

ANZLIC POSITION PAPER
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SPATIAL INFORMATION INDUSTRY

February 2004

Background

Over the past few years, ANZLIC has taken a proactive role in fostering development of the spatial information industry in Australia. In doing so, it has recognised that new players are emerging, both as providers within the industry and users of spatial information products and services. Its strategy has been to engage with these players in delivering the ANZLIC vision that:

Australia's and New Zealand's economic growth, and social and environmental interests are underpinned by quality spatially referenced information. Quality spatially referenced information is current, complete, accurate, affordable, accessible and integratable.

A robust spatial information industry, made up of strong public, private and academic institutions is seen as a key factor in achieving these outcomes.

ANZLIC's contribution to industry growth has included development of appropriate policies, best practice guidelines and engagement with potential industry partners. It supported the development in 2001 of a whole-of-industry Action Agenda in partnership with the Australian Government and private sector interests. The Action Agenda has provided a common vision and implementation plan for all sectors of the spatial information industry in Australia. ANZLIC has been an active participant in the Industry Joint Steering Committee which has provided a focus for implementation of the Action Agenda. It has provided resources for activities such as: defining respective roles of the public and private sector in the industry; education and skills formation; industry branding; and SDI frameworks.

ANZLIC has subscribed to the strategic steps inherent in the Action Agenda:

- ▶ Improve communication between key industry stakeholders;
- ▶ Build more robust institutions arising from this communication;
- ▶ Build capacity within the industry;
- ▶ Develop innovative services and products to meet specific user needs.

In a sense, communication was achieved through the development of the Action Agenda and continued through the work of the Industry Joint Steering Committee.

ANZLIC has supported the establishment of new peak institutions to underpin growth, most notably the Australian Spatial Information Business Association (ASIBA), the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRC-SI) and the Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI) as key focal points and advocates for the private, research and development and professional associations respectively.

The institution building phase is now also complete, with the recent vote by the five professional associations to amalgamate as the Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI). The Australian Spatial Information Education and Research Association (ASIERA) has also been formed to represent the professionals in education, research and development. ASIERA is currently building a working relationship with the SSI, especially through the industry education and skills formation initiative being led by the SSI. Further collaboration between institutions in the research and development area will be driven by involvement in the CRC-SI.

ANZLIC and ASIBA are providing strong national voices in the government and commercial sectors respectively. The industry now has substantial institutions that are focussed on and capable of building capacity.

Capacity building initiatives to date have included: the CRC-SI to increase R&D capacity; the comprehensive planning for increased participation of skilled people in the industry and re-skilling of existing participants through the SSI led Advisory Committee; and ASIBA being more vocal in promoting use of spatial information and pursuing funding opportunities to increase industry capacity. The formation of the CRC-SI, OpenGIS ® Consortium Australasia and expanding delivery of national data sets by PSMA are milestones in the market-driven delivery of new services involving use of the combined intellectual property of the public, private and academic sectors in the industry.

For its part, ANZLIC is now concentrating on capacity building in areas such as identifying and promoting use of spatial information to meet public interest outcomes in user communities such as land administration, natural resource management, marine environment, emergency management and counter terrorism. It is also seeking to build capacity across the industry by removing barriers to access and use of spatial information, through implementation (policy, people and technology) of the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI). It is looking to the private sector and government business enterprises to pursue opportunities for creating new products and services using the ASDI. In this endeavour, it is supported by bodies such as ICSM, PSMA and ANMDG.

ANZLIC encourages its industry partners to complete activities such as: the export alliance model; the SII education and skills formation plan; and industry marketing initiatives.

ANZLIC believes that the general expectations of the Action Agenda have now been met. It is time to move beyond the provider focus inherent in the Action Agenda and pursue user-oriented initiatives. This view is in keeping with the strategic intent of the Action Agenda, that the end result is about delivering user-responsive services.

ANZLIC continues to view itself as a body within the spatial information industry. ANZLIC sees that partnerships are needed to deliver outcomes for users. Therefore, it will continue to rely on developing and maintaining partnerships in three main areas: peak government bodies in communities of practice that use spatial information; peak spatial information industry bodies; and associated bodies within government such as spatial information coordinators in jurisdictions. ANZLIC members will continue to serve on relevant boards and

committees (such as the CRC-SI Board) and in turn seek representation from its partners on its committees and working groups (such as the SDI Standing Committee) so that relevant expertise is brought to bear in all activities.

ANZLIC's Way Forward

It is ANZLIC's view that the next steps are:

1. Maintain and build upon open communication, cooperation and working relationships engendered through the Action Agenda process, including jointly-sponsored events, exchange of agenda items, personal contact and engagement in relevant initiatives;
2. Recognise that relationships will continue to mature and that issues of common interest and respective roles need to be openly debated and resolved by the peak bodies in the industry;
3. ANZLIC will work with its partners to identify and interpret user needs and raise awareness of the potential use of spatial information to meet those needs;
4. ANZLIC and its members will continue to pursue development of relevant public policies, access frameworks and best practices in response to user needs, through partnerships with communities of practice such as land administration, natural resource management, marine environment, regional development, emergency management and counter-terrorism;
5. ANZLIC will continue to take a lead role on key initiatives such as the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure and land administration reform, and actively engage both industry partners and users in these endeavours (including membership on its standing committees);
6. ANZLIC will continue to advocate strategic priorities for research and development and actively seek involvement of the CRC-SI in meeting these priorities;
7. ANZLIC looks to other sectors of the industry to drive and deliver further capacity in the industry in areas such as provision of value-added products and services; industry branding and marketing; research and development; and education and skills formation;
8. ANZLIC and its members will continue to have a stake in increasing the spatial information industry's capacity to deliver new and innovative services and so will provide appropriate advice and support for such initiatives*;
9. ANZLIC will work with its members, industry bodies and user community partners to develop value chains across sectors, jurisdictions and communities of practice where a strong business need in the public interest is apparent.

* including OGC-A, Interoperability Development Project, cooperative export and market reform initiatives