



## This issue:

- ⊕ Spatial Data Management Group
- ⊕ Advice on spatial technology
- ⊕ SDMG Working Groups
- ⊕ Award winners – GA & NNTT
- ⊕ ANZLIC news
- ⊕ ABS – free data & Mesh Blocks



# OSDM Network News

December 2005

## Spatial Data Management Group

Representatives from 16 Australian Government agencies attended the Spatial Data Management Group (SDMG) meeting in Canberra on 14 December. The meeting received and reviewed reports from the SDMG working groups, progress on spatial data standards by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and the draft Spatial Data Policy Executive Annual Report 2004-2005.

The SDMG decided to:

- reconvene the Metadata, Schedule and Marine Boundaries Working Groups;
- identify and facilitate the development of 'Communities of Practice' in several thematic domains of interest to Australian Government agencies;
- endorse the Annual Report for transmission to the Parliamentary Secretary for Industry, Tourism and Resources.

2005 has been a big year for the Office of Spatial Data Management (OSDM), and we have seen a number of very good outcomes as a result. To John and his team ... well done. I would also like to extend my thanks to the many contributors to working groups, the engine room of our spatial business; and to my colleagues on the SDMG. Best wishes for the Christmas-New Year break. I look forward to seeing you again in 2006.

**Peter Holland**

Chair, Spatial Data Management Group

## Advice on Spatial Technology

The spatial information marketplace is complex and dynamic. It is not always easy for Australian Government agencies to find information about what exists, emerging technologies, the benefits to be gained by using spatial technology, and what is relevant. With the increasing number of products and services available, the gap between industry capability and government awareness is growing.

In an effort to assist agencies improve their performance and to be better connected with the spatial information industry (and particularly the private sector), **Geoscience Australia** (GA) has established the **Spatial Information Industry Advice and Facilitation Branch** (SIIAFB).

One of its initiatives is to prepare a **state of the spatial information industry report**. Submissions are currently being sought (see article to left).

GA aims to showcase relevant new technologies, offer advice to agencies on how these technologies might be deployed to enhance business processes, and help agencies make connections with industry suppliers. Activities to date include:

- GA and OSDM co-hosted a seminar about Spatial Smart Tags, the Geocoded National Address File (G-NAF) and Mesh Block technologies in October 2005
- Negotiating a special licence with the PSMA Australia to incorporate their datasets in technology demonstrations
- Assisting a government agency to define its GIS requirements as the first step in a technology procurement process

For more information about GA's role in industry facilitation please contact **Peter Holland**, General Manager SIIAFB by email at [peter.holland@ga.gov.au](mailto:peter.holland@ga.gov.au).

## Australia's spatial industry — your feedback sought

**Geoscience Australia** is preparing a report about the state of Australia's spatial information industry and is seeking contributions from you about issues including:

- innovative Australian applications of spatial information, technologies and/or services;
- growth in the use of goods or services that the spatial information industry supplies;
- impediments to growth in the use, or supply, of spatial information industry goods and services.

Submissions due:  
**17 January 2006**

For more information about this initiative go to:  
[www.ga.gov.au/about/corporate/SIIR\\_about.jsp](http://www.ga.gov.au/about/corporate/SIIR_about.jsp)



## Award winning applications helping real people

**[1]** The **National Native Title Tribunal's *Native TitleVision*** won the Community Category at the 2005 Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards. The Awards recognise industry excellence and celebrate the achievements of spatial information enterprise and professionalism. *Native TitleVision* was developed to provide native title stakeholders with access to geospatial information through an extranet. The system was initially trialled with the Federal Court then successfully launched in November 2004 to a wide cross section of users including case officers, lawyers, native title applicants, judges, administrators and interested parties.

For more information send an email to **Peter Bowen**, Manager Geospatial Services at [geospatial@nntt.gov.au](mailto:geospatial@nntt.gov.au).

*Congratulations Peter & team!*

**[2]** **Geoscience Australia** was recognised at the Australian Safer Communities Award—a national award hosted by **Emergency Management Australia** that recognises people and organisations for best practice and innovation in emergency management.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock announced the awards at Parliament House on 1 December. GA received a 'highly commended' award in the pre-disaster category for:

- o Collaborative 100K Mapping Pilot for Emergency Management
- o Scenario Modelling for the Assessment of National Catastrophic Disaster Capability
- o Cities Project Perth

*Congratulations Geoscience Australia!*

## SDMG Working Groups

Agendas and Minutes for Working Group meetings are available online from the [OSDM Web Site](#). Access is available to all Australian Government employees. [Email OSDM](#) for login and password details.

**Metadata** The final draft of International Technical Specification ISO/TC 19139 Geographic information – Metadata – XML Schema Implementation was released in October. This was accepted by the Australian Government. It is expected to be published in February 2006. The finalisation of both ISO 19139 and the ANZLIC Metadata Profile next year will enable the Australian Government to progress implementation of its Metadata Profile.

**Schedule** The Schedule Working Group continues its work to improve the range, quality and access to datasets listed on the Schedule under policy on *Spatial Data Access and Pricing*.

The Schedule and Auxiliary Lists are being consolidated into a central database. As part of this process each dataset is being reviewed to ensure that it is current, complete and accurate. Work has commenced on developing a web interface that will provide easy access to data available under the Policy, with options to search or print reports.

**Office Locations** A high demand exists within Australian Government agencies for an Office Locations dataset. The Office Locations Group is proposing a collaborative project that leverages off existing efforts.

Geoscience Australia has agreed to build and maintain a spatial dataset. OSDM is currently negotiating access to address information from the Government Online Directory (GOLD) with the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO). For the best possible outcome, agencies will be encouraged to ensure that their entries in GOLD are current and complete.

**Marine Boundaries** The Marine Boundaries Working Group is finalising the *Guidelines for Describing Maritime Boundaries*. A final draft will be available for comment early in 2006. Contact Bill Hirst [bill.hirst@ga.gov.au](mailto:bill.hirst@ga.gov.au) for more details.

## ANZLIC News

**ANZLIC Metadata Project update** Work is progressing on development of the Metadata Profile. A draft of the Profile is expected to be available for comment in March 2006. For more information email David Lee Steere at [davidls@walis.wa.gov.au](mailto:davidls@walis.wa.gov.au).

**New National Project Manager** Ashraf Hanna has replaced Jeff Dau at the national office. Ashraf joins ANZLIC from Geoscience Australia where he specialised in geospatial data management. *Welcome Ashraf!*

### OSDM COMMUNITY

#### Australian Bureau of Statistics

#### Free ABS data online

The Treasurer, **The Hon Peter Costello MP**, announced at the **Australian Bureau of Statistics'** (ABS) centenary celebrations on 8 December that "ALL the statistical information published online by the ABS [is now] available free of charge."

#### Draft Mesh Blocks released

The Australian Statistician **Dennis Trewin** launched Mesh Blocks at the Spatial Sciences Conference. A draft copy is now available and will be further refined in the lead up to the 2006 Census. The Mesh Block is the new geographical building block developed by the ABS, providing a better view of the socio-economic landscape of Australia. The ABS has also developed a geocoding engine using PSMA Australia's G-NAF. This will enable you to generate a Mesh Block code for any piece of information that is linked to an address.

To provide feedback or obtain a copy of Mesh Blocks send an email to [geography@abs.gov.au](mailto:geography@abs.gov.au).

### MEMBER PROFILES

#### News, features, projects, visitors and events?

If you have something worth sharing with the Australian Government Spatial Data Management Community let us know and we'll feature it in our quarterly newsletters updating you on meetings, our web site and initiatives of interest. Just email us at [info@osdm.gov.au](mailto:info@osdm.gov.au).