

2026 Spatial Industry Transformation and Growth Agenda

Communications Release

Spatial technology adds significant economic value and employment growth to the Australian economy. As one of the very early adopting countries of spatial capabilities, the spatial sector was highlighted as one of the key industry growth sectors in which Australia has a global competitive advantage¹.

In a rapidly changing operating environment the Australian spatial industry is at risk of missing key growth opportunities by failing to stay ahead of, or keep pace with, changes in technology, policy, governance, research and development and global investment in spatial capabilities. A Price Waterhouse Coopers study estimated that there will be a 30 per cent per annum growth in geoservices globally, a level of change which is not currently mirrored in the Australian spatial sector. While many individual company growth and development initiatives are taking place, national coordination is paramount to ensure the opportunity for the spatial industry is not lost and the benefits are maximised.

The vision for the 2026 Agenda is to transform and realise the potential of the local spatial industry and to see it recognised as an underpinning element of the Australian digital economy.

There is an opportunity for the sector to increase the Australian footprint as a global leader in spatial technologies and capabilities over the next decade. The development of a 2026 Spatial Industry Transformation and Growth Agenda (2026 Agenda) seeks to create this opportunity to allow all segments of the industry to participate in a national conversation about the future growth of the industry and how we all might work together to achieve that growth.

The 2026 Agenda provides the chance to engage with both the spatial industry and other key national industries to build a roadmap for the transformation and growth of the spatial industry over the next decade.

The Agenda will be developed in a spirit of openness, and collaboration, with participants being asked to be adaptive to change, focussing on maximising the potential for growth for the whole sector, and to be forward looking.

Consultation will be broad, and a working group has formed to help to coordinate the activities. Current members of the group include SIBA, ANZLIC, the Australian Earth Observation Community Coordination Group, CRCSI, CSIRO (Data 61), Landgate, Geoscience Australia, Queensland Government, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Membership of this group is expected to change over time to reflect the evolving nature of the 2026 Agenda.

The 2026 Agenda team of Phil Delaney (CRCSI) and Eva Rodriguez (CRCSI and SIBA) will be undertaking targeted interviews over the next two months. This will be followed by a national series of workshops. The first iteration of the Agenda will be delivered before the end of 2016.

For further information, please get in touch with the 2026 Agenda team on 03 9035 9936 or via email on pdelaney@crcsi.com.au or erodriguez@crcsi.com.au.

¹ "Industry sectors Analysis and forecasting", prepared by PWC for Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, July 2013