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Annual Report 2022–23

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Cover image

Australia's resource boom began over 2 billion years ago in the Pilbara region in Western Australia. Iron-rich sediments were deposited by an ancient ocean's changing oxygen levels due to early photosynthetic life. These rocks are known as banded iron formations. The cover photo is of a banded iron formation from the Hamersley Ranges and can be found at the National Rock Garden.

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The Hon Madeleine King MP
Minister for Resources
Minister for Northern Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I present to you the Geoscience Australia 2022-23 Annual Report for tabling before the Parliament, as required by section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

I certify that Geoscience Australia has prepared a fraud risk assessment and fraud control plan; has in place fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting mechanisms that meet its needs; and has taken all reasonable measures to appropriately deal with fraud.

Yours sincerely

Dr James Johnson FTSE
Chief Executive Officer
29 September 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

Geoscience Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

Our vision

Our vision is to be a world-leading organisation informing evidence-based decisions through integrated Earth sciences to secure Australia's future.

Our mission

Our mission is that we are inclusive, innovative, respectful and collaborative in leading Earth sciences for government, communities and industry. This contributes to a strong economy, a resilient society and a sustainable environment.

Our impacts

Our impacts are assessed against our strategic priorities:

- Building Australia's resources wealth.
- Supporting Australia's community safety.
- Securing Australia's water resources.
- Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions.
- Creating a location-enabled Australia.
- Enabling an informed Australia.

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Overview

01 Overview photograph:
Satellite imagery of Cooper Creek in the Channel Country highlighting complex river channels.

Dr James Johnson FTSE

Chief Executive Officer's review

As the nation's trusted source of information on Australia's Earth sciences, Geoscience Australia empowers decision-making by government, communities and industry. The breadth of our work covers the uniqueness of our island continent, our extensive marine jurisdictions and includes our frozen territories in the Antarctic.

Our vision is to be a world-leading organisation informing evidence-based decisions through integrated Earth sciences to secure Australia's future.

Our mission is that we are inclusive, innovative, respectful and collaborative in leading Earth sciences for government, communities and industry. This contributes to a strong economy, a resilient society and a sustainable environment.

In 2022–23, progress continued towards our decadal goals of Strategy 2028. The October 2022 Budget made it clear that the Government sees our work as critical to their overall commitment to drive investment in clean energy and transition to net zero emissions by 2050, and keep our communities safe.

Our impact areas

Building Australia's resources wealth

The Exploring for the Future (EFTF) program continues to deliver high-quality data and information that improves the understanding of the nation's mineral, energy and groundwater resource potential. This is driving the next generation of resource discoveries in Australia, that will underpin our path to net zero emissions, attract investment, generate jobs and secure the materials we need for the future.

Recent data shows that Australia's precompetitive geoscience has contributed significantly to our nation's share of global exploration expenditure rising from 8% in 2015 to 18% in 2022. Over the last decade, Australia accounted for 19% of all mineral discoveries in the world with a positive return on company exploration investment.

Australia has the potential to become a global hydrogen superpower. Being able to store hydrogen is a key element in enabling this industry; technology currently exists to store hydrogen in underground salt caverns. Geoscience Australia has identified potential for the development of multiple caverns across the Canning Basin in Western Australia, the Adavale Basin in Queensland and the offshore Polda Basin in South Australia.

During the year, we released new data and 4 new Mineral Potential Maps that support exploration for minerals such as zinc and associated critical minerals including cobalt, gallium and germanium for use in renewable technologies that will help ensure Australia is well-positioned to take advantage of a booming worldwide clean energy market.

Our Critical Minerals Mapping Initiative is a scientific collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Geological Survey of Canada. The initiative develops a better understanding of known critical mineral resources, determines geologic controls on the distribution of deposits from which critical minerals are currently being produced, identifies new sources of supply and promotes critical mineral research globally.

Supporting Australia's community safety

Geoscience Australia's National Earthquake Alerts Centre monitors earthquakes globally and alerts the Bureau of Meteorology of sub-sea earthquakes that could generate a tsunami. The Centre operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. As an organisation, we deliver authoritative, current and timely national data and advice on our built environment, hazard extents and the exposure of our communities and assets during natural hazard events to support response and recovery, contributing to more resilient communities.

Securing Australia's water resources

Geoscience Australia recently completed a three-year project, from 2019 to 2022, called 'Assessing the status of groundwater of the Great Artesian Basin'. The Great Artesian Basin is Australia's most significant hydrogeological system and is a vital resource for pastoral, agricultural and other industries as well as for more than 120 towns' water supplies, supporting at least $12.8 billion in annual economic activity according to a report by Frontier Economics.

The project assessed existing and new geoscientific data and technologies, including satellite data, to improve our understanding of the hydrogeological system and water balance in the Great Artesian Basin. Outputs from the project will support the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan, which will provide a framework to help guide water policy and resource planning for governments, First Nations Australians and other water users that are dependent on the basin.

Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions

In February 2023, we released a new map of Bass Strait with significantly improved resolution. The new map, the result of ongoing work between Geoscience Australia, James Cook University, the Australian Hydrographic Office and Deakin University, reveals key underwater features including submarine canyons, ancient land surfaces and the location of the former Bass Lake. These seabed maps, together with other spatial information, inform decisions about the sustainable use of Australia's marine jurisdiction.

We also cooperate with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and CSIRO to map the seafloor in Australia's Antarctic territory. This information is critical for understanding this complex system and producing realistic ocean, climate and ecosystem models that help the Australian Government to manage our Antarctic territories.

Creating a location-enabled Australia

There have been significant advances across the Positioning Australia program. The National Positioning Infrastructure Capability (NPIC) started delivering the products and services enabling 3–5 centimetre precise positioning across all areas with mobile phone reach. This built on significant development of both the physical and digital infrastructure.

The Southern Positioning Augmentation Network, known as SouthPAN, started broadcasting early Open Services in September 2022. SouthPAN is a joint initiative of the Australian and New Zealand Governments.

Precise positioning from SouthPAN will offer accuracy at as little as 10 centimetres; a significant improvement on previous accuracy of 5 to 10 metres. SouthPAN is estimated to generate over $6 billion in benefits to the Australian economy over the next 30 years.

We saw the release of a public beta of the Digital Atlas of Australia (DAA) in June 2023. The DAA brings together, curates and connects trusted national datasets from across government into an interactive, secure, and easy-to-use online platform. It is inextricably linked with the government's updated data and digital priorities and will continue to improve access and use of location data to support better informed decisions and enable improved economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Digital Earth Australia (DEA) draws on over 30 years of satellite data from the USGS and European Commission to provide national information products of Australia's changing environment. Products and services of DEA are being used by Australian governments to map water availability, understand wetlands, measure coastal change and report against international requirements such as for the System of Environmental Economic Accounting and Sustainable Development Goals.

Enabling an informed Australia

Geoscience Australia is supporting the next generation of Earth science advances, after our new modern laboratory was officially opened in November 2022 by Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia the Hon Madeleine King MP. For more than 2 decades, our laboratory staff and their expertise have helped lay the groundwork for a better understanding of Australia's geology – knowledge that benefits all Australians. The new state-of-the-art laboratory will support our mission to provide governments, communities and industry with the precompetitive geoscience data and information needed for the transition to net zero.

In addition to the new laboratory, Geoscience Australia has established a mobile laboratory to support the search for minerals, energy and groundwater. The mobile laboratory has exciting new equipment, with portable analytical instruments using state-of-the-art electronics.

The APS Data Awards are a celebration of achievement across the Australian Public Service (APS) data landscape. The awards highlight innovative and resourceful solutions implemented across the APS that use data to make a difference to the Australian community. We were proud to be announced winners in 2 of the 6 award categories. Congratulations to Digital Earth Australia for winning the Architecture Award and SouthPAN for winning the Data Leadership Award.

We recognise that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are critical skills, so we actively promote the government's STEM agenda. Australia's National Science Statement sets a long-term approach to achieving a strong science system and has a vision for an Australian society engaged in and enriched by science.

Our Education Centre is a valuable resource for students and educators and provides curriculum-linked education programs designed to immerse students in hands-on geoscientific activities. Facilitated by experienced educators, general and custom-made programs are available to suit individual group needs, ensuring the best possible outcome for students. During 2022–23, we welcomed approximately 8,000 students through the centre, which is close to pre-pandemic levels.

Ensuring a high performing organisation

Geoscience Australia continues to be a leader in fostering an inclusive and diverse culture. Attaining silver Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) accreditation is a key component of our Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, and we are committed to achieving all objectives of this strategy and to being an employer of choice. In December 2022 we received the second ever SAGE Cygnet Award in recognition of our work to develop an inclusive workplace culture.

Geoscience Australia acknowledges and celebrates the richness and diversity of the world's oldest living culture. We are dedicated to building meaningful relationships, working in partnership with First Nations Australians and communities across Australia. We commit to, and seek opportunities for collaborative, transparent and translational science that proactively engages First Nations Australians to receive and benefit from the work we do and the data we maintain.

In conclusion

The year ahead will be busy for Geoscience Australia as we continue our work in providing products and services that support government, industry and community decision-making and that contribute to a safer, more prosperous and well-informed Australia. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to Geoscience Australia staff members who delivered so well in 2022–23 in an environment of major changes in the way we live and work. I also want to acknowledge our many partners and stakeholders across Australian, state and territory governments, the private sector, academia and international agencies who worked with us in delivering quality, timely and integrated information and advice.

Dr James Johnson FTSE
Chief Executive Officer

29 September 2023

Geoscience Australia overview

Purpose

Geoscience Australia is the national public sector geoscience organisation. Our purpose is to be the trusted advisor on Earth sciences to inform government, community and industry decision-making. This contributes to a strong economy, resilient society and sustainable environment.

Role and functions

Geoscience Australia is the nation's trusted source of information on Australia's Earth sciences. Geoscience Australia provides evidence-based advice and services to empower decision-making by government, communities and industry. Our work spans Australia's island continent, extensive marine jurisdictions and Antarctic territories.

We are inclusive, innovative, respectful and collaborative in our work, contributing to a strong economy, a resilient society and a sustainable environment.

For more than 110 years, Australia's prosperity and safety have been shaped by our knowledge of the country's dynamic landscape. Commonwealth geoscience has played an important role since the formation of the Australian Survey Office in 1910. For example, the nation's first national topographic mapping program was driven by the need to defend Australia's people and develop our regional areas. In later years, systematic mapping of the nation's geology to understand our resource endowment and drive new discoveries has underpinned Australia's economic success.

We continue to deliver data of enduring value and advice that helps government, communities and industry to address challenges and enhance opportunities Australia faces, now and into the future. In doing so, we are committed to respectfully engaging and collaborating with First Nations Australians, acknowledging that they are Australia's original mappers, miners and navigators.

Geoscience Australia's work aligns with the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities and supports global and domestic government initiatives. In achieving our purpose, our work aligns with and impacts 6 key areas of society and is supported by an internal commitment to be the best organisation we can be. These areas are:

Building Australia's resources wealth – to maximise benefits from our mineral and energy resources, now and into the future.

Supporting Australia's community safety – to strengthen our resilience to natural hazards.

Securing Australia's water resources – to optimise and sustain their use.

Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions – and supporting sustainable use of our marine environment.

Creating a location-enabled Australia – to increase economic, environmental and social prosperity of Australia.

Enabling an informed Australia – to equip government, communities and industry with geoscience data and information to make decisions for our nation.

Geoscience Australia's organisational structure

The accountable authority of Geoscience Australia is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr James Johnson, who occupied that position throughout 2022–23.

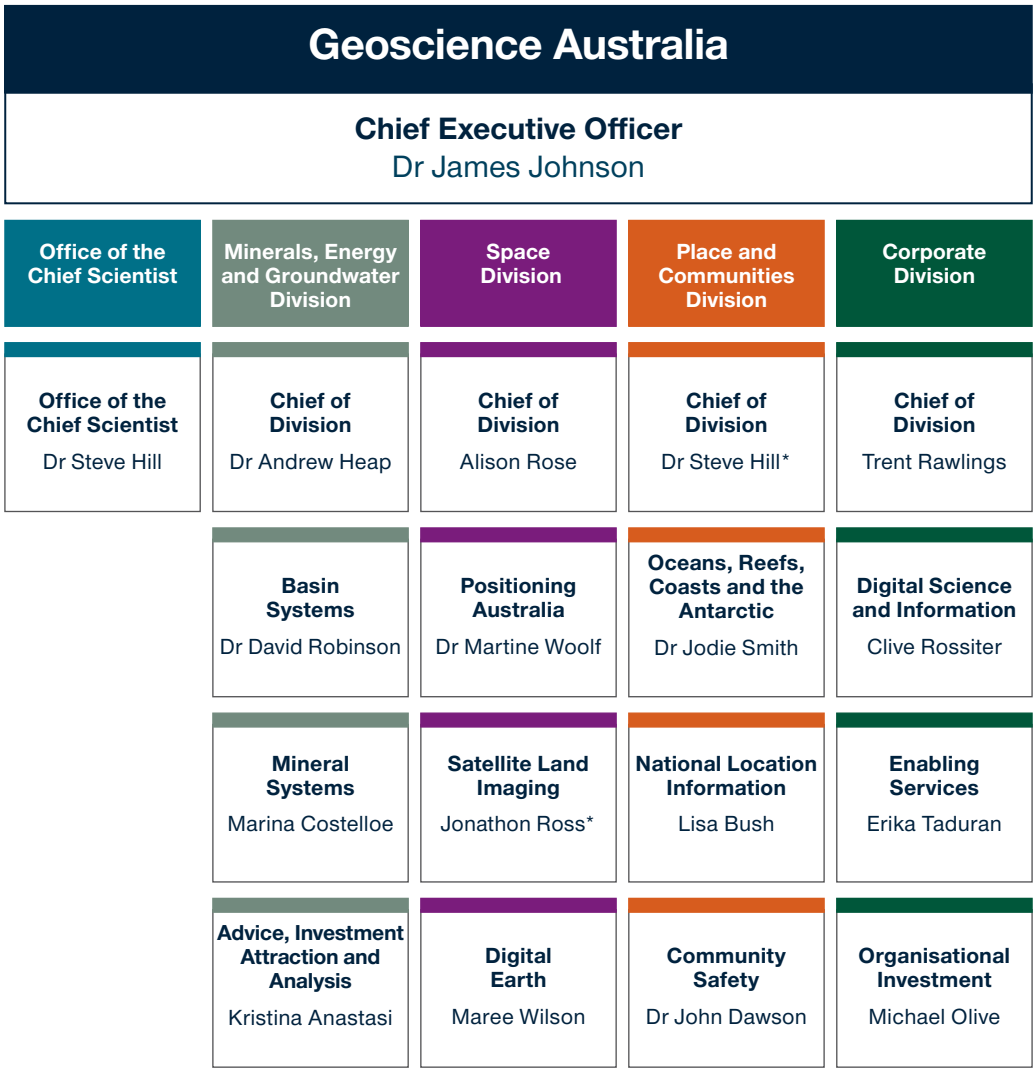


Figure 1 Geoscience Australia's organisational structure as at 30 June 2023.

* Denotes acting arrangement

Outcome and program structure

Program 1 contributes to Outcome 1 by providing trusted information and advice on Australia's geology and geography to support faster and smarter decision-making. Through this program, Geoscience Australia develops innovative applications and solutions in response to Australia's most important challenges by bringing together observations, data and knowledge from across the geoscience disciplines.

Outcome 1

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

Program 1

Geoscientific and spatial information services

Figure 2 Geoscience Australia's outcome and program structure 2022–23.

02
Report on performance

02 Report on performance photograph:
Drone training by DEA staff members.

Annual Performance Statements

Statement of preparation

As the accountable authority of Geoscience Australia, I am pleased to present the Annual Performance Statements of Geoscience Australia for 2022–23, as required under section 39(1)(a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). It is my opinion that the Annual Performance Statements accurately reflect the performance of Geoscience Australia and comply with section 39(2) of the PGPA Act.

Dr James Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

29 September 2023

Geoscience Australia's outcome

Geoscience Australia's Annual Performance Statements report performance against strategic priorities, outcomes and targets published in the 2022–23 Portfolio Budget Statements and the 2022–23 Corporate Plan. The statements provide a clear read of our performance over the reporting period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Table 1 illustrates alignment of Geoscience Australia's purpose with entity-level performance which is assessed against performance measures relevant to key activities and outcomes to be reported in these Annual Performance Statements.

Our purpose

Geoscience Australia's purpose is to be the trusted advisor on Earth sciences to inform government, community and industry decision making.

This contributes to a strong economy, resilient society and sustainable environment.

Table 1 Geoscience Australia's purpose, key activities and outcomes.

Key activities	Outcomes
Building Australia's resources wealth to maximise benefits from our mineral and energy resources, now and into the future	1. Australia continues to be an attractive destination for investment in the resources sector
	2. Precompetitive geoscience data and knowledge support investment in exploration and drive new discoveries including a more diverse suite of energy and mineral resources
	3. The EFTF program improves the integration of minerals, energy and groundwater resource assessments to support industry and government decisions
Supporting Australia's community safety to strengthen our resilience to the impact of natural hazards	4. Data on natural hazard, exposure and vulnerability for all decision-makers that is findable, accessible, interoperable, trustworthy and nationally consistent
	5. Stronger cross-sector capability development to leverage data for disaster risk management
	6. Modern operations-grade systems supported to reliably inform time-critical decision-making and actions

Key activities	Outcomes
Securing Australia's water resources to optimise and sustain their use	7. Australia's groundwater systems are characterised and mapped in a nationally consistent way
	8. Enable productive and sustainable groundwater management decisions and practices for government and businesses
Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions to support sustainable use of our marine environment	9. Data and products describing Australia's maritime boundaries, the sea floor, and the coastal zone are available, readily discoverable and easily used
	10. Enable decisions on sustainable use and management of Australia's marine jurisdiction by governments and businesses
Creating a location-enabled Australia to increase the economic, environmental and social prosperity of Australia	11. Discoverable, accessible, interoperable, reusable and nationally consistent datasets that describe Australia's geography and support Australia's national interests
	12. Infrastructure enabling timely access to national spatial data and information for improved decision-making
	13. Develop location-enabled capabilities to enable businesses to be more productive and profitable, and governments to make informed decisions
	14. Deliver geoscience information from Antarctica to inform government decisions, support scientific research and contribute to a strong and effective Antarctic Treaty System
Enabling an informed Australia to equip government, industry and community with geoscience data and information to make informed decisions for our nation	15. Deliver high-quality, transparent, reproducible data, information and science that is relevant to users
	16. Support infrastructure to measure and monitor the environment
	17. Management of offshore petroleum data and samples for effective regulation of the industry
	18. Develop and maintain Earth science resources and programs for educators, students and communities
	19. Provide research support in the delivery of open-source geoscientific information

Results and analysis

Analysis of performance against Geoscience Australia's purpose

This year 23 performance measures rolled forward from 2021–22[1] with 12 new measures added, giving us a total of 35 measures to assess performance against the 6 activities that were undertaken to achieve our purpose in 2022–23.

From a total of 49 targets against the 35 performance measures, 40 were achieved, 4 were substantially achieved, 3 were partially achieved, 1 target was not achieved and 1 target baseline was established.

Geoscience Australia is undertaking a stepped change approach to our performance information. We continue to review measures to strengthen our performance information. A summary against the activities and performance measures is provided in Table 2 below, with a detailed assessment provided on the following pages. We maintain detailed documentation which supports our performance results.

Table 2 Summary of performance results.

Key activities	No. of Measures[2]	No. of Targets	Results[3]
Building Australia's resources wealth	8	13	9 targets achieved 4 targets substantially achieved
Supporting Australia's community safety	5	6	All targets achieved
Securing Australia's water resources	3	4	All targets achieved
Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions	3	3	All targets achieved
Creating a location-enabled Australia	11	12	10 targets achieved 1 target partially achieved 1 target not achieved
Enabling an informed Australia	5	11	8 targets achieved 2 targets partially achieved 1 target baseline established
Total	35	49	40 targets achieved 4 targets substantially achieved 3 targets partially achieved 1 target not achieved 1 target baseline established

Building Australia's resources wealth

Outcome

Australia continues to be an attractive destination for investment in the resources sector

Performance measure 1.1

Geoscience Australia's promotional products support industry exploration investment

Achieved

Target

At least 20 minerals tenements are taken up by industry in areas covered by Geoscience Australia's precompetitive geoscience programs

Result

320 tenements were taken up by industry in 2022–23 that were attributed to, and directly stimulated by, Geoscience Australia's precompetitive geoscience. See analysis section for more information

Achieved

Target

Australia's Identified Mineral Resources and *Australia's Energy Commodity Resources* reports containing the national resource endowment are published annually

Result

The *Australian's Identified Mineral Resources 2022* report was published in March 2023

The *Australian Energy Commodity Resources 2023* report was published in June 2023

Performance measure 1.2

Authoritative information and technical advice on Australia's resource potential and the sector's activities are provided in accordance with Australian Government policy frameworks and within legislative timeframes

Achieved

Target

Advice informing *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and Foreign Investment Review Board assessments are completed within legislated timeframes in 95% of cases

Result

Advice was provided within legislated timeframes in 97% of cases

Performance measure 1.3

Strategic assessment of Australia's critical mineral activities, sovereign capability, security needs and vulnerabilities

Achieved

Target

Progress report on strategic assessment delivered

Result

Progress report on strategic assessment was completed

Outcome

Precompetitive geoscience data and knowledge support investment in exploration and drive new discoveries including a more diverse suite of energy and mineral resources

Performance measure 1.4

Australia's energy resource potential is progressively characterised and mapped

Substantially Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Target Publication of residual oil resource potential in selected fields in up to 2 highly prospective basins	**Target** Publication of geological studies of the energy resource potential for 2 basins	**Target** Pre-competitive data and information informing new investment activities, including uptake of at least 5 petroleum titles and/or exploration expenditure of at least $1 billion
Result Results that applied methodology to assess residual oil potential[4] in 4 basins have been presented and published on the EFTF website[5] – the full report and data of residual oil resource potential has yet to be published	**Result** Geological studies of the energy resource potential for 3 basins have been published	**Result** There has been an uptake of 19 new onshore petroleum titles (and 3 renewals) and 4 offshore permits were issued Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) exploration data shows expenditure was $913.5 million[6]

Performance measure 1.5

New assessments of 4 strategically important mineral systems covering areas of unknown resource potential, including under cover

Achieved

Target

Precious, base and critical minerals hosted in alkaline rocks published

Result

The assessment of precious, base and critical minerals hosted in alkaline rocks was developed and published as the Australian Alkaline Rocks Atlas[7]

Performance measure 1.6

National-scale assessment of Australia's potential for clean energy and decarbonisation

Achieved

Target

Finalise and publish a national scale assessment of Australia's salt resources for underground hydrogen storage

Result

The assessment was published in May 2023 in the *APPEA Journal* as Bradshaw et al. (2023) 'Australian salt basins – options for underground hydrogen storage'

Performance measure 1.7

Detailed geological study and new precompetitive data on the resource potential of the Cooper and Adavale Basins

Substantially Achieved

Target

Review of regional geochemistry published for the Cooper and Adavale Basins

Result

A review of the regional geochemistry for the Cooper and Adavale Basins was completed[8]

Substantially Achieved

Target

Publication of reprocessed seismic data for the Cooper and Adavale Basins

Result

Seismic data for the Cooper and Adavale Basins has been reprocessed

Data associated with the completed studies has not yet been published

Outcome

The EFTF program improves the integration of minerals, energy and groundwater resource assessments to support industry and government decisions

Performance measure 1.8

New regional-scale geological studies of integrated minerals, energy and groundwater resource potential

Achieved

Target

Publication of integrated resource assessments for Barkley-Isa-Georgetown

Result

The integrated resource assessment for Barkly-Isa-Georgetown region was completed and published on line

Substantially Achieved

Target

Integrated resource assessments for Officer-Musgrave and Darling-Curnamona-Delamerian regions 60% complete

Result

Assessments for the Officer-Musgrave and Darling-Curnamona-Delamerian regions are overall 53% complete[9]

Analysis

Geoscience Australia continues to play a critical role in building Australia's resources wealth.

Our diverse range of activities, centred on leveraging Australia's unique geology, is supporting the implementation of Australia's objective to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, whilst also positioning Australia as a clean energy superpower. Our world-leading precompetitive geoscientific data and products, continue to attract investment in resource exploration and development and secure a pipeline of resources needed for our nation's future prosperity. In 2022–23 there was a total uptake of 320 tenements directly attributed to Geoscience Australia's precompetitive geoscience, adding value to the Australian economy and injecting new jobs into the resource sector. The process to measure tenement uptake has improved over the year, in addition to industry disclosure of tenements. This improvement could mean that previous years' results may have underestimated the uptake of tenements and so the target has been lifted for the reporting period in recognition of improved data capture processes.

As Australia and the world prepare for the transition to net zero the demand for critical minerals, such as lithium and rare earth elements (REE), is predicted to outstrip global supply. Geoscience Australia's newly released Australian Alkaline Rocks Atlas provides new knowledge and national scale data on the precious, base and critical minerals hosted in alkaline rocks across Australia. It provides a foundation for more accurately assessing Australia's mineral potential, including REE and other critical minerals. This new knowledge will guide investment and policy decisions to maximise the national benefits of Australia's critical mineral endowments.

We also released a suite of regional and national scale assessments to better understand Australia's mineral, energy and groundwater resource potential. A key product was a new national scale assessment of sub-surface salt deposits across Australia, that has the potential for underground storage of hydrogen. This new understanding expands Australia's opportunities for large scale geological hydrogen storage and is vital in helping shape Australia's transition to net zero emissions by enabling and encouraging the responsible and sustainable energy transition of our resources sector.

Supporting Australia's community safety

Outcome

Data on natural hazard,[10] exposure[11] and vulnerability[12] for all decision makers that is findable, accessible, interoperable, trustworthy and nationally consistent

Performance measure 2.1

Level of exposure data with 5 years' currency

Achieved

Target

5 datasets updated

Result

8 exposure data sets were updated

Performance measure 2.2

Hazard, exposure and vulnerability data that is accessible and discoverable

Achieved

Target

At least one dataset updated and published openly, reflecting advancements in better practice, evidence-based science and observations from significant disasters

Result

8 datasets were updated. Geoscience Australia maintains exposure data in the National Exposure Information System (NEXIS) which provides information and an evidence base for disaster response activities

Outcome

Stronger cross-sector[13] capability development to leverage data for disaster risk management

Performance measure 2.3

Geoscience Australia's capability is routinely used in decision-making to be better prepared for, and able to respond to and recover from, the consequences of natural hazards

Achieved

Target

Demonstrate the application of Geoscience Australia products and services to deliver actionable information

Result

Case study: Severe Wind Hazard Assessment for Southeast Queensland
(see Analysis section)

Outcome

Modern operations-grade systems, supported to reliably inform time-critical decision-making and actions

Performance measure 2.4

Geoscience Australia's capability is routinely used in decision-making to be better prepared for, respond to and recover from the consequences of natural hazards

Achieved

Target

95% availability of Digital Earth Australia (DEA) Hotspots system for public access

Result

DEA Hotspots system has an availability rate for public access of 99.8% across the year

Achieved

Target

72-hour response time to formal requests for activation of the International Disaster Charter (the charter)[14] or the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS)[15]

Result

We received one formal request for activation of CEMS during the 2022–23 disaster season and the response time was within 72 hours

Performance measure 2.5

Availability of time-critical systems to support earthquake alerting, nuclear monitoring and geomagnetic monitoring

Achieved

Target

90%

Result

All systems met the required targets

Analysis

To indicate achievement of outcomes under Supporting Australia's Community Safety, data sets on natural hazard, exposure and vulnerability were aggregated and processed through scripts (automated, step-by-step computer programming), and transformed into products needed to support Geoscience Australia capabilities.

These products included: the Natural Hazard Impact and Risk Service (NHIRS) and, the Australian Exposure Information Platform (AEIP), as well as aggregated data downloads and web services. Datasets provided decision-makers easy access to customised, nationally consistent (in data structure and display) and updated exposure information that aided situational awareness for hazard events across Australia.

Data is updated, at a minimum, on a 5-year cycle or more frequently where agreements with data custodians can be established to enable regular routine supply or where direct access can be established. Geoscience Australia monitors when users access data via the AEIP to conduct evidence-based science from significant disasters. When this occurs, Geoscience Australia receives metrics on the number of individual users, number of domain users and number of reports by theme.

Exposure data is made accessible and discoverable through the AEIP. Currently the AEIP has over 1,000 individual users from over 400 domains. Over the 2022–23 reporting period:

- More than 14,500 exposure reports were created by AEIP users.
- Over 3 million customised AEIP exposure reports were created to help develop the Impact Index which is an important part of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS).
- Geoscience Australia updated 8 exposure datasets. These datasets provide decision-makers easy access to customised, nationally consistent (in data structure and display) and updated exposure information that aids situational awareness for any hazard event across Australia.

Case Study

Severe Wind Hazard Assessment for Southeast Queensland

In December 2022 Geoscience Australia delivered an assessment of severe wind hazard impacts on Southeast Queensland (SEQ).

The issues identified included:

- SEQ has been, and will continue to be, impacted by tropical cyclones in the future.
- Cyclones are projected to be less frequent but more intense which could have catastrophic impacts on coastal communities.
- The City of Gold Coast is at an increased risk due to higher coastal wind severity, exposure (buildings and population density) and vulnerability (current building design standards).

In response to the assessment findings, the City of Gold Coast announced $100m of funding over 5 years to address the recommendations and a new Gold Coast disaster management centre has also been operationalised.

Project AIR (Advocacy, Information, Resilience) is a demonstration of the application and impact of the science undertaken by Geoscience Australia. The aim of the project is to prepare the City of Gold Coast for the impacts of severe wind due to cyclone events and other storm types through:

- Strengthening the resilience of our evacuation centres and 'places of last resort'.
- Protecting critical infrastructure services.
- Increasing community readiness and resilience.
- Advocating for urgent examination of building policy with State and Federal governments.

The outcomes of the Severe Wind Hazard Assessment for SEQ project included establishing connections with the Queensland and Commonwealth governments to:

- Review the building wind region design criteria for SEQ and advocate for cost sharing opportunities to increase the resilience of the Gold Coast's existing built infrastructure.
- Provide targeted information and community engagement campaigns to improve the community's understanding of the current and future risks for increased wind events and encourage stronger personal resilience (self and home).
- Identify critical city-owned infrastructure, including locations that can be used as 'places of last resort' for vulnerable community members without suitable shelter-in-place arrangements.

Our data was used as a source of information by decision-makers during natural disasters to improve community safety. The 2022–23 fire season was relatively mild in Australia, however DEA, Hotspots still had 41,000 unique users to the site, peaking during the southern fire season through February and March 2023. The CEMS was active for a period of 35 days, in response to flooding in northern Western Australia. This activation saw satellite imagery acquired over 27 extents and 35 products generated.

Operating monitoring infrastructure to keep Australia safe is an enormous feat. Maintaining the vast infrastructure network is time-consuming, costly and logistically challenging. Providing verified, authentic data across a large geographical area, relies on the availability of time-critical systems to support earthquake alerting, nuclear monitoring and geomagnetic monitoring. Over the reporting period data at remote observing stations was collected in near real-time by cloud-based acquisition systems and via data centres located at the Geoscience Australia premises. Remote observing networks include: the Australian National Seismograph Network and, Australian Geomagnetic Observatory Network (GON), and Geoscience Australia operated seismo-acoustic stations that form part of the International Monitoring System of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

Performance is measured by the level of data availability[16] from networks and collected by the acquisition systems. Geoscience Australia continued an arrangement with the Geological Survey of Western Australia to acquire, quality control and deliver seismic data from 21 stations in Western Australia, and we entered into a new agreement with the University of Queensland to acquire, quality control and deliver seismic data from a new Brisbane observatory. Data availability from the Australian GON was 98.2%, and data availability from the CTBTO International Monitoring System was 99.8%.

Securing Australia's water resources

Outcome

Australia's groundwater systems are characterised and mapped in a nationally consistent way

Performance measure 3.1

Australia's water systems are progressively characterised and mapped

Achieved

Target

Publication of regional groundwater assessments in 2 basins and delivered through the online portal

Result

Results of 3 regional groundwater assessments have been published online

Achieved

Target

Complete foundation knowledge of groundwater systems with national coverage

Result

Generation of foundation knowledge of Australia's groundwater systems at a national scale has been completed

Outcome

Water management decisions and practices for government and businesses

Performance measure 3.2

Products, advice and services are utilised and support governments and businesses

Achieved

Target

10 examples of groundwater datasets, products and advice to support government in water management decisions

Result

We have 11 examples of groundwater datasets, products and advice that have been provided and used to support water management decisions over the reporting period

Performance measure 3.3

Effective decisions, management of environmental assets and better use of surface water resources

Achieved

Target

Demonstrate the use of Earth observation data and products in government decision-making relating to surface water policy, investment, management and operation (specifically policy, investment and regulation)

Result

Case study: The Queensland Wetlands Insight Tool (WIT) (see Analysis section)

Analysis

Geoscience Australia continues to characterise and map Australia's water systems to better understand our nation's groundwater resource potential.

We completed and published regional groundwater assessments of the Eromanga, Surat and Carpentaria basins (comprising the Great Artesian Basin). This provides basin-wide geological and hydrogeological information for Australia's most significant hydrogeological system covering more than 1.7 million square kilometres. These new insights will help guide water policy and resource planning for governments, First Nations Australians and other water users who are dependent on the basin and will support the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan.

We continue to provide groundwater products, advice and services of enduring value that help governments, communities and industry to address challenges of water security. Over 2022–23, we provided technical advice to both state and federal government departments on groundwater resources to inform water management decisions.

For example, our Upper Darling River floodplain groundwater study will help the NSW Government make informed decisions around water security and regional development. Correspondingly, our groundwater science is informing the Bureau of Meteorology's updates to the National Aquifer Framework. Our continued provision of technical advice and products enable governments and businesses to make productive and sustainable water management decisions for the benefit of all Australians.

Case Study

The Queensland Wetlands Insight Tool (WIT)

A lack of available data on wetland hydrology has impacted the ability of state and federal governments to report against water management targets. A Digital Earth Australia (DEA) Earth observation product — the Wetlands Insight Tool (WIT) — was developed to address the data gap by providing hydrology and vegetation data on wetland behaviour.

We received stakeholder feedback around the usefulness of Earth observation products in Queensland Government decision-making. As reported by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, the Queensland WIT is used in building detailed hydrological characterisations that assist with the application of Queensland state planning, regulatory frameworks and legislative requirements relating to wetlands conservation and management.

To enable sustainable water management decisions and policies, knowledge gaps were identified as opportunities to improve wetland management and preserve ecological character. This included information on vegetation dynamics along with the magnitude, duration, and seasonality of inundations. DEA Earth observation data was combined into the WIT to address these gaps. Application of the tool facilitates State of the Environment Reporting and allocation of resources to ensure Queensland's Ramsar wetlands commitments[17] are met.

The Queensland WIT case study has led to engagement and cooperation with other states and territories through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), on a proposed National Wetlands Inventory. Future work could include additional satellite sensors to improve the resolution for smaller changes.

Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions

Outcome

Data and products describing Australia's maritime boundaries, the sea floor and the coastal zone are available, readily discoverable and easily used

Performance measure 4.1

Accessibility of quality assured bathymetry data and derived products to support the management of Australia's marine jurisdiction[18]

Achieved

Target

10 new bathymetry datasets[19] released via the AusSeabed Marine Data Portal

Result

54 new bathymetry datasets were released via the AusSeabed Marine Data Portal – the portal now has over 168 bathymetry datasets available for download

Performance measure 4.2

Accessibility of maritime boundaries information to support marine planning and administration

Achieved

Target

Modernised Australian Maritime Spatial Information System (AMSIS) platform delivered[20]

Result

AMSIS was upgraded to a new technology platform and released on 5 August 2022

Outcome

Enable decisions on sustainable use and management of Australia's marine jurisdiction by governments and businesses

Performance measure 4.3

Geoscience Australia's geo-regulation and marine geoscience capabilities are used in government and business decision-making

Achieved

Target

Demonstrate new capabilities and use and impact of Geoscience Australia's products, advice and services

Result

Case study: Marine planning and information framework for Australia's new offshore renewable energy industry (see Analysis section)

Analysis

During 2022–23 Geoscience Australia published new bathymetry products through the AusSeabed Marine Data Portal (the Portal) that covered an area of 3,270,287 km^2.

Statistics on downloads from the portal and unique page views were used to assess growth in usage of datasets. Bathymetry products were processed and created by Geoscience Australia and our collaborators then published for data partners (Deakin University, Australian Hydrographic Office) and contributing hubs (CSIRO, AAD).

Geoscience Australia processes bathymetry products from several entities for publishing. We don't always have certainty on the number of datasets we will receive in any given year. In 2022–23 the number of datasets provided by the CSIRO for processing was higher than anticipated leading to the significant difference between our 2022–23 target and the result achieved.

The portal now has over 168 bathymetry datasets available. During 2022–23 datasets were downloaded 5,655 times, and 5,900 users engaged with the portal through 18,900 unique page views, which is a 10.9% increase from the previous year. In addition, new data management tools and practices were developed by Geoscience Australia and the CSIRO (such as multi-resolution grids) to support more efficient delivery of new data products to users and improve accessibility.

Reporting using Google Analytics was implemented for AMSIS as a measure to identify user engagement, location, and behaviours. AMSIS provides more robust access to Australia's maritime boundaries data and supports administration and management of Australia's marine jurisdiction. AMSIS has maintained a regular cycle of updates, and exposed regulatory information that provided decision-making support for coordination of action and investment in Australia's marine space.

The updated version of AMSIS continues to improve access to authoritative marine geospatial data, with exposure of 221 information sources from 11 authority organisations. 5,500 users engaged with AMSIS from August 2022 to June 2023 across AMSIS across 13,500 unique page views indicating that AMSIS is an essential source of information that informs consultation on offshore renewable energy infrastructure area proposals. AMSIS supported the spatial assessment and planning of 3 proposed areas, and one formally declared area, suitable for Offshore Renewable Energy exploration. Half of the traffic to AMSIS this year was direct to the Offshore Renewables page; 75% domestic users and 25% international users (from 71 countries).

Case Study

Marine planning and information framework for Australia's new offshore renewable energy industry[21]

The Australian Marine Spatial Information System (AMSIS) is an interactive mapping, decision support system built and maintained by Geoscience Australia.

AMSIS provides access to integrated information required by governments, industry and private individuals with an interest in regulation, geography, use and rights in Australia's marine jurisdiction. AMSIS provides a mechanism to visualise overlapping interests and enables informed marine planning, sustainable management and administration of Australia's marine jurisdiction. AMSIS collects and curates information from government, industry, and academia to expose competing use and rights to support evidence-based decision-making within the Australian Marine Jurisdiction. Geoscience Australia, in collaboration with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), delivered a modernised AMSIS to support government and public consultation on offshore renewable energy area declarations.

Geoscience Australia supported DCCEEW throughout the preliminary and proposed area assessment process, tailoring development of AMSIS to support government and public consultation phases of the process. This led to the first offshore renewable energy Declared Area in the Gippsland Region. Feedback has been received from DCCEEW, the Maritime Union of Australia and several other stakeholders that AMSIS has been extremely useful. AMSIS continues to provide a platform for consultation with existing industries including fishing, offshore oil and gas, other marine users, state and local government representatives, First Nations Australians and local communities. The provision of spatial layers, tools, visualisations and data informs the offshore renewable energy area declaration process in Australian waters in the Hunter, NSW and Portland, VIC regions.

Creating a location-enabled Australia

Outcome

Discoverable, accessible, interoperable, reusable and nationally consistent datasets that describe Australia's geography and support Australia's national interests

Performance measure 5.1

Location-enabled information generated through Geoscience Australia programs can be consumed by decision makers, and is open, published and discoverable

Achieved

Target

All publicly releasable spatial data is discoverable, with an increase of 5 datasets

Result

9 additional datasets for roads, pipelines, and electricity infrastructure were released on the new DAA beta platform

Performance measure 5.2

High quality validated and maintained Earth observation Analysis Ready Data that is easily available to users

Achieved

Target

Landsat Analysis Ready Data is available to users within 24 hours of receipt of 'Level 1' data[22] and required ancillary data

Result

Landsat Analysis Ready Data was made available for users on the DEA platform within 24 hours of receipt of all required input data

Performance measure 5.3

Derivative satellite data products that are fit-for-purpose, fully operational and accessible to government and business users and collaborators

Achieved

Target

Analysis Ready Data is correct to within 11% (average) of measured field reflectance data

Result

Analysis Ready Data was correct to within 11% (average) when compared to measured field reflectance data

Achieved

Target

Annual satellite data products are updated and published within one month of receipt of all required input data

Result

Annual satellite data products were updated and published within the target timeframe once input data was received

Outcome

Infrastructure enabling timely access to national spatial data and information for improved decision-making

Performance measure 5.4

Authoritative, trusted positioning data services

Achieved

Target

All data are delivered, in line with national and international geodetic standards, to international data centres used to analyse and archive the data

Result

All data was delivered in line with national and international geodetic standards

Performance measure 5.5

Operate the infrastructure and systems to enable 3–5 cm accurate positioning services in areas with mobile phone coverage

Achieved

Target

95% availability of services

Result

Availability of services reached 99.8% across the year

Performance measure 5.6

Build the infrastructure and systems to deliver trusted (and 10 cm accuracy) positioning service across Australia and its maritime zones

Achieved

Target

Early services available

Result

All 3 SouthPAN[23] early Open Services were available enabling progress towards achieving 10 cm accuracy

Performance measure 5.7

Build and operate the DAA including the National Map

Achieved

Target

Initial operational capability

Result

The Digital Atlas Australia government beta release was on 31 March 2023 and the public beta release was on 30 June 2023[24]

Performance measure 5.8

Operate Australian land imaging satellites in support of the National Space Mission for Earth Observation

Not Achieved

Target

Preliminary Design Review complete

Result

The Australian Government decided not to continue with the program

Performance measure 5.9

Platforms, tools and processes that empower government and business users and collaborators to use and extend satellite data and products are highly available

Achieved

Target

Satellite data products and services hosted on cloud infrastructure maintain 95% availability during business hours (Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm)

Result

DEA's services achieved 99.8% uptime

Outcome

Develop location-enabled capabilities to support businesses to be more productive and profitable, and governments to make informed decisions

Performance measure 5.10

Geoscience Australia's capabilities and national spatial leadership mechanisms provide value to business and government

Partially Achieved

Target

Demonstrate incorporation of Geoscience Australia's capability within business operations, government operations and programs, and efficiency of cross-government operations

Result

Case Study: Socio-economic spatial data available through the DAA (see Analysis section)

Given that public release of the DAA beta prototype was on 30 June 2023 benefits for business and government are still in the process of being measured

Outcome

Deliver geoscience information from Antarctica to inform government decisions, support scientific research and contribute to a strong and effective Antarctic Treaty System

Performance measure 5.11

The Australian Antarctic Territory is progressively mapped and characterised

Achieved

Target

Antarctic mapping survey to collect new data completed

Result

The Antarctic mapping survey was completed – the mapping survey area encompassed 14,300 km^2 and a further area of 1,485 km^2 was surveyed during transit to the survey area

Analysis

To create a location-enabled Australia, government, business and the public need easy access to publicly available, nationally consistent location and geospatially enabled data.

As indicated by outcome 5.1, this data supports research, industry, planning and decision-making, including response to and recovery from natural disasters. We moved toward this outcome by increasing access to publicly available datasets via DAA and ensuring that validated and fit for purpose Earth observation data is available in a consistent and timely manner via our DEA program. We also sustained and enhanced the geodetic infrastructure underpinning location-enabled information and continued to build, operate and provide the systems and infrastructure enabling accurate positioning services across Australia and its maritime zones. This includes through SouthPAN, the Australia-New Zealand Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS), and our National Positioning Infrastructure Capability (NPIC). We continue to deliver geoscience information from Antarctica as the Australian Antarctic Territory is progressively mapped and characterised.

The availability of near-real-time satellite information provides users with up-to-date information about changes in the surface characteristics of the Australian landscape. Our DEA near-real-time data feed was developed in response to multiple stakeholder requests for more timely satellite feeds than the standard processing time, which previously could take up to a few weeks between satellite acquisition and data publication. During 2022–23 the Sentinel-2 near-real-time products had over 13,000 unique accesses of the product.

We published the DEA summary products in a predictable cadence allowing users of these datasets to plan for their release and inclusion in routine publications and reports. These summary products provide useful contextual information for specific time periods. For example, a Water Observation summary product for a summer season may be used to understand water availability during the dry season in southern Australia.

We sustained and enhanced our regional and Australian Geodetic Reference System – the collection of geodetic infrastructure, coordinate reference frames, standards, tools and products, that are the foundation for location-enabled applications in Australia and its region. Geoscience Australia coordinate development and maintenance of the Australian Geospatial Reference System (AGRS) in collaboration with the States and Territories, and we continued our role as the Analysis Centre Coordinator for the International GNSS[25] Service (IGS) where we created authoritative positioning products in line with international and national standards. Geoscience Australia also continued to provide a range of tools and services on our website and through open-source repositories such as GitHub[26] which provide authoritative methods of working with coordinates in the AGRS.

During 2022–23 we continued to lead progress on the development of the Geodesy Mark-up Language[27] (GeodesyML) through engagement with other international geodetic and standards organisations. GeodesyML is making geodetic data, which is used in accurately

measuring and understanding the Earth's geometric shape, orientation in space and gravity field more findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR).

The availability of positioning data and services through the NPIC, enables access to centimetre accurate positioning services for a diverse range of government, industry and academic stakeholders. Over the year underlying infrastructure was improved, and availability of NPIC services exceeded the key performance indicator.

We achieved a significant milestone in the establishment of SouthPAN, the SBAS for Australia and New Zealand. During 2022–23, SouthPAN started broadcasting early Open Services, delivering augmented positioning services based on US GPS and European Galileo.[28] Along with many other positioning service providers in the Australia-New Zealand region, SouthPAN suffered a disruption to services for 3 days in April 2023 due to a geostationary satellite power failure. Despite this outage, SouthPAN services successfully achieved the availability and performance metrics defined for the early Open Service phase.

The DAA, which was released in public beta on 30 June 2023, is an interactive, secure and easy-to-use online platform that brings together, curates and connects trusted national datasets from across government. Public beta represents the initial operating capability and includes a selection of curated location-based data and interactive apps and maps, including datasets for roads, pipelines, and electricity infrastructure. The DAA will iteratively improve its functionality and curated data holdings with final operating capability scheduled to be achieved in the second quarter of 2025.

Geoscience Australia led a Marine National Facility survey on RV *Investigator* to Cape Darnley, East Antarctic margin to conduct seafloor mapping. Sediment cores of up to 25 metres in length were collected. Outputs from the survey are being analysed and are expected to contribute to our understanding of the processes which have shaped the seafloor in Australia's Antarctic territories and the international areas in between Australia and Antarctica. Collection and management of the data is important evidence of Australia's management of its marine jurisdiction.

A total of 14,300 km^2 of multibeam data[29] was acquired in the Antarctic survey area and 1,485 km of sub-bottom profiles. In addition, 1,915 km of multibeam and sub-bottom profiles were collected along ship tracks during transit within the Antarctic Treaty Area. Three sediment cores were collected within the Antarctic survey area at water depths of 2,700 and 2,800 metres. Performance was negatively impacted by a premature end to the survey due to an unforeseeable need to return to mainland Australia.

Case Study

Socio-economic spatial data available through the Digital Atlas Australia (DAA)

Geoscience Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), as a key collaborative partner, released a multitude of socio-economic data services through the Digital Atlas of Australia (DAA) — government beta on 31 March 2023 and public beta on 30 June 2023.

Through the DAA, the ABS delivered a total of 82 geospatially enabled web services.

Delivering foundational ABS statistical data as map-ready geospatial web services, lets users of all different technical ability visualise, analyse and integrate ABS's socio-economic geospatial data quickly and easily through the DAA.

To achieve this, Geoscience Australia and the ABS built the underlying technical infrastructure to enable secure and scalable sharing of the ABS's socio-economic spatial data with the DAA for government and public beta releases. Web services enable the ABS StatMaps data—a geospatial platform built on ArcGIS Enterprise—to be shared via an Esri distributed collaboration with the DAA. This way of sharing data across government had never been done before, and the innovative, collaborative work was achieved on time and on budget.

The benefits of making this data easily available to government, business and the public is still in the process of being measured. As the DAA moves beyond beta stage and matures, Geoscience Australia and the ABS will be in a better position to assess performance. The DAA beta will undergo iterative releases to grow capability with the addition of new and improved functionality and increased data holdings from a range of collaborators across government, business and academia.

Enabling an informed Australia

Outcome

Deliver high-quality, transparent, reproducible data, information and science that is relevant to users

Performance measure 6.1

Increased positive engagement of users with our products and services

Baseline Established

Target

Baseline approach to measuring engagement established

Result

Baseline established

Geoscience Australia has established clear, repeatable measures and baselines for user engagement with our digital services and download of our data products and publications

- Engaged users of digital services: 1,518,668
- Downloads of data products and publications: 1,762,835

A target increase of 2% per year for user engagement and download of our data products and publications has been set for the next reporting period

Outcome

Support infrastructure to measure and monitor the environment

Performance measure 6.2

Our ground-based satellite stations continue to capture data of national and international significance

Achieved

Target

Capture and deliver data from 98% of all scheduled satellite passes

Result

The capture success rate target of 98% was achieved (or exceeded) for all scheduled satellite passes

Outcome

Management of offshore petroleum data and samples for effective regulation of the industry

Performance measure 6.3

Compliance with *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* service requirements

Partially Achieved

Target

Data and samples are assessed for compliance, stored and backed up securely within regulatory timeframes in 95% of cases

Result

A 71% compliance rate was reached. This result was primarily due to unforeseen downtime that restricted access to systems, which impacted the ability of staff to undertake required activities

Outcome

Develop and maintain Earth science resources and programs for educators, students and communities

Performance measure 6.4

Engage and develop new resources for all schools and educators, including through school visits to Geoscience Australia's Education Centre, outreach activities and virtual classrooms

Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Target Develop 5 new resources for educators and the Australian public	**Target** Lead teacher and community professional development events	**Target** Host at least 100 annual school visits to the Education Centre and virtual engagements that include remote and regional audiences
Result A total of 23 new resources were developed	**Result** A total of 13 teacher professional development events were hosted involving 144 individual teachers	**Result** Geoscience Australia hosted 7,986 school students across 213 school visits and 3,197 students across 12 virtual engagements

Outcome cont.

Develop and maintain Earth science resources and programs for educators, students and communities

Performance measure 6.4 cont.

Engage and develop new resources for all schools and educators, including through school visits to Geoscience Australia's Education Centre, outreach activities and virtual classrooms

Achieved	Achieved	Partially Achieved
Target Produce 5 newsletters to the Australian education community	**Target** Develop materials for and host at least one outreach engagement activity with First Nations Australian communities to deliver Geoscience Australia data and information to the communities in an accessible and useable format	**Target** Develop a public spaces strategy to help guide how visitors to the building are informed about Geoscience Australia's role and value to the nation
Result Five newsletters were sent to the Australian education community, these have been opened 2,053 times and can be viewed through the education portal[30]	**Result** On-country outreach activities were conducted on 3 occasions[31]	**Result** Work on the Public Space Strategy (the Strategy) was delayed due to new priorities including development and installation of the Rocks That Shape Australia exhibition[32]

Outcome

Provision of research support in the delivery of open-source geoscientific information

Performance measure 6.5

Strengthen Australia's Earth science literacy and engagement with national geoscience information and collections

Achieved

Target

Coordinate 10 public events to increase awareness of the value of Earth sciences to all Australians

Result

A total of 43 public events were held. These included 28 Wednesday Seminars, 7 on-demand tours for the public and 8 events for Earth Science Week

Achieved

Target

Deliver 3 products or activities to promote the National Mineral and Fossil Collection as an open source of geoscientific information and data

Result

Twelve public activities, exhibitions and products were delivered to promote the National Mineral and Fossil Collection and its use for research, education and outreach. This included tours that were Australian Sign Language (AUSLAN) interpreted to extend accessibility. We provided support to the National Museum of Australia's (NMA) new Great Southern Land Gallery by contributing specimens and video content[33]

Analysis

As part of the Landsat Ground Network (LGN), the Alice Springs Satellite Ground Station (ASGS) provides telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) for the ongoing US Landsat satellite program. The ASGS also downlinks data of national and international significance from the Landsat missions and other partner satellites.

This data is relayed to Geoscience Australia and, in the case of data from the Landsat program, is the primary input to data products produced by the Digital Earth program. These products provide Australian governments and industry decision-ready information on environmental conditions such as surface water availability and quality, changes to our coastline, the impact of bushfires and flooding, and the condition of our national groundcover.

The ASGS is an integral part of the LGN, without which the scheduling of satellite passes, data downlink and TT&C would be significantly more challenging due to the reliance on a reduced number of ground stations. The operation of the ASGS and the provision of services to the US and other international partners, helps secure free and open Earth observation data for Australian use.

We demonstrate how Geoscience Australia contributes to the efficient and sustainable development of Australia's offshore energy resources through delivery and provision of storage within our repository for offshore exploration data and samples.[34] In the reporting period the repository released 95 data sets – that were authorised by the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator, processed 221 enquiries and delivered 279 terabytes of data. Since its inception the National Offshore Petroleum Information Management System had 12,168 users 161,563 pages accessed, and 79.5 terabytes of data downloaded.

Our Earth science resources and programs for educators, students and communities, reflect the strong brand recognition and trust in Geoscience Australia as a provider of education and information. Collaborative relationships with other professional bodies such as: the Australian Science Teachers Association, Distance and Rural Technology (DART) Learning, Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) Education and the Teacher Earth Science Education Program, remain critical to the content we provide and the audience reached. Videos developed in collaboration with the ABC are hosted on both the ABC website education portal[35] and on Geoscience Australia's YouTube channel. The ABC videos have had 6,368 page views (as of 8 May 2023). Other information and educational resources are available via our eCat portal[36] which can be accessed on the Geoscience Australia website and via our education centre portal.[37]

'Provision of research support in the delivery of open-source geoscientific information' has been achieved through public programs such as the Wednesday Seminars and other activities such as those to promote the National Mineral and Fossil Collection. Geoscience Australia's Wednesday Seminars are public talks that increase awareness of Geoscience Australia's work and programs. Recordings of these events (28 in total) are accessible via Geoscience Australia's YouTube playlists.[38]

The profile of the National Mineral and Fossil Collection and Geoscience Australia's capacity to facilitate research continues to attract scientific interest, visits and collaborative relationships with other professional bodies such as the NMA who provide opportunities to broaden our reach and impact. Geoscience Australia also hosted a gathering of palaeontological researchers from Australia and overseas to study our collection of trilobites. During the reporting period we resolved 35 public enquiries and provided 14 loans containing over 350 specimens.

Financial performance

Operating result

Geoscience Australia had an operating surplus of $106.3 million before adjusting for unfunded depreciation of $11.4 million, depreciation on right-of-use (ROU) assets of $27.6 million, principal repayments on lease assets of $24.0 million and service concession asset additions funded through revenue appropriations of $148.7 million. Excluding the impact of depreciation, amortisation and AASB 16 Leases, the operating result as at 30 June 2023 was a $121.3 million surplus. The surplus was mainly due to the new accounting treatment for the Southern Positioning Augmentation Network (SouthPAN) as a Service Concession Arrangement, milestone payments were treated as capital instead of operating expenditure.

Geoscience Australia's total income for the year was $373.8 million, comprising $344.6 million in appropriations from government, $27.4 million from the sale of goods and services to related and external entities, and $1.8 million from other revenue and rental income.

Total expenses were $267.6 million. The major expense categories were employee expenses of $87.0 million, supplier expenses of $136.1 million, depreciation and amortisation of $39.0 million and interest on ROU assets of $3.6 million.

The note on departmental budget variances in the financial statements compares the actual results to the original budget presented in the 2022–23 October Portfolio Budget Statements. A summary of Geoscience Australia's total resources and total payments is provided in Appendix 1.

Financial sustainability

Net assets as at 30 June 2023 were $258.4 million. Total assets were $627.5 million and total liabilities were $369.2 million. Geoscience Australia has sufficient financial assets to pay its suppliers and other payables as and when they fall due. Non-financial assets consist mainly of property (land and buildings), plant and equipment, and leasehold improvements owned by Geoscience Australia.

Administered items

Geoscience Australia administered one grant on behalf of the government in 2022–23.

1 There were 50 targets in the 2021–22 reporting period and 35 targets were achieved, 14 targets partially achieved and one target was not achieved.

2 For measures with multiple targets, targets are weighted evenly.

3 Result summary definition:

a. Achieved: target requirements fully met or delivered

b. Substantially achieved: substantial progress towards target or requirements substantially delivered

c. Partially achieved: material progress towards target or requirements partially delivered

d. Not achieved: target requirements not met or not delivered

e. Baseline established: for new or amended targets and comparison with future results.

4 Results presented from the study also included an assessment of geological storage of carbon dioxide.

5 https://www.eftf.ga.gov.au/australias-future-energy-resources

6 The overall result was achieved: the $1 billion target - although not achieved - was not mandatory.

7 The Atlas has been published as a series of 5 reports; 3 have been published and the remaining 2 were held over for release at the EFTF program showcase in August 2023.

8 Initial results have been published in a paper for the APPEA Journal – data associated with the completed studies have not yet been published.

9 Scientific activities for the Officer-Musgrave assessment were delayed due to budget savings measures, adverse weather conditions, and land access and cultural heritage requirements.

10 A natural or manufactured event that could cause harm such as fire, severe wind, cyclone, flood, earthquake or tsunami.

11 Refers to things exposed to a hazard such as people, roads, buildings and other infrastructure, farms or environmental features.

12 Explores how exposed elements respond to a hazard.

13 Refers to collaboration between the emergency management sector and other sectors and agencies (such as the Bureau of Meteorology/CSIRO/DCCEEW) that provide foundation data for better disaster risk decision-making and management.

14 Satellite data are made by combining Earth observation assets from different space agencies. The charter allows resources and expertise to be coordinated for rapid response to major disaster situations – Geoscience Australia coordinates activation of the charter on behalf of Emergency Management Australia and state emergency services.

15 Provides on-demand geo-spatial information for management of disaster risk and emergencies arising from natural or man-made disasters. Geoscience Australia coordinates activation of CEMS on behalf of Emergency Management Australia and state emergency services to assist in disaster response.

16 1. The percentage/quantity of data that has been observed at the site(s)

2. Determining if it is fit-for-purpose (i.e. meets quality standards)

3. Is data available in a timely fashion to the end-users via Geoscience Australia's office/IT systems.

17 The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (known as the Ramsar Convention) that was adopted in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, aims to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve remaining wetlands through wise use and careful management.

18 Refer to the case study provided to see how products support the management of Australia's marine jurisdiction.

19 Bathymetry data for Australia's marine jurisdiction, is provided to data users within Government (Parks Australia, NSW Department of Planning and Environment), the research community (Blue Economy CRC, universities) and the general public (recreational fishers).

20 Geoscience Australia publishes digital information on the location of Australia's international maritime boundaries and the framework of Commonwealth legislated zones, which is used to administer Australia's offshore resources and activities.

21 The case study is based on Commonwealth Government priorities for implementation of the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* and development of a new offshore wind industry in Australia.

22 Near-real-time satellite data.

23 A SBAS comprised of reference stations, telecommunications infrastructure, computing centres, signal generators, and satellites that provide improved positioning and navigation services in Australia, New Zealand, and maritime regions.

24 The beta release, which represents the Initial Operating Capability, includes a selection of curated location data and interactive apps and maps.

25 Global Navigation Satellite System.

26 A platform and cloud-based service for software development and version control using Git, allowing developers to store and manage their code.

27 A standard way of describing (encoding) and sharing geodetic data and metadata.

28 Europe's own global navigation satellite system.

29 Combining bathymetry and backscatter data.

30 https://www.ga.gov.au/education/resources/education-centre-updates

31 Materials developed to support these activities included templates for training in soil identification, bespoke maps using Geoscience Australia information and data, and an Education Mini Unit.

32 https://www.ga.gov.au/about/visiting-ga/public-displays/rocks-that-shape-australia

33 https://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/great-southern-land

34 The National Offshore Petroleum Data and Core Repository. A confidential Agreement between Geoscience Australia, the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator and the Western Australian Department of Mines, Industry Safety and Regulations, outlines specific requirements in relation to how data and samples are to be assessed and stored.

35 https://www.abc.net.au/education/digibooks/geography-landscapes-and-landforms/102231488

36 https://ecat.ga.gov.au/

37 https://www.ga.gov.au/education

38 https://www.youtube.com/@GeoscienceAustralia/playlists

03
Management and accountability

03 Management and accountability photograph:
Geoscience Australia staff members collaborating on digital map data.

Corporate governance

Geoscience Australia's corporate governance arrangements are designed to support the achievement of our objectives while meeting legislative, policy and accountability requirements. The framework provides an effective system for managing risk and human and financial resources through planning and assurance processes. Our governance committees oversee key areas of our strategy and operations, providing advice and assurance to our accountable authority. Figure 3 shows Geoscience Australia's committee governance structure.

Under the PGPA Act and associated rule, the CEO is Geoscience Australia's accountable authority.

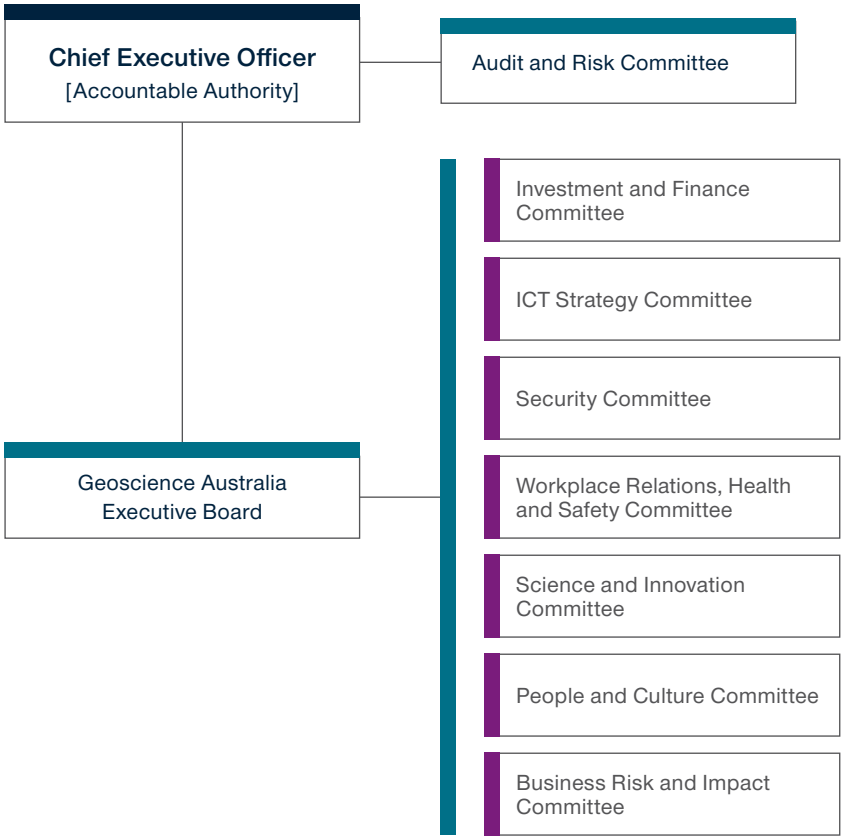


Figure 3 Geoscience Australia's governance structure as at 30 June 2023.

The CEO is supported by the Executive Board (the Board). The Board's role is to provide advice and support the CEO, as the accountable authority, in the discharge of their responsibilities set out in the PGPA Act, including issue of Accountable Authority Instructions (AAIs). The Board also determines the precise nature of our governance arrangements and structures, including monitoring and reporting compliance and ensuring that governance arrangements are fit for purpose.

To meet these obligations, the Board is supported by the following committees:

- Audit and Risk
- Business Risk and Impact
- Investment and Finance
- ICT Strategy
- People and Culture
- Science and Innovation
- Security
- Workplace Relations, Health and Safety.

Geoscience Australia values the diversity of staff and is committed to providing a positive, inclusive and equitable workplace. Diversity is encouraged across the organisation when establishing membership of committees with consideration across classification levels and a gender target of 40:40:20.[39]

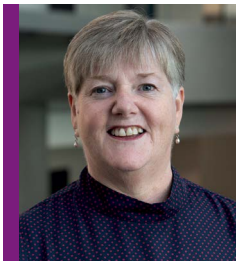
Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) provides independent advice to the CEO on the appropriateness of Geoscience Australia's financial and performance reporting, the system of internal control, and the system of risk oversight and management.

The ARC charter is available on the Geoscience Australia website at ga.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/122295/Audit-and-Risk-Committee-Charter-2021.pdf.

The ARC membership section provides details of committee members, their qualifications and experience, remuneration and attendance at committee meetings.

Audit and Risk Committee membership



Vanessa Graham

External Member | Audit and Risk Committee Chair

Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) with over 25 years of experience in the Commonwealth public sector and 20 years in senior finance roles.

- Bachelor of Commerce (Griffith University)
- Fellow Certified Practising Accountant

Total annual remuneration	Meetings attended
$13,835 (GST inc.)	5/5 (100%)

David Dawes

External Member

Retired senior Australian Capital Territory (ACT) public servant and business owner with a broad business background. Provides a high-level strategic risk overview and broad understanding of the operation of a medium-sized government entity.

Total annual remuneration	Meetings attended
$6,325 (GST inc.)	5/5 (100%)

Carol Lilley

External Member

Over 25 years of providing governance advice on financial statements, risks and control frameworks, systems, processes and controls. Twelve years of experience as a board director and serving on audit committees for a range of Commonwealth Government audit committees.

- Bachelor of Commerce (University of Western Australia)
- Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants
- Certified Internal Auditor

Total annual remuneration	Meetings attended
$13,970 (GST inc.)	5/5 (100%)

Risk management

Effective risk management is central to achieving Geoscience Australia's objectives. We have an established enterprise risk management framework, and during the year we commenced a review of the framework to continually improve and uplift our risk management capability. Work in this area will continue throughout the next reporting period as we make changes to the framework and make updates that continually reflect our strategic and operating challenges. Through this process we will also look to develop a risk culture that continually strives to identify, assess and effectively manage risks so that our organisational objectives are achieved.

Geoscience Australia's risk management framework aligns with the PGPA Act and the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy.

Fraud prevention and control

Geoscience Australia has zero tolerance for fraud and takes all reasonable steps to prevent, detect, investigate and report on fraud. As required by the Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework 2017, Geoscience Australia has a Fraud Control Plan (the plan) which is reviewed and updated every 2 years. In addition, this year a fraud survey was conducted to assess staff understanding of our fraud control processes and general fraud awareness. Our Fraud Control Plan 2023–25 outlines our commitment to effectively manage and mitigate fraud and corruption and details our procedures for fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting. Annual fraud awareness training is mandatory for all staff, and new employees are required to complete the training during their induction.

Internal audit arrangements

Internal audit provides independent advice and assurance that Geoscience Australia's risk management, internal controls and governance processes are operating effectively and efficiently. Geoscience Australia's internal audit plan is developed by our internal auditors in consultation with the ARC and the Executive Board to ensure the plan reflects our risk profile and assurance concerns. In 2022–23 our internal audit services were delivered by Synergy Group Australia.

Ethical standards

Geoscience Australia expects the highest standard of behaviour and ethical conduct from our staff. We have policies and procedures in place that align with the APS Values and Code of Conduct, to ensure ethical standards are upheld in accordance with relevant legislation.

Significant non-compliance with finance law

There were no significant instances of non-compliance with finance law reported to the responsible minister as part of Geoscience Australia's internal compliance reporting process for 2022–23.

External scrutiny

In 2022–23, no judicial or administrative tribunal decisions or decisions of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) were relevant to Geoscience Australia. No report on the organisation's operations was given by the Commonwealth Ombudsman or Auditor-General, and no external audit or capability reviews were released. Geoscience Australia had one referral to the Fair Work Ombudsman during the reporting period.

Parliamentary committees

Geoscience Australia appeared before the following Parliamentary Committees during the reporting period 2022–23:

- Budget Estimates 2022–23 Economics Legislation Committee – 10 November 2022
- Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia – 21 March 2023
- Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth – 10 February 2023
- House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water – 26 May 2023.

Management of human resources

Geoscience Australia continued to progress a range of strategic people and culture initiatives during 2022–23 with an active focus on building and maintaining an inclusive and safe organisational culture.

In 2022–23, the organisation progressed actions under its Diversity and Inclusion Strategy to support our journey for inclusivity and accessibility at all levels of the organisation. A key platform for this strategy is to progress the organisation towards attaining silver accreditation with Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE). Under the broad themes of the strategy, Geoscience Australia:

- Achieved the second ever SAGE Cygnet Award in recognition of our work to develop an inclusive workplace culture. Cygnet Awards are earned by organisations that demonstrate progress, outcomes and impact in addressing a key barrier to gender equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Submitted a further 2 Cygnet Award applications under the themes of addressing sexual harassment and sexism, and access to flexible work and better leave arrangements.
- Commenced actions to address barriers to attract and retain employees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to improve Geoscience Australia's ability to attract and retain key talent.
- Established a parents and carer's group to support people who live with the challenges of parenting or caring for loved ones while working.
- Gained reaccreditation as a breastfeeding-friendly workplace by the Australian Breastfeeding Association.
- Commenced development of an Employee Value Proposition (EVP) which draws on market research and staff feedback to articulate the unique benefits of working at Geoscience Australia. This involved specifically focusing on benefits of interest to diverse cohorts including people living with disability; people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds and First Nations Australians.

With Geoscience Australia's Enterprise Agreement (EA) now past its nominal expiry date, we have continued to bargain for a new EA. The objectives in developing and negotiating a new three-year agreement include that it is consistent with the Australian Government's service-wide bargaining approach and more closely aligned to our Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. This demonstrates our commitment to supporting employees in all aspects of their lives and in continued participation in the workplace.

Following a period of staff consultation, Geoscience Australia refreshed a large suite of its people policies and procedures to ensure compliance with changes to legislation and to improve our EVP. This included:

- Our Flexible Working Procedure which provides for a range of flexible work options to support employees in managing a good work-life balance and their individual needs in the workplace. As at June 2023, Geoscience Australia had 503 approved formal flexible working arrangements, which represents 75% of our workforce.
- A new Gender Affirmation Policy and Procedure, which is in the final stages of implementation. This policy and procedure articulates the right of staff to affirm their gender in the workplace, outlines the processes to support a person in affirming their gender and provides information and resources for both staff and their managers to ensure that all staff can continue to work in a safe and supportive environment.

Geoscience Australia has adopted the latest APS Job Family Framework to support workforce segmentation and insights across the APS. Following collaboration with other APS science bodies and international partners, Geoscience Australia segmented its workforce by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) codes. This approach provides a more granular understanding of our workforce and allows for benchmarking against other Australian Government entities and science bodies.

Further human resources information and Geoscience Australia's workforce metrics are provided at Part 5 – Appendices.

Executive remuneration

Senior Executive Service (SES) remuneration and employment conditions are determined under section 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999* (PS Act). These determinations are supported by a remuneration model that sets pay levels within each SES level based on performance. Geoscience Australia does not offer additional performance-based payments. An SES remuneration package is in recognition of all hours worked, including any reasonable additional hours. SES staff are not entitled to overtime payments, penalty rates or time off in lieu.

Employment arrangements of SES and non-SES employees

Table 3 Public Service Act employment arrangements, current reporting period (2022–23).

	SES	Non-SES	Total
Geoscience Australia Enterprise Agreement 2019–22	0	599	599
Common law contract	7	0	7
Individual flexibility arrangement	0	65	65
Total	7	644	671

Remuneration conditions are made available through a Section 24(1) remuneration determination under the PS Act. Core conditions are made available under Geoscience Australia's EA 2019–2021.

Key management personnel

During the reporting period ended 30 June 2023, Geoscience Australia had 5 executives who met the definition of key management personnel (KMP). KMP details are summarised in Table 4.

Geoscience Australia's accountable authority is responsible for approving remuneration for KMP and other highly paid staff.

Table 4 Key management personnel.

Name	Position	Term
Dr James Johnson	Chief Executive Officer	Full year
Dr Steve Hill	Chief Scientist and acting Chief of Division, Place and Communities	Full year
Dr Andrew Heap	Chief of Division, Minerals, Energy and Groundwater	Full year
Alison Rose	Chief of Division, Space	Full year
Trent Rawlings	Chief of Division, Corporate	Full year

Table 5 Key management personnel remuneration.

Name Position title	Short-term benefits ($)			Post-employment benefits ($)	Other long-term benefits ($)		Termination benefits ($)	Total remuneration ($)
	Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits		
Dr James Johnson Chief Executive Officer	384,121	0	0	60,675	13,881	0	0	458,677
Dr Steve Hill Chief Scientist and acting Chief of Division, Place and Communities	283,559	0	0	42,286	9,072	0	0	334,917
Dr Andrew Heap Chief of Division, Minerals, Energy and Groundwater	303,233	0	0	56,632	11,723	0	0	371,588
Alison Rose Chief of Division, Space	300,265	0	0	54,416	7,613	0	0	362,294
Trent Rawlings Chief of Division, Corporate	288,102	0	569	54,505	7,794	0	0	350,970

Table 6 Senior executive remuneration.

Total remuneration bands ($)	Number of senior executives	Short-term benefits ($)			Post-employment benefits ($)	Other long-term benefits ($)		Average termination benefits ($)	Average total remuneration ($)
		Average Base salary	Average Bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average Superannuation contributions	Average Long service leave	Average Other long-term benefits		
$0 – $220,000	1	133	0	0	0	4,971	0	0	5,104
$270,001 – $295,000	1	232,707	0	0	36,967	5,747	0	0	275,421
$295,001 – $320,000	1	246,349	0	514	43,585	10,800	0	0	301,248

Table 7 Other highly paid staff remuneration.

Total remuneration bands ($)	Number of other highly paid staff	Short-term benefits ($)			Post-employment benefits ($)	Other long-term benefits ($)		Average termination benefits ($)	Average total remuneration ($)
		Average Base salary	Average Bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average Superannuation contributions	Average Long service leave	Average Other long-term benefits		
$245,001 – $270,000	5	219,381	0	0	33,261	6,004	0	0	258,645
$270,001 – $295,000	4	227,690	0	0	35,248	18,343	0	0	281,281

Asset management

Management of Geoscience Australia's assets is governed by the AAIs on asset management and aligns with government best practice. Geoscience Australia's asset management framework includes an asset register, an asset management plan and a capital management plan. An annual stocktake of assets keeps the register accurate and up to date. Fixed assets include office fit-out, right-of-use assets, purchased and internally developed software, computer equipment, infrastructure and library materials.

The National Mineral and Fossil Collection at Geoscience Australia is a Commonwealth asset for financial reporting purposes and falls under the asset class Heritage and Cultural assets. Geoscience Australia is a registered Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The collection has received a number of tax-deductible donations via the Cultural Gifts Program or the ATO directly, in addition to National Cultural Heritage Account funding to purchase specimens.

These tax-deducted specimens have additional stipulations of an ongoing commitment to manage and display them appropriately into perpetuity. Geoscience Australia has a general permit for the export of Class B scientific objects from the National Cultural Heritage Control List managed under the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986* which is administered via the Office for the Arts, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. Our CEO is the delegate for this permit and approves international loaning of protected material.

Geoscience Australia is also the custodian of the NMA's mineral collection which comprises more than 5,000 specimens.

Procurement

During 2022–23, Geoscience Australia undertook its procurements in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) and the requirements of its AAIs.

Geoscience Australia supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website: finance.gov.au.

Geoscience Australia recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available at Pay On-Time survey performance reports on the Department of Treasury website at treasury.gov.au/small-business/pay-time-survey-performance-reports. To support small business by reducing administration and ensuring payments are on time, Geoscience Australia uses payment cards, issued to all officials who pass a financial accreditation test, for purchases under $10,000 (GST inclusive). For low-risk purchases under $200,000 (GST inclusive) Geoscience Australia uses the Commonwealth Contracting Suite, incorporating the Glossary and the Commonwealth Contract Terms to reduce contracting and legal costs for SMEs.

Geoscience Australia supports Indigenous suppliers and complies with indigenous procurement requirements specified within the CPRs and Indigenous Procurement Policy. We are a member of Supply Nation and actively support the Supply Nation, using their Indigenous business directory for procurement activities. Geoscience Australia undertakes regular reporting against the Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) in accordance with requirements. For more information about the IPP, please refer to the IPP on the National Indigenous Australians Agency website.[40]

Exempt contracts

The CEO did not exempt any contract entered into during 2022–23 from publication on AusTender on the basis that it would disclose exempt matters under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) access clauses

No contracts valued at $100,000 or more (including GST) were entered into during 2022–23 that did not have provision for the Auditor-General to access the contractor's premises.

Expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts

During 2022–23, 13 new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $2,688,685 (GST inclusive). In addition, 5 ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of $624,807 (GST inclusive).

Geoscience Australia's policy on selecting and engaging consultants and approving relevant expenditure considers all relevant legislation and regulation, including the PGPA Act, the CPRs and Geoscience Australia's AAIs. The procurement method is determined in accordance with the CPRs having regard to cost, value for money and the nature of the work involved.

Geoscience Australia selects consultants using panel arrangements or by making an approach to market. Geoscience Australia engages consultants when it requires specialist expertise to carry out defined reviews or evaluations, or provide independent advice, information or creative solutions to assist Geoscience Australia's decision-making. Examples include engagement of technical experts to assist with the effectiveness of Geoscience Australia's programs.

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website: tenders.gov.au.

Table 8 Expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts (2022–23).

	Number	Expenditure ($ inc. GST)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	13	2,688,685
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	5	624,807
Total	18	3,313,492

Table 9 Organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure (2022–23).

Name of organisation	Organisation ABN	Expenditure ($ inc. GST)
Cynefin Centre Research (New Zealand) Ltd	ABN Exempt	851,000
Synergy Group Australia Pty Ltd	65 119 369 827	580,140
Ernst & Young	75 288 172 749	393,955
MF & Associates Pty Ltd	76 161 983 982	382,800
1448 Pty Ltd	17 607 486 920	283,655

39 This ratio refers to 40% male, 40% female, 20% any gender.

40 https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/economic-development/indigenous-procurement-policy-ipp

04
Financial statements

04 Financial statements photograph:
Geoscience Australia's Education Centre sharing the wonder of geology with visitors.

Australian National Audit Office

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Resources

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of Geoscience Australia (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2023:

(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and

(b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2023 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the rules made under the Act. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Executive Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone (02) 6203 7300

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

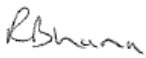
My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Rita Bhana

Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

4 September 2023

Contents

STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Geoscience Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Dr James Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Geoscience Australia

04/09/2023

Michael Koh
Chief Finance Officer
Geoscience Australia

04/09/2023

Geoscience Australia

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $'000	2022 $'000	Original Budget[1] $'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	**86,960**	82,831	81,378
Suppliers	1.1B	**136,084**	120,908	295,044
Depreciation and amortisation	3.2A	**38,967**	37,430	37,604
Finance costs	1.1C	**3,573**	3,764	3,317
Impairment loss on trade and other receivables		**-**	34	-
Foreign exchange losses	1.1D	**1,644**	-	-
Losses from asset sales		**341**	181	-
Total expenses		**267,569**	245,148	417,343
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	**27,444**	31,095	68,535
Rental income	1.2B	**431**	713	401
Other revenue	1.2C	**1,381**	3,442	2,631
Total own-source revenue		**29,256**	35,250	71,567
Gains				
Foreign exchange gains		**-**	1	-
Reversal of write-downs and impairment		**2**	-	-
Other gains		**5**	-	-
Total gains		**7**	1	-
Total own-source income		**29,263**	35,251	71,567
Net cost of services		**(238,306)**	(209,897)	(345,776)
Revenue from the Australian Government	1.2D	**344,569**	260,052	331,897
Surplus/(Deficit) on continuing operations		**106,263**	50,155	(13,879)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		**2,977**	4,151	-
Total other comprehensive income		**2,977**	4,151	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		**109,240**	54,306	(13,879)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Original budget as presented in the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements.

Geoscience Australia
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $'000	2022 $'000	Original Budget[1] $'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	**1,151**	766	766
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	**122,855**	126,821	231,686
Accrued revenue	3.1C	**14,586**	3,271	5,934
Total financial assets		**138,592**	130,858	238,386
Non-financial assets[2, 3]				
Land	3.2A	**3,089**	1,891	1,835
Buildings	3.2A	**242,592**	270,020	242,696
Leasehold improvements	3.2A	**21,713**	20,851	19,165
Heritage and cultural	3.2A	**7,378**	7,274	7,274
Plant and equipment	3.2A	**85,900**	51,836	60,741
Computer software	3.2A	**121,918**	1,715	1,558
Prepayments		**6,330**	5,833	5,833
Total non-financial assets		**488,920**	359,420	339,102
Total assets		**627,512**	490,278	577,488
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.3A	**14,585**	11,644	119,382
Other payables	3.3B	**50,348**	30,230	27,939
Total payables		**64,933**	41,874	147,321
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	3.4A	**261,714**	285,497	261,772
Other interest bearing liabilities	3.4B	**10,240**	-	-
Total interest bearing liabilities		**271,954**	285,497	261,772
Provisions				
Employee provisions	5.1A	**27,675**	26,850	28,783
Other provisions	3.5A	**4,594**	4,227	4,375
Total provisions		**32,269**	31,077	33,158
Total liabilities		**369,156**	358,448	442,251
Net assets		**258,356**	131,830	135,237
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		**82,979**	65,693	82,979
Reserves		**22,339**	19,362	19,362
Retained surplus		**153,038**	46,775	32,896
Total equity		**258,356**	131,830	135,237

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
1. Original budget as presented in the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements.
2. Right-of-use assets are included in Land, Buildings and Plant and equipment.
3. Service concession assets are included in Plant and equipment and Computer software.

Geoscience Australia

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the period ended 30 June 2023

		2023				2022			
		$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
	Notes	Retained earnings	Asset revaluation reserve	Contributed equity /capital	Total	Retained earnings	Asset revaluation reserve	Contributed equity /capital	Total
Opening balance		**46,775**	**19,362**	**65,693**	**131,830**	(3,380)	15,211	51,624	63,455
Comprehensive Income									
Surplus for the period		**106,263**	**-**	**-**	**106,263**	50,155	-	-	50,155
Other comprehensive income									
Change in make good provision	3.5A	**-**	**171**	**-**	**171**	-	73	-	73
Revaluation and impairments	3.2A	**-**	**2,806**	**-**	**2,806**	-	4,078	-	4,078
Total comprehensive income		**106,263**	**2,977**	**-**	**109,240**	50,155	4,151	-	54,306
Transactions with owners									
Distributions to owners									
Contributions by owners									
Equity injection - appropriations	4.1A	**-**	**-**	**9,594**	**9,594**	-	-	9,486	9,486
Departmental capital budget	4.1A	**-**	**-**	**7,692**	**7,692**	-	-	4,583	4,583
Total transactions with owners		**-**	**-**	**17,286**	**17,286**	-	-	14,069	14,069
Closing balance		**153,038**	**22,339**	**82,979**	**258,356**	46,775	19,362	65,693	131,830
Original Budget[1]									
Opening balance		46,775	19,362	65,693	131,830				
Comprehensive Income									
Deficit for the period		(13,879)	-	-	(13,879)				
Total comprehensive income		(13,879)	-	-	(13,879)				
Transactions with owners									
Contributions by owners									
Departmental capital budget		-	-	7,692	7,692				
Equity injection - appropriations		-	-	9,594	9,594				
Total Transactions with owners		-	-	17,286	17,286				
Closing balance		32,896	19,362	82,979	135,237				

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Original budget as presented in the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements.

Accounting Policy

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Geoscience Australia

Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $'000	2022 $'000	Original Budget[1] $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		**475,226**	250,827	257,151
Receipts from the Australian Government		**-**	9	-
Sale of goods and rendering of services		**54,173**	27,991	63,793
Net GST received		**33,063**	13,022	11,281
Other		**52,164**	3,762	2,495
Total cash received		**614,626**	295,611	334,720
Cash used				
Employees		**86,450**	82,137	79,227
Suppliers		**220,461**	135,236	198,383
Interest payments on lease liabilities		**3,430**	3,713	3,267
Section 74 receipts transferred to OPA		**140,799**	45,684	30,118
Other		**2**	-	-
Total cash used		**451,142**	266,770	310,995
Net cash from operating activities		**163,484**	28,841	23,725
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		**-**	21	-
Total cash received		**-**	21	-
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**41,950**	21,562	17,086
Purchase of heritage and cultural assets		**100**	64	-
Purchase of intangibles		**112,431**	1,427	200
Total cash used		**154,481**	23,053	17,286
Net cash used by investing activities		**(154,481)**	(23,032)	(17,286)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Contributed equity - Equity injection		**7,654**	12,932	9,594
Contributed equity - Departmental Capital Budget		**7,692**	4,583	7,692
Total cash received		**15,346**	17,515	17,286
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		**23,964**	22,894	23,725
Total cash used		**23,964**	22,894	23,725
Net cash used by financing activities		**(8,618)**	(5,379)	(6,439)
Net increase in cash held		**385**	430	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**766**	336	766
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	3.1A	**1,151**	766	766

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Original budget as presented in the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements.

Geoscience Australia

Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $'000	2022 $'000	Original Budget[1] $'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Grants	2.1A	**19**	**-**	19
Total expenses		**19**	-	19
Net cost of services		**(19)**	-	(19)
Deficit		**(19)**	-	(19)

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Original budget as presented in the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements.

Geoscience Australia
Administered Reconciliation Schedule
for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July		**-**	-
Net contribution by services			
Expenses			
Payments to entities other than corporate Commonwealth entities		**(19)**	-
Transfers to the Australian Government			
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account			
Annual appropriations			
Payments to entities other than corporate Commonwealth entities		**19**	-
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June		**-**	-

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Accounting Policy
Administered Cash Transfers to and from the Official Public Account
Revenue collected by the entity for use by the Australian Government rather than the entity is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under Parliamentary appropriation on behalf of the Australian Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by Geoscience Australia on behalf of the Australian Government and reported as such in the schedule of administered cash flows and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

Geoscience Australia

Administered Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $'000	2022 $'000	Original Budget[1] $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash used				
Grants		**19**	-	19
Total cash used		**19**	-	19
Net cash from operating activities		**(19)**	-	(19)
Cash from Official Public Account				
Appropriations		**19**	-	19
Total cash from official public account		**19**	-	19
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		**-**	-	**-**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**-**	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		**-**	-	-

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Original budget as presented in the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements.

Departmental Budget Variance

The following provides explanations for significant variances between Geoscience Australia's original budget estimates, as published in the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements, and the actual financial performance and position for the year.

The Southern Positioning Augmentation Network (SouthPAN) has been recognised as:
a) a joint operation of the Australian and New Zealand Governments in accordance with AASB 11 Joint Arrangements; and
b) a service concession arrangement between the joint operators and Lockheed Martin Australia in accordance with AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors.
This was not anticipated when the budget was prepared, resulting in major impacts on variances to budget in 2022-23. Variance commentary in the table below explains these impacts where applicable.

Explanations of major variances	Affected line items
Supplier Expenses are lower than budget by $159.0 million, mainly due to a change in accounting treatment for the SouthPAN joint operation from when the budget was prepared. Milestone completion of $148.7 million has been recognised against service concession assets. The recognition of SouthPAN as a joint operation with the New Zealand Government also contributes to expenses being lower than budget. This is offset by the approved technical operating loss of $15.8 million, which was not factored into the original budget. **Foreign exchange losses** of $1.6 million were not able to be reliably estimated at the time of the budget.	Total expenses (Statement of comprehensive income) Suppliers (Cash flow statement) Retained earnings (Statement of changes in equity) Net cost of service (Statement of comprehensive income)
Revenue from contracts with customers is lower than budget by $41.1 million, mainly due to the recognition of SouthPAN as a joint operation with the New Zealand Government. **Other revenue** is lower than budget by $1.3 million due to one-off miscellaneous revenues being lower than prior year averages on which the budget was based. **Revenue from Government** is higher than budget by $12.7 million due to supplementation for foreign exchange losses recognised under the Australian Government's foreign exchange risk management policy.	Retained earnings (Statement of changes in equity) Total own-source revenue (Statement of comprehensive income Sale of goods and services (Cash flow statement) Net cost of service (Statement of comprehensive income)
Changes in asset revaluation reserve is higher than the budget of $3.0 million mainly because of the asset revaluation during in 2022-23 FY. This is unable to be reliably estimated in the budget.	Statement of comprehensive income Statement of changes in equity
Trade and other receivables are lower than budget by $108.8 million. In particular **Appropriations receivable** are lower than budget due to appropriations received for SouthPAN payments being made earlier than estimated in the budget. This corresponds to supplier payables being lower than budget. **Total non-financial assets** are higher than budget by $149.8 million, mainly due to a change in accounting treatment for the SouthPAN joint operation. $148.7 million has been recognised against service concession assets (plant and equipment, computer software). The asset revaluation increment of $2.8 million also contributes to higher asset balances than budget.	Total financial assets (Statement of financial position) Total non-financial assets (Statement of financial position) Net assets (Statement of financial position) Total equity (Statement of financial position)

Supplier payables are lower than budget by $104.8 million, mainly due to the timing of SouthPAN contract payments being earlier than budget. This corresponds to appropriations receivable being lower than budget. **Other payables** are higher than budget by $22.4 million, mainly due to consideration received earlier from contracts with customers but services are yet to be performed.	Total payables (Statement of financial position) Liabilities (Statement of financial position)
Total comprehensive income is higher than budget by $123.1 million, mainly due to a change in accounting treatment for SouthPAN. Milestone completion of $148.7 million has been recognised against service concession assets. This is offset by the approved technical operating loss of $15.8 million, which was not factored into the original budget.	Statement of changes in equity
Cash received - Contributed equity - Equity injection is lower than budget due to capital works being scheduled in future financial years.	Total cash received - financing activities (Cash flow statement)

Overview

Geoscience Australia is an Australian Government controlled not-for-profit entity. Geoscience Australia's purpose is to be the trusted advisor on Earth sciences to inform government, community and industry decision making. This contributes to a strong economy, resilient society and sustainable environment.

Geoscience Australia is structured to meet a single 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.

Geoscience Australia's principal business is located in Symonston, Canberra, Australia Capital Territory.

The continued existence of Geoscience Australia in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Australian Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for the entity's administration and programs.

Geoscience Australia administers a grant to the International Geoscience Programme on behalf of the Australian Government.

The Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

a) *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR)* ; and

b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars.

New Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements
Two amending standards (AASB 2021-2 and AASB 2021-6) were adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. These amending standards have been adopted for the 2022-23 reporting period.

The following amending standards were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the accountable authority and chief financial officer and were applicable to the current reporting period:

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions, and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 2021-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates* (AASB 2021-2)	AASB 2021-2 amends AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 108, AASB 134 and AASB Practice Statement 2. The amending standard requires the disclosure of material, rather than significant, accounting policies, and clarifies what is considered a change in accounting policy compared to a change in accounting estimate.
AASB 2021-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards* (AASB 2021-6)	AASB 2021-6 amends the Tier 2 reporting requirements set out in AASB 1049, AASB 1054 and AASB 1060 to reflect the changes made by AASB 2021-2. The details of the changes in accounting policies and adjustments are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. This amending standard is not expected to have a material impact on the entity's financial statements for the current reporting period or future reporting periods.

Taxation

Geoscience Australia is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Reporting of Administered activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Events after the Reporting Period

There were no events occurring after 30 June 2023 that would have a material impact on the departmental or administered financial statements.

Financial Performance

This section analyses the financial performance of Geoscience Australia for the year ended 30 June 2023.

1.1 Expenses

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	**66,093**	63,983
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	**7,700**	7,119
Defined benefit plans	**4,555**	4,535
Leave and other entitlements	**8,604**	6,776
Separation and redundancies	**8**	418
Total employee benefits	**86,960**	82,831

Accounting Policy
Accounting policies for employee related expenses is contained in the 'People and relationships' section.

1.1B: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Consultants and legal services	**3,706**	3,058
Outsourced services	**69,921**	53,583
Travel	**3,303**	943
IT services	**34,809**	35,878
Property operating	**6,126**	6,107
Office supplies	**987**	778
Direct operational costs	**6,413**	6,111
Research	**5,008**	10,654
Other	**5,543**	3,579
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	**135,816**	120,691
Goods supplied	**1,709**	1,489
Services rendered	**134,107**	119,202
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	**135,816**	120,691
Other suppliers		
Workers compensation expenses	**253**	204
Short-term leases	**15**	13
Total other suppliers	**268**	217
Total suppliers	**136,084**	120,908

Geoscience Australia has no short-term lease commitments as at 30 June 2023 (2022: nil).

Remuneration for the financial statement audit $96,000 (2022: $96,000), refer to note 1.2C.

The above disclosure and notes 1.1D, 3.1C, 3.2A, 3.2C, 3.3A and 3.4B should be read in conjunction with note 3.2B.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1C, 1.2B, 3.2A and 3.4A.

Accounting Policy
Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets
Geoscience Australia has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than $10,000 per asset). Geoscience Australia recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.1C: Finance costs		
Interest on lease liabilities	**3,430**	3,713
Unwinding of discount	**143**	51
Total finance costs	**3,573**	3,764

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 1.2B, 3.2A and 3.4A.

1.1D: Foreign exchange losses		
Non-speculative	**1,644**	-
Total foreign exchange losses	**1,644**	-

The above disclosure and notes 1.1B, 3.1C, 3.2A, 3.2C, 3.3A and 3.4B should be read in conjunction with note 3.2B.

1.2 Own-Source Revenue and Gains

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Own-Source Revenue		
1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers		
Sale of goods	**387**	276
Rendering of services	**27,057**	30,819
Total revenue from contracts with customers	**27,444**	31,095
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Geoscience Australia's value to the nation:		
Building Australia's resource wealth	**6,879**	10,512
Supporting Australia's community safety	**6,664**	6,417
Securing Australia's water resources	**124**	409
Managing Australia's marine jurisdictions	**1,364**	2,200
Creating a location-enabled Australia	**9,936**	9,139
Enabling an informed Australia	**2,360**	2,083
Corporate	**117**	335
	27,444	31,095
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	**15,901**	20,443
State and Territory Governments	**4,995**	5,402
Non-government entities	**6,548**	5,250
	27,444	31,095
Timing of transfer of goods and services:		
Over time	**26,965**	30,806
Point in time	**479**	289
	27,444	31,095

Accounting Policy

Revenue recognition

Geoscience Australia recognises revenue from the provision of geoscientific support to all levels of government and industry.

Geoscience Australia delivers support across six key areas of society:

- maximising the value from our abundant mineral and energy resources
- strengthening our resilience to the impact of hazards
- optimising and sustaining our water use
- supporting the sustainable use of our marine environment
- using digital mapping for faster and smarter decision-making
- equipping government, industry and the community with geoscience data and information to make informed decisions.

Geoscientific services include:

- provision of independent technical advice
- development of tools, datasets, science products, data products and decision support tools to guide government, industry and communities
- project management of air, marine and land surveys including but not limited to geospatial, geological, hydrogeological and geophysical data and sample collecting techniques
- hazard and impact assessments including scenario modelling, analysis and interpretation
- provision of ongoing real-time monitoring, analysis and advice, and
- production, supply, maintenance and management of observatory monitoring stations.

Geoscience Australia assesses agreements to determine if the contract is within the scope of AASB 15, including having enforceable performance obligations that are sufficiently specific to enable Geoscience Australia to determine when they have been satisfied. The majority of contracts that Geoscience Australia participates in fall within the scope of AASB 15.
Due to the customised nature of Geoscience Australia's services there usually is no direct observable selling price for the performance obligations. Geoscience Australia provides services on a cost recovery basis, the cost to provide each performance obligation is the best indicator of the standalone selling price.

Geoscience Australia recognises revenue as a performance obligation when satisfied. It can be over time or at a point in time. For the majority of service contracts, Geoscience Australia recognises revenue over time; the customer receives the benefits provided by Geoscience Australia as services are provided. Should Geoscience Australia cease activities, the works carried out would not need to be substantially re-performed by another party to satisfy the remaining obligations. Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point in time when control has been transferred to the buyer.

Where revenue is recognised over time, for each contract, Geoscience Australia determines the most representative measure of progress to achieving each performance obligation. The most common methods utilised by Geoscience Australia include:

- costs incurred as a proportion of total costs
- surveys of performance completed to date, and
- time elapsed.

When a contract does not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, revenue is recognised immediately in other income to the extent that the asset does not give rise to a contribution by owners, lease liability, financial instrument or a provision.

Where Geoscience Australia is contracted to acquire or construct a non-financial asset that will be controlled by Geoscience Australia, revenue is recognised when Geoscience Australia has satisfied its obligations under the agreement and is reported in other income:

- when an asset is acquired, this is at the point in time Geoscience Australia has control of the asset
- when the asset is constructed, if Geoscience Australia has control during construction, revenue will be recognised to the extent that the construction has progressed.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30-day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
1.2B: Rental income		
Operating lease		
Subleasing right-of-use assets[1]	**431**	713
Total rental income	**431**	713

Operating leases

1. Geoscience Australia has subleased the childcare centre and floor space within the main building at the Symonston site in Canberra. The childcare centre underlease has a 10-year initial term expiring on 30 April 2027, with the option to extend for a further 5 years. In accordance with the Australian Government's Rent Relief Policy, no rent was collected for the childcare centre from March 2020 to May 2022 due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Rent of $278,297 was for floor space within the main building, rented for 7 months (2022: $594,825 for 12 months), the current lease's initial term ends on 31 January 2025. Rental income has been recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The relevant sublease agreements detail Geoscience Australia's rights as head-lessee and the sub-lessee's obligations, including the sublessee's obligation to make good on termination.

Maturity analysis of operating lease income receivables:		
Within 1 year	**677**	270
One to two years	**503**	278
Two to three years	**295**	286
Three to four years	**252**	295
Four to five years	**-**	252
Total undiscounted lease payments receivable	**1,727**	1,381

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 1.1C, 3.2A and 3.4A.

1.2C: Other revenue		
Employee contributions (salary sacrifice arrangements)	**458**	528
Other[1]	**827**	2,818
Resources received free of charge		
Remuneration of auditors	**96**	96
Total other revenue	**1,381**	3,442

1. During the reporting period, other income of $95,000 (2022: $332,995) was a result of acquiring or constructing non-financial assets to be controlled by Geoscience Australia. Geoscience Australia satisfies its obligations under these transfers and recognises revenue when it controls the asset, typically as the asset is constructed or when the asset acquired has been received.

Accounting Policy

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

1.2D: Revenue from the Australian Government		
Appropriations		
Departmental appropriations[1]	**331,897**	260,052
Supplementation[2]	**12,672**	-
Total revenue from the Australian Government	**344,569**	260,052

1. A formal reduction of $3,945,000 occurred as a result of the 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements (2022: Includes a PGPA Act section 75 transfer of $24,000, refer to note 7.2A and 4.1A).

2. Supplementation relates to foreign exchange losses, refer to note 3.1C.

Accounting Policy

Revenue from the Australian Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from the Australian Government when Geoscience Australia gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Income and Expenses Administered on Behalf of the Australian Government

This section analyses the activities that Geoscience Australia does not control but administers on behalf of the Australian Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.

2.1 Administered - Expenses

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
2.1A: Grants		
Private sector		
Not-for-profit organisations	**19**	-
Total grants	**19**	-

Accounting Policy

Geoscience Australia administers a grant to the International Geological Correlation Program on behalf of the Australian Government. Grant and subsidy liabilities are recognised to the extent that (i) the services required to be performed by the grantee have been performed or (ii) the grant eligibility criteria have been satisfied, but payments due have not been made. When the Australian Government enters into an agreement to make these grants and services but services have not been performed or criteria satisfied, this is considered a commitment.

Financial Position

This section analyses the assets Geoscience Australia used to conduct its operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result.
Employee-related information is disclosed in the 'People and Relationships' section.

3.1 Financial Assets

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
3.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	**1,151**	766
Total cash and cash equivalents	**1,151**	766

Accounting Policy
Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

3.1B: Trade and other receivables		
Goods and services receivables		
Contract assets from contracts with customers	**2,273**	7,815
Total goods and services receivables	**2,273**	7,815
Refer to note 3.3B for information relating to contract liabilities from contracts with customers.		
Appropriation receivables		
Appropriation receivable	**113,770**	114,360
Total appropriation receivables	**113,770**	114,360
Other receivables		
Statutory receivables	**4,053**	3,309
Other	**2,759**	1,368
Total other receivables	**6,812**	4,677
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	**122,855**	126,852
Less expected credit loss allowance	**0**	(31)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**122,855**	126,821

Credit terms for goods and services from contracts with customers were within 30 days (2022: 30 days).

Accounting Policy
Financial assets
Trade receivables and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

3.1C: Accrued revenue		
Accrued appropriation revenue	**12,672**	-
Accrued revenue from contracts with customers	**1,914**	3,271
Total other financial assets	**14,586**	3,271

No asset existed in relation to transfers to acquire or construct a non-financial asset at reporting date (2022: nil).
The above disclosure and notes 1.1B, 1.1D, 3.2A, 3.2C, 3.3A and 3.4B should be read in conjunction with note 3.2B.

3.2 Non-Financial Assets

3.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangibles

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment not subject to operating leases for 2023

	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Leasehold improvements[1] $'000	Heritage and cultural $'000	Plant and equipment $'000	Computer software $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2022							
Gross book value	2,018	352,428	23,158	7,274	64,584	4,806	454,268
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(127)	(82,408)	(4,111)	-	(12,748)	(3,091)	(102,485)
Total as at 1 July 2022	1,891	270,020	19,047	7,274	51,836	1,715	351,783
Additions							
Purchase or internally developed	13	-	1,102	99	43,480	120,610	165,304
Right-of-use assets	98	29	-	-	67	-	194
Donation/Gift	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	1,135	59	1,609	-	(5)	-	2,798
Revaluations recognised in net cost of services	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(22)	(2,361)	-	(8,506)	(443)	(11,332)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	(48)	(27,491)	-	-	(47)	-	(27,586)
Other movements	-	(3)	553	-	(586)	36	-
Disposals							
Other	-	-	-	-	(341)	-	(341)
Transfers to and from the schedule for property, plant and equipment subject to operating leases[2]	-	-	1,323	-	-	-	1,323
Total as at 30 June 2023	3,089	242,592	21,273	7,378	85,900	121,918	482,150
Total as at 30 June 2023 represented by							
Gross book value	3,264	352,448	21,321	7,378	86,682	125,452	596,545
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(175)	(109,856)	(48)	-	(782)	(3,534)	(114,395)
Total as at 30 June 2023	3,089	242,592	21,273	7,378	85,900	121,918	482,150

1. Property, plant and equipment not subject to operating leases.

2. Transferring in the written down value of $1.774 million for 1,540m^2 of the Symonston building when the sublease ended in August 2022; transferring out the written down value of $0.451 million for 1,060m2 of this building, subleased in February 2023.

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment that are subject to operating leases for 2023[1]

	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Leasehold improvements $'000	Heritage and cultural $'000	Plant and equipment $'000	Computer software $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2022							
Gross book value	-	-	2,138	-	-	-	2,138
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	-	(334)	-	-	-	(334)
Total as at 1 July 2022	-	-	1,804	-	-	-	1,804
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(49)	-	-	-	(49)
Transfers to and from the schedule for property, plant and equipment not subject to operating leases[2]	-	-	(1,323)	-	-	-	(1,323)
Total as at 30 June 2023	-	-	440	-	-	-	440
Total as at 30 June 2023 represented by							
Gross book value	-	-	440	-	-	-	440
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total as at 30 June 2023	-	-	440	-	-	-	440

1. The sublease for 1,540m2 of the Symonston building (25,000m2) ended in August 2022, 1,060m2 was subleased from February 2023.

2. Transferring out the written down value of $1.774 million for 1,540m2 of the Symonston building when the lease ended in August 2022; transferring in the written down value of $0.451 million in February 2023 for 1,060m2 of this building currently under lease.

Property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2023

	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Leasehold improvements $'000	Heritage and cultural $'000	Plant and equipment $'000	Computer software $'000	Total $'000
Combined total as at 30 June 2023 represented by							
Gross book value	3,264	352,448	21,761	7,378	86,682	125,452	596,985
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(175)	(109,856)	(48)	-	(782)	(3,534)	(114,395)
Total as at 30 June 2023	3,089	242,592	21,713	7,378	85,900	121,918	482,590
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	765	242,268	-	-	59	-	243,092
Carrying amount of service concession assets	-	-	-	-	29,746	118,985	148,731

Land, buildings and other property, plant and equipment that met the definition of a heritage and cultural item were disclosed in the heritage and cultural asset class.

The carrying amount of right-of-use assets are included in the total as at 30 June 2023.

Geoscience Australia has no significant property, plant and equipment and intangibles disposals expected within the next 12 months.

Revaluations of non-financial assets and intangible assets

The comprehensive valuation and materiality review were undertaken by an independent valuer, CBRE Valuations Pty Limited as at 30 April 2023 and 30 June 2023 (2022: Colliers International (ACT) Pty Ltd). Geoscience Australia has relied upon those outcomes to establish carrying amounts.

Asset class	Comprehensive valuation date
Land	30/04/2023
Buildings	30/04/2023
Leasehold improvements	30/04/2023
Heritage and cultural	30/06/2022
Plant and equipment	30/04/2023

Accounting Policy
An annual assessment is undertaken to determine whether the carrying amount of the assets is materially different from the fair value. Comprehensive formal valuations are carried out at least once every three years for all non-financial assets classes, with the exception of right-of-use assets.
The valuation models developed by the valuer are in compliance with AASB 13. The methods utilised to determine and substantiate the unobservable inputs are derived and evaluated as follows:
Physical depreciation and obsolescence - Assets that do not transact with enough frequency or transparency to develop objective opinions of value from observable market evidence have been measured utilising the Depreciated Replacement Cost approach. Under this approach the estimated cost to replace the asset is calculated and then adjusted to take into account physical depreciation and obsolescence. Physical depreciation and obsolescence has been determined based on professional judgement regarding physical, economic and external obsolescence factors relevant to the asset under consideration. For all leasehold improvement assets, the consumed economic benefit / asset obsolescence deduction is determined based on the term of the associated lease.
Geoscience Australia's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets

Total commitments for property, plant, equipment and intangible assets were $331,188,151 (2022: $11,076,373), including contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets amounting to $325.374 million associated with the SouthPAN joint operation.

The above disclosure and notes 1.1B, 1.1D, 3.1C, 3.2C, 3.3A and 3.4B should be read in conjunction with note 3.2B.

Accounting Policy

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

Tangible Assets

Asset Recognition Threshold
Purchases of leasehold improvements and plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of financial position, except for assets costing less than the relevant asset recognition threshold, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total). Asset recognition thresholds can be found in the table below.

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. These costs are included in the relevant asset class with a corresponding provision for the 'make good' recognised.

Leased Right-of-Use (ROU) Assets
Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright, but are included in the same column where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 Geoscience Australia adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right-of-use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right-of-use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition.

Revaluations
Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment (excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value (or an amount not materially different from fair value) less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.
Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation
Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the entity using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Leasehold improvements are amortised on a straight-line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements and the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives and methods:

	Threshold		**Useful lives**	
Asset Type	**2023**	2022	**2023**	2022
Building on freehold land	**N/A**	N/A	**40 years**	40 years
Leasehold improvements	**$25,000**	$25,000	**7 - 15 years**	7 - 15 years
Plant and equipment	**$5,000**	$5,000	**3 - 25 years**	3 - 25 years
Collections	**$5,000**	$5,000	**Indefinite**	Indefinite

Impairment
All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2023. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.
The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the entity were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition
An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Intangible Assets

Geoscience Australia's intangible assets comprise of software. Software assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses, except for assets costing less than the relevant asset recognition threshold.

	Threshold		**Useful lives**	
Intangible Asset Type	**2023**	2022	**2023**	2022
Purchased software	**$10,000**	$10,000	**3 - 15 years**	3 - 15 years
Internally developed software	**$200,000**	$200,000	**3 - 15 years**	3 - 15 years

All software assets were assessed for indicators of impairment at 30 June 2023.

Heritage and Cultural Assets

The key objective of Geoscience Australia's collection is to maintain geoscience knowledge and capability. Geoscience Australia's heritage and cultural assets comprise:
• a collection of minerals which are primarily held for research, public exhibition and education; and
• the Commonwealth Paleontological Collection (CPC) – which includes internationally recognised reference specimens used to define fossil species under the International Codes of Botanical and Zoological Nomenclature. Such assets are irreplaceable and have indefinite useful lives as a reference, for further research as well as outreach activities.

Geoscience Australia's collections management and preservation policy is available on our website:
https://www.ga.gov.au/data-pubs/nmfc

The Geoscience Australia museum is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient and the Cultural Gifts Program.

Collections not recognised as assets
Through the process of national geological mapping, both onshore and in Australia's marine jurisdiction, and the national stewardship of cores, cuttings, and other samples and data submitted to Geoscience Australia under the *Petroleum Search Subsidy Act [PSSA] 1957-1961*, *Petroleum [Submerged Lands] Act 1967 amended*, and the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*, Geoscience Australia has diverse and comprehensive geoscience collections used for scientific research and analysis purposes. The collections have been acquired since the inception of Geoscience Australia's forerunner organisation, the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, in 1946.

The rock and core collections include:
- geological reference samples of surface rock and cores collected during the mapping of Australia;
- physical cores and cuttings samples from offshore petroleum wells and stratigraphic boreholes; and
- oil, gas and other fluid samples submitted under the various petroleum legislations.

Numerous data collections are maintained including fundamental types such as:
- two and three dimensional seismic and non-seismic geophysical data;
- satellite earth observation data;
- geospatial data particularly geodetic data for positioning purposes; and
- elevation and bathymetry.

The bulk fossil collection:
Palaeontological specimens collected and donated which are unprocessed from both Australia and overseas.
These are national, and in some cases international collections that have enduring scientific value for the nation.

These collections are deemed irreplaceable, with an indefinite useful life. They are not recognised as assets of Geoscience Australia as their value is not reliably measurable.

3.2B: Joint operations

Geoscience Australia is an operator in the following jointly controlled operations and assets:

	Share of Output	
	2023	2022
	%	%
Southern Positioning Augmentation Network	**75**	-

The Southern Positioning Augmentation Network (SouthPAN) is a joint operation of the Australian and New Zealand Governments that will provide Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) services for Australia and New Zealand.

Geoscience Australia's interest in assets employed in the above joint operations is detailed below. The amounts are included in the financial statements under their respective asset categories.

	2023	2022
	$'000	$'000
Joint operations		
Expenses		
Suppliers	**13,517**	-
Foreign exchange losses	**1,645**	-
Total expenses	**15,162**	-
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment	**29,746**	-
Computer software	**118,985**	-
Total non-current assets	**148,731**	-
Total assets	**148,731**	-
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Supplier payable	**2,536**	-
Other interest bearing liabilities	**10,240**	-
Total current liabilities	**12,776**	-
Total liabilities	**12,776**	-

The above joint venture disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 1.1D, 3.1C, 3.2A, 3.2C, 3.3A and 3.4B.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates
No significant accounting judgements or estimates were applied to determine amounts for Geoscience's interest in the joint operation.

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
3.2C: Service concession arrangements		
Service concession assets		
Plant and equipment	**29,746**	-
Computer software	**118,985**	-
Total service concession assets	**148,731**	-

The SouthPAN joint operation is a financial liability service concession arrangement between the joint operators and Lockheed Martin Australia Pty Limited (Lockheed Martin). The arrangement is expected to become fully operational in 2027 and continue through to 2042 (19 years).

The joint operators are required to pay consideration for the construction and operation of the network over its duration. Lockheed Martin is required to deliver Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) services including designing, building, operating and maintenance of SouthPAN. At the completion of the project, certain SouthPAN assets are to be transferred to Geoscience Australia.

As at 30 June 2023, assets associated with the service concession arrangement are under construction.
During the reporting period, no existing assets became part of the service concession arrangement.
The above disclosure and notes 1.1B, 1.1D, 3.1C, 3.2A, 3.3A and 3.4B should be read in conjunction with note 3.2B.

Accounting Policy
For arrangements within the scope of AASB 1059, at initial recognition a public sector grantor is required to record the asset(s) used in the service concession arrangement at current replacement cost in accordance with the cost approach to Fair Value under AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, with a related liability, which could be a financial liability, an accrued revenue liability or a combination of both.

After initial recognition, service concession assets are measured applying Geoscience Australia's property, plant and equipment and intangible assets (refer to note 3.2) subsequent measurement accounting policies.

3.3 Payables

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
3.3A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors	**395**	279
Accruals	**14,190**	11,365
Total suppliers	**14,585**	11,644

Settlement terms for suppliers are 5 calendar days for electronic invoicing (eInvoicing) and 20 calendar days for all other invoices, unless shorter maximum payment terms are agreed upon (2022: 5 days eInvoicing; 20 days other invoices).
The above disclosure and notes 1.1B, 1.1D, 3.1C, 3.2A, 3.2C and 3.4B should be read in conjunction with note 3.2B.

3.3B: Other payables		
Salaries and wages	**2,594**	2,144
Superannuation	**337**	272
Separations and redundancies	**-**	105
Unearned income from contracts with customers[1]	**46,791**	27,409
Other	**626**	300
Total other payables	**50,348**	30,230

1. Consideration that has been received from the customer but services are yet to be performed.

No liabilities existed in relation to transfers to acquire or construct a non-financial asset at reporting date (2022: nil). Refer to notes 3.1B and 3.1C for further information relating to contract assets from contracts with customers.

3.4 Interest Bearing Liabilities

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
3.4A: Leases		
Lease liabilities	**261,714**	285,497
Total leases	**261,714**	285,497
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	**28,186**	27,372
Between 1 to 5 years	**119,795**	116,592
More than 5 years	**129,116**	160,292
Total leases	**277,097**	304,256

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2023 was $27.4 million (2022: $26.6 million) including short-term leases $0.014 million (2022: $0.013 million).
Geoscience Australia's significant leasing arrangement is for office accommodation at Symonston ACT. This lease expires on 31 May 2032 and rent payable has a 3% annual increase. Refer to note 1.2B in relation to the sublease arrangements. Geoscience Australia has other lease arrangements including the Satellite Laser Ranging Station at Yarragadee, WA, the Alice Springs satellite ground station and motor vehicles used in field work.
Geoscience Australia in its capacity as lessee uses small parcels of land across Australia to accommodate ground station infrastructure. These arrangements are generally below market terms, often for nil consideration and have been accounted for at cost. The leases are restricted to a permitted use of collecting and communicating geoscientific and geospatial information.
The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 1.1C, 1.2B, and 3.2A.

Accounting Policy
Geoscience Australia has elected to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months and of value over $10,000.

For all new contracts entered into, Geoscience Australia considers whether the contract is or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the department's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

3.4B: Other interest bearing liabilities		
Services concession arrangements	**10,240**	-
Total other interest bearing liabilities	**10,240**	-

Interest bearing liabilities for the service concession agreements relate to the SouthPAN joint operation.
The above disclosure and notes 1.1B, 1.1D, 3.1C, 3.2A, 3.2C and 3.3A should be read in conjunction with note 3.2B.

3.5 Other Provisions

3.5A: Other provisions

	Other[1]	Provision for restoration[2]	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000
As at 1 July 2022	**655**	**3,572**	**4,227**
Additional provisions made	**99**	**298**	**397**
Amounts reversed	**(2)**	**-**	**(2)**
Finance costs - unwinding of discount	**-**	**143**	**143**
Re-measurement	**-**	**(171)**	**(171)**
Total as at 30 June 2023	**752**	**3,842**	**4,594**

1. Other provisions includes a provision for building painting required every seven years under the lease agreement $692,055 (2022: $593,190) and a building works retention $59,891 (2022: $61,827). Repainting is planned during 2025 and the retention will be paid in 2023.

2. Geoscience Australia has contractual obligations to remove leasehold improvements and restore leased sites upon vacating. The Symonston office building lease expires in May 2032 and timing of ground station site restoration will depend upon the individual lease; the majority of ground station site restoration will be in more than 20 years. The provision reflects the present value of these obligations.

There are no expected reimbursements or associated receivables in relation to Other Provisions.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates

Restoration of revalued non-financial assets has been estimated by the independent valuer stated in note 3.2A. Restoration of the ground station sites was based on an estimate of the present expenditure to restore the site, adjusted using building price indices and government bond rates.

The provision for building painting has been estimated based on historical cost adjusted by CPI.

Funding

This section identifies Geoscience Australia's funding structure.

4.1 Appropriations

4.1A: Annual appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')

Annual Appropriations for 2023

	Annual Appropriation $'000	Adjustments to appropriation[1] $'000	Total appropriation $'000	Appropriation applied in 2023 (current and prior years) $'000	Variance[2] $'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	**335,842**	**107,088**	**442,930**	**440,979**	**1,951**
Capital Budget[3]	**7,692**	**-**	**7,692**	**7,692**	**-**
Other services					
Equity Injections	**9,594**	**-**	**9,594**	**7,654**	**1,940**
Total departmental	**353,128**	**107,088**	**460,216**	**456,325**	**3,891**
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	**19**	**-**	**19**	**19**	**-**
Total administered	**19**	**-**	**19**	**19**	**-**

1. Current year annual appropriations adjustments include PGPA Act section 74 receipts $107.088 million.

2. Departmental ordinary annual services variance resulted from $3.945 million quarantined due to section 51 withholding offset by prior year appropriations applied. The Equity injection variance is due to the capital works for the Satellite Based Augmentation System measure being scheduled in future financial years.

3. Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1, 3, 5) and Supply Acts (No.1 & 2). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. The Portfolio Budget Statements included a Departmental Capital Budget of $7.692 million.

The 2022-23 October Portfolio Budget Statements budget triggered a formal reduction under section 51 of the PGPA Act to Departmental annual appropriation by $3.945 million (2022: Includes a PGPA Act section 75 transfer of $0.024 million, refer to note 7.2A).

Annual Appropriations for 2022

	Annual Appropriation $'000	Adjustments to appropriation[1] $'000	Total appropriation $'000	Appropriation applied in 2022 (current and prior years) $'000	Variance[2] $'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	260,028	31,983	292,011	236,881	55,130
Capital Budget[3]	4,583	-	4,583	4,583	-
Other services					
Equity Injections	9,486	-	9,486	12,932	(3,446)
Total departmental	274,097	31,983	306,080	254,396	51,684
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	19	-	19	-	19
Total administered	19	-	19	-	19

1. Current year annual appropriations adjustments include PGPA Act section 74 receipts $31.959 million and PGPA Act section 75 transfers from Digital Transformation Agency $0.024 million.

2. Departmental ordinary annual services variance is due to delays in implementation of the Satellite Based Augmentation System measure. Equity injection variance is due to additions from prior year equity injections. Administered variance is due to COVID-19 restrictions on overseas travel.

3. Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1,3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. The Portfolio Budget Statements included a Departmental Capital Budget of $4.583 million.

4.1B: Unspent annual appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Departmental		
Supply Act (No. 1) 2019-2020 [1,4]	-	20,879
Supply Act (No. 2) 2019-2020 [1,4]	-	708
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2019-2020 [1,4]	-	11,273
Supply Act (No. 1) 2020-2021[1,3]	**32,254**	32,254
Supply Act (No. 2) 2020-2021[1,3]	**7,915**	7,915
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2020-2021	-	211
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021-2022	-	106,286
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2021-2022	**420**	7,863
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021-2022 - Cash on hand	-	766
Supply Act (No. 2) 2022-2023	**3,998**	-
Supply Act (No. 3) 2022-2023	**107,701**	-
Supply Act (No. 4) 2022-2023	**5,596**	-
Supply Act (No. 3) 2022-2023 - Cash on hand	**1,151**	-
Total departmental	**159,035**	188,155
Administered		
Supply Act (No. 1) 2019-2020[4]	-	8
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019-2020[4]	-	11
Supply Act (No. 1) 2020-2021[3]	**12**	12
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020-2021[3]	**7**	7
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021-2022	**19**	19
Total administered	**38**	57

1. Unspent annual appropriations includes $44.114 million withheld under section 51 of the PGPA Act; $3.945m in 2022-23 and $40.169 million withheld in prior years (Ordinary annual services $32.254 million and Equity Injections $7.915 million). $32.860 million withheld under section 51 of the PGPA Act lapsed on 1 July 2022 (Ordinary annual services $20.879 million and Equity Injections $11.981 million).

2. Prior years unspent appropriations adjustments under section 74 of the PGPA Act: Appropriation Act No.1 $0.194 million.

3. Appropriation Acts for 2020-2021 will lapse on 1 July 2023 in accordance with the repeal clause of the Appropriation Act.

4. Appropriations Acts for 2019-2020 lapsed on 1 July 2022 in accordance with the repeal clause of the Appropriation Act.

4.2 Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Total comprehensive income - as per the Statement of comprehensive income	**109,240**	54,306
Plus : depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections)[1] [3]	**11,381**	9,852
Plus : depreciation of right-of-use assets[2]	**27,586**	27,578
Less : lease principal repayments[2]	**(23,964)**	(22,894)
Net Cash Operating Surplus	**124,243**	68,842

1. From 2010-11, the Australian Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities and selected corporate Commonwealth entities were replaced with a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

2. The inclusion of depreciation/amortisation expenses related to ROU leased assets and the lease liability principal repayment amount reflects the impact of AASB 16 Leases, which does not directly reflect a change in appropriation arrangements.

3. Depreciation of assets funded through appropriations has been adjusted for 2022 from $9.678 million to $9.852 million to include the depreciation expense for subleased assets of $0.174 million since excluded in error.

People and relationships

This section describes a range of employment and post employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.

5.1 Employee Provisions

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
5.1A: Employee provisions		
Leave	**26,804**	26,458
Other	**871**	392
Total employee provisions	**27,675**	26,850

Accounting policy

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the entity's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by the 'shorthand method' outlined in the Resource Management Guide No. 125 - Commonwealth Entities Financial Statements Guide and the recommended probability factors have been applied, along with a discount factor which is the combination of a salary growth rate and the Government 10 year bond rate. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. Geoscience Australia recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

Geoscience Australia's staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap), or other superannuation funds held outside the Australian Government.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

Geoscience Australia makes employer contributions to the employees' defined benefit superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Australian Government. Geoscience Australia accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

5.2 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Geoscience Australia, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of Geoscience Australia. Geoscience Australia has determined the key management personnel to be the Chief Executive Officer, Chiefs of Division and Chief Scientist. Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2023	2022
	$'000	$'000
Short-term employee benefits	**1,560**	1,523
Post-employment benefits	**268**	263
Other long-term employee benefits	**50**	33
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses[1]	**1,878**	1,819

Five key management personnel are included in the table above (2022: five key management personnel).

1. The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by Geoscience Australia.

5.3 Related Party Disclosures

Related party relationships:
Geoscience Australia is an Australian Government controlled entity. Geoscience Australia's related parties are Key Management Personnel including the Portfolio Minister and Executive, and other Australian Government entities.

Transactions with related parties:
Given the breadth of Australian Government activities, related parties may transact with the government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of taxes, receipt of a Medicare rebate or higher education loans. These transactions have not been separately disclosed in this note.

There are no transactions with Key Management Personnel (KMP) besides remuneration disclosed in note 5.2 and travel allowances paid in the ordinary course of business.

Geoscience Australia transacts with other Australian Government controlled entities consistent with normal day-to-day business operations provided under normal terms and conditions, including provision of advice and other services, payment of workers compensation, insurance premiums and superannuation[1]. Giving consideration to relationships with related entities, and transactions entered into during the reporting period by Geoscience Australia, it has been determined that there are no related party transactions to be separately disclosed.

There are no related party transactions by Ministers requiring disclosure by Geoscience Australia in 2023 (2022: nil).

1. Refer to note 5.1 Employee Provisions for details on superannuation arrangements with the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), and the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

Managing uncertainties

This section analyses how Geoscience Australia manages financial risks within its operating environment.

6.1 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

6.1A: Contingent assets and liabilities	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Quantifiable Contingencies		
Contingent assets		
Balance from previous period	-	506
Assets realised	-	(506)
Total contingent assets	-	-

Contingent assets in 2022 were for finalised insurance settlements.

At 30 June 2023, there are no quantifiable contingent liabilities (2022: nil).

Unquantifiable Contingencies

At 30 June 2023, Geoscience Australia had an unquantifiable contingency in relation to a field work pay review underway. It was not possible to accurately estimate the amounts of any eventual payments that may be required under this review.

Accounting Policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the Statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

6.1B: Administered - contingent assets and liabilities

There are no Administered contingent assets or liabilities in 2023 (2022: nil).

6.2 Financial Instruments

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
6.2A: Categories of financial instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash at bank	**1,151**	766
Trade, contract and lease receivables	**2,273**	7,815
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**3,424**	8,581
Total financial assets	**3,424**	8,581
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors and accruals	**14,585**	11,644
Service concession arrangements	**10,240**	-
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	**24,825**	11,644
Total financial liabilities	**24,825**	11,644

Accounting Policy

Geoscience Australia classified its financial assets in the following categories:

a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and
c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on both Geoscience Australia's business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition.
Financial assets are recognised when Geoscience Australia becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to *lifetime expected credit losses* where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to *12-month expected credit losses* if risk has not increased.
The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.
A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.
Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'. Supplier payables are recognised at amortised cost.
Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

6.2B: Net gains or losses on financial assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Exchange gains/(losses)	**2**	1
Impairment	**-**	(34)
Net gains/(losses) on financial assets at amortised cost	**2**	(33)
Net gains on financial assets	**2**	(33)
6.2C: Net gains or losses on financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Exchange gains/(losses)	**(1,646)**	-
Net gains/(losses) on financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	**(1,646)**	-
Net losses from financial liabilities	**(1,646)**	-

Other information

7.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

7.1A: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	**1,151**	766
Trade and other receivables	**122,518**	126,389
Accrued revenue	**14,586**	3,271
Prepayments	**5,810**	5,692
Total no more than 12 months	**144,065**	136,118
More than 12 months		
Trade and other receivables	**337**	432
Land	**3,089**	1,891
Buildings	**242,592**	270,020
Leasehold improvements	**21,713**	20,851
Heritage and cultural	**7,378**	7,274
Plant and equipment	**85,900**	51,836
Computer software	**121,918**	1,715
Prepayments	**520**	141
Total more than 12 months	**483,447**	354,160
Total assets	**627,512**	490,278
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	**14,585**	11,644
Other payables	**35,688**	29,545
Leases	**25,061**	23,945
Other interest bearing liabilities	**10,240**	**-**
Employee provisions	**8,561**	7,857
Other provisions	**60**	62
Total no more than 12 months	**94,195**	73,053
More than 12 months		
Other payables	**14,660**	685
Leases	**236,653**	261,552
Employee provisions	**19,114**	18,993
Other provisions	**4,534**	4,165
Total more than 12 months	**274,961**	285,395
Total liabilities	**369,156**	358,448

7.2 Restructuring

7.2A: Restructuring

	National Map Digital Transformation Agency[1]	
	2023	2022
	$'000	$'000
FUNCTIONS ASSUMED		
Assets recognised		
Appropriations receivables	**-**	24
Total assets recognised	**-**	24
Net assets/(liabilities) recognised[2]	**-**	24
Income assumed		
Recognised by the receiving entity	**-**	24
Total income assumed	**-**	24

1. No restructuring has occurred during 2023 (2022: The National Map function was assumed by Geoscience Australia from Digital Transformation Agency during 2021-22 as a result of the Prime Minister's letter dated 5 July 2021).
2. In respect of functions assumed in 2022, the net book values of assets and liabilities were transferred to the entity for no consideration.

05
Appendices

02 Appendices photograph:
Critical minerals use for renewable energy to support Australia’s climate commitments.

Resource tables

Table 10 Entity resource statement 2022–23.

	Actual available appropriation for 2022–23 $'000 (a)	Payments made 2022–23 $'000 (b)	Balance remaining 2022–23 $'000 (a) – (b)
Departmental			
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services[1]	587,440	483,684	103,756
Annual appropriations - other services - non-operating[2]	17,668	7,654	10,014
Total departmental annual appropriations	605,108	491,338	113,770
Departmental special appropriations	0	0	0
Total special appropriations	0	0	0
Special accounts	0	0	0
Total special accounts	0	0	0
less departmental appropriations drawn from annual/ special appropriations and credited to special accounts	0	0	0
Total departmental resourcing	605,108	491,338	113,770
Administered			
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services[1]	19	19	0
Annual appropriations - other services - non-operating[2]	0	0	0
Annual appropriations - other services - specific payments to States, ACT, NT and local government	0	0	0
Annual appropriations - other services - new administered expenses	0	0	0
Total administered annual appropriations	19	19	0
Administered special appropriations	0	0	0
Total administered special appropriations	0	0	0
Special accounts	0	0	0

	Actual available appropriation for 2022–23 $'000 (a)	Payments made 2022–23 $'000 (b)	Balance remaining 2022–23 $'000 (a) – (b)
Total special accounts receipts	0	0	0
less administered appropriations drawn from annual/special appropriations and credited to special accounts	0	0	0
less payments to corporate entities from annual/special appropriations	0	0	0
Total administered resourcing	19	19	0
Total resourcing and payments for Geoscience Australia	605,127	491,357	113,770

1 Departmental ordinary annual appropriations includes *Supply Act* (No. 1) 2022–23, *Supply Act* (No. 3) 2022–23, unspent prior-year departmental appropriations and PGPA Act section 74 external revenue (excluding PGPA Act section 51 withholdings). Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill (No.1, 3, 5)or Supply Bills and form part of ordinary annual services items. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.

2 *Supply Act* (No. 2) 2022–23, *Supply Act* (No. 4) 2022–23 and unspent prior-year departmental appropriations.

Table 11 Expenses for outcome.

Outcome 1: 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.	Budget* 2022–23 $'000 (a)	Actual expenses 2022–23 $'000 (b)	Variation 2022–23 $'000 (a) – (b)
Program 1: Geoscientific and Spatial Information Services			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Supply Act Nos. 1 and 3)	19	19	0
Other services (Supply Act Nos. 2 and 4)	0	0	0
s74 External Revenue[1]	0	0	0
Special appropriations	0	0	0
Special accounts	0	0	0
Payments to corporate entities	0	0	0
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[2]	0	0	0
Administered total	19	19	0
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	331,897	223,167	108,730
s74 External Revenue[1]	71,567	29,160	42,407
Special appropriations	0	0	0
Special accounts	0	0	0
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[2]	13,879	15,242	-1,363
Departmental total	417,343	267,569	149,774
Total expenses for Program 1	417,362	267,588	149,774
Outcome 1 totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Supply Act Nos. 1 and 3)	19	19	0
Other services (Supply Act Nos. 2 and 4)	0	0	0
s74 External Revenue[1]	0	0	0
Special appropriations	0	0	0
Special accounts	0	0	0
Payments to corporate entities	0	0	0
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[2]	0	0	0
Administered total	19	19	0

Outcome 1: 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.	Budget* 2022–23 $'000 (a)	Actual expenses 2022–23 $'000 (b)	Variation 2022–23 $'000 (a) – (b)
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	331,897	223,167	108,730
s74 External Revenue[1]	71,567	29,160	42,407
Special appropriations	0	0	0
Special accounts	0	0	0
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year[2]	13,879	15,242	-1,363
Departmental total	417,343	267,569	149,774
Total expenses for Outcome 1	417,362	267,588	149,774

	2022–23	2021–22
Average staffing level (number)	607	600

* Full year budget, including any subsequent adjustment made to the 2022–23 budget.

1 Estimated expenses incurred in relation to receipts retained under section 74 of the *PGPA Act 2013*.

2 Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year are made up of depreciation expenses, amortisation expenses, make good expenses, audit fees, offset by lease principal repayments.

Workforce statistics

Table 12 All ongoing employees, current reporting period (2022–23).

Location	Male			Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Par ttime	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
ACT	329	12	341	239	22	261	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	602
NT	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
External Territories*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	334	13	347	239	22	261	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	608

* External territories are territories of Australia which are external to the borders of Australia. Examples include Norfolk Island and the Australian Antarctic Territory. Please see https://www.regional.gov.au/territories for further information.

Table 13 All non-ongoing employees, current reporting period (2022–23).

Location	Male			Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Par ttime	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
ACT	32	1	33	20	8	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32	3	35	20	8	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63

Table 14 All ongoing employees, previous reporting period (2021–22).

Location	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
ACT	325	10	335	214	21	235	0	0	0	570
NT	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
External territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	330	11	341	214	21	235	0	0	0	576

Table 15 All non-ongoing employees, previous reporting period (2021–22).

Location	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	27	2	29	23	10	33	0	0	0	62
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	2	29	23	10	33	0	0	0	62

Australian Public Service classification and gender

Table 16 *Public Service Act* ongoing employees, current reporting period (2022–23).

Classification	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Par ttime	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SES 2	3	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
SES 1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
EL 2	74	1	75	27	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102
EL 1	126	1	127	78	5	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	210
APS 6	88	6	94	74	4	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	172
APS 5	29	5	34	42	10	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
APS 4	10	0	10	15	3	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
APS 3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
APS 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	334	13	347	239	22	261	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	608

Table 17 *Public Service Act* non-ongoing employees, current reporting period (2022–23).

Classification	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Par ttime	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
EL 1	10	0	10	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
APS 6	10	0	10	9	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
APS 5	6	1	7	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
APS 4	5	0	5	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
APS 3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32	3	35	20	8	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63

Table 18 *Public Service Act* ongoing employees, previous reporting period (2021–22).

Classification	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SES 2	3	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
SES 1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
EL 2	79	1	80	33	0	33	0	0	0	113
EL 1	135	3	138	69	4	73	0	0	0	211
APS 6	71	3	74	66	6	72	0	0	0	146
APS 5	29	4	33	33	7	40	0	0	0	73
APS 4	10	0	10	9	4	13	0	0	0	23
APS 3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
APS 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	331	11	342	213	21	234	0	0	0	576

Table 19 *Public Service Act* non-ongoing employees, previous reporting period (2021–22).

Classification	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 1	8	0	8	3	2	5	0	0	0	13
APS 6	9	1	10	8	5	13	0	0	0	23
APS 5	6	1	7	7	2	9	0	0	0	16
APS 4	3	0	3	4	1	5	0	0	0	8
APS 3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	2	29	23	10	33	0	0	0	62

Employment type by full-time and part-time status

Table 20 *Public Service Act* employees by full-time and part-time status, current reporting period (2022–23).

	Ongoing			Non-ongoing			
Classification	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Total
SES 3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
SES 2	4	0	4	0	0	0	4
SES 1	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
EL 2	101	1	102	2	0	2	104
EL 1	204	6	210	13	3	16	226
APS 6	162	10	172	19	3	22	194
APS 5	71	15	86	10	1	11	97
APS 4	25	3	28	8	2	10	38
APS 3	2	0	2	0	2	2	4
APS 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	573	35	608	52	11	63	671

Table 21 *Public Service Act* employees by full-time and part-time status, previous reporting period (2021–22).

	Ongoing			Non-ongoing			
Classification	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Total
SES 3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
SES 2	4	0	4	0	0	0	4
SES 1	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
EL 2	112	1	113	0	0	0	113
EL 1	204	7	211	11	2	13	224
APS 6	137	9	146	17	6	23	169
APS 5	62	11	73	13	3	16	89
APS 4	19	4	23	7	1	8	31
APS 3	2	0	2	1	0	1	3
APS 2	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	544	32	576	50	12	62	638

Employment type by location

Table 22 *Public Service Act* employment type by location, current reporting period (2022–23).

Location	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
NSW	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
WA	5	2	7
ACT	602	61	663
NT	1	0	1
External territories	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0
Total	608	63	671

Table 23 *Public Service Act* employment type by location, previous reporting period (2021–22).

Location	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
NSW	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
WA	5	0	5
ACT	570	62	632
NT	1	0	1
External territories	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0
Total	576	62	638

Salary ranges by classification level

Table 24 *Public Service Act* employment salary ranges by classification level, current reporting period (2022–23).

Classification	Minimum salary ($)	Maximum salary ($)
SES 3	$347,906	$397,989
SES 2	$272,878	$319,353
SES 1	$216,127	$254,294
EL 2	$129,536	$236,900
EL 1	$109,001	$174,186
APS 6	$90,555	$115,302
APS 5	$78,077	$97,526
APS 4	$70,093	$131,800
APS 3	$62,233	$66,163
APS 2	$54,629	$60,260
APS 1	$47,884	$47,884
Other	-	-
Minimum/maximum range	$47,884	$397,989

The maximum salary range presented at the EL2, EL1, APS6, APS5 and APS4 classification level reflect remuneration arrangements under our enterprise agreement, salary maintenance arrangements and individual flexibility arrangements. Remuneration under these arrangements supports talent attraction for highly specialised/technical skills.

Performance pay by classification level

Geoscience Australia had no performance pay, also known as performance-linked bonuses, to report during 2022–23.

Indigenous employment

Table 25 *Public Service Act* Indigenous employment, current reporting period (2022–23).

	Total
Ongoing	3
Non-ongoing	0
Total	3

Table 26 *Public Service Act* Indigenous employment, previous reporting period (2021–22).

	Total
Ongoing	4
Non-ongoing	0
Total	4

Non-financial benefits

Geoscience Australia provides employees with non-salary benefits that are not included under the enterprise agreement. These include:

- access to a childcare centre
- onsite gym facilities
- onsite cafe
- onsite free parking
- Parents and carer's room
- Breastfeeding friendly workplace
- annual influenza vaccination
- early intervention case management
- support to return to work for non-compensable injuries and illnesses
- mental health and wellbeing support
- access to programs, initiatives and committees that drive and celebrate our inclusive and diverse workplace
- in-house capability development programs
- internal and external secondment opportunities
- work from home arrangements
- relocation assistance
- Gender affirmation support
- Employee Assistance Program.

Grants

Information on grants awarded by Geoscience Australia during 2022–23 is available on the GrantConnect website: www.grants.gov.au.

Advertising and market research

Under section 311A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, Geoscience Australia is required to disclose payments for advertising and market research that are above the reportable threshold of $15,200 (GST inclusive).

During 2022–23, Geoscience Australia's EFTF program paid $30,848.40 to Struber N Pty Ltd for a Stakeholder Scoping Study.

During the reporting period we did not conduct any advertising campaigns.

Information Publication Scheme

Entities subject to the FOI Act are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). This requirement is in Part II of the FOI Act and has replaced the former requirement to publish a section 8 statement in an annual report.

Each agency must display on its website a plan showing what information it publishes in accordance with the IPS requirements. Geoscience Australia's IPS plan is on its website at: ga.gov.au/ips/information-publication-scheme.

Work health and safety

In 2022–23, Geoscience Australia continued its holistic approach to work health and safety (WHS) practices, wellbeing, injury prevention and management. Our ongoing investment in WHS supports Geoscience Australia's commitment to prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff.

Our WHS investments to create a safe and healthy workplace included conducting a review across our unique operating environments and taking corrective actions to update our risk assessment procedures, prioritising risks based on severity and likelihood. We have implemented control measures to mitigate identified risks and continuously monitor their effectiveness and ensure compliance. In addition, we have improved documentation to ensure that all identified hazards are properly recorded.

Findings from the review will inform actions and measures to continue building on our efforts to mature our WHS capability and culture. This will include promoting and educating our workforce on the importance of mental health and wellbeing, consistent with our Mental Health Strategy. Actions embedded under this strategy have seen further positive responses to the 2022 APS Census results for wellbeing index scores which increased from 72% to 73%, with 91% of employees agreeing that their immediate supervisor cares about their health and wellbeing; this is up from 89% in 2021.

We transitioned to a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, Converge International. All EAP counselling and support services, including our dedicated sexual harassment hotline, continue to be delivered by qualified professionals and have an above average utilisation rate when compared to other organisations. Geoscience Australia sees this as a positive, as it shows that employees and their immediate family members are using the program proactively to seek support as required.

We have a revised and updated suite of WHS policy and procedures to align with changed legislation and to support continual improvement. This included updates to our Emergency Management Plan, WHS Policy and Sexual Harassment and Sexism Policy and Procedure. We also released updated training modules, which included: preventing sexual harassment and sexism for staff, and domestic and family violence protection. We provided access to a free flu vaccination program for all staff, with 51% of staff accessing this program by May 2023.

A dedicated wellbeing portal is provided for staff. This is regularly updated to provide information and resources on topics such as: health, wellbeing, career, people management, workplace issues, family and personal matters. A dedicated family room provides a safe workspace for staff and their child(ren) who are experiencing family and domestic violence.

Case management support is provided for managers and employees, to assist with WHS, rehabilitation and injury management matters. These resources were complemented by access to workplace adjustments to minimise the impact of worker injury, illness or disability and support the provision of a safe, accessible and inclusive work environment. We also have a minor injury support program (MISP) for employees who have developed short-term medical conditions related to their work and have incurred expenses in seeking treatment.

The MISP covers expenses to support an early and safe return to pre-injury health.

A focus for 2022–23 has been implementing resources to assist in the management of workplace psychosocial hazards and risks, including a dedicated psychosocial safety intranet page and fact sheet. These resources assist managers and workers in understanding and identifying psychosocial hazards and actions that can be taken to prevent, eliminate, reduce and manage psychosocial risks.

To ensure that our investment in WHS is robust, Geoscience Australia seeks ongoing feedback from employees and stakeholders, and our Workplace Relations, Health and Safety Committee continues to support the development and implementation of WHS measures.

During 2022–23, one incident was deemed notifiable under section 38 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) and was reported to Comcare. No notices were issued under Part 10 of the WHS Act.

Learning and development

Geoscience Australia continues to meet its commitment to support the growth of capability and talent of our employees to meet our operational and strategic objectives. All employees are required to complete mandatory e-learning to ensure they develop an understanding of their legislative obligations and demonstrate conduct expected of APS employees. These include:

- work health and safety
- values, behaviour and respect
- domestic and family violence
- workplace sexual harassment
- security awareness
- records awareness, IP and copyright
- fraud awareness
- integrity in the APS
- financial principles (PGPA Act) internal controls and delegations at Geoscience Australia.

Our employees also proactively engage with their own professional development by accessing supplementary learning through APS Academy, LinkedIn Learning, and external programs that support the growth of their STEM based technical and APS knowledge.

Carer support

We support the equal rights, choices and opportunities of carers regardless of age, race, gender, disability, sexuality, religious or political beliefs, cultural or linguistic heritage and socio-economic status or locality.

Our carer support framework enables practical and active support for employees. Our carer support framework includes:

- A non-discriminatory definition of family which recognises relatives by blood, marriage, strong traditional or ceremonial affinity and genuine domestic or household relationships.
- Flexible working arrangements to assist employees in balancing work and family responsibilities including home-based work, flexible hours, purchased leave, part-time work and job-sharing.
- Rooms available to employees to assist in caring responsibilities in instances when care is temporarily and unexpectedly unavailable.
- Being an accredited Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace, supporting employees who wish to breastfeed in the workplace and is committed to ensuring work and breastfeeding can be combined.
- Access to accumulated personal leave to care for sick family and household members, or people for whom employees have caring responsibilities.
- Access to unpaid carer's leave to care for or support family or household members, or if an unexpected family or household emergency arises.
- Access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for free, professional and confidential counselling for employees, their immediate family members and people with whom they are in a close relationship.

Disability reporting mechanisms

Disability reporting is included in the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) annual State of the Service Report and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available on the APSC website at apsc.gov.au.

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 sets out a 10-year national policy framework to improve the lives of people with disability, promote participation and create a more inclusive society. A high-level biennial report tracks Australia's progress against each of the outcome areas of the strategy and presents a picture of how people with disability are faring. Reports are available on the Department of Social Services' (DSS) website at dss.gov.au.

Performance management

Geoscience Australia manages the ongoing development of its employees in a high-performance work culture through its Performance and Development Framework. The objectives of the system include:

- Continuously improving organisational performance to enable the organisation to achieve its strategic outcomes and priorities.
- Providing a framework for individual and organisational performance that supports development and career planning, and provides an approach to ensure regular and meaningful feedback.
- Recognition and reward for sustained high performance.
- Mechanisms for managing underperformance and declines in performance.

The APS Integrated Leadership System provides the behavioural framework for assessing performance for all staff.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Geoscience Australia's inaugural Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was launched on 20 May 2021. The RAP outlined practical actions to drive the organisation's contribution towards reconciliation. The RAP provided 58 measurable actions across themes including valuing relationships, respecting First Nations Australians cultures, and growing opportunities for reconciliation. At the end of April 2023, Geoscience Australia completed 41 actions, 12 are in progress and 5 are awaiting commencement. Key actions achieved include holding annual Cultural Immersion events and raising awareness of the importance of reconciliation through National Reconciliation Week and National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week activities.

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Section 516A of the EPBC Act requires Geoscience Australia to report annually on how its activities accord with and contribute to the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the environmental performance of its operations.

Many of Geoscience Australia's work activities contribute to an improved understanding of the physical nature and health of the natural environment. See the Annual Performance Statements for details of specific activities.

Geoscience Australia continues to pursue ecologically sustainable development initiatives in property and facilities management. It uses an environmental management system to identify, modify and control environmental impacts in areas such as waste management, recycling and chemical disposal. Monitoring and reporting on water and energy consumption are also incorporated into this system.

The Geoscience Australia building at Symonston in the ACT has many ecologically sustainable features, including:

- a north–south orientation to increase access to natural light
- movement detection for lighting in general office areas
- a geothermal air-conditioning system
- double-glazed windows and doors
- a large building footprint, allowing for a low ratio of external wall to gross floor area, minimising the impact of external thermal conditions on the air-conditioning system
- recycling bins in all kitchenettes and print areas, and recycling areas provided in utility rooms on all floors.

As part of a whole-of-Australian-Government property services arrangement, Geoscience Australia's facilities management provider, Evolve FM Pty Ltd, is responsible for the environmental management of the building and facilities, including monitoring and reporting.

Environmental initiatives at the Symonston building include:

- Completion of lighting upgrades and ongoing replacement of fluorescent lighting with efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lighting controlled through a digital interface in more than 20,000 m^2 of office area.
- Ongoing improvements to the configuration of its building management system.
- Ongoing upgrades and adjustments to the building's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, including improving the geothermal water supply, rebalancing floor space supply settings and replacing filters in air-conditioning systems.

Currently, the building has a 2-star whole-of-building energy rating under the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS). The lessor has committed to improving this to at least a 4-star rating.

APS Net Zero 2030 emissions reporting

APS Net Zero 2030 is the Government's policy for the APS to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030, and transparently report on its emissions. The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory presents greenhouse gas emissions over the 2022–23 period. Results are based on Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2-e) emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions reporting has been developed with methodology that is consistent with the Whole-of-Australian Government approach as part of the APS Net Zero 2030 policy. Not all data sources were available at the time of the report and adjustments to baseline data may be required in future reports. Each entity is responsible for reducing its own emissions and is required to report on their operational greenhouse gas emissions. Tables 26 and 27 show Geoscience Australia's emissions for the reporting period.

Table 27 Geoscience Australia emissions (2022–23) (location-based).

Emission Source	Scope 1 kg CO2-e	Scope 2 kg CO2-e	Scope 3 kg CO2-e	Total kg CO2-e
Electricity (Location Based) Approach)	N/A	3,270,431	272,670	3,543,101
Natural Gas	441,223	N/A	112,168	553,392
Fleet Vehicles	61,742	N/A	15,170	76,913
Domestic Flights	N/A	N/A	375,425	375,425
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO2-e	502,966	3,270,431	775,434	4,548,831

The electricity emissions reported above are calculated using the location-based approach. When applying the market-based method, which accounts for activities such as Greenpower, purchased Large-scale generation certificates (LGCs) and/or being located in the ACT, the total emissions for electricity, are shown below:

Table 28 Geoscience Australia emissions (2022–23) (market-based).

Emission Source	Scope 1 kg CO2-e	Scope 2 kg CO2-e	Scope 3 kg CO2-e	Total kg CO2-e
Electricity (Market Based) Approach)	N/A	558,765	73,954	632,720
Natural Gas	441,223	N/A	112,168	553,392
Fleet Vehicles	61,742	N/A	5,170	76,913
Domestic Flights	N/A	N/A	375,425	375,425
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO2-e	502,966	558,765	576,718	1,638,449

Information correcting the record

There is one correction required to the Geoscience Australia 2021–22 Annual Report. In Table 5.19 Salary ranges by classification level, the maximum salary range for SES3 was incorrectly noted as $402,761.

The correct figure is $386,397. This correction also applies to the maximum salary range in the minimum/maximum range row at the end of the table.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AAD	Australian Antarctic Division
AAIs	Accountable Authority Instructions
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEIP	Australian Exposure Information Platform
AFDRS	Australian Fire Danger Rating System
AGON	Australian Geomagnetic Observatory Network
AGRS	Australian Geospatial Reference System
AHO	Australian Hydrographic Office
AMSIS	Australian Marine Spatial Information System
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APPEA	Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association
APS	Australian Public Service
APS Act	*Australian Public Service Act 1999*
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
ASGS	Alice Springs Satellite Ground Station
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AUSLAN	Australian Sign Language
B Com	Bachelor of Commerce
CO2-e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
CEMS	Copernicus Emergency Management Service
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPRs	Commonwealth Procurement Rules
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation
CPA	Certified Practising Accountant
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAA	Digital Atlas Australia
DEA	Digital Earth Australia
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DSS	Department of Social Services
EA	Enterprise Agreement
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EFTF	Exploring for the Future program
EL	Executive Level
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

FOI Act	*Freedom of Information Act 1982*
GA	Geoscience Australia
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
GeodesyML	Geodesy Mark-up Language
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GON	Geomagnetic Observatory Network
GST	Goods and services tax
HR	Human Resources
ICT	information and communications technology
IGS	International GNSS Service
IPP	Indigenous Procurement Policy
IPS	Information Publication Scheme
KMP	key management personnel
LGCs	Large-scale generation certificate
LGN	Landsat Ground Network
MISP	Minor Injury Support Program
NEAC	National Earthquake Alerts Centre
NEXIS	National Exposure Information System
NMA	National Museum of Australia
NPIC	National Positioning Infrastructure Capability
OAIC	Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
PGPA Act	*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
PGPA Rule	*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*
PMCH Act	*Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986*
Project AIR	Advocacy, Information, Resilience
PS Act	*Public Service Act 1999*
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
REE	rare earth elements
ROU assets	right-of-use assets
SAGE	Science in Australia Gender Equity
SBAS	Satellite-Based Augmentation System
SES	Senior Executive Service
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SouthPAN	Southern Positioning Augmentation Network
SEQ	Southeast Queensland
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
USGS	United States Geological Survey
TT&C	telemetry, tracking and command
WIT	Wetlands Insight Tool
WHS	work health and safety

List of requirements

Below is the table set out in Schedule 2 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule. Section 17AJ(d) requires this table be included in entities' annual reports as an aid of access.

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
17AD(g)		**Letter of transmittal**	
17AI	iii	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory
17AD(h)		**Aids to access**	
17AJ(a)	vi	Table of contents (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	157	Alphabetical index (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	145	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)	147	List of requirements.	Mandatory
17AJ(e)	ii	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory
17AJ(f)	ii	Entity's website address.	Mandatory
17AJ(g)	ii	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory
17AD(a)		**Review by accountable authority**	
17AD(a)	3	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b)		**Overview of the entity**	
17AE(1)(a)(i)	8	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	10	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	11	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	16	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	10	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	10	Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	10	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period	Mandatory
17AE(1)(b)	N/A	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio departments mandatory
17AE(2)	N/A	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AD(c)		**Report on the Performance of the entity**	
		Annual performance Statements	
17AD(c)(i); 16F	15	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)(ii)		**Report on Financial Performance**	
17AF(1)(a)	54	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	121	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
17AF(2)	N/A	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, Mandatory.
17AD(d)		**Management and Accountability**	
		Corporate Governance	
17AG(2)(a)	62	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems)	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	iii	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	iii	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	iii	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the entity.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(c)	59	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	62	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy non compliance.	If applicable, Mandatory
		Audit Committee	
17AG(2A)(a)	60	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
17AG(2A)(b)	61	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(c)	61	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(d)	61	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	61	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
		External Scrutiny	
17AG(3)	63	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	N/A	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(b)	N/A	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(c)	N/A	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory
		Management of Human Resources	
17AG(4)(a)	64	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(aa)	125	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non ongoing basis, including the following: a. statistics on full time employees; b. statistics on part time employees; c. statistics on gender d. statistics on staff location.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
17AG(4)(b)	127	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non ongoing basis; including the following: • Statistics on staffing classification level; • Statistics on full time employees; • Statistics on part time employees; • Statistics on gender; • Statistics on staff location; • Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)	66	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(i)	66	Information on the number of SES and non SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	134	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	135	A description of non salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(i)	N/A	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	N/A	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	N/A	Information on the average a memorandum of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	N/A	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, Mandatory
		Assets Management	
17AG(5)	70	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities.	If applicable, mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
		Purchasing	
17AG(6)	71	An assessment of entity performance against the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.	Mandatory
		Reportable consultancy contracts	
17AG(7)(a)	72	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7)(b)	72	A statement that "During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of $[specified million]".	Mandatory
17AG(7)(c)	72	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(d)	72	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
		Reportable non-consultancy contracts	
17AG(7A)(a)	73	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7A)(b)	72	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory
17AD(daa)	73	Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts	Mandatory
17AGA	73	Additional information, in accordance with section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory
		Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses	
17AG(8)	N/A	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than $100 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
		Exempt contracts	
17AG(9)	N/A	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than $10 000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, Mandatory
		Small business	
17AG(10)(a)	71	A statement that "[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website."	Mandatory
17AG(10)(b)	71	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory
17AG(10)(c)	71	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that "[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury's website."	If applicable, Mandatory
		Financial Statements	
17AD(e)	75	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory
		Executive Remuneration	
17AD(da)	66	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 2 3 of the Rule.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page	Description	Requirement
17AD(f)		**Other Mandatory Information**	
17AH(1)(a)(i)	N/A	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that "During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity's website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance's website."	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	136	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(b)	N/A	A statement that "Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity's website]."	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	140	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	136	Website reference to where the entity's Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(e)	144	Correction of material errors in previous annual report.	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(2)	137 and 142	Information required by other legislation.	Mandatory

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