The Australian Government’s spatial information gateway

Geoscience Australia’s National Geographic Information Group (NGIG) is the Australian Government’s spatial gateway for government, industry and the public. We provide authoritative geographic information services and products to: enable evidence-based decision making; deliver government policy; assist industry development needs and support community wellbeing.

Spatial information is now recognised as an essential ingredient to deliver many government policies and programs and to support business. The National Geographic Information Group’s expertise in this specialised discipline is highly regarded.

We are:

• Custodians of national, authoritative and trusted spatial data, delivered as products and free online.
• Your link to geographic services and information.
• A provider of technical expertise and business acumen to underpin policy analysis and aid informed decision making.
• A gateway to ‘state’ spatial agencies.
• Australia’s topographic mapping agency.

This capability is delivered in the form of scalable fundamental theme-based spatial data sets, web delivery services and geospatial analytics for government departments, emergency managers, defence and the public. We also deliver the renowned spatial products brands, NATMAP and GEODATA.

For many years NGIG’s map data (including the GEODATA series) has underpinned numerous map products produced by the spatial industry. Our NATMAP series of paper and digital maps has been popular for decades, used by industrial, commercial and recreational clients for many purposes. These products are supplemented by a number of theme-based products for Australia and its off-shore territories.

DEMONSTRATED CAPABILITY
NGIG’s expertise in geographic information and knowledge management, data acquisition and stewardship, and stakeholder and industry relationships form an integrated capability able to adapt to current and emerging government and industry priorities. We work with numerous agencies to deliver Australian Government programs and policy. Two diverse examples are overleaf.

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NATIONAL ELEVATION DATA FRAMEWORK (NEDF)

The demand for high quality elevation data from all levels of government, the community and industry continues to grow. Better quality information is required to address issues such as climate change, water and natural resource management, coastal vulnerability, community safety and emergency management.

In response to these needs, Geoscience Australia and collaborating partners ANZLIC (the spatial information council), Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and the CRC for Spatial Information have sponsored the development of a National Elevation Data Framework (NEDF).

Integral to the project is a portal (NEDF Portal) developed by NGIG with support from project partners. This web facility provides easy access to a range of digital elevation data and derived products for government and public good use—effectively a one stop elevation data shop with the added advantage of facilitating data sharing amongst jurisdictions and reducing the costs associated with duplication of data capture and purchasing. Visit the portal at <nedf.ga.gov.au>.

MAPS ONLINE

The concept of maps online is no longer new, indeed Geoscience Australia’s renowned online service MapConnect has been providing 1:250 000 scale topographic map data for several years and more recently, geological maps have been available for download.

The next evolution of online accessible maps and data is now under development with some exciting features to deliver not just an expanded suite of Geoscience Australia data but also to serve as a portal for other agency’s spatial information without that data being stored or managed on the host server—think principles of Web 2.0.

Utilising both open and proprietary services, users will be able to manipulate and mash GIS data to achieve a fit for purpose solution. Geoscience Australia is developing solutions that will allow a vastly expanded range (and types) of spatial information to be delivered to meet the needs of sophisticated GIS professionals and home users alike.