Australian Government
Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia
STRATEGIC PLAN 2010–2012


OSCIENC AUSTRALIA

From the Chief Executive Officer

Geoscience Australia exists to meet the geoscience information requirements of the nation as defined and redefined from time to time by Government.

Specifically, Geoscience Australia studies Earth processes, is the Government's technical advisor on all aspects of geoscience and is custodian of the geographic and geological data and knowledge of the nation.

Australia faces major economic, social and environmental challenges in the first half of the 21st Century. Many of these challenges, and a number of clear global and local trends, have major geoscience implications.

Major trends relate to economic and population growth in our region, population growth in Australia, the impact of natural hazards, climate change, the availability and efficient use of energy, water and other resources, and regional stability. There is likely to be increased pressure to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in order to mitigate growth in global greenhouse gas levels.

The continued economic growth in the Asian region, and specifically China and India, is driving global demand for resources at a scale not seen previously. This provides opportunity for Australia's outstanding natural endowment of minerals and energy resources. Currently, the resources, energy and tourism sectors represented by the Department's portfolio account for over 15% of Australia's GDP, over 60% of Australia's export earnings and more than 40% of Australia's energy use. To sustain and grow these levels the next generation of resources needs to be found, as do new energy sources and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving good environmental outcomes throughout this process is essential.

Australia's population is expected to continue growing significantly. It is likely that most of that population will be increasingly clustered in our major cities and along the coastal strip, will be technology enabled and mobile. This growth will have major implications for issues such as clean water supply, energy security, infrastructure, and coastal vulnerability.

Population growth both in Australia and our region will mean increased exposure to natural hazards. Climate change impacts will see major changes at both a global and local level. These impacts flow into a wide range of community safety issues, water availability, critical infrastructure, and clean energy. Regional instability combined with population growth has the potential to impact on national security and border protection. Within our region natural disasters exact an enormous toll on the populations of our neighbours and have the capacity to destabilise their economies. Disaster risk reduction is therefore a priority within the Australian development assistance program.

Geoscience Australia has a role to play in all of these challenges and we will work with Government to bring a sharper focus to these opportunities.

Vision

Meeting the geoscience needs of the nation to build Australia's future.

Mission

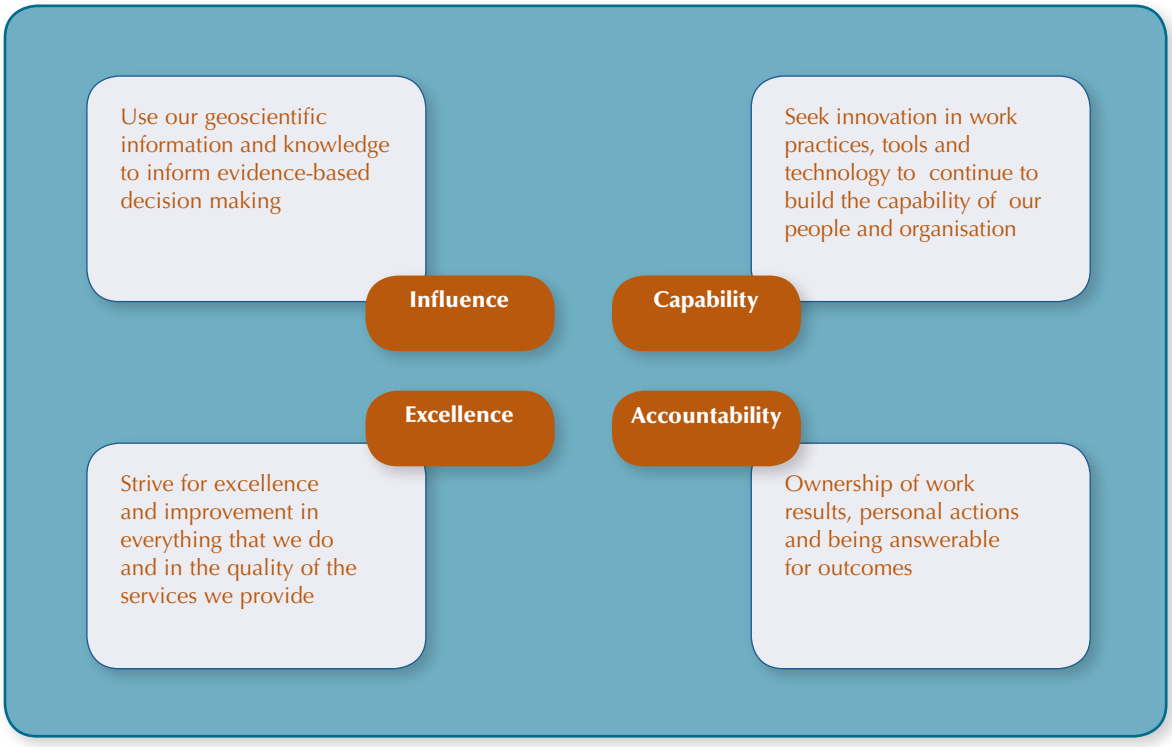
Geoscience Australia is custodian of the geographic and geological data and knowledge of the nation. We create, maintain and disseminate geographic and geological knowledge for the future well being of all Australians.

Our Valued Behaviours

We are responsive to our Minister in delivering high quality geoscientific information and advice to inform evidence-based policy development.

We have a strong focus on clients to ensure relevance of our work and place a premium on having excellent stakeholder relationships. We value highly their input to the design and delivery of Geoscience Australia's work program.

These relationships are underpinned by the following:



Outcome, Priorities and Outputs

Outcome

Informed Government, industry and community decisions on the economic, social and environmental management of the nation's natural resources through enabling access to geoscientific and spatial information

PRIORITY 1. INFORM THE MINERALS, PETROLEUM AND ENERGY SECTORS TO ENHANCE NATIONAL WEALTH AND ENERGY SECURITY

Geoscience Australia will be recognised as having contributed directly to the discovery of a new energy or mineral province. To achieve this we will:

1.1 Provide pre-competitive geoscience data for use by industry and other key decision makers

1.2 Support the annual release of offshore areas for exploration for petroleum and geological storage of carbon dioxide

1.3 Generate new concepts concerning mineral and sedimentary basin resources systems for testing and application by industry

1.4 Undertake research to better define Australia's petroleum, renewable energy, mineral, and geological storage resource potential

1.5 Publish resource statistics for use by Government, industry and other interested parties

1.6 Contribute to the working of the committees of the Ministerial Council on Minerals and Petroleum Resources (MCMPR), including the Chief Government Geologists Committee (CGGC), and Upstream Petroleum and Geothermal Subcommittee (UPGS).

KPI

1.1: Uptake of data by industry

1.1: Client satisfaction with and use of pre-competitive data

1.1: Aggregate discovery supported by pre-competitive data

1.2: Total area release agreed with Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and delivered

1.2: Industry satisfaction with the pre-competitive data packages for acreage release

1.2: Industry uptake of areas released

1.2: Total exploration expenditure committed in new release areas

1.2: Discoveries arising from Geoscience Australia pre-competitive program

1.2: Projected and realised return on investment arising from discovery

1.3: Industry satisfaction with Geoscience Australia's contribution to new approaches, thinking and applications

1.4: Oil and Gas Resources of Australia (OGRA) and Australian Identified Mineral Resources (AIMR) published annually

1.4: Stakeholder satisfaction with OGRA and AIMR

1.5: Secure agreement and deliver Geoscience Australia's contribution to the annual work program of the CGGC

1.5: Satisfaction with the support and advice provided by Geoscience Australia

1.5: Satisfaction with the contribution of Geoscience Australia by the MCMPR.

PRIORITY 2. GROUNDWATER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PURPOSES

Australia will achieve increased water security and community resilience through the identification and characterisation of groundwater resources. To achieve this Geoscience Australia will:

2.1 Undertake groundwater research to inform the national understanding of location, quality, quantity and sustainable use of Australia's groundwater resources

2.2 Work with Government agencies to identify the impacts of development and Climate Change on Australia's groundwater resources.

KPI

2.1: Client and stakeholder satisfaction with information and data provided, in particular, understanding of groundwater distribution in relation to other resources

2.2: Commissioned reports and data sets delivered to the satisfaction of client agencies.

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PRIORITY 3. SUPPORT GOVERNMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION MAKING

Geoscience Australia will be recognised for contributing directly to evidence-based policy. To achieve this we will:

3.1 Provide technical advice on

- the quantity and quality of the national energy and mineral resource base
- exploration and development of Australia's energy and mineral resources
- the Government's administration of the regulatory framework under various Acts
- the technical aspects of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) Act 1998

3.2 Conduct commissioned research for and respond to ad hoc requests from various government agencies requiring geoscience technical advice

3.3 Provide expertise and knowledge to government working groups, committees, councils, forums etc to inform the development and implementation of national programs and policies.

KPI

All: Client satisfaction, particularly the Minister and the Minister's office, with support and advice provided by Geoscience Australia

All: Advice provided in a timely and accurate manner

3.1: Satisfy performance criteria in Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (CTBT Act)

3.2: Number of agencies requesting and level of funding received for commissioned research and advice.

PRIORITY 4. TECHNICAL COMPONENT OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALL OF AUSTRALIA'S SPATIAL INFORMATION AND JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PURPOSES

Through the work of Geoscience Australia, the nation will have a stable and authoritative spatial framework to meet society's geospatial needs. To achieve this we will:

4.1 Operate, maintain and improve the national geodetic infrastructure

4.2 Improve the accuracy of the National Geospatial Reference Systems

4.3 Participate in national fora with State/Territory jurisdictions to coordinate national effort in geodesy

4.4 Meet our obligation as the verifying authority for position in Australia under the National Measurement Act (1960)

4.5 Provide the data to define and secure Australia's offshore jurisdictional boundaries.

KPI

All: Demonstrated improvement in accuracy of spatial referencing systems

All: Satisfaction with the support and advice provided by Geoscience Australia, particularly in relation to offshore acreage release

All: Acceptance of a work plan to support claims to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

All: Client satisfaction in regards to jurisdictional boundary advice

All: Secure agreement to and deliver an annual work program

4.4: Provide certificates of certification for Continuously Operating Reference Stations owned and operated by State and Territory jurisdictions and the private sector under Regulation 13 of the National Measurement Regulations 1999.

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PRIORITY 5. NATURAL HAZARDS AND RISKS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE

Through the work of Geoscience Australia, Australian communities will be safer from natural hazards and risks. To achieve this we will:

5.1 Maintain and operate the National Seismograph, Geodetic and Geomagnetic Networks

5.2 Maintain and operate the Geoscience Australia component of the Australian Tsunami Warning System

5.3 Produce 5 yearly updates to the National Earthquake Hazard Map for incorporation in Standards Australia Building Code AS1170.4 (Earthquake Loading)

5.4 Maintain and operate a robust national bushfire monitoring and reporting system (Sentinel)

5.5 Produce and apply geomagnetic reference field models for the Australian region that meet the requirements for navigation

5.6 Provide data and information to support emergency response efforts including: landslides, floods, cyclones, bushfires

5.7 Undertake research into hazards that will contribute to the mitigation of the impact of hazards

5.8 Undertake Geodesy research and enquiry.

KPI

5.1: Satisfy the published Service Standard required to meet the needs of stakeholders

5.2: Satisfy the published Service Standard required to meet the needs of stakeholders

5.3: National Earthquake Hazard Map meets requirements of the engineering community and is accepted into the code

5.4: Overall client /stakeholder satisfaction with information provided via Sentinel

5.5: Satisfy the published Service Standard required to meet the needs of stakeholders

5.6: Uptake of maps, products and services by emergency service authorities during disasters

5.7: Emergency service leaders' satisfaction with the timeliness and quality of information provided by Geoscience Australia

5.8: Satisfy the published Service Standard required to meet the needs of stakeholders.

PRIORITY 6. INFORMED LAND AND MARINE JURISDICTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PURPOSES

Through the work of Geoscience Australia, the nation will have complete, authoritative mapping of its land and marine jurisdictions to inform society's decisions. To achieve this we will:

6.1 Undertake systematic mapping of the bathymetry in Australia's marine jurisdiction

6.2 Characterise the nature of the seabed in Australia's marine jurisdiction

6.3 Produce seamless geographic datasets and topographic maps of Australia's jurisdiction to provide accurate and relevant context for location-based activities

6.4 Map land cover across the continent through time to aid decisions on land use planning, natural resource management and other activities.

KPI

6.1: Usage by Government, industry and the public

6.2: Use by industry and Government for marine zone planning

6.3: Currency of topographic data (requirement varies across Australia)

6.3: Usage of geographic data sets and topographic maps

6.3: Client satisfaction with the datasets

6.4: Uptake of land cover data and information in decisions measured by number of instances where it has been applied, or incorporated with other data sets in decision making; number of ways it is used

6.4: Client satisfaction with the land cover data and information.

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PRIORITY 7. PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE GEOSCIENCES

Australians will have a greater awareness of the geosciences and the contributions geoscience makes to their daily lives. To achieve this Geoscience Australia will:

7.1 Promote interest in and knowledge of geoscience in the community and especially in schools through a range of initiatives including: the Education Centre; Open Days; exhibitions and conferences; Science Week

7.2 Maintain and improve an ongoing Corporate Communications program.

KPI

7.1: Number of visitors/visits, number of repeat visitors

7.1: Quality of visitor experience as measured by ongoing surveys

7.1: Extent and orientation of media coverage

7.1: Progress towards more closely integrating geosciences, including input from Geoscience Australia, in the national education curriculum

7.2: Client satisfaction with corporate communications contribution

7.2: Deliver AusGeo News on time and to a high standard

7.2: Number of downloads of geoscience information.

PRIORITY 8. MAINTAIN AND MANAGE THE GEOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGICAL DATA AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE NATION

Geoscience Australia will provide easy public access to its complete collection of geoscience data, information and physical collections. To achieve this we will:

8.1 Curate the physical and digital collections of geoscientific materials, including those submitted under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Act

8.2 Maintain and improve data collections and repositories

8.3 Maintain and improve the Geoscience Library service

8.4 Contribute to the development of international and national standards as appropriate to enable discovery and access to geographic and geological data and information

8.5 Continually improve discoverability and access to all data sets

KPI

All: Collections are maintained in a manner that protects the collection and makes them accessible to those with a specific interest

All: Client satisfaction with access to, and quality of, collections

8.2: Extent to which data is accessed

8.2: Client satisfaction with access to, and quality of, data

8.2: Demonstrable improvement in adopting more effective methods of managing collections data

8.3: Extent to which the Library is used

8.3: Overall client satisfaction with service offered by the Geoscience Australia Library

8.4: New geographic and geological standards to facilitate discovery and access

8.5: Improved stakeholder satisfaction.

GEOSCIENCE CORE CAPABILITIES and FOCUS

PEOPLE	Capable, committed, versatile and adaptable people who are ethical and professional when dealing with their stakeholders and each other	◆ enhance our desirability as an employer of choice ◆ value difference ◆ value excellence ◆ encourage trust and sharing of knowledge ◆ apply APS values and adhere to the Code of Conduct
LEADERSHIP	Individual and organisational leadership are crucial to our future	◆ develop sound leadership ◆ drive and inspire innovation ◆ adapt to uncertainty, ambiguity and volatility
RELATIONSHIPS	Successful domestic and international relationships are vital, including partnerships and alliances with the Australian Government, States and Territories, the private sector and wider communities	◆ facilitate collaboration and cooperation ◆ satisfy agreed expectations ◆ foster confidence and trust ◆ identify and nurture new relationships for the future
SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY	Science and technology are critical components of our business	◆ ensure our science skills are high quality and relevant to Geoscience Australia's core business ◆ identify, examine and capture benefits and challenges of new and emerging technologies ◆ explore and exploit next generation systems
INFORMATION	Providing access to information is our business	◆ facilitate discovery and access to our geographic and geological data and information holdings ◆ recognise the true business value of information ◆ enable communication
FINANCE	Financial performance is fundamental to our future viability	◆ gain financial strength through responsible and transparent management ◆ comply with regulatory and policy frameworks

AUTHORITY AND LEGISLATION

In September 2001, the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG) merged with AGSO - Geoscience Australia. In November 2001, the combined agencies adopted the current name of Geoscience Australia, recognising vital geoscientific work in a wide range of contexts and across many disciplines. Geoscience Australia is a prescribed agency of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Geoscience Australia's strategic position in its operating environment, and hence its priorities, are determined in accordance with the Australian Government's priorities. Geoscience Australia's strategic priorities may also result from government policies assigning specific responsibilities to Geoscience Australia, and from national forums such as COAG. These strategic directions are reflected in the Geoscience Australia outcomes framework agreed by government.

Questions and comments about the "Geoscience Australia Strategic Plan 2010-12" can be directed to:

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