

Surveying Alert



Queensland GDA2020 Update

11 January 2018
Issue 28

The final months of 2017 saw Matt Higgins and Darren Burns of our Land & Spatial Information Group meeting with and speaking to over a thousand surveying, engineering and spatial professionals in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, Emerald, Cairns, Mackay, Hervey Bay and the Sunshine Coast about:

- What 'datum' is and [why we need to change to a new national datum](#)
- Queensland's approach to planning for the implementation of GDA2020
- How the Department is approaching the technical implementation within the State Survey Control Database (SCDB) and Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB).

If you weren't able to make it to one of these sessions, video recordings of two recent presentations to [surveyors](#) and [spatial professionals](#) are available online.

GDA2020 adoption date for Queensland will be based on stakeholders

An adoption date will be set once the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) has the technical capability in place to manage the change in both the SCDB and DCDB, and secondly, when we are confident a majority of stakeholders in Queensland, and nationally, are ready to transition at a similar time. We will continue to seek feedback on our stakeholders' transition plans and likely timeframes over the coming months.

National stakeholder survey deadline extended

More than 600 people across Australia have already completed the [GDA2020 national survey](#). The closing date has been extended to **Friday 26 January 2018** so make sure you have your say on the future implementation of the new datum. Please remember to include 'Queensland' as the jurisdiction you primarily work in.

National update

Each jurisdiction is represented on a national datum modernisation group. The national group are working with Geoscience Australia to progress a number of pieces of work that need to be completed to enable GDA2020:

- GDA2020 was [officially released](#) in December, along with the [national NTV2 grids](#) for transforming coordinates between GDA94 and GDA2020. The grids are now available for testing purposes. *Note: for datasets that fall completely within Queensland, the "Conformal" grid is recommended. For datasets with coverage beyond Queensland, users should assess whether the "Conformal + Distortion" grid is more appropriate, as it will give different results than the "Conformal" grid in areas within a few kilometres of Queensland's borders. Those differences are typically less than 5cm but south of Rathdowney and Killarney they reach 10cm. There are also values greater than 10cm between Barrington and south of Thargomindah. Along the South Australian border between Birdsville and Poeppel Corner there are 15cm differences that quickly settle to less than 5cm along the Northern Territory border.*
- EPSG codes enabling GDA94 to GDA2020 transformation via parameters are also available via the [EPSG Registry](#). For a complete list of GDA2020 transformation products and tools, please visit the [ICSM website](#).
- The GDA Modernisation Implementation Working Group continues to liaise with software and hardware vendors to ensure their products are GDA2020-compatible. For information on how Esri's ArcGIS product suite is incorporating GDA2020 visit [Esri Australia's Technical Blog](#).

If you have any questions regarding how GDA2020 is being implemented or how DNRME can prepare for the change, please contact Matt Higgins (Manager, Geodesy & Positioning) at qldgda2020@dnrme.qld.gov.au or phone 07 3330 4481.

National resources including [new fact sheets](#) and FAQs can also be found on the [ICSM website](#).