



# Fieldwork Information for Stakeholders: Land Access and Cultural Heritage Considerations

Fieldwork is an essential process in the delivery of Geoscience Australia's scientific programs. Undertaking fieldwork brings with it issues of land, sea and airspace access, and protection of cultural heritage and the environment. We are committed to maintaining good working relationships with our stakeholders, and complying with relevant federal, state and territory legislation. To support this commitment, we have a policy, procedures and guidelines that apply to all our employees and contractors when undertaking fieldwork. These documents are available for download at [www.ga.gov.au/about/corporate-documents](http://www.ga.gov.au/about/corporate-documents).

In summary, when undertaking fieldwork, our employees and contractors must:

1. formally identify where they will be working and the land tenure of that area, including protected cultural and environmental areas;
2. determine the type of work planned for each area and any potential impacts of that work on stakeholders, cultural heritage or the environment;
3. communicate with stakeholders before, during and after the fieldwork, as appropriate, and in a respectful, courteous and timely manner;
4. keep records of all relevant stakeholder interactions, decisions, approval, permits, determination, incidents and any other relevant information;
5. get free, prior and informed consent or approvals from relevant stakeholders, such as:
  - a. land holders, including land owners, lease holders, Indigenous groups or mining/exploration rights holders; and
  - b. federal, state, territory, or local government entities.
6. comply with all relevant federal and state legislation, approvals, permits, agreements, etc., regarding land access, cultural heritage and environmental protection;
7. respond to any incidents (such as damage to roads or property, cultural heritage or the environment) with respect and in accordance with the legislation, and report it to relevant stakeholders; and
8. follow through with any commitments to stakeholders after the work is completed, such as rectifying any disturbances and providing any information or data agreed to.

For more details, please visit [www.ga.gov.au/about/corporate-documents](http://www.ga.gov.au/about/corporate-documents), where you can download a copy of our full policy, procedures and guidelines. If you have any other questions or queries, please visit [www.ga.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.ga.gov.au/contact-us).