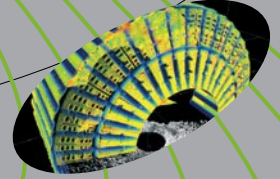


STATEMENT
OF PURPOSE

AUSTRALIAN
SPATIAL
CONSORTIUM



AUSTRALIAN SPATIAL CONSORTIUM

MAXIMISING FOR AUSTRALIA THE OPPORTUNITIES EMERGING FROM SPATIAL INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Australian Spatial Consortium was conceived by 35 of the nation's leading spatial thinkers at the CRC for Spatial Information's (CRCSI) strategic planning retreat in Brisbane in March 2007. They agreed that the nation needed to develop:

"A consortium that seeks to accelerate the unlocking of the potential of spatial information for economic, environmental and social benefit for Australia within key industries, and the development of tools, new technologies and capabilities relating to the fundamental future needs of the nation."

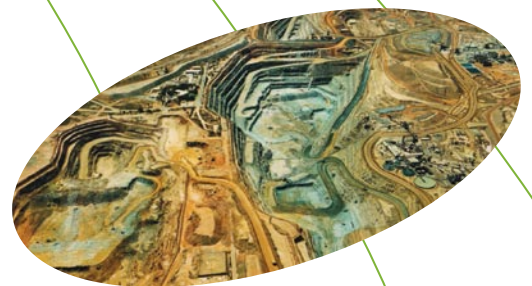
The development of the Australian Spatial Consortium represents one of the next logical steps following the success of the Spatial Information Action Agenda of 2001 in bringing a sense of cohesion to our industry. An empowered industry – government, corporate and research focus – will seek to collectively help address Australia's greatest information challenges including realising the potential of the nation's vast data holdings, promoting the establishment of world class positioning infrastructure and stimulating innovation.

The Australian Spatial Consortium will provide a valuable forum around which the current core structural pillars of spatial information in Australia can rally to explore areas of common interest and accelerate their collective achievements.

Ultimately the objective of the Australian Spatial Consortium will be to help increase the rate at which 'spatial' drives towards a ubiquitous presence in Australian life.

The Australian Spatial Consortium is designed to 'value add' to the existing spatial organisations and their individual outcomes. To be successful, it will be additive and not duplicate or detract from the current success of the present organisations and structures involved in spatial information.

Warwick Watkins Chairman [Australian Spatial Consortium](#)



VALUE PROPOSITION

The core business of the Australian Spatial Consortium will be to address those issues that can (best and only) be tackled through partnerships across the sectors, existing institutional frameworks and that are demonstrably needed in the national interest.

Ultimately the objective of the Australian Spatial Consortium will be to accelerate the rate at which 'spatial' moves towards becoming a ubiquitous presence in Australian life.

To achieve this, there needs to be an increasing recognition of the importance and application of spatial information across society to achieve social, environmental and broad-based community outcomes.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Key spatial stakeholders sense an opportunity to build on the gains to date by better shaping the future through a new and unprecedented suite of partnerships across all sectors of our industry.

We see spatial information and related technologies deeply embedded in all aspects of Australian life.

There are many areas of the economy that under-utilise spatial information, including utilities/ infrastructure, health, agriculture, insurance, banking, finance, entertainment and retail. A concerted effort must be made to more effectively spatially enable these and others.

BACKGROUND

- ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council, has set itself the challenge of accelerating the development of policies and strategies to increase the application, spread and influence of spatial information throughout the nation.
- The national employer body, the Australian Spatial Information Business Association (ASIBA), is the peak employer body representing the spatial information industry in Australia. The Association's most important tasks are to encourage the use of spatial information and technologies in government and the wider business community; promote the engagement of private sector companies to undertake spatial information and technology activities; and to identify emerging opportunities for the sector.

- Innovation and research were given impetus with the formation of the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI) in 2003.

The CRCSI will be bidding for a new round of federal funds in 2009. The Australian Spatial Consortium intends to strongly support the new bid by being a thought forum to stimulate leadership in assisting to shape the innovation agenda for Australia. It is recognised that a successful innovation agenda will profoundly influence the nation over the next decade and must be underpinned by good science, including research and development.

- Continuing professional development is delivered by the Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI) – the premier body for all spatial professionals in Australia and New Zealand. The SSI provides an identity for the people involved in the spatial community and effectively represents their interests to industry, academia, government, the wider professions and society.

- PSMA Australia Limited – a company jointly owned by the governments of Australia for integrating and provisioning government owned data to end users – has developed a strong track record in the provision of integrated spatial products and in partnering with the private sector to further the adoption of spatial information.
- 43 Pty Ltd (43pl) – the unit trust set up to bring together over 50 companies to conduct R&D through the CRCSI – is seeking new ways to engage with and contribute to the development of the industry.

OPERATIONAL FOCUS

The scope of interests is likely to include:

1. The formation of a structured 'think tank' and forum structure around which all interested parties can aggregate to share, develop and enhance their individual and collective thinking and action around spatial information.
2. Encouraging the construction of fundamental infrastructure eg global navigation satellite systems positioning framework, data stores and exchanges for value-adding and updating core datasets, digital rights management 'the creative commons', construction of critical data and information, driving the innovation and R&D agenda.
3. Helping form cross-sector partnerships and networks to tackle issues of international, national and regional interest including helping forge new levels of cooperation in information sharing.
4. Encouraging collective capacity building at the tertiary education level (eg by facilitating much greater input from government and private sector stakeholders in the resourcing of university departments, the nature of their curricula, the in-course training of undergraduates ('cadetships'), succession planning, short courses and professional development). In this way the spatial information industry can further aid the development of a strategic solution to the present staff and skills crisis.
5. Provision of advice that will help with the development of public policy where those policies simultaneously affect all industry sectors.
6. Developing strategies to drive 'spatial' deeply into new markets.
7. Advocacy for improving the recognition of the crucial role of spatial information with the general public.
8. Helping identify the fundamental research needs of Australia.
9. Encouraging basic research into the operation of the spatial information industry, its markets, and its economic impact, seeking assistance with studies into international and domestic trends in information usage, requirements and technological developments.
10. Helping identify the need for the development of new standards.

KEY AREAS OF NEED

The Australian Spatial Consortium will work with and assist the core existing spatial information organisational bodies to address:

1. **Shaping the national agenda and influencing the vision:** identifying the national priorities for infrastructure and capacity building. This could include acting as a 'think tank' and beacon and recipient of ideas, and focus area for key minds to help think through the issues.
2. **New CRCSI bid:** creating an applied research centre with a focus on commercial, environmental, social, efficiency and productivity outcomes is proposed through the 2009 bid for a new CRCSI.
3. **Centre of Excellence:** seeking support for fundamental research designed to tackle the hard problems, improve existing areas of knowledge and develop new capabilities and skills for the long term. This will involve a strong linkage with existing research and higher education institutes and exploring ways of increasing the focus on the fundamental research questions that remain unanswered.
4. **Greater access to funding:** to drive innovation and accelerated adoption of new technologies, systems and applications.
5. **International spatial linkages:** a special focus on developing international opportunities for business including joint ventures, developing IP access rights, recruiting and education.
6. **Education assistance:** new ways to improve the current situation so that all sectors of the industry have a better chance of having increased access to skilled staff in the long term.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The Australian Spatial Consortium will:

- Operate in a domain that aligns key goals of the public and private sectors.
- Operate in the national interest.
- Be apolitical.
- Foster innovation.
- Accumulate and share new knowledge.
- Pro-actively seek to add value to existing organisations.
- Forge new relationships and networks that would otherwise not be possible.
- Strongly enable e-Government.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Australian Spatial Consortium will be guided by the following principles when considering its involvement in any activities. The activities should:

1. Include the involvement of both public and private sector participants.
2. Foster research and innovation.
3. Have a commitment to professional development.
4. Engage with the major users and content providers.
5. Have a national not jurisdictional focus.

GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Australian Spatial Consortium is being guided in its early days by a Steering Committee comprising:

Mr Warwick Watkins, Chairman

Chairman of ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council

Mr Ollie Hedberg AM

Chairman of PSMA Australia Limited

Mr Michael Easton

Australian Spatial Information Business Association (ASIBA)

Mr Mark Judd

Chairman of 43 Pty Ltd (43pl)

Dr Renee Bartolo

President of the Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI)

Prof Mary O’Kane

CRC for Spatial Information (CRCSI)

Dr Peter Woodgate

CEO of the CRC for Spatial Information (CRCSI)

Its core initial members are:

- ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council
- Australian Spatial Information Business Association
- Spatial Sciences Institute
- PSMA Australia Limited
- CRC for Spatial Information
- 43 Pty Ltd

FUNDING MODEL AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The funding model will evolve through time.

No funding is required from members at this time.

A number of organisations have volunteered funds to initiate activities.

TIMELINE

14 August 2007 Announcement of the formation of the Australian Spatial Consortium at the Spatially Enabled Government Conference, Canberra.

March 2008 Establishment of the inaugural Australian Spatial Consortium structure and key focus areas.

June 2008 Review of progress in assisting CRCSI in the new bid.

Early 2009 Submission of the bid for the new CRCSI.

November 2009 Review of further phased development of the Australian Spatial Consortium.

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