

ICSM Operating Framework

Why We Exist

A global digital economy and a changing planet are driving demand for knowing what is happening where from a more diverse and growing user base. Ongoing improvements to positioning accuracy, satellite and information technology are changing how location information can be managed, integrated and used.

Government agencies have a role to respond to and influence this environment to reduce risks in decision making, make it easier for business to use government-held information to enter markets, and be a voice for the benefits of location information within government. In particular, government will:

1. Develop strategic direction for provision of foundation spatial data (authoritative geographic information of national significance)
2. Co-operate on inter-jurisdictional spatial data initiatives and challenges
3. Encourage a consistent approach to jurisdictional policies, standards, programs and priorities
4. Share knowledge, experience and expertise.

In this environment, foundation spatial data—positioning, topography, cadastre and other datasets defined in the Foundation Spatial Data Framework—will continue to be the authoritative base that, when joined up with other information, support evidence-based decision making by government, business and the community.

Who We Are

Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) members represent Australian and New Zealand commonwealth, state and territory surveying, mapping and hydrographic charting agencies. ICSM is a standing committee of ANZLIC, the Spatial Information Council.

Our Values

- **Transparency.** We operate in a way that creates openness and trust with our governments and the Australian public.
- **Professionalism.** We use our expertise to advise and inform our government's decision making.
- **Accountability.** We are responsible to, and represent, our governments and agencies.
- **Consensus.** Our decision making involves the agreement of our Executive and Committee members.

Our Guiding Principles

- **FAIR.** (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) Data Principles are used to guide our approach to data management.
- **Open.** We are committed to optimise the use and reuse of public data; to release non sensitive data as open by default; and to collaborate with the private and research sectors to extend the value of public data for the benefit of the Australian public.

- **Collaborative.** We work together to share our knowledge, experience and expertise for the benefit of all members, our governments and the Australian public.
- **Federated.** Our membership is accountable to our different governments and agencies and we work as a committee to encourage consistent approaches across Australia, and where appropriate, New Zealand.
- **Innovative.** We encourage new methods and original thinking to address problems in our areas of focus.
- **Communicative.** We aim to share our information openly and publish our documents for easy public access.

Our Governance

- A **National Collaboration Framework (NCF)** is used to collaboratively achieve government objectives through managed programs and projects.
- **Executive Terms of Reference** cover the scope of our operations and how we achieve our goals.
- The **ICSM Executive Committee** comprises members, who are representatives of their Jurisdictions, with a chair elected by the members.
- An **Executive Office** is appointed and is responsible for administration matters as directed by the Chair and Members.
- **Budget Processes** are documented in our Executive Terms of Reference and our annual audits and financial management ensure solvency.
- **Risk Management** is used to control our exposure and for the identification and evaluation of financial risks.

What We Do

ICSM looks to constantly improve user access to data and services in our key areas of focus.

Our Areas of Focus

- Geodesy and Positioning
- Tides and Sea-level
- Cadastre and Land Boundaries
- Geographic Place Names
- Street Addressing
- Topographic Data and Cartography
- Spatial Information Standards and Frameworks.

These areas are represented by a series of permanent committees and working groups that deliver improvements based on nationally focused strategies. Additionally, projects are organised under the National Collaboration Framework (NCF) to enable collaboration between multiple jurisdictions.

- **Permanent Committees** undertake long term coordination, development, maintenance and communication of important spatially related issues.
 - Addressing (PCA)
 - Place Names (PCPN)
 - Cadastre (PCC)
 - Geodesy (PCG)
 - Tides and Mean Sea Level (PCTMSL)
 - Topographic Information (PCTI)
- **Working Groups** are formed to undertake nationally focused short term projects which can take several years to complete. Working group members come from key government, academic, and private organisations from within Australia and New Zealand.
- **NCF Projects** are used to deliver coordinate specific short term activities between Jurisdictions to deliver national outcomes.

Our Strategies

Every two years, we review the strategies that define the **ICSM Strategic Framework**, our 3–5 year outlook. As of 2019 the following strategies are:

- **Cadastre 2034** to provide cadastral system that enables people to readily and confidently identify the location and extent of all rights, restrictions and responsibilities related to land and real property.
- **Elevation and Depth 2030** to provide a consistent nationwide digital elevation and depth model that people can interrogate with other information to better understand the dynamics of our environment, make sense of uncertainty, and provide a basis for community safety, economic growth and sustainable living.
- **2026 Spatial Industry Transformation Agenda** to participate in a national action agenda to drive the future growth of the spatial industry.
- **ANZLIC Collaborative Framework** to support ANZLIC in enabling jurisdictions to deliver spatially referenced information that is current, complete, accurate, affordable and accessible, and is used to inform decision making for economic, social and environmental outcomes.
- **The Foundation Spatial Data Framework Discoverability & Consumability Roadmap**, to make it easier for anyone to find trusted foundation spatial data, and quickly assemble consistent national foundation spatial datasets for cross-border problem-solving.

Satellite image originally processed by the Bureau of Meteorology from the geostationary meteorological satellite Himawari-8 operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency.