

2017: REPORT CARD

REPORTING ON THE GROWTH ROADMAP FOR THE AUSTRALIAN SPATIAL SECTOR

Version 1.0 – FOR RELEASE

2026Agenda – Our Progress

About the 2026Agenda

The 2026 Spatial Industry Transformation and Growth Agenda (2026Agenda) is a whole-of-sector initiative encompassing businesses, government, academia and spatial-user organisations, that emerges as a transformational opportunity for the spatial sector to jointly design its best future.

Released at Locate17, the 2026Agenda represents a step change for the industry, and aims to act as a catalyst to maximise the innovation, productivity and competitiveness of the industry across Australia. The 10-year Action Plan is structured through 6 pillars of activity, and underpinned by 34 transformational initiatives.

About this document

This document presents a high level report card on the first 12 months of the 2026Agenda's progress, including publishing lead organisations for priority initiatives.

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Priority Initiatives: Status

First Year Priority Initiatives Report

The 2026 Agenda Leadership Group identified a number of priority initiatives to actively monitor over the first year of the Agenda. Each of these initiatives has an identified lead organisation, and the details of these are below.

Initiative	Lead Organisations	Status
A1. Develop and publish a nationwide framework and roadmap setting out all major public spatial infrastructure developments and supporting analytical capabilities for the next five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PM&CANZLIC Secretariat	 In Progress - On Track
A5. Development of a National Spatial Analytics Capability (NSAC) to provide government, business and consumers with a simpler, coordinated and collaborative means to access, process and add value to open data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data61CRCSI	 In Progress - Delay
B1. Open location technologies and services to new sectors through the analysis of their problems, challenges and value chains. <ul style="list-style-type: none">The high priority growth sectors are: transport, agriculture, health, defence and security, energy, mining and the built environment. The natural environment should also be given special consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SIBA GITA	 In Progress - On Track

First Year Priority Initiatives Report

Initiative	Lead Organisations	Status
B2. Create nationwide location innovation ecosystems that allow entrepreneurs, start-ups and researchers to access real-world data for fast prototyping and development of business expertise to facilitate the transition from idea-to-commercialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data61	 In Progress - Delay
C4. Regularly publish information about the size, composition, impact and value of the spatial sector in Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CRCSISIBA GITA	 In Progress - On Track
C6. Re-purpose the 2018 Locate Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Locate Conferences Australia	 Complete
D1. Develop a nationwide, nation-building, research agenda that sets out the major spatial challenges in the short, medium and long term		 In Progress - On Track

First Year Priority Initiatives Report

Initiative	Lead Organisations	Status
E1. Develop a strategic framework to coordinate the management of education, training and capacity building (K1-12, TAFE and universities)	▪ SSSI	 In Progress - On Track
E5. Design and implement a nationwide action plan to mitigate the forecasted shortage of surveyors and geospatial specialists in Australia over the next 10 years	▪ SSSI	 In Progress - On Track
F2. Align the strategies and roadmaps of representative organisations in the spatial sector.	▪ 2026 Agenda Team	 In Progress - On Track
F3. Prepare and publish a single explanatory statement on the roles of the key peak bodies across the spatial sector and how they complement each other.	▪ 2026 Agenda Team	 No Progress
F4. Consolidation of a group to drive the 2026 Agenda, with key responsibility to promote and develop innovative leadership across all areas of the spatial sector.	▪ 2026 Agenda Team	 Complete

2017 Overview: Pillar Detailed Reports

Pillar A - Public Infrastructure and Analytics

Accelerate provision of coordinated, open access, nation-wide, public spatial information and analytic tools that are easy-to-use, and facilitate data mining and interpretation for the benefit of all users

A1. Develop and publish a nationwide framework and roadmap setting out all major public spatial infrastructure developments and supporting analytical capabilities for the next five years



In Progress
- On Track

A2. Prioritise the collection of and access to data of national importance to focus investment and publish the plans for maintenance, upgrading and availability



Complete

A3. Complete the implementation of the development of the dynamic datum including the move to 3D



In Progress
- Delay

A4. Publish the plan for future improvements to the National Elevation Data Framework



Pending

A5. Development of a National Spatial Analytics Capability (NSAC) to provide government, business and consumers with a simpler, coordinated and collaborative means to access, process and add value to open data.



In Progress
- Delay

Pillar A - Public Infrastructure and Analytics

Highlights and Achievements for 2017

- Location Infrastructure Knowledge Platform released by PM&C and Geoscience Australia early 2017
- \$130 Million allocated to projects within the Federal Data Integration Partnerships for Australia (PM&C) playing a lead role
- \$14 Million funding allocated to SBAS, progressing the National Positioning Infrastructure, including significant funding for private sector demonstration projects
- \$15 Million funding allocated to Digital Earth Australia led by Geoscience Australia, including a dedicated private sector engagement and innovation strategy
- Integration of the Productivity Commission Data Availability and Use Inquiry

(Note: the 2026Agenda plays the role of integrating these initiatives.

The credit for the conceiving and funding goes to the individual agencies)

Pillar B - Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Foster spatial innovation and entrepreneurial skills, capitalising on technological advances, developing creative business models to open up new markets and opportunities

B1. Open location technologies and services to new sectors through the analysis of their problems, challenges and value chains.



In Progress
- On Track

B2. Create nationwide location innovation ecosystems that allow entrepreneurs, start-ups and researchers to access real-world data for fast prototyping and development of business expertise to facilitate the transition from idea-to-commercialisation



In Progress
- Delay

B3. Establish and grow relationships between the spatial sector and the investment community, including the venture capital industry and growth funds



Pending

B4. Publish information about the existing programs and organisations that can support the export of products and services from Australian-based spatial businesses



Pending

Pillar B - Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Foster spatial innovation and entrepreneurial skills, capitalising on technological advances, developing creative business models to open up new markets and opportunities

B5. Undertake pilot exercises with jurisdictions and/or organisations that are already offering innovative procurement programs so that the benefits of new procurement approaches can be showcased using spatial and location examples



In Progress
- On Track

B6. Create a program to develop and deploy low-cost dedicated Australian earth observation sensors and satellites to supply nation-critical data



Pending

B7. Implement a pilot international exchange program for professionals from Australia and overseas who can accelerate Australian-based spatial innovation



Pending

B8. Promote the adoption of the use of digital location information in legislation and progressively replace the use of analogue map-based information in current legislation



Pending

B9. When the time is right, develop a bid to create a Space and Spatial Growth Centre



Under
Review

Pillar B - Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Highlights and Achievements for 2017

- SIBA | GITA undertaken a landscape scan of growth sector analysis activities to determine existing work, prioritise future work
- Livestock Spatial Innovation Strategy ready for publication with Meat and Livestock Australia
- Heath roundtable held in Canberra on Oct 17 producing Location Matters document – Action to activate location data for people centred policy
- Strong progress with the Minerals sector to create partnership investigating value chain opportunities
- Completion of the Queensland living and laboratory

Pillar C - Outreach

Raise the profile of the spatial sector, clearly communicate the value and contribution that location intelligence brings to the economy and society

C1. Grow relationships with peak industry bodies from the priority growth sectors (B1) and with key international organisations



In Progress
- On Track

C2. Arrange for the spatial peak bodies and their membership to specifically target conferences and forums in the priority growth sectors (B1) and to ensure a spatial presence



In Progress
- On Track

C3. Develop and run an awareness campaign promoting the benefits to the economy and society provided by location-related technologies, ensuring the message and language are accessible to the Australian public



Pending

C4. Regularly publish information about the size, composition, impact and value of the spatial sector in Australia



In Progress
- On Track

C5. Create a Location Young Professional Engagement Program targeting spatial and STEM graduates



Pending

C6. Re-purpose the Locate Conference



Complete

Pillar C - Outreach

Highlights and Achievements for 2017

- Locate Conference Board has adopted the recommendations of the 2026 Agenda, and has changed the target audience and structure at Locate 18/GeoSmart Asia
- Value of spatial information to NSW economy published
- Value of Spatial to red meat industry to be published as part of livestock innovation strategy
- SBAS economic analysis started by Ernst and Young
- Digital Earth Australia funding an economic baselining activity for Earth Observations in Australia

Pillar D – Research and Development

Create a nation-wide, coordinated, collaborative and focused spatial R&D agenda that meets changing national needs and continues to grow linkages between research, innovation and commercialisation

D1. Develop a nationwide, nation-building, research agenda that sets out the major spatial challenges in the short, medium and long term



In Progress
- On Track

D2. Identify, implement and showcase at least one transformative R&D initiative for each priority growth sector



Pending

D3. Publish a plan setting out the incentives that will ensure the supply of industry-ready spatial PhDs for the next decade



Pending

D4. Publish information on available mechanisms and benefits that can reward businesses that invest in spatial R&D



Pending

Pillar D – Research and Development

Highlights and Achievements for 2017

- CRCSI has developed with its partners and is circulating a working draft research agenda that will make a significant contribution to the a national research agenda. with their partners. This plan will be delivered by the evolution of CRCSI to FrontierSI from July 2018 to June 2023. This research brings together inputs from over 50 organisations across
 - Universities
 - Government departments (including CSIRO)
 - Private companies
- Conversations with other national research entities to examine their participation/involvement in a national R&D Agenda

Pillar E – Education, Training and Capacity Building

Introduce location-related training at all education levels, nation-wide, including regional communities, to develop a well-prepared and diverse workforce that benefits from fundamental spatial skills

E1. Develop a strategic framework to coordinate the management of education, training and capacity building (K1-12, TAFE and universities)



In Progress
- On Track

E2. Implement a program of training, offering upskilling opportunities in spatial disciplines to existing employees in the workforce, including both technical and management streams



Pending

E3. Develop and facilitate a spatial professionals exchange program across government, the private sector and academia



Pending

E4. Establish and grow relationships with Regional Development Australia and the Regional Australia Institute, amongst others, to grow location-related regional capacity



In Progress
- On Track

E5. Design and implement a nationwide action plan to mitigate the forecasted shortage of surveyors and geospatial specialists in Australia over the next 10 years



In Progress
- On Track

E6. Identify and facilitate the implementation of initiatives that will improve diversity in the spatial sector workforce



In Progress
- On Track

Pillar E –Education, Training and Capacity Building

Highlights and Achievements for 2017

- SSSI have taken the initiative to bring as many education players together to discuss all of Pillar E in December 2017.
 - SSSI, IS NSW VIC and WA, Destination Spatial, The Surveying Taskforce, GTAV/AGTA, Tasmanian Agricultural Education Network, Esri Australia, SIBA, CSN, CRC SI, RDA, ASI ERA, CR SBANZ, ANZLIC, and UniSA
- Face to face facilitated workshop scheduled for late April 2018
- Unprecedented level of coordination to examine requirements along the entire education pipeline, from primary school through to post graduate and business education.

Pillar F -Representation

Unify and consolidate representative spatial bodies to speak with one voice, and provide effective leadership and advocacy for spatial

F1. The two peak bodies (SSSI and SIBA) to form one spatial organisation



Under Review

F2. Align the strategies and roadmaps of representative organisations in the spatial sector.



In Progress
- On Track

F3. Prepare and publish a single explanatory statement on the roles of the key peak bodies across the spatial sector and how they complement each other.



No Progress

F4. Consolidation of a group to drive the 2026 Agenda, with key responsibility to promote and develop innovative leadership across all areas of the spatial sector.



Complete

Pillar F -Representation

Highlights and Achievements for 2017

- Significant expansion of the 2026 Leadership Group to include senior representatives from the Agriculture, Transport, Energy, and Health and Welfare sectors
- Commitment to support the 2026 Agenda implementation across CRCSI, SIBA|GITA and SSSI, forming a strong collaborative team to accelerate the implementation of initiatives
- ANZLIC considered and responded to 2026 Agenda paper to examine how ANZLIC and their representative organisations can align to and implement 2026 initiatives

The Year Ahead: Forward Planning for 2018

Current Priorities for 2018

- Complete and publish the National Spatial Infrastructure Roadmap
- Substantially progress the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, National Positioning Infrastructure and Digital Earth Australia initiatives
- Integrate the spatial sector into the Data Integration Partnerships for Australia and the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP) initiatives
- Significantly expand the impact in high priority growth sectors through long term partnerships and valuable problem analysis
- Formal connection to the innovation ecosystem, guided by Australia's Innovation and Science Roadmap 2030

Current Priorities for 2018 cont.

- Engagement and integration with the new Space Agency to ensure integrate between the upstream and downstream space sectors
- Delivery of strategic roadmap to build education and skills across the entire spatial education lifecycle
- Detailed, growth sector driven economic profiles of the value of positioning and earth observation data and services
- Good progress towards the delivery of a nation building R&D plan through the launch of FrontierSI and work by other lead research agencies
- Promotion and strategic engagement with external industry conferences to grow the awareness and impact of spatial across Australia

How to get involved

Getting Involved

Many initiatives still need organisations and individuals to step forward to take a lead role in implementing and reporting on each initiative. If you or your organisation want to help drive this transformation:

- Get involved in leading the implementation of initiatives by contacting us at info@2026agenda.com
- Contribute to the existing ideas in the pipeline, or propose your own transformational initiative at: <https://2026agenda.userresponse.com/>
- For more details and to consult the supporting documentation, please visit the 2026Agenda website: www.2026agenda.com

Acknowledgments

The 2026Agenda Team and the Leadership Group would like to thank all those who have participated in this initiative so far, for the great number of ideas and contributions of high quality.

Contacts

Below are the primary contacts for the 2026 Agenda. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the team or the chairs to discuss this plan in more detail.

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JOIN THE TRANSFORMATION

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Online

Contribute and share ideas

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