

# Neurodiversity as a strength: how NGIS innovates from inclusive recruitment practices

Alexandra Geer, General Manager, NGIS Samantha Garbutt, Chief People Officer, Australian Spatial Analytics



### Introductions



#### **Alexandra Geer**

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### Samantha Garbutt

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# Agenda

- NGIS: why we embraced (neuro)inclusive recruitment
- Australian Spatial Analytics: how we helped NGIS
- The Analyst Experience
- Lessons Learnt
- Benefits





#### AB1

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### **About NGIS**



- Dedicated Geospatial Solutions company
- Operating since 1993 100% Australian Owned
- Relationship focused business built around geospatial innovation
- Work with industry leading technologies and partners
- People Partners Impact through Geospatial





120 + People

7 Office Locations



### **Our Approach to Impact**



#### PEOPLE

Our talented and courageous people are at the heart of everything we do. They are nurtured in an environment where innovation, continuous learning and bold decision-making is celebrated. At the core of this environment lies opportunity. The opportunity to work on high-impact projects, to collaborate with like-minded people, and the opportunity to invest their time in areas they are passionate about. The work is meaningful and makes a real difference; that's why we attract the best.



#### PARTNERS

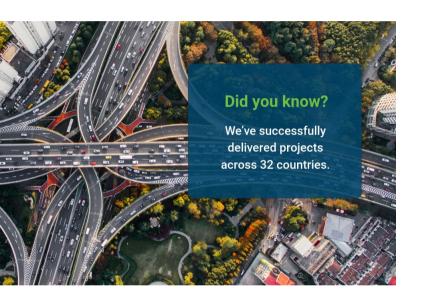
We recognise and celebrate the collaborative nature of our industry. Our client relationships, industry participation, and strategic partnerships are integral to our success. As a niche geospatial company, we have created strategic partnerships with leading global companies that provide the data, technology, and engagement to enable our team to deliver impactful solutions. Through these partnerships, we are able to scale and evolve the solutions we deliver.

#### GEOSPATIAL

Innovation is ingrained in our DNA. We're pioneers, adopting cutting edge geospatial technology that redefines industry standards. We believe that leveraging the use of geospatial is key in addressing many of the world's most significant challenges. With capabilities in Enterprise GIS, Software Engineering, Cloud Engineering and Earth Observations, we apply our geospatial expertise to deliver impact.



# What do we do?



#### **Our Services Capabilities**

- Geospatial Analysis & Mapping
- Enterprise Geospatial
- Spatial Application Development
- Earth Observations
- Software Development



# **Our resourcing challenge**

- Pipeline growth with key clients in 2024
- Geospatial skills shortages
- NGIS has a graduate program, however we needed work-ready skills
- Previous experience with ASA, and their mission
- ASA Alumni already on the NGIS team





### What did we do?



#### Engaged with ASA

- Requested 2 x Positions
- Presented to the ASA team on the project opportunity
- Presented an overview of the NGIS business, and what working at NGIS would be like





# **Employment Transitions**

#### Recruitment

Understand your skill requirements

Advertise (& Nudge!)

Shortlisting

Interview Support

#### Training

Neurodiversity at Work Training

Manager Coaching

On-site onboarding support

#### Post-Employment Support

Manager Coaching

**Employee Support** 

**Further Training** 









### **Australian Spatial Analytics: Talent Services destinations**



### **The NGIS process**



### How we helped NGIS

- Advertising
- Info Session
- ASA shortlisted candidates (skills match)
- Supported Interviews
- Delivered Training



### The interview experience

- ASA Shortlisted 4 Candidates
- Scheduled Interviews (2 Online, 2 In Person)
- NGIS provided interview questions ahead of time
- Conducted interviews which all went incredibly well











#### Insert photos of Nina and Sharni at NGIS Anthony Bianco; 2025-03-19T05:38:44.315 AB1

# The transition process & NGIS Onboarding

- Presented a business case to hire all 4 x Analysts
- 2 x Cairns-based Analysts and 2 x SEQ based
- Brought into our Graduate Program framework



#### Insert photos of Nina and Sharni at NGIS Anthony Bianco; 2025-03-19T05:38:44.315 AB1

# Support through the transition process

- Neurodiversity Awareness Training
- Support from Transitions Coordinator
- We're planning further training modules in June
- Ad hoc Support as needed from the ASA team



#### Insert photos of Nina and Sharni at NGIS Anthony Bianco; 2025-03-19T05:38:44.315 AB1

# **NGIS clients that Analysts are supporting**

- NHVR Digitising Pre-Approved Routes
- Powerlink Queensland GIS & Mapping Support Requests







AB1

Insert NGIS project pic Anthony Bianco; 2025-03-19T05:27:34.883

### **Analyst Feedback**

The **people-first culture** of NGIS has made the transition to a new workplace easier as my needed accommodations are not made to stand out but a natural part of the leadership team making sure every individual has what they need for long term success and growth.

When NGIS hosted its **neurodivergent information session** seeing so many of my colleagues wanting to join and learn showed me that many people were wanting to know how to better connect, work with and understand people like myself. It showed me that everyone at NGIS was contributing to making it a safe space.





# What benefits are we seeing?

- Ability to meet client demand on projects
- Enthusiasm and work ethic
- Willingness to contribute and be part of our NGIS team culture
- Benefits for all our team e.g. our quiet room
- Communication and meeting style tweaks
- Onboarding team together has been advantageous











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# What have we learnt?

Key learnings

- ASA provides an alternate 'work-ready' talent pipeline that any geospatial function can benefit from
- Guidance from ASA on inclusive practices through the interview process as well as our ways of working are benefitting everyone
- Diversity and inclusion at NGIS is key to our supportive team, values and culture working with ASA in this way adds and enhances that and demonstrates our commitment to all our team
- We'll keep looking to ASA in the future to help us grow our team and meet client demands



AB1

#### AB1

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# Thank you!





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