



Annual General Meeting

19 October 2022

Minutes



Earth Observation
Australia Inc.

MINUTES

Meeting details

Annual General Meeting of Earth Observation Australia Inc.

Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2022, 12:30pm to 1:18pm (AEST) by Zoom webinar

Introduction (Megan Lewis, President)

27 members attended the meeting online, exceeding the minimum of 13 required for a quorum

Apologies were received from Cindy Ong and Karen Joyce

Megan welcomed attendees, acknowledged the Traditional Owners, and provided an overview of the agenda, and purpose of the meeting. The agenda and other presentation slides, these minutes, and the Annual Report are available on the EOA website [here](#).

Attendees were invited to post questions prior to the meeting via a Google document and during the meeting via the zoom chat function.

President's Report (Megan Lewis)

Key points:

- Thank you to the many people in academia, industry, and government who made the 2021/22 financial year an outstanding one for Earth Observation Australia, and acknowledgement of the strong foundation laid down by the Australian Earth Observation Community Plan from 2013 to 2018, leading to the formation of EOA and its formal incorporation in 2019.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to the Management Committee and in particular the outgoing Management Committee members David Antoine, Alfredo Huete, Karen Joyce, Jasmine Muir, and Dan Wu. The current elections provide for new members to join the Management Committee.
- EOA's achievement and impact are driven by the core Executive team of Stuart Phinn (UQ Chair and Immediate Past President), Amy Parker (Vice President), Sylvia Michael (Secretary), Jo Edkins (Treasurer), and Larissa Mar Fan (Partnerships Coordinator), and their vital contributions are gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to Geoscience Australia for their continued support and collaborations with EOA to jointly progress Earth observation in Australia, and to the sponsors of the Advancing Earth Observation Forum.

President's Report (cont.)

In 2021/22 there was particular emphasis on Connection and Coordination, one of the five priority areas of action identified in the Australian Earth Observation Community Plan, with highlights of activities and achievements through the year:

- The August 2022 Advancing Earth Observation Forum (AEO 22) preparation and delivery
- Membership numbers and diversity of representation continue to grow
- Continue to broaden membership and engagement through expanding and continuing communications, social media, and webinars
- Developed guidelines to reinvigorate and support targeted working groups e.g. the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) working group
- Established the inaugural EOA awards, presented at the 2022 Forum
- Delivery of workshops for the Earth Observation for Government Network (EOGN)
- Active contribution to and support for many national EO strategic roadmaps and forward plans released this year and in previous years

Presentation of Annual Report

1. EOA membership and activities summary (Sylvia Michael, Secretary)

Key points:

- Increase in membership numbers since the 2021 AEO Mini Forum and post AEO 22
- Local Government separated from State and Territory Government in this year's analysis
- SME industry now second in terms of membership numbers to Research and Education; small increases in representation of Large Industry and Defence
- This year recognised international members who represent 15% of our current membership
- Members in Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, and Victoria represent 66% of our membership
- List of EOA and EOGN activities shows we have been very busy
- Acknowledged the significant work by the organisers of the AEO Mini Forum, the Building EO Community webinars, and AEO 22
- Acknowledged and thanked Management Committee and EOA members for representing and promoting EOA at non-EOA events

2. Treasurer's report (Jo Edkins, Treasurer)

Key points:

- EOA activities are achieved through various sources of support
- In-kind support from
 - The University of Queensland's Remote Sensing Research Centre at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences – provides infrastructure, support, hosts the EOA office, and provides telecommunications, software, and hardware
 - Volunteer contributions from the Management Committee and our members through activities and working groups
 - Queensland and New South Wales State Governments through the Joint Remote Sensing Research Program
- Geoscience Australia funding for specific projects:
 - Overarching project to support EOA's activities
 - Support for EOGN activities
- Funding for AEO 22
 - Revenue from sponsorship and delegate registrations
 - Profit and loss statement for the Forum will be published in the next Annual Report
 - AEO 22 delivered a profit which will help with ongoing AEO series' activities
- EOA is not currently financially independent
 - All contracts and finance are managed by the University of Queensland (UQ)
 - EOA is a Level 3 incorporated association, hence we are not required to engage an independent auditor or file 2021/22 financial reports with the Australian Tax Office

Full details of all funding are presented in the Treasurer's Report in the Annual Report.

Megan thanked Jo for her report and her effective and efficient financial management and liaison with the UQ financial systems.

Resolutions

Proposed Resolution	That the Treasurer's Report be adopted
Moved by	Megan Lewis
Seconded by	Stuart Phinn
Decision	Treasurer's Report adopted [1]

[1] Online votes from attendees provided by "Raise Hand" function

Proposed Resolution	That the Annual Report be adopted
Moved by	Megan Lewis
Seconded by	Arnold Dekker
Decision	Annual Report adopted [2]

[2] Online votes from attendees provided by "Raise Hand" function

EOA Future Directions (Megan Lewis)

Key points:

- We are halfway through our decadal plan which has been the mission and guide to our activities. Rapid progress in the national Earth observation programs has seen some of our goals come to fruition and new urgency to progress others
- EOA will undertake a review of our achievements in relation to the plan and seek feedback from our members, stakeholders, and the broader community on our priorities and focus for the future
- Incorporating the review feedback, we propose to refine and further develop current activities, including:
 - Grow and diversify our membership base
 - Provide informative, relevant, and regular communications
 - Shape national strategic discussions, roadmaps, and initiatives relevant to EO
 - Develop models for diverse groups to collaborate and engage such as targeted working groups
 - Develop mutually beneficial national and international relationships
 - Develop a pathway towards future financial and operational sustainability
- And new initiatives, including:
 - Model for the 2024 and future Advancing Earth Observation Forums
 - Expand and support international engagement, especially with the Asia-Pacific region and with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
 - Build an up-to-date evidence base of the scale, scope, and impact of the EO sector to support advocacy and engagement, and identify capabilities, broader trends, gaps, and risks to future EO use

MINUTES (cont.)

EOA Management Committee Elections (Larissa Mar Fan, Registrar)

Key points:

- EOA Management Committee (MC) consists of five executive positions – four elected and one unelected position (University of Queensland Chair – oversees financial and other arrangements with UQ) and eight elected non-executive members.
- In 2021 we introduced by-laws that stipulate half of the MC positions become open each year, and this is the first year that this process has been conducted. For this election, nominations were called for Secretary and five non-executive positions.
- Received one nomination for Secretary and eight for the non-executive positions.
- Election has been run through online election software allowing for a secret ballot and providing a fair and transparent process.
- 117 votes received to-date. Voting closes at the end of the meeting.
- After the meeting close, successful candidates will be contacted to confirm their acceptance. Once the process is complete the new MC will be announced on the EOA website and in communications to members

Questions and Discussion (Megan Lewis)

No questions had been submitted prior to the meeting. Questions and comments were raised by attendees.

Question by Arnold Dekker:

EOGN is an important sponsor yet no activities since 2021? Should that be revived?

Stuart Phinn responded:

- Earth Observation for Government Network (EOGN) was set up at Geoscience Australia's request in 2018-19 to link Commonwealth agencies involved in collecting and processing EO data with research and to transition that research into operational products and services within those agencies. EOGN activities were put on hold mid-year to enable the EOA Management Team to develop and deliver the AEO 2022 Forum.
- EOGN is in the process of revising its 2022-23 plans and revisiting its national research-operations priorities to inform what the next workshops should be and what are other research-to-operations concerns at a national level. This will also link with the Risks to EO Supply studies in government / industry / research. Expect that activity will increase again early in 2023

MINUTES (cont.)

Comment by Bruce Forster:

Could potentially have more contact with the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS). They recently had their annual conference in Mongolia (October 2022, online), next year in Taiwan (face-to-face). Australia is the only non-Asian country that is a member of AARS. AARS covers professional geospatial organisations (e.g. remote sensing, photogrammetry, GIS, digital twins, etc.) in all countries in Asia including Israel and the Arab countries. Allows access to academia and government departments

Megan Lewis and Stuart Phinn responded:

- Thanked Bruce for the information, noting that international engagement is a future focus of EOA and especially with the Asia-Pacific region as evidenced by President's position as Australian Co-Chair of the Asia Oceania Group on Earth Observation (AO GEO)
- Noted that representatives from New Zealand, Indonesia, and the Pacific Island countries were at the AEO Forum
- Increasing our international connection through associations and not just technically, addresses one of our priority areas of action

Concluding Remarks (Megan Lewis)

Megan thanked members for joining this Annual General Meeting and for their interest and broader contributions to EOA activities, and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 1:18 pm