

Annual Report 2022/23



Earth Observation
Australia Inc.

REGISTERED OFFICE

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The University of Queensland

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[earth-observation-australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/earth-observation-australia)



[@EarthObsAu](https://twitter.com/EarthObsAu)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared for Earth Observation Australia Inc by the following contributors:

- Emerita Professor Megan Lewis
[Earth Observation Australia Inc and The University of Adelaide](#)
- Larissa Mar Fan
[Earth Observation Australia Inc and The University of Queensland](#)
- Joanne Edkins
[Earth Observation Australia Inc and The University of Queensland](#)
- Sylvia Michael
[Earth Observation Australia Inc and The University of Queensland](#)

Earth Observation Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of Australia in which we work. We offer our respect to Elders past, present, and emerging as we recognise and build our shared knowledge and experiences.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About EOA

Earth Observation Australia Inc (EOA) is a not-for-profit association whose members are individuals with an interest in Earth observation (EO). EOA activities are guided by five priority actions:

1. Connection and Coordination
2. Securing Australia's Role in the International Earth Observation Community
3. Infrastructure and People
4. Access to Earth Observation Data and Services
5. Generating Value

These five priorities are defined in the [Australian Earth Observation Community Plan](#) (the Plan). That Plan is directly linked to the [Australian Space Agency's Civil Space Priority Roadmap for Earth Observation](#).

Governance and Membership

EOA is governed by a Management Committee of thirteen members.

Membership to EOA is free and open to anyone interested in Earth observation, irrespective of their affiliation, career stage, application, or geographic location. As of June 2023, EOA had 734 subscribed members, who reflect the diversity and ubiquitous nature of EO in Australia, with interested individuals and representatives from research, education, all levels of government, professional organisations, media, non-government organisations (NGOs), not for profit organisations (NFPs), defence, large business, start-ups, and small and medium enterprises.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the highest proportion of membership was from:

- Research & Education (39%)
- Small and Medium Enterprises (Industry) (15%)
- Commonwealth Government (11%)
- State & Territory Government (11%)

Geographically our membership is spread across all states and territories in Australia with most members residing in

- Queensland (22%)
- New South Wales (19%)
- Australian Capital Territory (13%)
- Victoria (12%)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Support

EOA is supported by:

- The University of Queensland's Remote Sensing Research Centre at the School of the Environment for operations and accommodation resources and as host of the registered office of EOA
- Geoscience Australia for EOA and Earth Observation for Government Network (EOGN) activities, and for the Risks to Supply Project
- Sponsorship for the Advancing Earth Observation Forum

In addition, all activities by the EOA Management Committee have been provided on a voluntary basis by its members.

EOA gratefully acknowledges and sincerely thanks these groups and individuals for their support.

Primary Activities

EOA activities during the 2022-2023 financial year included:

- Preparation and delivery of the inaugural Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2022 (AEO22)
- Preparation for the second Advancing Earth Observation Forum (AEO24)
- Delivery of three Whole of Community webinars
- Distribution of three electronic newsletters
- Project management and Steering Committee membership of the Geoscience Australia Risks to Supply Project
- Work towards the establishment of the Australian Earth Observation Capability Database through the Earth Observation for Government Network
- Representation by a number of MC members on national and international committees and advisory groups
- Presentations and representation by a number of MC members at non-EOA events

All activities were held in accordance with Australian and Queensland government travel and public gathering directives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of attendees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Future Directions

Earth Observation Australia will continue its leading role in serving and representing the Australian Earth observation community, working towards the vision outlined in the [Australian Earth Observation Community Plan 2026](#).

We are at a crucial stage in our development where we must adapt our operating model, broaden our support and resource base, and review our activities in order to deliver the roles and services expected of EOA.

The incoming Management Committee and leadership team, with their wealth and diversity of expertise and experience, will address these challenges, focusing on the next phase of EOA's journey.

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EARTH OBSERVATION AUSTRALIA INC

Earth Observation Australia Inc (EOA) is a not-for-profit association serving and representing the Australian Earth observation community. That community includes individuals and organisations in research and education, government, defence, industry, and non-government sectors. EOA enables the Earth observation community to connect, learn, and collaborate to facilitate growth and improve EO capability, activity, and services for the future.

Mission

“By 2026, the Australian Earth Observation sector will develop and deliver high-quality Earth Observation information, infrastructure, and services that are used widely by government, industry, research and the community in Australia and internationally.”

During 2016 our forward-looking [Australian Earth Observation Community Plan 2026](#) was developed - through community consultation - to progress this mission by way of five priority areas of action:



1. Connection and Coordination — establishing a consistent vision within the Australian Earth observation community and delivering processes for internal coordination to ensure effective collaboration, resource use, and advocacy for Earth observation in Australia and internationally.



2. Securing Australia's Role in the International Earth Observation Community — Australia must be an essential component of the international Earth observation capability, delivering benefits to the international community and securing our access



3. Infrastructure and People — developing, supporting and sustaining a wealth of trained professionals and quality infrastructure to enable world-leading Earth observation research, innovation and application development.



4. Access to Earth Observation Data and Services — ensuring all Australian Earth observation producers and users can easily and reliably access the data and services they need.



5. Generating Value — strengthening end-user engagement to enable delivery of high-quality Earth observation products and services suited to user needs and supporting commercial development of Earth observation applications.

EARTH OBSERVATION AUSTRALIA INC

This report acknowledges and thanks the following organisations and people for their support:

- The University of Queensland
- Geoscience Australia
- The voluntary activities of the 2022/23 Management Committee
- The voluntary activities of the Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2022 Organising Committee
- The voluntary activities of EOA members and members of the wider EO community who have contributed to EOA activities

and presents:

- A summary of current EOA membership
- An overview of the 2022/23 activities of EOA
- An overview of EOA's future directions
- The 2022/23 financial statement

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I extend my sincere thanks to the numerous people in government, industry, and academia who have contributed in many ways to Earth Observation Australia's activities and achievements during 2022-2023. Those activities, and their valuable contributions to the Australian Earth observation community are summarised in this Annual Report.

This, the fourth Annual Report of EOA since incorporation of the association in 2019, provides an opportunity to reflect on our progress and impact over that time, as well as highlights of the past year. We have become a nationally and internationally recognised body serving and representing Earth observation in Australia, now with over 700 members from sectors including research and education, government, defence, industry, and non-government. That breadth and diversity of membership is distinctive, and a key strength of EOA.

The outstanding highlight of the past year was the inaugural Advancing Earth Observation Forum (AEO22) held in Brisbane in August 2022. Establishing this forum was a goal of EOA since inception, so it was wonderful to experience its success, after several COVID-related delays. We must congratulate and thank the small team of Forum Directors for their vision and enormous effort over several years to present such an outstanding event that has been widely acclaimed. In addition, the active participation and enthusiasm of participants, sponsors, and exhibitors all contributed to the success and sense of community at the forum. A high standard has been set, and we are now working towards AEO24 as the premier event for the Earth observation community.

Connecting, communicating, and sharing Earth observation information and insights continues to be a priority for EOA. Our Whole of Community Webinars on wide-ranging topics are very well-attended, and our newsletters widely read, attracting numerous Australian and international news and job postings. Active and leading contributions to the webinars and newsletter from Management Committee and EOA members are much appreciated and help reflect the interests, needs, and diversity of the EO community.

In addition this year, two new EOA and EOGN collaborative projects are building and updating our understanding of Australian EO capabilities, uses, and needs across government, research, and industry, addressing information needs that were articulated in the [Australian EO Community Plan 2026](#). The insights and evidence gathered in these projects will provide a strong basis to focus and prioritise future EO effort in government, industry, research and education, and should highlight opportunities for further collaboration between sectors.

I am extremely grateful to the Management Committee who work very collaboratively to guide and oversee EOA directions and activities. Each member brings a valued and unique perspective, with breadth and diversity of experience and connections. The combination of long-serving and new MC members brings a wealth of insight and energy to our work, ensuring continuity while encouraging evolution and change in the management team. In particular I thank outgoing Vice President Amy Parker, Treasurer Jo Edkins, and Management Committee Members Renee Bartolo, Stefan Maier, and Cindy Ong for their personal dedication, influential contributions, and long service to EOA and as leaders in Australian and international Earth observation.

EOA's programs, projects and activities are implemented and supported by the small core Executive Team, whose passion and commitment to EOA and the EO community extends well beyond their formal roles. It is a great pleasure to work with them, and I thank them for their continued expert work and support.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The EOA staff and office are hosted by The University of Queensland whose support has been crucial for EOA's establishment and operations over many years.

Geoscience Australia continues to actively support EOA, and I thank many people there for our collaborations to jointly progress Earth observation in Australia and internationally. We are all deeply saddened by the untimely death of Emma Luke whose inspiration, insight, and leadership laid foundations for many of our current initiatives.

Thank you again to all for your contributions and support for EOA in 2022-2023.

Emerita Professor Megan Lewis

[President, Earth Observation Australia](#)

Reply from the Management Committee

Megan has led EOA since July 2021, firstly as Acting President and since September 2021 as President. Throughout that time Megan has given the roles a very high standard of enthusiasm, dedication, professionalism, and commitment.

As well as her duties as EOA President, she has taken on responsibilities as

- Australian Co-Chair of the Asia-Oceania Group on Earth Observations (AOGEO) Coordinating Board
- Member of the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre Queensland Earth Observation Hub Advisory Committee
- Member of the Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2022 (AEO22) Organising Committee
- Lead of the EOA sub-committee passing on the knowledge and experience gained from AEO22 to the hosts of the Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2024
- Member of the Risks to Supply Project Steering Committee

and all of this as a volunteer.

So, it is my great pleasure to formally, sincerely, and personally thank Megan for all the effort and commitment that she has put into every duty that she took on.

Sylvia Michael

[Secretary, Earth Observation Australia](#)

[On behalf of the EOA Management Committee and all EOA members](#)

Operations and Management

EOA has been fortunate with the ongoing support and commitment of The University of Queensland's Remote Sensing Research Centre (RSRC) at the School of the Environment (previously the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences).

All contributions from the EOA community are gratefully acknowledged.

Earth Observation Australia Inc is a Queensland Incorporated Association and an Australian Registered Body. EOA is led by a Management Committee consisting of:

- An Executive Management Team:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - The University of Queensland Chair
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- Eight Non-Executive Members
- Immediate Past President

in accordance with its [Constitution](#) and [By-Laws](#).

Five Non-Executive Members of the Management Committee and the Secretary were elected at the 2022 Annual General Meeting. The remaining Management Committee members continued their tenure as guided by Clause 34-3) of the Constitution.

Executive Management Team



Emerita Professor Megan Lewis
President
The University of Adelaide



Dr Amy Parker
Vice President
CSIRO Centre for Earth Observation



Professor Stuart Phinn
UQ Chair & Immediate Past President
The University of Queensland
Remote Sensing Research Centre



Joanne Edkins
Treasurer
The University of Queensland



Sylvia Michael
Secretary
The University of Queensland

Non-Executive Management Committee



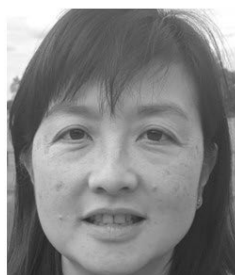
Professor Joseph Awange
Curtin University



Dr Renee Bartolo
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water



Dr Stefan Maier
maitec



Dr Cindy Ong
CSIRO



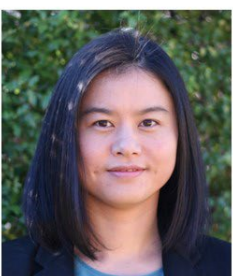
Dr Caroline Poulsen
Bureau of Meteorology



Dr Anthony Rea
World Meteorological Organization



Ben Starkey
Ozius



Dr Fang Yuan
FrontierSI

Support to the EOA Management Committee



Larissa Mar Fan
National Earth Observation Partnerships Coordinator
The University of Queensland

Members

EOA membership is free and open to anyone interested in Earth observation, irrespective of their affiliation, career stage, application, or geographic location. As of June 2023, we have 734 individual members from the Australian and international EO community, an increase of 87 from the previous year.

Our membership reflects the diversity and ubiquitous nature of EO information in Australia, with interested individuals and representatives from research, education, all levels of government, professional organisations, media, non-government organisations (NGOs), not for profit organisations (NFPs), defence, large business, start-ups, and small and medium enterprise.

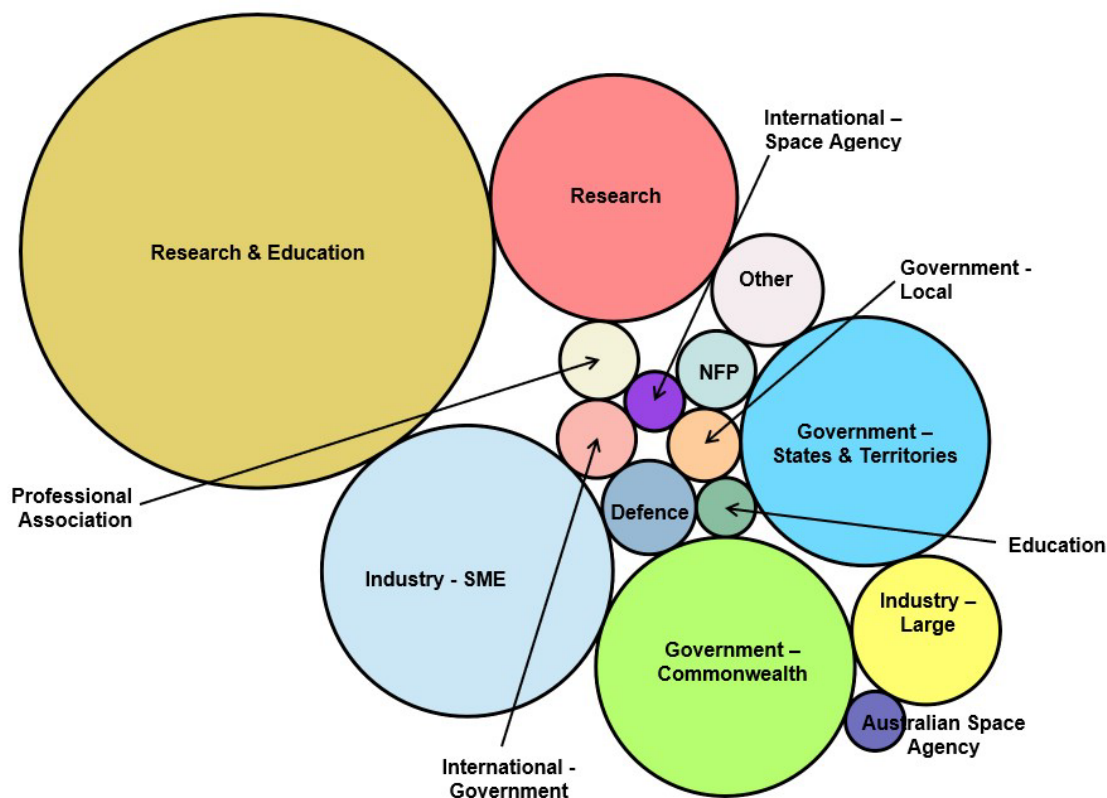
Table 1 and Figure 1 show the spread of membership across each of these major sectors. Table 2 and Figure 2 show the geographical spread of membership.

EOA ACTIVITIES

Table 1: Membership representation across the major sectors¹

Sector	Number	Percentage	Percentage reported in 2022
Research & Education	258	39%	41%
Industry - SME ²	99	15%	14%
Government - Commonwealth	76	11%	9%
Government – States & Territories	71	11%	12%
Research	67	10%	10%
Industry - Large	27	4%	4%
Other	16	2%	4%
Defence	10	2%	2%
Not for Profit	8	1%	1%
International - Government	7	1%	Included in Other
Professional Association	7	1%	1%
Government - Local	6	1%	1%
Education	4	1%	Included in Other
International – Space Agency	4	1%	Included in Other
Australian Space Agency	4	1%	1%

Figure 1: Membership representation across the major sectors



¹ Sectors with <4 members are grouped into Other. Members for whom we could not identify a sector are omitted (~9.5%).

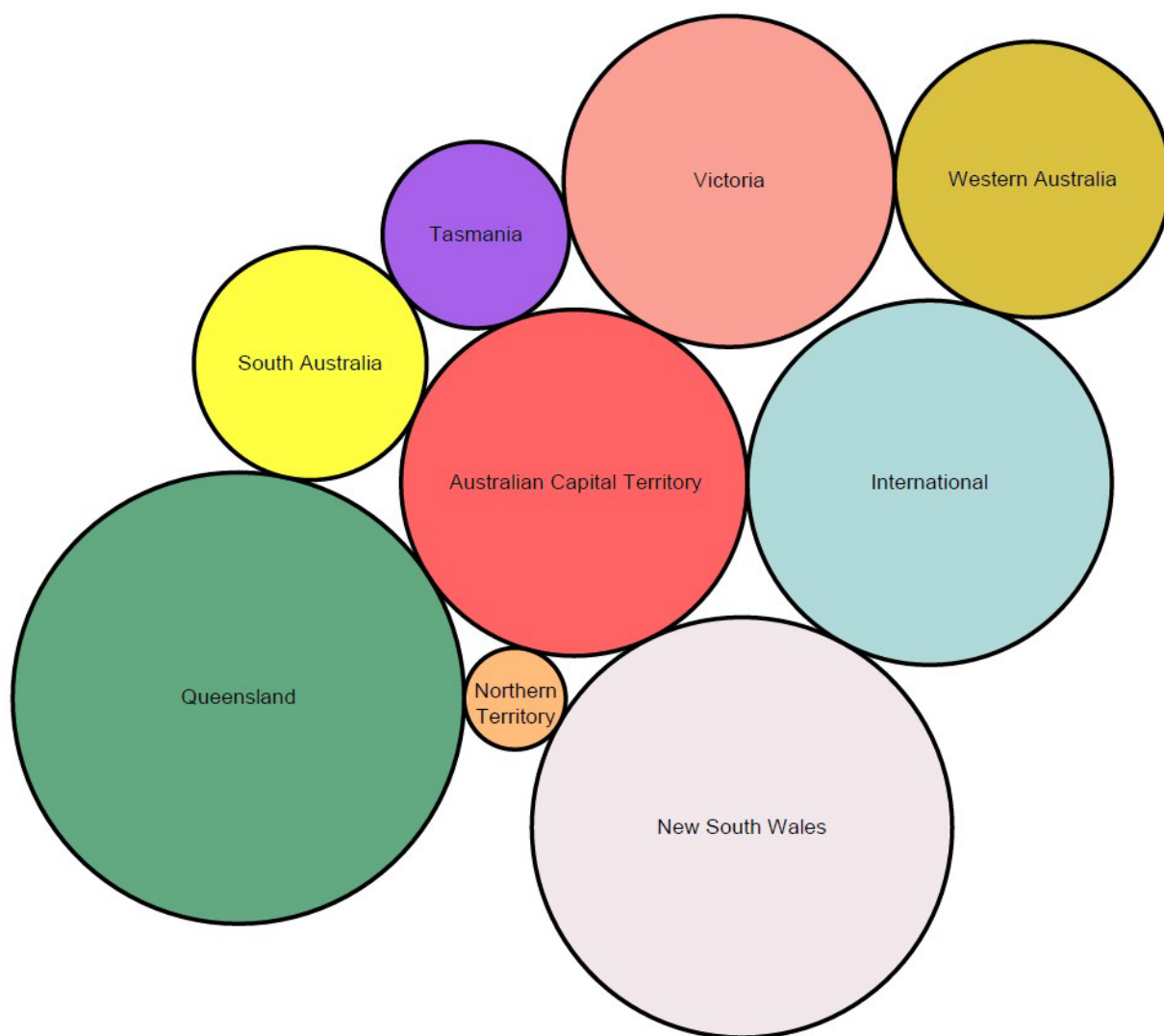
² SME Industry (small and medium enterprises) include commercial organisations with less than 200 employees and include microbusinesses, sole-traders, consultants, and start-ups.

EOA ACTIVITIES

Table 2: Membership representation across geographic distribution³

State / International	Number	Percentage	Percentage reported in 2022
Queensland	158	22%	22%
New South Wales	137	19%	19%
International	103	14%	15%
Australian Capital Territory	93	13%	13%
Victoria	85	12%	13%
Western Australia	59	8%	8%
South Australia	42	6%	5%
Tasmania	27	4%	4%
Northern Territory	8	1%	2%

Figure 2: Membership representation across geographic distribution



³ Members for whom we could not identify a location (state, territory, or international) are omitted (~3%).

EOA ACTIVITIES

Supporters

EOA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following groups:

Table 3: Earth Observation Australia Inc supporters

Name	Description	Dates Active
The University of Queensland's Remote Sensing Research Centre (RSRC) at the School of the Environment	Operations and infrastructure Hosts the registered office of EOA	From 2013, on-going
Geoscience Australia	EOA activities	From 2018 to December 2023
Geoscience Australia	Earth Observation for Government Network (EOGN) activities	From 2018 to December 2024
Geoscience Australia	Risks to Supply Project	March 2023 to December 2023
Sponsors	Advancing Earth Observation Forum (AEO22)	From 2020 to August 2022

Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2022 (AEO22)

The inaugural Advancing Earth Observation Forum (AEO) was initially to be held as a face-to-face event at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) in September-October 2020 but was postponed to August 2021 and then again until August 2022, due to the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



To ensure that the EO community remained engaged and connected during the second postponement and to lead into the August 2022 face-to-face forum, two additional events were held:

- A one-day fully online event on 25 August 2021 – the AEO Mini Forum 2021, and
- A series of Building the EO Community webinars from October 2021 to June 2022
 - *“Engaging with Australia’s Analytics Data Hubs”*
 - *“Drone Earth observation – critical pillars in Earth observation sciences and applications”*
 - *“SMEs and Government Partnering to Grow Australian Earth Observation Capabilities”*
 - *“Airborne Earth observation – critical pillars in Earth observation sciences and applications”*

AEO22 was finally held Monday 22 to Friday 26 August 2022 in Brisbane and attracted 285 registrants. The [Convenor’s Report](#) provides details of programs, attendance, sponsorship, and feedback.

Thank you to the enormous amounts of time and expertise volunteered by the Advancing Earth Observation Forum Directors:

- Professor Stuart Phinn (Convenor)
- Dr Karen Joyce
- Dr Renee Bartolo
- Associate Professor Glenn Campbell

as well as Organising Committee members Emerita Professor Megan Lewis, Alison Soady, Larissa Mar Fan, Jo Edkins, Anne Crosby, and Sylvia Michael.

Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2024 (AEO24)

Following the success of AEO22, EOA invited Expressions of Interest to co-host the second Advancing Earth Observation Forum. The successful bid was submitted by “Team Adelaide”, led by the South Australian Space Industry Centre (SASIC) and Business Events Adelaide.

Preparations for AEO24 are underway with the event scheduled for Monday 9 to Friday 13 September 2024 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

SASIC and EOA are currently recruiting members for the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and EOA will update the [AEO website](#) with more details as they come to hand.

Risks to Supply Project

Earth Observation Australia Inc is collaborating with Geoscience Australia, Symbios Communications, and The University of Queensland to provide an update to previous landmark reports about the continuity of satellite Earth observation data supply for Australian government, research, and commercial users.

The new report, scheduled for public release late 2023, will detail existing EO entities, capabilities, uses, needs, and applications of government, industry, and research in Australia.

In support of the report and to provide a continuous, publicly available, and current evidence base of and for the Australian EO community, a database has been created and is being populated from responses to two surveys and from interviews held with selected organisations in each sector.

The project commenced in March 2023 and will be completed with the release of the public report in late 2023.

Earth Observation for Government Network

Earth Observation for Government Network (EOGN) works to make available, fit-for-purpose, validated, and authoritative EO data and its derived products and services to support decision making, management, and other activities in Australia by governments, private industry, research, and non-government organisations.

It does this by:

- Engaging with providers of EO data and its derived products and services including Commonwealth and State and Territory government agencies as well as small and large private businesses, with researchers and developers of EO activities, and with the diverse community of users of EO data, products, and services
- Understanding the complete EO landscape including end-users' current and future needs, the appropriateness of available products and services, and research ranging from emerging through to proven, continental activities
- Advising government on existing or emerging user need gaps, activities that are ready to be transitioned from research infrastructure to nationally available products on government infrastructure, and mechanisms to allow cross-agency and community collaboration for the advancement of EO in Australia
- Supporting the improvement of available products and services and the transition of activities to nationally available products and services by providing a targeted collaboration and priority setting network

EOGN is fully funded by Geoscience Australia (GA). GA support for EOGN activities is secured until 31 December 2024.

For much of 2022 EOGN activities were paused to allow for a focus on preparations for the Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2022.

In 2023 the EOGN Advisory Group (which is made up of representatives from Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies that produce, make available, or use EO products and services) has focused on producing an **Australian Earth Observation Capability Database** that will be a record of Australia's Earth observation (EO) activities and a valuable decision-making tool for the EO community.

EOA ACTIVITIES

The Australian Earth Observation Capability Database will be a community-driven, regularly updated record of Australian EO activities within the pre-research to operational products and services continuum.

It will include:

- Products and services and links to access them
- Areas of research and development for new and updated applications of EO data
- Parameters and characteristics of activities
- Identified gaps and emerging needs of government and the wider EO using community

The Database will be able to be used by:

- Research agencies - to prioritise EO research activities and partnerships
- Research infrastructure programs - to prioritise EO products to be transitioned from research proven to pre-operational continental scale products/services
- Commonwealth and State Agencies - to deliver operational continental scale products/services
- EO users - to understand what EO products are now available in the pipeline and will soon become available for use

The Database will soon be made available on the [EOA website](#).

Newsletters

EOA distributes regular electronic newsletter to subscribed members. For the 2022/23 financial year, newsletters were distributed in November 2022, February 2023, and May 2023.

Content included:

- Introduction by a member of the Management Committee
- Member spotlight
- Upcoming events of interest, including the Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2024
- Reference articles
- EO collaborations, including the Earth Observation for Government Network
- Upcoming and recent webinars, including the Whole of Community series and technical presentations
- Release of and links to government strategy and policy documents
- Research and industry grants
- Competitions and challenges
- Other items of interest

EOA ACTIVITIES

Whole of Community Webinars

During the 2022/23 financial year, three Whole of Community webinars were held:

- *“NASA PACE Mission: exploring Australian data use and applications”*
- *“Using Earth observation to support decision making in Australia”*
- *“Growing Australia’s Earth observation workforce: finding, and hiring for, early career EO jobs”*

Recordings of these and other WoC webinars are available [here](#).

Contributions and Submissions

EOA provided input to several key national consultations and reports:

- Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2022 Technical Program
- Australian Academy of Sciences Space Science Decadal Plan
- Australian Space Agency Earth Observation Roadmap
- 2030 Space+Spatial Industry Growth Roadmap
- Space, Spatial & Surveying Industry Inclusion at Work Index Survey and Report

Participation on Committees and Advisory Groups

Current and previous members of the Management Committee represent EOA on many relevant international, national, and state advisory and coordinating committees, including:

- Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2022 Organising Committee
- Asia-Oceania Group on Earth Observations (AOGEO) Coordinating Board (Australian Co-Chair)
- Australian Academy of Science Decadal Plan for Australian Space Science 2021-2030 Executive Working Group
- Australian Space Agency Earth Observation Roadmap Technical Advisory Group
- Contributions to GEO consultations on Post 2025 strategy, sustainable funding, ecosystem extent mapping and monitoring, Working Group review
- SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre Queensland Earth Observation Hub Advisory Committee
- Space + Spatial Industry Growth Roadmap 2030 Steering Committee
- Space, Spatial & Surveying Industry Inclusion at Work Index Survey and Report Research Steering Committee

Survey and Community Notices

As a service to our members and associated groups, EOA actively promotes surveys, questionnaires, and notices that are relevant to the Earth observation community.

Notices were posted for third party groups for the following:

- Australia - South East Asia Climate Smart Innovation Hack 2022, July 2022
- Australia - NASA needs your input to maintain access to data from the TERRA, AQUA and AURA, September 2022
- MODIS Terra scheduled to exit the “Morning Constellation” of Earth Science satellites by October 2022, September 2022
- The Earth Observation for Climate Smart Innovation – Participant Showcase, November 2022 and February 2023
- SmartSat CRC Node Opportunities, November 2022
- Lift-off! SWOT launches a new era of satellite oceanography, January 2023
- Space Elevate Workshop - 22 and 23 March 2023 in Brisbane, January 2023
- NovaSAR-1 Workshops, February and June 2023
- Have your say on Queensland's AgTech Roadmap, March 2023
- Mentors Needed for Microsoft Earth Observation Hackathon, March 2023
- Call for Students to participate in Microsoft Earth Observation Hackathon, March 2023
- New ocean wind speed and direction database available on the AODN Portal, April 2023
- Calling Industry and University Professionals to speak at STEM Workshops for Teachers, April 2023
- Northern Territory Government's Earth Observation for the NT (EO4NT) grants announced, April 2023
- Launch your application to space: Join an exciting on-orbit contest with Azure Orbital Space SDK, April 2023
- Request for Information: next generation Earth observation data hubs, April 2023
- EMIT - Earth Surface Mineral Dust Source Investigation, May 2023
- XPRIZE Wildfire Challenge, May 2023
- Dragonfly Aerospace Unveils First Images from EOS SAT-1, May 2023

Attendance at non-EOA Events

EOA was represented by Management Committee members at the following events:

- National Plan for Space - Roundtable discussion, online 12 August 2022 (M Lewis, S Phinn)
- Spatial Information Day 2022 & Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards, Adelaide 19 August 2022 (M Lewis “*Space and Spatial Industry*” panelist)
- Asia Oceania Group on Earth Observations (AOGEO) 15th Symposium, “*New horizons for Earth observation in Asia Oceania Region: Seeking engagement*”, online 28-30 September 2022 (M Lewis presenter and moderator)
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Virtual Coordination Workshop on EO for Nature-based Solutions, online 11 October 2022 (M Lewis)
- 14th Australian Space Forum, Adelaide 25 October 2022 (M Lewis, A Parker)
- “*Inspiring South Australian Women: Women in Space – Impacting the World and Beyond*”, Adelaide 26 October 2022 (M Lewis)
- Australian Space Agency Workforce Forum 2, online 2 November 2022 (M Lewis, S Phinn, S Michael)
- Oceania Geospatial Symposium, Noumea, New Caledonia 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022, including focus session on GEO - Pacific islands Advisory Group - Pacific Island Countries and Territories, 1 December (M Lewis)
- GEO Programme Board AOGEO activity report, online 7 Feb 2023 (M Lewis presenter)
- Space + Spatial Industry Growth Roadmap launch, Adelaide 14 March 2023 (M Lewis)
- AOGEO 6th Workshop, online May 2023 (M Lewis)
- Australian Space Summit, Sydney, 17 May 2023 (M Lewis Panel moderator “*The Latest in Earth Observation*”)

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Collectively, the Australian Earth observation community has made demonstrable progress towards many of the goals of the [Australian EO Community Plan 2026](#) since they were outlined in 2016. It continues to be as important as ever to demonstrate how Earth observation data, capability, and services are essential to our society, economy, and environment.

EOA will continue its leading role in serving and representing the Australian Earth observation community. We are a young association, benefitting greatly from the vision, effort, and support of many individuals and organisations that have contributed to our foundation, growth, and reputation. We are now at a crucial stage in our development where we must adapt our operating model, broaden our support and resource base, and review our activities in order to deliver the roles and services expected of EOA.

The incoming Management Committee and leadership team, with their wealth and diversity of expertise and experience, will address these challenges, focusing on the next phase of EOA's journey. Continued engagement with our members, stakeholders, and the broader Earth observation community will be central to this. We look forward to progressing our collaborative work towards the shared vision of an Australian Earth observation sector that develops and delivers high-quality EO information, infrastructure, and services to meet government, industry, research, and community needs.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Treasurer's Report for the 2022/23 Financial Year

At the time of publishing this report EOA has not maintained a bank account and does not independently manage income and expenditure. This means that there are no formal EOA financial reports or returns to submit for the 2022/23 financial year. EOA currently qualifies as a Small Incorporated Association⁴, and therefore an independent financial audit is not required.

All EOA operations, contracts, and project funding is currently managed by The University of Queensland (UQ). This report reflects this funding.

Operational in-kind contributions and support

EOA benefits from in-kind contributions and support through the following sources:

- The University of Queensland's Remote Sensing Research Centre at the School of the Environment. In addition to in-kind staff UQ also provides operational support for EOA operations such as office space, telecommunications, software & hardware, webinars, and general operating costs.

Table 4: In-kind staff costs

Position	Number of Units (FTE)	UQ Contribution
Director	0.1	36,091
Research Program Manager	0.1	18,469
Total (AUD, GST exclusive)		\$54,560

- Volunteer contributions are made by the EOA Management Committee and members to various EOA activities.

⁴ Previously referred to as a Level 3 Incorporated Association.

A Small Incorporated Association in Queensland is defined as having the value of current assets less than \$300,000 and revenue less than \$150,000. Ref: <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/associations-charities-and-non-for-profits/incorporated-associations/financial-responsibilities-for-incorporated-associations/making-your-association-annual-report>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Funded Projects

1. Earth Observation Australia Inc

Geoscience Australia have contributed a total funding of \$421,924 (AUD, GST exclusive) from 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2023. This funding enables EOA to:

- Consult with the community on technical, scientific, ethical, and professional issues e.g. data needs, technical best practice, emerging capabilities
- Foster collaboration between the EO community and industry/government/not-for-profit entities that use information derived from Earth observation data, products, and services

Table 5: Earth Observation Australia Inc Financial Statement

Revenue/Expenditure	Description	
Revenue	Carried forward on 1 July 2022	243,452
	Funding	0
Total revenue		\$243,452
Expenditure	General operational expenditure	3,082
	Travel, training, conferences	635
	Salaries	172,746
Total expenditure		\$176,464
Accumulated position on 30 June 2023 (AUD, GST exclusive)		\$66,988

2. Advancing Earth Observation Forum

The Advancing Earth Observation Forum was held in August 2022. We achieved a surplus/profit for this event. This surplus/profit will support EOA operations and seed funding for our next forum in September 2024.

Table 6: Advancing Earth Observation Forum Financial Statement

Revenue/Expenditure	Description	
Revenue	Carried forward on 1 July 2022	176,522
	Sponsorship and registrations	126,018
Total revenue		\$302,540
Expenditure	General operational expenditure	2,389
	Consultancy, professional	35,193
	Hospitality	107,573
	Travel and training	15,181
	Salaries	2,141
	Return of 50% underwriting funds to UQ	25,000
Total expenditure		\$187,477
Accumulated position on 30 June 2023 (AUD, GST exclusive)		\$115,063

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

3. Risks to Supply Project

Geoscience Australia contracted UQ and EOA to lead the Risks to Supply Project, which is due for completion in December 2023.

Table 7: Risks to Supply Project Funding

	Cash Contribution	In-kind Contribution
Geoscience Australia	269,752	
Earth Observation Australia Inc		24,415
The University of Queensland		50,248
Funding Total (AUD, GST exclusive)	\$269,752	\$74,663

Table 8: Risks to Supply Project Financial Statement

Revenue/Expenditure	Description	
Revenue	Carried forward on 1 July 2022	0
	Funding	245,455
Total revenue		\$245,455
Expenditure	On costs	70,129
	General operational expenditure	116
	Salaries	11,501
Total expenditure		\$81,747
Accumulated position on 30 June 2023 (AUD, GST exclusive)		\$163,708

Verification of Financial Statement:

Earth Observation Australia Inc's financial records show the association keeps adequate financial records that correctly record and explain transactions and enable a true and fair financial statement to be prepared.

Joanne Edkins

Treasurer

Earth Observation Australia Inc

26 September 2023