



Australian Government
**Department of Resources,
Energy and Tourism**
Office of Spatial Policy

APS 200 LOCATION PROJECT

Summary of Outcomes

The APS 200 Location Project Team delivered its report to the Secretaries Committee on 6 July 2011. In preparing the report the steering committee considered a range of issues.

There is a need for sound, accurate, location-based information to support strategic decision making and policy delivery. Typically, Australian Government agencies make decisions, based upon three drivers: cost, time and benefit—or what, when and why. Location (i.e. the *where* component) provides context to these other elements.

Analysing *need* according to *location* helps agencies to better deliver appropriate services, such as mental health and employment support. It also allows governments to align infrastructure (e.g. schools and transport links, to better match community and business needs).

The 2011 / 12 Budget introduced a Regional Accounting policy whereby all Australian Government agencies are required to report their business data against location information.

The Secretaries agreed that evidence based decision making will be enhanced by linking information to location and that a whole-of-government approach is needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The APS 200 Location Project Team recommends a range of measures to address the policy, governance and technical issues within a whole-of-government framework.

The *Strategic Review of Geoscience Australia* complements the outcomes of the APS 200 Location Project recommending:

- that the APS 200 Location project consider the case for designating a central policy centre or office to provide direction at a whole-of-government level for the creation, purchase and management of spatial data across departments and agencies; and
- the office should absorb the functions of OSDM¹.

As a result of these recommendations the Office of Spatial Policy (OSP) was established and is located within the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

- OSP will develop a whole-of-Australian Government location information framework.
- The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism will provide the policy lead (consistent with the Cabinet decision resulting from the Review of Geoscience Australia) and develop a detailed implementation plan (including formal governance arrangements) supported by key stakeholder agencies for Secretaries consideration by February 2012².

OSP will build its immediate work plan around the seven fundamental principles identified in the APS 200 Location Report (see table below).

¹ Department of Finance and Deregulation (May 2011), *Strategic Review of Geoscience Australia*, Recommendation 5, p.xvi, <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/strategic-reviews/docs/strategic_review_ga.pdf>.

² APS 200 Location Project Report (July 2011), *Linking Information to Location*, Recommendations (d) and (e), p.22

LOCATION INFORMATION PRINCIPLES¹

Principle One	Good governance	National leadership and coordination is essential for the development of an integrated location information environment which can better assist government to undertake its business
Principle Two	Fundamental location data	Fundamental datasets that are critical should be geocoded, linking information to location
Principle Three	Stewardship & custodial responsibilities	Established roles in data stewardship and custodianship will realise greater integrity and confidence in the administration and delivery of authoritative location information
Principle Four	Location information access & sharing	Government is committed to the implementation of transparency reforms and sharing principles
Principle Five	Standards & interoperability	Consistent guidelines on location information standards and interoperability frameworks will optimise access, reduce costs, remove duplication, and improve data quality
Principle Six	Licensing & investment	An open data licensing culture for location information can realise innovation, productivity, and investment gains in areas not traditionally considered
Principle Seven	Government capacity & capability	Government will increase its knowledge, capacity and capability in acquiring, managing and delivering location information

¹APS 200 Location Project Report (July 2011), *Linking Information to Location*, Recommendations (d) and (e), p.20.