
The President
Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS)

By email: president@minesurveyors.com.au

28th April 2016

Attention: Mr Mick Harris

Dear Mr Harris

RE: MODERNISING AUSTRALIA'S DATUM

I am writing to you about an important national digital infrastructure project that will have an effect on all Australians, and one in which the surveying and spatial sciences sector have a particular role to play.

Australia is increasingly reliant on fit for purpose and dependable position, navigation and timing data in the digital age where it is anticipated that within several years all Australians will potentially be able to measure locations with decimetre accuracies.

It is recognised that the current national datum, the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA1994), is not capable of fulfilling the requirements of all Australians under this new positioning paradigm. A modernised geodetic reference framework is required to ensure Australians continue to have access to the most accurate location-based information achievable and meet the requirements of the digital age. The Australia and New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC), and its permanent standing committee the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) have endorsed a roadmap to a modernised datum, and ICSM is charged with responsibility for implementing the datum modernisation project.

From a technical perspective, work is well advanced, with the necessary transformation parameters and technical tools almost ready for issue via Geoscience Australia and the ICSM Permanent Committee on Geodesy (PCG).

In support of the practical implementation of a modernised national datum ICSM have formed the GDA Modernisation Implementation Working Group (GMIWG).

GMIWG has concentrated on developing a project plan and communications strategy, both of which have been considered by ANZLIC at their meeting on 12 April 2016. The documents remain live, and will be kept up to date as the project unfolds.

A key component of the communications strategy is consultation with stakeholders both within and without the surveying and spatial information sector. A number of resources have been prepared to assist with communicating the what, why and how of the datum modernisation process. These resources have been consolidated on the [ICSM website](#), and include answers to some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that have already been identified.

In addition, each jurisdiction has appointed liaison people to coordinate information transfer, consultation, face to face seminars and other forms of communication. GMIWG wish to fully understand the implications for industry and users and it is really important that the working group hears from the stakeholder community about their issues with the project so that mitigation measures can be considered.

Consultation with stakeholders has commenced, and many events are scheduled. I request that you forward this letter to your members and constituents and invite their active participation in this important Australian project.

One way that stakeholders can get involved right now and directly inform the project is by participating in a current online survey which can be accessed via the following link:

<http://goo.gl/forms/t1tt0l7PxI>

ICSM will utilise this survey to determine stakeholder understanding of the project and to identify potential obstacles to a successful outcome. Should you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or visit the [ICSM web pages](#).

Yours sincerely



Michael Giudici

**Chair GMIWG
Deputy Chair ICSM**

Surveyor General, Tasmania