



Digital Earth Australia

An introduction for the Australian Government

The 2017–18 Budget identified over \$2 billion of investments in monitoring, protecting or enhancing Australia's land, coasts and oceans over the next four years including: the National Landcare Program; the Commonwealth Marine Reserves implementation; implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and water reform agenda; support for State and Territory governments to develop secure and affordable water infrastructure; improving water quality and scientific knowledge of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Digital Earth Australia (DEA) Program will directly support these and other investments through the provision of an evidence base for the design, implementation and evaluation of policies, programs and regulation.

What is DEA?

DEA is an analysis platform for satellite imagery and other Earth observations. Today, it translates 30 years of Earth observation data (taken every two weeks at 25 metre squared resolution) and tracks changes across Australia in unprecedented detail, identifying soil and coastal erosion, crop growth, water quality, and changes to cities and regions. When fully operational, DEA will provide new information for every 10 metre squared of Australia, every five days.

Initial examples of how DEA will support government, industry and the research community through improved data include Water Observations from Space (WOfS), a continent-scale map of the presence of surface water; and the Intertidal Extents Model (ITEM) that consistently maps Australia's vast intertidal zone to support coastal planning.

WOfS is already helping to improve the Australian Government's understanding of water availability, historical flood inundation and environmental flows, while ITEM has yielded the first continent-wide tidal extent map for Australia and is being used by the Queensland government to assist in their intertidal and subtidal habitat mapping program.

Benefits to Government

DEA will benefit government departments and agencies that need accurate and timely spatial information on the health and productivity of Australia's landscape. This near real-time

information can be readily used as an evidence base for the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs and regulation, and for developing policy advice.

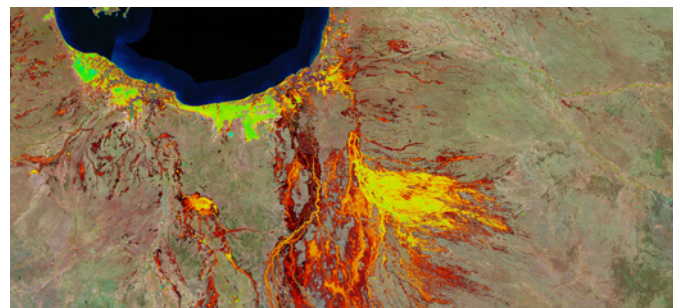
DEA will also support agencies to better monitor change, protect and enhance Australia's natural resources, and enable more effective responses to problems of national significance. Information extracted from Earth observation data will reduce risk from natural hazards such as bushfires and floods, assist in securing food resources, and enable informed decision making across government. Economic benefits are expected to be realised from better targeted government investment, reduced burden on the recipients of government funding, and increased productivity.

The DEA Program is developing joint projects to deliver products that address policy challenges across a range of Australian Government departments.

Join Us

We invite you to be part of the future of DEA as we build new products and tools to support Australian Government agencies to better monitor, protect, and enhance Australia's natural resources.

Contact us to discuss how DEA can inform and support the work of your agency.



Water Observations from Space (WOfS) is the world's first continent-scale map of the presence of surface water.

For Further Information:

Web: www.ga.gov.au/dea
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