



Australian Government
Geoscience Australia

Australia's Geospatial Foundations

Supporting a
connected world

Melissa Harris PSM
Chief Executive Officer
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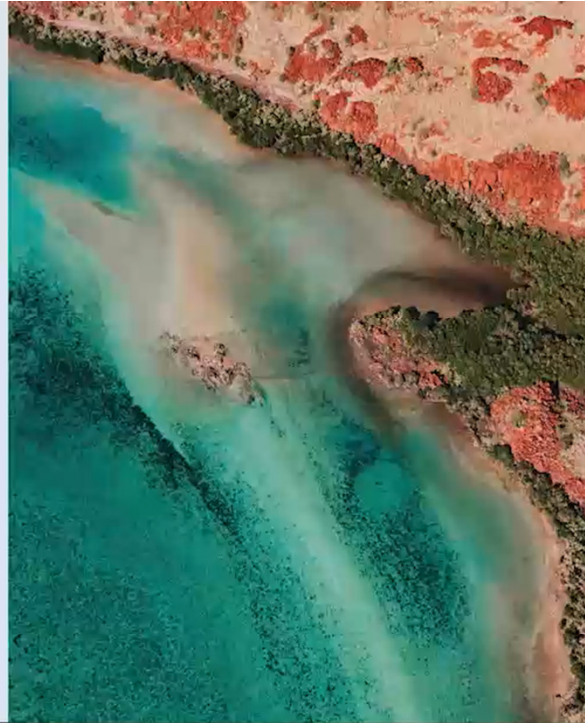
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Presented at the FIG Working Week 2025
6-10 April 2025 in Brisbane, Australia

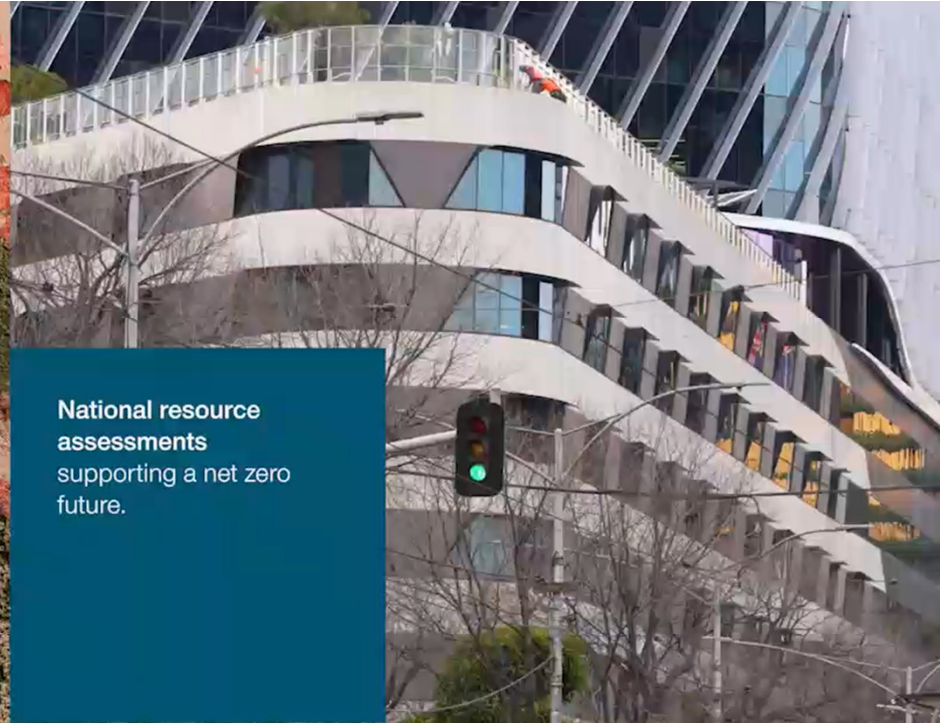


Resourcing Australia's Prosperity

Resourcing Australia's Prosperity will map Australia's resources, focusing on critical minerals, strategic materials and groundwater systems, which are all essential for the net zero transition. The initiative will also map offshore areas of Australia, pointing the way to sites for carbon capture and storage, as well as possible sites for offshore wind.



National resource assessments supporting a net zero future.



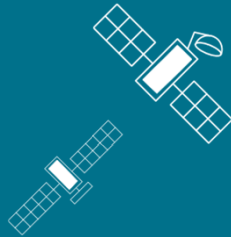
Australia-wide geoscience to better understand what lies on and beneath the land surface and seabed.





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In outer space we play a crucial role in managing space technologies.



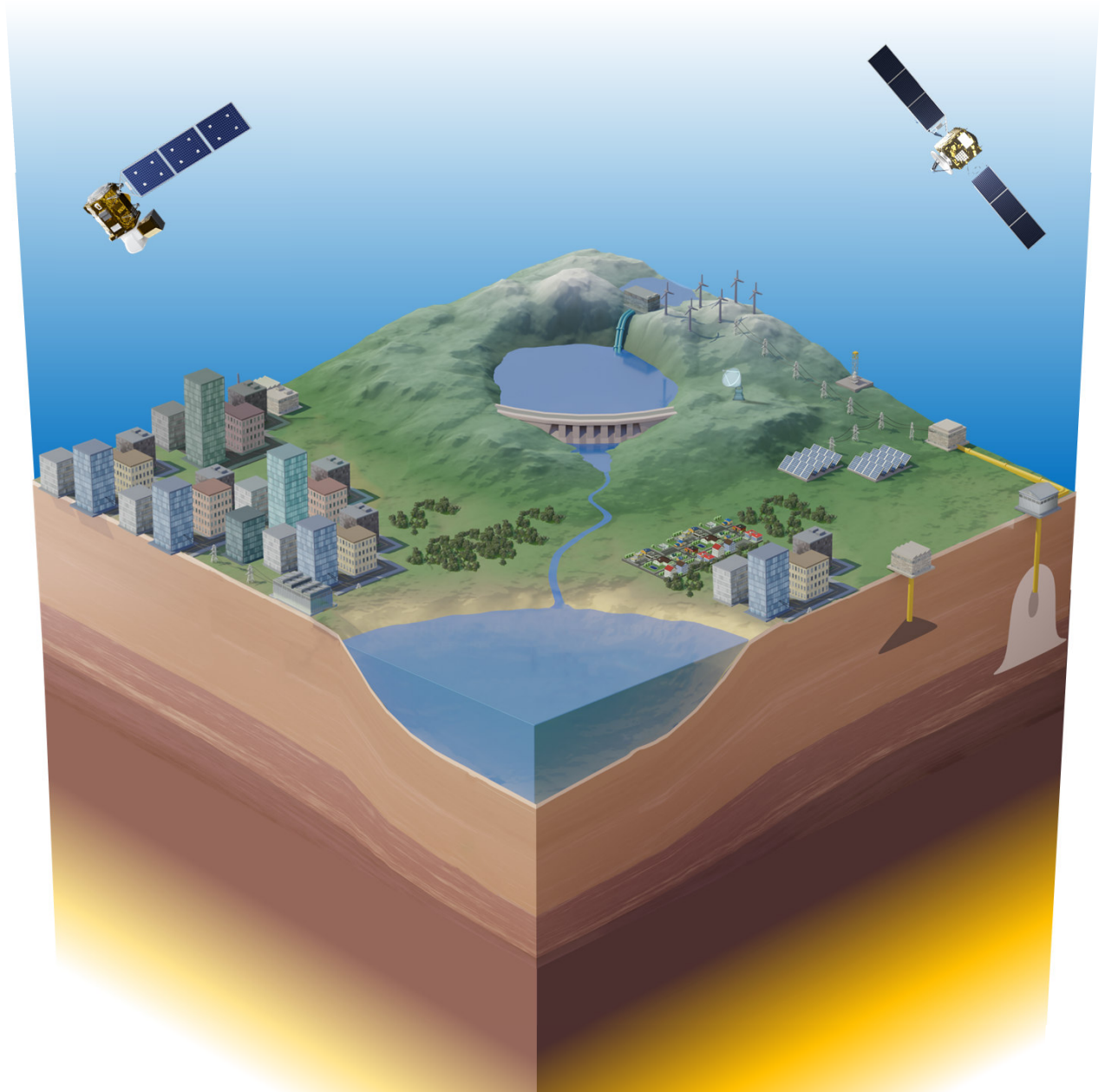
On land we map topography, surface water, infrastructure, buildings, land boundaries, and more.



Below land we map mineral, energy and groundwater resources, earthquake activity among others.



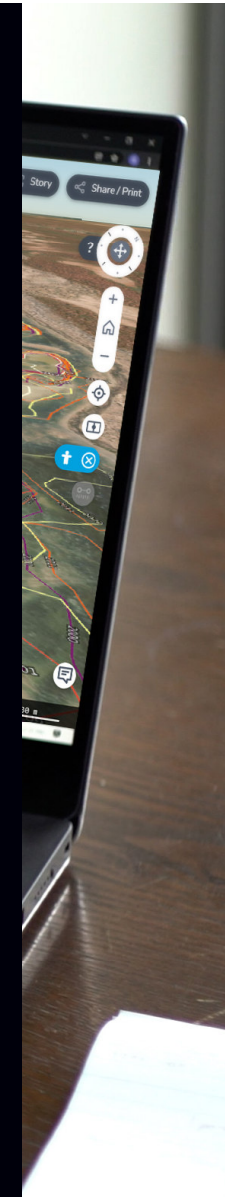
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**Geoscience Australia
manages**

 **23** **PB**

**of data and growing at a rate of
a petabyte a year supporting
over 170 Australian Government
programs.**



Space and spatial integration



Space

Space provides data for spatial applications

Spatial

Spatial applications underpin the value of space capabilities



An Australian Government Initiative

DIGITAL ATLAS OF AUSTRALIA







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Community
Safety

Supporting Australia's emergencies



National Seismic
Hazard Assessment



Tropical Cyclone
Scenario Selector



Tsunami inundation
modelling



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National Earthquake Alerts Centre (NEAC)

Based in Canberra, the NEAC is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to monitor earthquakes in Australia and abroad.

24/7 

On average Australia experiences approximately 100 earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or larger every year.



Managing our marine jurisdictions



Australia's marine jurisdiction accounts for around 4% of the global ocean.

Minerals for Australia's future



More than 40 metals and rare earths are used to produce a single smart phone and similar technologies.





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Resourcing Australia's
Prosperity

Mapping Australia's resources for a sustainable future



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Geoscience Australia is delivering

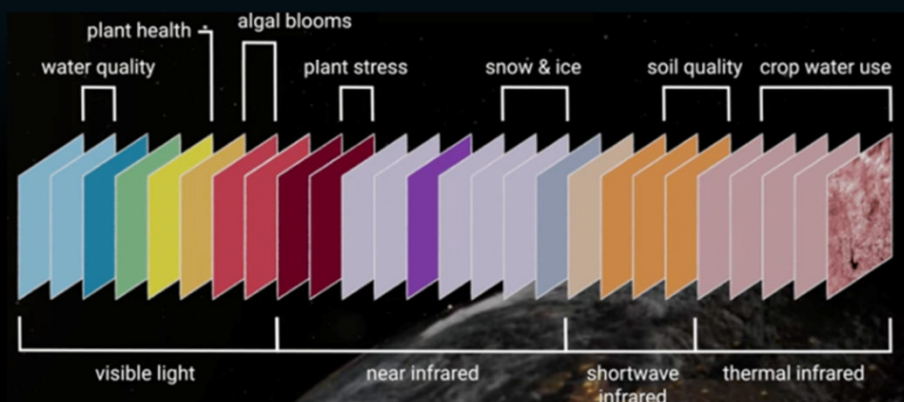


**significant Australian Government
investment in space through
Positioning, Navigation and Timing,
and Earth observation.**



New capabilities

- ✓ Improved revisit frequency
- ✓ Higher spatial resolution
- ✓ Additional spectral bands
- ✓ Ensure continuity of the archive
- ✓ Science-grade mission data



New science

Information on crop health & productivity, water quality and bushfire impact.

Analysing small agricultural fields, water availability in farm dams and forest disturbance.

Emerging applications in water quality, soil/mineral mapping, drought resilience, hazard monitoring, snow and ice monitoring.

50-year time series record of change over all lands and coasts.

Builds trusted information products, provide quality assurance, and unlock the value of commercial EO.



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Digital Earth
Australia

Creating free and open satellite
data products for the benefit
of Australia.

30
years



of satellite imagery and data.

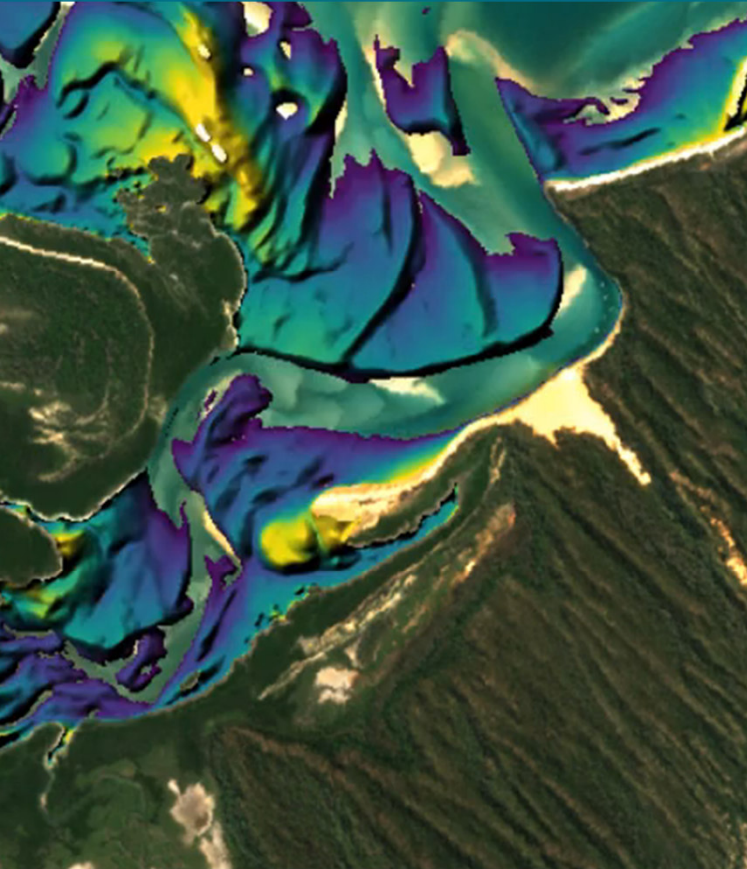


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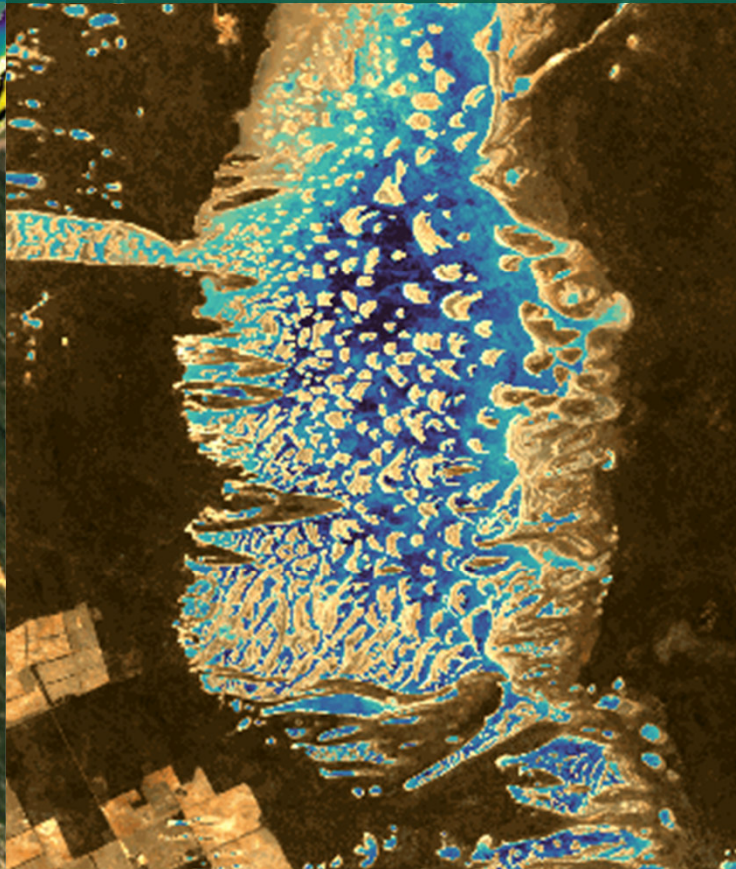
Coastline monitoring

Image: Cape Capricorn, Queensland showing the changing 3D shape of the coastline over the past seven years.



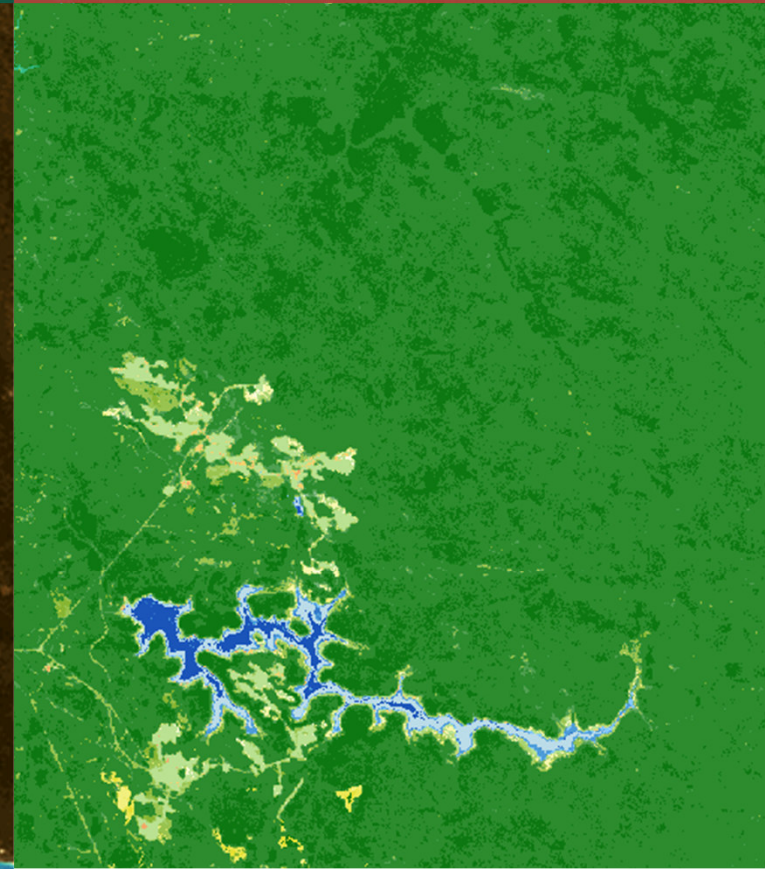
Environment sector

Image: Annual Water Observation Statistics over Lake Dundas, WA, 1988 to 2023.



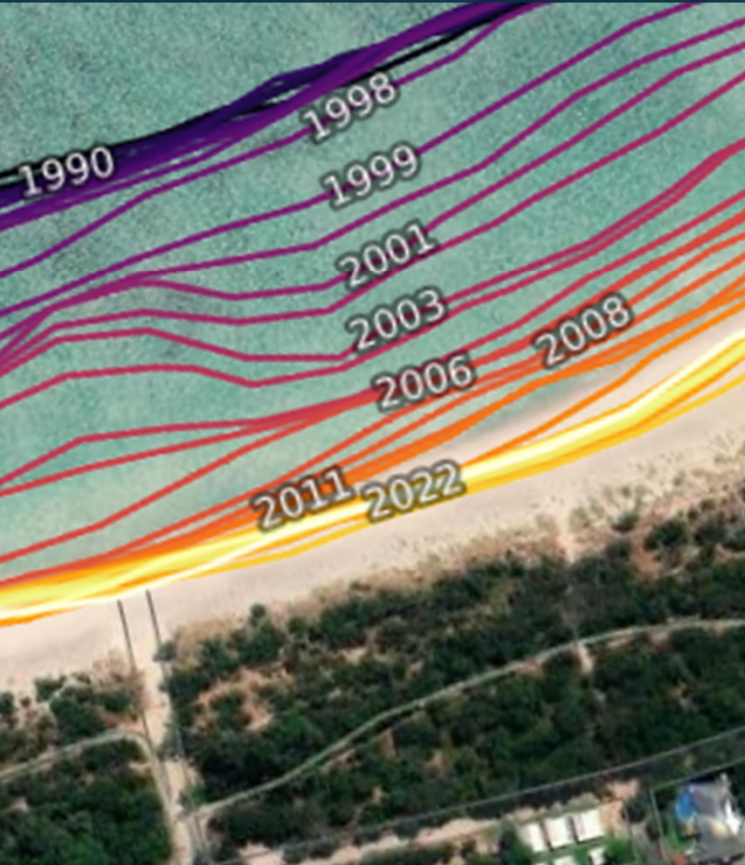
Resources sector

Animation: Bauxite Mining and Recovery between 1988 to 2020.



Insurance sector

Image: DEA Coastlines showing coastal erosion at Busselton, Western Australia



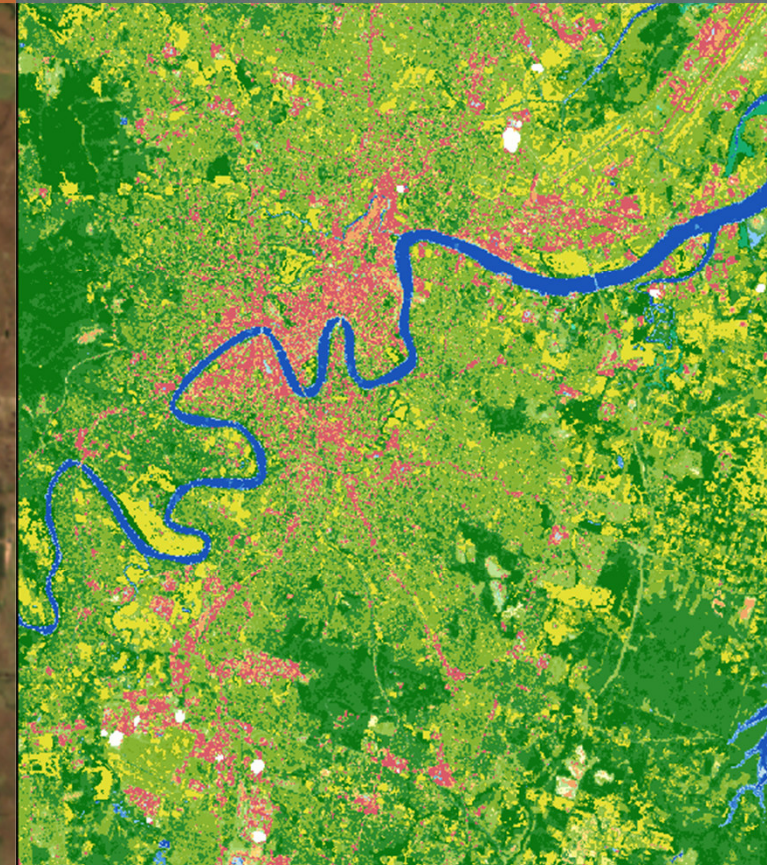
Utility sector

Image: Sentinel-2B image of a solar farm in Uralla, NSW, June 2024.



Urban planning

Image: Urban expansion between 1988 and 2020 in Brisbane, Queensland.





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Positioning
Australia



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Positioning
Australia

Since September 2022 SouthPAN
early Open Services are being
accessed by a diverse range
of industries.



ARTIST IMPRESSION



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The power of positioning

Geospatial

Mapping applications
Rural cadastral surveys
Accurate data collection in remote regions.



Roads

Automated driving
Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems
3D digital mapping
Regulatory vehicle speed determination
Real-time road pricing



Rail

Advanced train management systems
Track surveys
Track worker and track vehicle safety system



Agriculture

Virtual fencing for strip grazing
Behaviour modelling to enable disease detection
Quantification of reproductive relationships
Herd dynamics
Tracking feeding zones for pasture management



Maritime

Safer navigation
Tracking container movements



Aviation

Approach procedures with vertical guidance (APV)
Helicopter procedures
Availability of Instrument Flight Procedures (IPF)



Bridging the gap between upstream satellite data acquisition and downstream data use.



Emergency Management

■ Positioning (PNT):

- Emergency messaging via satellite
- Location of response teams

■ Earth Observations:

- Flood delineation
- Water depth
- Water quality

■ Geospatial:

- Road closures
- Infrastructure assets
- Critical infrastructure (hospitals, emergency services)

■ Disaster Impact Modelling:

- Residential building damage
- Commercial building damage
- Long term economic disruption
- Cost-benefit analysis of flood mitigation investments









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Thank you

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