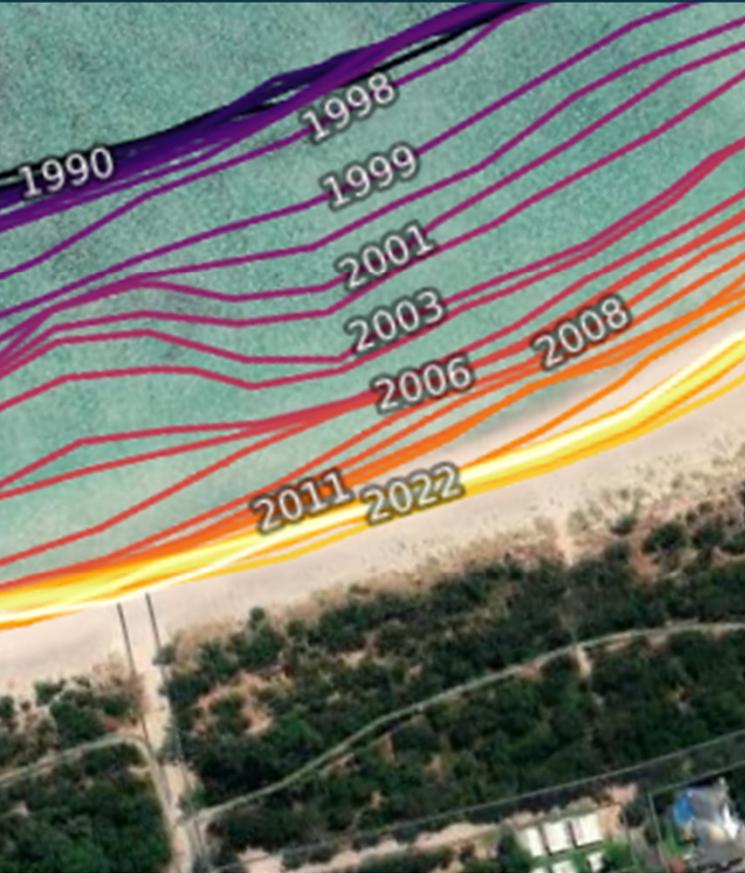
## Resources sector

**Animation:** Bauxite Mining and Recovery between 1988 to 2020.



## Insurance sector

**Image:** DEA Coastlines showing coastal erosion at Busselton, Western Australia



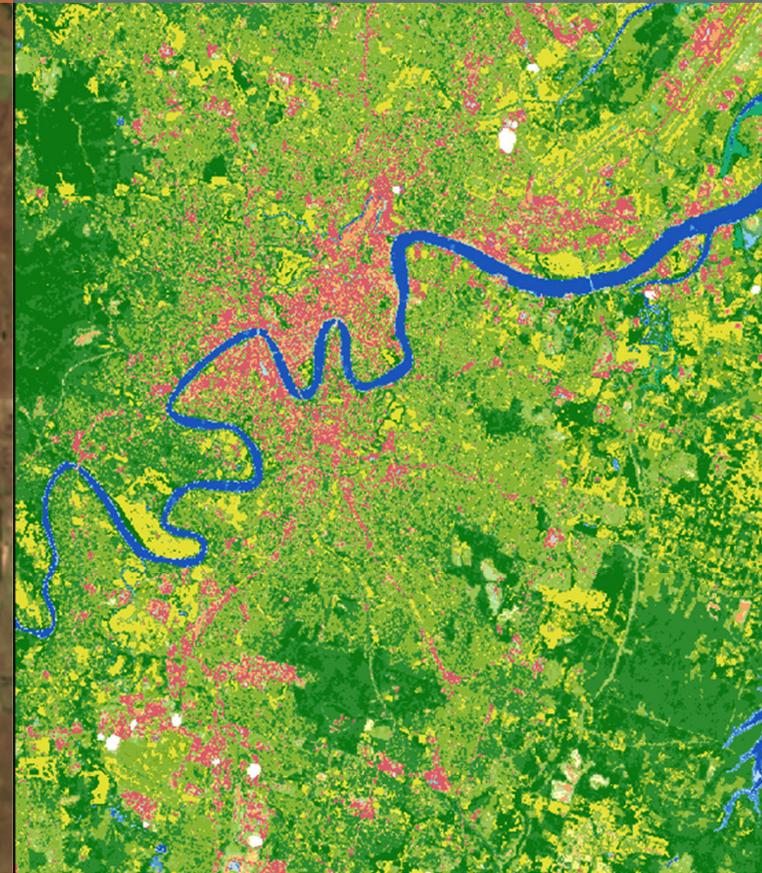
## Utility sector

**Image:** Sentinel-2B image of a solar farm in Uralla, NSW, June 2024.



## Urban planning

**Image:** Urban expansion between 1988 and 2020 in Brisbane, Queensland.





Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Positioning  
Australia



© Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2025

Earth sciences for Australia's future | [ga.gov.au](http://ga.gov.au)



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Positioning  
Australia

Since September 2022 SouthPAN early Open Services are being accessed by a diverse range of industries.



ARTIST IMPRESSION



# The power of positioning

## Geospatial

Mapping applications  
Rural cadastral surveys  
Accurate data collection in remote regions.



## Roads

Automated driving  
Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems  
3D digital mapping  
Regulatory vehicle speed determination  
Real-time road pricing



## Rail

Advanced train management systems  
Track surveys  
Track worker and track vehicle safety system



## Agriculture

Virtual fencing for strip grazing  
Behaviour modelling to enable disease detection  
Quantification of reproductive relationships  
Herd dynamics  
Tracking feeding zones for pasture management



## Maritime

Safer navigation  
Tracking container movements



## Aviation

Approach procedures with vertical guidance (APV)  
Helicopter procedures  
Availability of Instrument Flight Procedures (IPF)



# Bridging the gap between upstream satellite data acquisition and downstream data use.



# Emergency Management

## ■ Positioning (PNT):

- Emergency messaging via satellite
- Location of response teams

## ■ Earth Observations:

- Flood delineation
- Water depth
- Water quality

## ■ Geospatial:

- Road closures
- Infrastructure assets
- Critical infrastructure (hospitals, emergency services)

## ■ Disaster Impact Modelling:

- Residential building damage
- Commercial building damage
- Long term economic disruption
- Cost-benefit analysis of flood mitigation investments









Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

# Thank you

## Connect with us

 [facebook.com/GeoscienceAustralia](https://facebook.com/GeoscienceAustralia)

 [@GeoscienceAus](https://twitter.com/GeoscienceAus)

 [@GeoscienceAustralia](https://in.linkedin.com/company/GeoscienceAustralia)

 [@GeoscienceAustralia](https://www.instagram.com/GeoscienceAustralia)



Geoscience Australia  
GPO Box 378  
Canberra ACT 2601  
[ga.gov.au](https://ga.gov.au)



© Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2025

Earth sciences for Australia's future | [ga.gov.au](https://ga.gov.au)