



SPATIAL VOICE No 9

Results of the ballot to establish the SPATIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

The Spatial Sciences Coalition announced today that the members of the five participating institutions had voted overwhelmingly to establish the Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI).

The five institutions involved are the Institution of Engineering and Mining Surveyors, Australia (IEMS); the Institution of Surveyors, Australia (ISA); the Australasian Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (AURISA); the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia (MSIA) and the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Association of Australasia (RSPAA). The outcome of the ballot means that all the members of the five institutions will become founding members of the SSI. The SSI will now work with the five institutions to ensure an orderly transfer of members and a continuity of services and activity.

Each of the institutions has nominated two Directors to represent their interests on the Interim National Board of the SSI. The Interim Board will initiate the process of establishing the SSI in the period April to September, when the first AGM of the Institute will be conducted in Canberra in conjunction with the SSC 2003 conference.

The members of the Interim Board are:

- PETER SWAN (LAND AND HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING)
- MALCOLM MCCOY (LAND AND HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING)
- TREVOR HOWARD (ENGINEERING & MINING SURVEYING)
- HELEN KOULOURIS (ENGINEERING & MINING SURVEYING)
- GRAHAM BAKER (CARTOGRAPHY)
- PETER BOWEN (CARTOGRAPHY)
- BERT VEENENDAAL (SPATIAL INFORMATION)
- MALCOLM RYAN (SPATIAL INFORMATION)
- DENNIS PUNIARD (REMOTE SENSING)
- CHRIS BELLMAN (REMOTE SENSING)

Over the four year transitional period, five of these 10 Directors' positions will be replaced by the appointment of eight Directors representing the eight Regions of the SSI. Details of this transition process are given on the SSI's web site at:

http://www.spatialscience.org/Prospectus/transitional_arrangements.htm

The Institute will represent all spatial sciences professionals at both national and international level. Members will benefit from advantages of economies of scale, standardised administrative procedures across the nation and some centralised functions. For the most part, service delivery will remain at the regional level where member needs are best understood and met.

The Spatial Sciences Institute will adapt to the changing aspects of the industry sectors while honouring and building upon the traditions, values and history of its forebears.

The outcome of the ballot was reported to the final meeting of the Spatial Sciences Coalition in Canberra on 4 April 2003. A public announcement was then made at a launch of the SSI at which a media release was issued. The launch was attended by the Hon Gary Nairn, MP; the CEO of ASIBA, Mr David Hocking; the Chairman of ANZLIC, Mr Warwick Watkins; the CEO of Geoscience Australia, Dr Neil Williams; the General Manager of the National Mapping Division of Geoscience Australia, Mr Peter Holland; the General Manager of the Commonwealth Office of Spatial Data Management, Dr John Busby; representatives of ISA, IEMSA, MSIA, AURISA and RSPAA; and representatives of the industry press.

Votes in the SSI ballot were counted by Returning Officers and Scrutineers appointed by each of the participating institutions. The results were provided to the Chief Returning Officer, Mr Graham Baker, who collated the results and provided the following summary:

SSC Partners	YES count % of votes cast	SSI Result
ISA	59%	YES
IEMSA	87%	YES
MSIA	59%	YES
AURISA	91%	YES
RSPAA	82%	YES
Overall	75.6%	YES

The Chair of the SSC, Graham Baker, said that he was pleased that the result gave a clear mandate to press on with the implementation of the SSI according to the model proposed to members. He said that there had been vigorous debate about the proposal and he was conscious of the fact that there were a substantial number of members who had reservations about the proposals. He said that he respected the strength of conviction and the pride in the profession that underlaid the opposition to the SSI proposal. He hoped that those who opposed the change would not walk away from the Institute but would work within it to make it even better.

With the ballot concluded, the work of the Spatial Sciences Coalition is completed and it will be dissolved. The members of the committee would like to thank members of the participating institutions for their contribution to the debate, their confidence in the proposals and their vision for the future.

The Spatial Sciences Institute will now grow to represent and serve all spatial sciences professionals, practitioners and administrators. It will provide an integrated and dedicated voice, one with a clear mandate to maintain and strengthen the eminence, breadth and integrity of the entire spatial community.

Graham Baker
Chair, Spatial Sciences Coalition.

4 April 2003