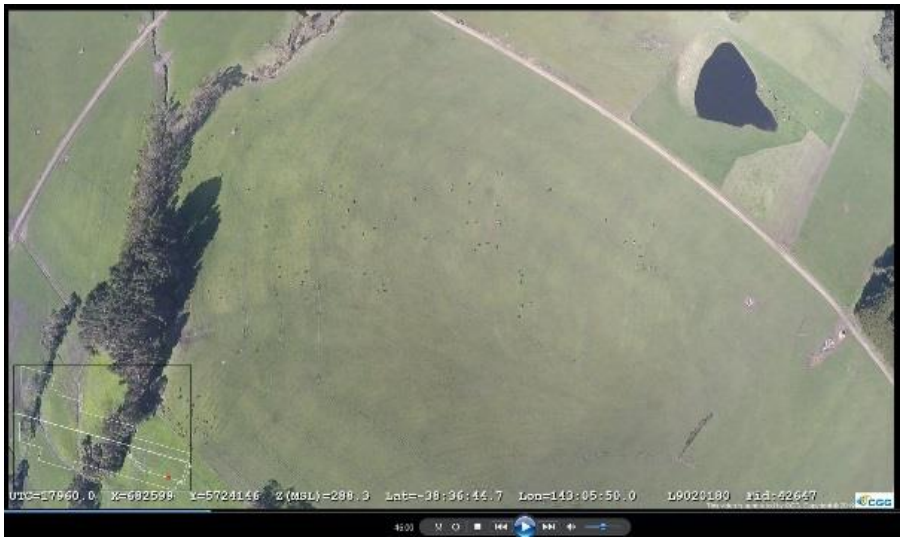
Privacy impacts of aerial video footage taken in geophysical surveys

Background:
Australia is a vast continent which is largely underexplored within many regions. In order for industry to commit to exploration in frontier regions, additional pre-competitive information is required to adequately evaluate the resource potential. This is essential to reduce exploration risk in the area and provide adequate information for industry to confidently initiate exploration activities. Historically the most valuable data to understand basement geology and structure is geophysical — radiometric, magnetic, gravity and electromagnetic.

Geophysical Survey projects aim to:

- capture new baseline geoscientific datasets to provide further information on the geological context and setting for mineral and groundwater systems,
- produce a targeted resource prospectus aimed at attracting industry investment through the delivery of a suite of new pre-competitive geoscience data and knowledge across Australia, extend the understanding of the geological and structural setting, and the depth and characteristics of the cover

Airborne geophysical surveys can use video to provide an extra tool for quality control and interpretation of the data collected. It can also be used to determine if there have been disturbances to animals on land over which the aircraft flies. Footage will be low resolution and taken at height with a hull-mounted downward-facing camera (see example screenshots below).



Question	Response
1. Will the system collect personal or sensitive information?	No sensitive information within the meaning of the *Privacy Act 1988* will be collected. It is unlikely that personal information will be obtained with the camera. All footage will be at a distance and height of between (30 and 150) m during surveying and higher again at other times. Video will be taken with a downward facing camera mounted underneath the aircraft and the aircraft will be operating under Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and notice to airmen (NOTAM) low-flying regulations (e.g. minimum flight, building and car avoidance). Members of the public are unlikely to be reasonably identifiable. The video will be of the top of their heads and at a resolution that would not clearly delineate facial features. Thus, personal information is not being collected as the subjects are not reasonably identifiable. Personal information may be collected from sole traders that advertise their names on their roof, or with similar signage, but this risk is ameliorated as the aircraft actively avoids flying over buildings. The footage collected is not of high resolution nor is it materially different from existing publicly available free satellite imagery from Google Earth or the Sentinel mission.
2. Purpose for the collection of the video data	To QA/QC data and assist with interpretation of the geophysical data collected. It can also be used if a dispute arises over disturbance to animals.
3. What checks have been made regarding the adequacy, relevance and necessity for the collection of video data?	There will be no sensitive information collected and footage of people (viz. the tops of people's heads) will only be collected collaterally. The digital information collected will only be imagery at considerable distance (30 to 300) m which will be viewed by a controlled access group of scientists who are conducting the data QA/QC and interpretation. The footage will be kept confidential and will not be shared, strictly in compliance with GA's and the federal government's Privacy Policies and procedures to ensure that the use is proportionate, legitimate, necessary and justifiable. At all stages, it will comply with the Privacy Act.
4. How and where will the information be stored	**Aircraft camera system** – always in visual line of site of pilot and observer/spotter. Will be deleted on backup. **Primary backup:** External hard drives for transfer to GA. Will be deleted on backup. **Secondary backup:** GA's Local Area Network in a directory with access limited by a controlled access list of staff involved in the QA/QC and interpretation of the data only. The list will be controlled by the Section Leader. Footage will not be shared or released to parties that are not collaborators for the survey, under the Survey Project Agreement. Data will likely be retained in perpetuity but only for QA/QC and interpretation purposes. Records Management Unit will be consulted before any files are erased.

5. Who will have access to the information?	Data access will be limited to the supplier during the survey and the geophysicists responsible for processing and interpreting the survey data for the particular survey.
6. Is a full-scale Privacy Impact statement required?	No person is likely to be identifiable because of the distance and camera angle. Sole traders may be identifiable through rooftop advertising but this information is already in the public domain. There are tight access controls on the data obtained. Given these factors, a full Privacy Impact Assessment is not required.