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- Good evening, Senators. Thank you for your time this evening, and for your interest in Geoscience Australia.
- For those Senators who may not be familiar with Geoscience Australia, I would like to give a quick summary of our purpose and programs.
- Geoscience Australia provides advice and information on the geology and geography of the nation. Our outputs provide an evidence base for decision making by government, communities and industry; contributing to a sustainable environment, a resilient society, and a strong economy.
- We work collaboratively across government, from within the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio – and in partnership with communities, industry and academia.
- Our decadal strategy document, Strategy 2028, sets clear, measurable objectives that reflect our vision and commitments.

In achieving our purpose, our work focuses on six key areas of impact:

- Building Australia's resources wealth—to maximise benefits to Australian society from our nation's mineral and energy resources, now and into the future. The science we undertake for this purpose enhances Australia's reputation as a destination for investment of global exploration capital.
- Supporting Australia's community safety—to strengthen our resilience to natural hazards. To this end we maintain a 24/7 earthquake alert capability, which in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology provides a national tsunami warning capability, keeping coastal citizens, businesses and infrastructure safe. Through satellite imagery we provide situational awareness for bushfire and flood emergencies. We model the impacts of a range of hazards such as cyclones, earthquakes and bushfires, providing input to safer building codes.
- Ironic as it seems at this moment, we live on the driest inhabited continent on Earth. In this context, our Groundwater science capability maps the sustainably extractable water resources of Australia, supporting

regional communities and agriculture to thrive. Alongside colleagues in the CSIRO, we are sometimes asked to provide scientific input to important decisions made under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

- We map the seafloor of our marine jurisdiction, informing important decisions around the definition of marine parks, understanding the biodiversity of different areas of our marine estate, optimal positioning of sub-sea infrastructure such as cables, pipelines and offshore renewable energy installations. We also are the authoritative source of information on marine boundaries, with other countries, with our states and of marine parks. All of this work supports the sustainable use of our marine environment
- We work to create a location-enabled Australia. Through applying the science of geodesy and a network of ground infrastructure we are improving the GPS accuracy available to Australians, from 10 m until 2 months ago, to less than a metre now, and down to 10 cm over the next few years. This will enable, driverless cars, safer landings for the Royal Flying Doctor Service on remote airstrips, and mobile phone apps to provide navigation assistance

to visually impaired pedestrians. Every time you use Google Maps on your phone or the satnav in your car navigate to a restaurant or a suburban junior soccer field, you rely on the diligent work of our dedicated staff in the Positioning Australia program.

- We create and procure all of the data layers that go into the topographic maps we are all familiar with. Through our Digital Earth Australia team we provide satellite imagery with a time series view (every two weeks) of every visible change in the Australian landscape over the past 30 years at a resolution of 25 metres and more recently, of 10 metres. We are only scratching the surface of the potential of this capability with unparalleled potential as a natural resource and environmental management tool.
- We curate and make available many decades worth of data and samples that have enduring value for new science and new insights. We are continually focused on finding new ways to maximise the value of these assets to government and the community.
- And lastly we have a strong focus on ensuring that we are a high performing organisation, with an internal commitment to be the best organisation we can be.

- Along with implementing our science programs, we make the commitment to respectfully engage and collaborate with First Nations Australians, acknowledging that they are Australia's original mappers, miners and navigators.
- With the support of our partners and stakeholders, we will continue to deliver information and knowledge that will enhance the economic, environmental and social prosperity of Australia.
- Thank you, Chair.