

NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATION INITIATIVE (NTICI)

A. INTRODUCTION

Since the demise of the National Mapping Council in the mid '80's there has been little coordination of topographic mapping activities undertaken by the States, Territories and Federal governments. Whilst acknowledging that a lot has been achieved through the establishment of the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI), the Australian Land Information Council (ANZLIC) Spatial Data Infrastructure Standing Committee (SDI SC) considers more can be achieved through the jurisdictions taking a collegiate approach to spatial activities. At the moment each jurisdiction pursues mapping activities independently of each other, so from a national perspective there are overtones of duplication and inconsistencies in the extent, availability and quality of topographic information to the detriment of all.

At a time of rapid technological change in the spatial sciences and increased demand for up to date spatial information affecting all aspects of government and public administration, there are significant opportunities for improved efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of topographic information. In response to this the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) established a Permanent Committee for Topographic Information (PC TI) in November 2003. The intention is that the Committee would provide leadership in collection, maintenance and delivery of topographic information through the participation of all of the jurisdictions in collaborative arrangements involving other key government and industry stakeholder groups. The PC TI membership consists of representatives from the lead topographic mapping agency in each jurisdiction. Refer Attachment 'A'

B. NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATION INITIATIVE (NTICI)

The framework under which a collegiate approach to topographic mapping of Australia will be undertaken is the National Topographic Information Coordination Initiative. Through the NTICI the PCTI plans to develop, where it is appropriate, a whole of government approach to the collection, availability and maintenance of topographic and related information to meet the needs of governments and the public – adding value to the topographic layers of the ASDI whilst recognising the different but complementary roles and responsibilities of the spatial data agencies in the different jurisdictions.

C. NTICI OUTCOMES

The outcomes that will accrue from the National Topographic Information Coordination Initiative are:

- Improved availability of up to date, reliable and accessible topographic information to meet government, value-adders, distributors and public users.
- Maximisation of the efficiency and effectiveness of government expenditure on topographic mapping and related activities;
- Development and promulgation of standards and strategies to alleviate inconsistencies in the national topographic framework and promote on-demand access (interoperability)
- Strengthened jurisdictional capacity through sharing and exchange of ideas.

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D. JURISDICTIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The NTICI facilitates the development of the ASDI by building mutually beneficial and responsive relationships between jurisdictions. In turn this will maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits from investment in spatially referenced information.

Within this context it is important to make the point that the independence of the jurisdictions is not compromised by the NTICI. The roles and responsibilities of the jurisdictions remains the same, that is:

1. The State/Territories mapping agencies carry out data collection, management and delivery of topographic information specific to the priorities of the economic development and resource management of their own jurisdiction. Typically this information is collected and used at large scales. They represent the primary custodians of this information for their jurisdiction.
2. Geoscience Australia carries out national topographic mapping to support key Australian Government policy objectives requiring national coverage. Typically this information is used at smaller scales.

E. PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

The ICSM has agreed that the following principles should apply to the establishment of NTICI projects. The principles would be underwritten by the maxim, 'map once, use many' and preferably at a scale large enough to facilitate generalisation to successively smaller scales.

It is envisaged that in most instances the cooperative approach would take the form of project/s. In this regard:

- The PC TI oversees the establishment of the NTICI and identifies mutually agreeable targets for cooperative projects.
- The PC TI via the ICSM will report to ANZLIC on NTICI activities
- There is no obligation on jurisdictional engagement in NTICI projects.
- All projects undertaken under the banner of the NTICI should be collaborative projects involving one or more of the jurisdictions under bilateral or multi lateral written agreement in the form of a MoU that outlines the outputs, time-frames, resource inputs and exit strategies.
- Jurisdictions will provide their forward programs to the PC TI the 4th quarter of the FY so as to assist in the identification of opportunities for bilateral and multilateral project development.

F. CRITERIA TO BE USED FOR SELECTING NTICI PROJECTS

The criteria used as a guide for selecting NTICI projects are outlined below. It is expected that all four criteria should preferably be satisfied when initiating projects.

1. they will be mutually advantageous to two or more of the jurisdictions;
2. intended outputs will have practical application and have a life which will justify that effort.
3. they will add value to the national topographic framework by way of new data, new concepts or improved practices.
4. they should be drawn from the priority list (refer G)

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G. PRIORITY AREAS FOR NTICI PROJECTS

Note: This list has been refined from a PC TI 'brainstorming' session conducted during the 'forming stage' of the NTICI.

Work force planning

- skill/knowledge loss

Data management strategies

- collection
- management
- distribution
 - lithographic vs print on demand
 - electronic
- integration of disparate systems
- spatial extent of annotation (gazetteer)
- Metadata standards and use
- flexible / consistency in data models (better information sharing)
- standards for interoperability – commonality of features

Enhanced institutional collaboration

Change drivers

- EM & CT
- critical infrastructure protection
- legislation
- evolving customer demands
- environment/sustainability
- mapping zones/scale & priorities for purpose
- terrestrial/marine interface

Transition to theme based maintenance

- transport / buildings / water / infrastructure
- integration of supplementary geographic information into the topographic environment

Real position / full capture in preference to the cartographic

Changing information sources

- increased opportunities & growing reliance on use of third party data
- the need to influence development & use of standards in third party data

Improved coastal boundary definitions

Data quality

- currency
- accuracy
- completeness (common national themes)
- intelligence
- interoperability

IP & pricing

- Whole of government use licences
- Data sharing arrangements

Funding

- value adding fundamental data

Shared technology/ intelligence learning