



## Privacy Threshold Assessment

### Project Details

Project name	Airborne geophysics programs throughout Australia
Business owner	Geoscience Australia in collaboration with state geological surveys
Threshold assessment drafter	Director, Geophysical Acquisition and Processing, Minerals Systems Branch
Description of the project	<p>Geoscience Australia manages various airborne geophysics projects around Australia using contracted fixed-wing or rotary wing aircraft flown at 60 to 150 m above the ground surface.</p> <p>Geoscience Australia is proposing that contractors acquire standard video directly under the aircraft to capture location and activity information to assist in reviewing claims of disturbance to landholder activities.</p> <p>This assessment is an update to the airborne geophysical acquisition assessment completed in August 2019 (reference <a href="#">D2019-85435</a>).</p>
Types of personal information being handled as part of the project	<p>Under the regulations for aerial surveying, and reiterated in Geoscience Australia's airborne geophysical contracts, aircraft flight paths must avoid flying over homesteads, developed areas and anywhere that may be inhabited. Therefore the video footage will not generally cover the activities of persons, particularly given that most surveys are flown in regional settings.</p> <p>Where footage of individuals is inadvertently captured, the quality, distance and angle will not allow the identification of individuals in most cases. The minimum survey height has also increased from 30 m to 60 m since the previous assessment was undertaken.</p> <p>No sensitive information within the meaning of the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> will be collected.</p> <p>The footage will be retained by the contractor for up to six months. During this time, Geoscience Australia may make a request to the contractor to view the footage if there is a claim of disturbance. After this time, the contractor is contractually obliged to destroy the data.</p>
What is the purpose of handling the personal information?	<p>The purpose of collecting the video footage is to validate the location and activity of aircraft conducting geophysical surveys at any particular time, for use in rare circumstances where claims of disturbance to landholder operations are made by external parties.</p> <p>Geoscience Australia will no longer archive or routinely view the footage collected from the surveys. The video footage is not a specified deliverable to Geoscience Australia and in most cases will never be viewed by Geoscience Australia.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>The contractor – directly acquires the data and is required under contract to destroy the data after a set period</p> <p>The state agency/collaborative partner – pays Geoscience Australia to acquire the geophysical survey data under a collaborative agreement and is often the first party involved in settling compensation claims for disturbance</p>

	<p>Geoscience Australia – contract and project manager to both Geoscience Australia and state funded airborne surveys; may sometimes be involved in settling compensation claims and set the conditions in the contract as to how the material will be handled</p> <p>Landholders – make claims against contractors and agencies who have paid for the work when disturbance causes losses to their operation</p>
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### Part 1: Personal information handling

**Does the project involve new or changed ways of handling personal information?**

- Yes** Complete Part 2 of the assessment below.
- No** It is not necessary to complete a privacy impact assessment (PIA). Record the decision at Part 3 and file this assessment with the Privacy Officer.

### Part 2: Determining potential for a high privacy risk

Consider the following questions and record each answer as ‘yes’, ‘potentially’ or ‘no’. The purpose of these questions is to help you screen for factors which point to the potential for a high privacy risk project. It’s important to note that these questions are non-exhaustive, and you should also consider whether there are any other relevant factors that may indicate that your project is a high privacy risk project.

Will the project involve:	Yes	Potentially	No
<p><b>Handling large amounts of personal information?</b></p> <p><i>Consider the amount of personal information and the number of individuals that will be impacted by your project. Even if you consider that each individual will only have a small chance of suffering a negative impact, handling personal information on a large scale can increase the privacy risk associated with your project. You should also consider whether your project will result in significant increases in the volume of personal information being handled through new or existing channels.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Handling sensitive personal information?</b></p> <p><i>Sensitive personal information includes, but is not limited to, information about an individual’s racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs or affiliations, criminal records, sexual preferences or practices, biometric information, health information and genetic information.</i></p> <p><i>The privacy risk associated with your project can increase if sensitive information is involved given the potential for adverse consequences for an individual, or those associated with the individual, if it is mishandled (for example, discrimination, mistreatment, humiliation or embarrassment).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Will the project involve:**

Yes

Potentially

No

**Sensitivities based on the context in which the project will operate?**

*Consider the context and circumstances surrounding the project. Are there prior concerns over this type of handling or activity? Is the project likely to have community support? Is the handling of personal information novel in any way? What is the current state of technology in this area and has there been any previously identified security or technology flaws? Are there any current issues of public concern that you should factor in? What is the nature of your relationship with individuals that may be impacted by the project? How much control will they have over the handling of their personal information? Would they expect you to use their personal information in this way?*

**Handling personal information in a way that could have a significant impact on the individuals concerned?**

*Consider the potential consequences for the individuals concerned. For example, negative impacts on physical and mental wellbeing, reduced access to public services, discrimination, financial loss or identity theft.*

**Disclosing personal information outside of your entity?**

*Consider whether your project will involve sharing personal information with another entity, organisation or to any individuals other than the individual to whom the information relates. This might include the use of contractors or sub-contractors. Also consider whether your project will require the disclosure of personal information overseas.*

**Handling personal information of individuals who are known to be vulnerable?**

*Consider whether the activity may have greater sensitivities or disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations and certain groups of individuals. This could include children and seniors, people with impaired intellectual or physical functioning, people who are not native speakers of the local language, people with low levels of literacy or education, people from a low socio-economic background, people experiencing financial hardship, people who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.*

*An individual's circumstances, or the increased power imbalance between the individual and an entity, may mean, for example, they are unable to easily consent to, or oppose, the handling of their personal information, understand its implications, or exercise control over their personal information.*

**Using or disclosing personal information for profiling or behavioural predictions?**

*This includes valuation or scoring, profiling and predicting (including in relation to economic situation, health, personal preferences or interests, reliability or behaviour, location or movements).*

**Will the project involve:**

Yes

Potentially

No

**Using personal information for automated decision-making?**

*This might include the use of artificial intelligence technologies or data analytics techniques on personal information to produce insights for policy-making or improved service delivery. It might also include using automated decision-making to make decisions that affect the rights, entitlements and opportunities of an individual.*

**Systematic monitoring or tracking of individuals?**

*For example, the introduction or enhancement of a surveillance system, the monitoring of communications, tracking an individual's geolocation or behaviour.*

**Collecting personal information without notification to, or consent of, the individual?**

*This might include collecting personal information about an individual from a third party without the individual's knowledge or consent. It might also include collecting personal information compulsorily under an existing, or proposed, legislative authority.*

**Data matching (linking unconnected personal information)?**

*For example, a new data matching program combining, comparing or matching personal information obtained from multiple sources.*

**Any other relevant factors that may have a significant impact on the privacy of individuals?**

### Part 3: Decision & declaration

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Potentially' to any of the questions in Part 2, a PIA should be completed. If you are uncertain as to whether you have considered all relevant risks, you are strongly encouraged to seek support from the Privacy Officer to ensure your assessment is thorough and complete. If still unsure, err on the side of caution and conduct a PIA.

Based on your answers above, is a PIA required?

**Yes** Yes, there are (or potentially are) high privacy risk elements to this project.

**No** No, a PIA is not necessary. The project does not carry any high privacy risks.

Whilst airborne surveys will collect video footage of land holdings that, in some instances, may be owned by individuals, the risk of serious harm to any individual from the collection, use and disclosure of the survey footage is unlikely.

### Business sign-off

Position	Director, Geophysical Acquisition and Processing	Date	28/09/2021
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### Privacy Officer sign-off

Position	A/g Director, Governance	Date	28/09/2021
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