

Northern Territory (Australia) Spatial Data Infrastructure – Now and Beyond

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SUMMARY

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment was created in 2001 as the lead land management, land development and land information agency in the Northern Territory. The Department now comprises most of the land, water and environmental management-related functions carried out by the Northern Territory Government. Land and Geographical (spatial) Information is critical to promote economic and social development, improve management of our natural resources and protect the environment. It is in these latter two fields that there has been a great deal of activity at the National and State levels in recent times.

The road towards a homogenous spatial data infrastructure for the Northern Territory has had some detours and pot holes needing innovative thinking along the way. The geodetic framework has been moved to a geocentric datum, the spatial accuracy of the digital cadastral framework has been upgraded to be survey accurate, a sophisticated web-based land administration system has been implemented which also allows user defined integration of over 200 spatial data themes. All of these components are integral to the Northern Territory's Spatial Data Infrastructure and have enabled the spatial data user to capitalise on the benefits of a homogenous and seamless land management environment.

This paper outlines the strategies adopted in the Northern Territory to get its own corporate spatial data into order so that it is in a position to effectively contribute to national and international initiatives for spatial data infrastructures, directories and atlases.