



**Australian Government**

**Geoscience Australia**

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Dear Mr Schweinfest

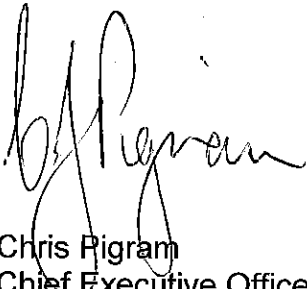
With great interest, I acknowledge the significance of the report compiled by the Working Group on Geodetic Reference Framework for Sustainable Development of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN GGIM-AP) and by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) to be presented and discussed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM). The report presents a comprehensive and concise snapshot of the current status of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF). The GGRF is a component of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS) which underpins precise positioning infrastructure and also includes satellite infrastructure such as GNSS, public and private positioning services, and GNSS CORS data including the relationship to other geospatial and geodetic data.

Precise positioning is currently used by the mass-market in applications for timing; land, sea, air navigation and intelligent transport; surveying, mapping, and scientific research such as sea-level and global change studies. It is estimated that by 2030, precise satellite positioning will increase Australia's gross domestic product by 2.1% through productivity gains in mining, construction and agriculture alone.

The Australian Government sees precise positioning technologies as an enormous opportunity and has a vision of mass-market adoption where instantaneous, reliable, fit-for-purpose positioning and timing services are available anywhere, anytime across the Australian landscape and its marine jurisdictions which will be implemented through the National Positioning Infrastructure Plan. A key weakness of this vision is the sustainability of the global geodetic infrastructure and the adoption of a GGRF worldwide. A United Nations Resolution will provide the necessary support to improve international data sharing and investment, initiate global action, enable old infrastructure that is critical for the GGRF to be upgraded and provide a common good approach.

The discussion at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to be held in Cambridge will be followed with interest and GA would support the establishment of a Working Group for the development of a draft United Nations General Assembly Resolution in response to the geodetic questionnaire.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Pigram', written in a cursive style.

Chris Pigram  
Chief Executive Officer  
Geoscience Australia

18 July 2013