

Portfolio or Agency mission/charter

The Department of Defence is responsible for the defence of Australia and its national interests, and shares responsibility for national security with other Government agencies.

Key objective/s with respect to space-related activity

Key Defence objectives in relation to space activity are to support the operations of the Australian Defence Force, contribute to national security interests, and enhance engagement with friends and allies.

Current space-related activities/responsibilities

Defence space-related activities include strategic policy formulation, engagement with international allies and partners on national security space issues, and management of national security space-related capabilities, such as satellite communications. Proposed acquisitions and other developments are analysed to ensure that longer-term requirements will be properly supported.

Defence uses space-sourced data critical to military operations for information analysis, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, meteorology, position, navigation and timing, mapping and communications.

Recent major developments

- The release of the Defence White Paper in May 2009, includes reference to the critical importance of space and places a priority on Space Situational Awareness.

Portfolio/Agency expenditure on space-related activity

Comprehensive data on Defence outlays for space and space-related matters is not readily available as Defence activity is commonly combined with terrestrial functions.

Legislation administered by portfolio/agency

Defence administers a significant range of legislation, none of which is directly associated with space engagement. The list is available through www.directory.gov.au (legislation administered).

International space-related agreements

Numerous international arrangements involve information collection and analysis, surveillance, meteorology, timing, geolocation, mapping and communications.

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