

Annual General Meeting 2020

Thursday 3 September 2020
11:00am - 12:00pm (AEST)
Held by Zoom Webinar

Minutes

Welcome, Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Overview of Agenda (Stuart Phinn, President)

Stuart advised attendees that we require a quorum of 13 persons to be able to hold the meeting. 38 attendees were online at the start of the meeting and hence a quorum was met and the meeting could proceed.

Stuart advised attendees that the results of the election of the Management Committee would be finalised on Monday 7 September 2020.

President's report (Stuart Phinn)

Key Points:

- Earth Observation Australia is primarily run on in-kind and voluntary contributions. Stuart thanked the membership, Management Committee and key people in the EOA office for their contributions.
- EOA membership has increased significantly over this year and covers all states and territories, across different levels of government agencies, research institutions, universities, non-government organisations, and small to large industry from start-ups through to multinational companies. Diversity is a real strength but also a challenge.
- EOA's biggest focus is about communication; better communication means better coordination
- Need to improve coordination, particularly in terms of enabling industry-research engagement and industry-government engagement.
- EOA will only make progress in terms of obtaining support if we can present a coordinated view that we're collaborating in terms of accessing resources across a range of different areas, and even more so internationally.

Presentation of Annual Report

1. EOA membership and activities (Sylvia Michael, Vice President)

Key Points:

- EOA memberships covers a number of sectors with highest representation in research and education (43.82%), state, territories and local governments (15.06%), and SMEs (12.58%).
- “Other” sector is next and includes small groups and a number of members we couldn’t identify. We will be requesting more information from members so that we can perform better analyses and offer targeted as well as general content.
- Eastern states have most members - Queensland at 27.64%, New South Wales at 24.49% and Victoria at 16.63%.
- At the end of June membership numbers were at 524 and in two months this increased to 570.
- EOA activities over the last financial year included eleven Whole of Community events (webinars and newsletters), three EOGN workshops, two submissions to government, presentations at national and international forums, and preparation for the inaugural Advancing Earth Observation forum in 2021.

2. Treasurer’s report (Jo Edkins, Secretary/Treasurer)

Key Points:

- The full treasurer’s report is published in the Annual Report.
- Since incorporation in July 2019, EOA has not achieved financial independence. We do not have any material assets, have not prepared a profit and loss statement, and therefore have not been required to engage an auditor. We are a Level 3 Incorporated Association.
- EOA receives financial and in-kind support from the University of Queensland, and the Queensland and New South Wales state governments through the Joint Remote Sensing Research Program, and funding for a number of projects from Geoscience Australia.

Resolutions

Proposed Resolution	That the Treasurer’s Report be adopted
Moved by	Jo Edkins
Seconded by	Amy Parker
Decision	All in favour via poll

Proposed Resolution	That the Annual Report be adopted
Moved by	Sylvia Michael
Seconded by	Jo Edkins
Decision	All in favour via poll

The next 12 months, the next 5 years (Stuart Phinn)

Key Points:

- EOA is still aiming to work through the five priorities defined in the 10 year plan ([Australian Earth Observation Community Plan 2026](#)) which was published four years ago. The Plan was developed across the community and it is appropriate to revisit it.
 - Our mission is still the same: that we are developing and delivering quality EO information, infrastructure, and services that are used widely across all the different parts of our community, both in Australia and internationally.
1. **Connection and coordination** - this is essentially about ensuring EOA still remains relevant, connected and operational within its community, but also interacts with the larger government, industry and research communities. So enabling the establishment of the Space Agency and having EO as a key civil space priority is a key achievement for this priority.
 2. **Securing our role in the international EO community** - we do a lot of that in a very distributed way but we don't have a good overall picture of how to engage effectively as a body, other than what the Commonwealth agencies do. We need to broaden our perspective and assist the Space Agency in their role as a central point of contact for overseas agencies and other groups who want to access what we're doing.
 3. **Infrastructure and people** - this is probably the most challenging action that we have to deal with. We need to enable research, government, and private industry infrastructure to work together, make the best of what we already have, build towards the future, and build international cooperation. We also need to more effectively build a skilled workforce that can develop products, services, and applications that are appropriate and relevant to government and industry. This is an area where we need to get investment from the state, territory and Commonwealth governments.
 4. **Access to EO data and services** – The Digital Earth Australia program is a national capability that has initiated industry and defence engagement. In parallel, we've seen massive growth in access to data and services, analysis ready data, and open data key concepts, etc. from the private industry. So this is an area that is growing independently and needs our engagement rather than support.
 5. **Generating value** - this is about building our industry capabilities and that's what we need to focus on more. We already have corporate research centres, but they have restrictive IP models in some areas. We have government research and industry funds but they're highly competitive and have a long time frame. We need more agile

approaches, so that we can enable industry, research, and government to develop capability and push things forward at a faster rate.

- We're still driven by these five priorities. They're still relevant and still taking us to our 2026 end goals.
- Unfortunately the forum has been postponed until next year, however it will be collaborative, engaging, and entertaining and we know that after attending, people will be able to do more in EO.
- We are also going to establish working groups to enable us to meet some of our priority targets and which align with activities across all of our sectors e.g. workshops on SMEs and calibration and validation.
- And we're going to continue to develop mutually beneficial relationships and associations with other groups, potentially within the geospatial area, the space industry, the astronomy community or the interplanetary science community.

Steps for the appointment of the 2020/21 Management Committee (Larissa Mar Fan, EOA Election Registrar)

Key Points:

- Larissa thanked the 2019/20 Management Committee (MC) and noted that this was the first formal election of the MC for EOA.
- Election Buddy software was used in the election process as it is fully auditable and tamper proof. The software provided each member with a voting key that could only be used once and which allowed reminders to be sent to members that hadn't yet voted. This ensured that as many members as possible voted and that everyone had the opportunity to cast a vote.
- Voting opened on the 6th of August and will close at the end of the AGM.
- Diversity is very important to EOA and therefore nominations from people working in all areas of the EO sector including research, government, private industry, and NGOs, as well as people from the many career stages, were encouraged.
- The 2019/20 elections are for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 8 non-executive roles. The position of president is a three year appointment and will be due for election in 2022.
- Following the closing of voting all successful candidates will be contacted and asked to formally accept a position on the MC. That should be finalised early next week, and an email listing the new MC will be sent to all EOA members. The information will also be made available on the EOA website.

Dissolution of 2019/20 Management Committee (Stuart Phinn)

Key Points:

- Stuart formally thanked and dissolved the current Management Committee.
- Stuart announced he will be transitioning out of the role of President but the Management Committee and members of EOA should remain engaged and continue to move forward.

Meeting closed at 12pm.