

Decisions about space activities:  
*Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*

January 2026

Application type	Applicant organisation	General description of the proposal	Notice of decision	Date of decision
Overseas payload permit	University of Southern Queensland	A research project to demonstrate machine vision detection of plant health for plants grown in two mini greenhouses installed in a facility on the International Space Station.	Granted	28/01/2026
Overseas payload permit	QuantX Labs Pty Ltd	The Kairos-1 Clock Interface Module is a technology demonstrator payload used for space qualification of components of QuantX Labs' optical atomic clock product, including its optical frequency comb.	Granted	23/12/2025
Return authorisation (overseas payload)	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	The payload to be returned from the International Space Station (ISS) is the MRS Astrobee payload, which was launched to the ISS to perform experiments to support internal 3D scanning of the vehicle for logistics purposes.	Given	18/12/2025
Return authorisation	Varda Space Industries, Inc	A series of three returns of Varda Space Industries' Winnebago capsules to Koonibba Test Range, South Australia.	Given	17/12/2025
Overseas payload permit	Lunaria One Pty Ltd	ALEPH-1 is a biological experiment that will test the survivability and growth of plants in space and on the lunar surface (within a capsule).	Granted	12/12/2025
Australian high power rocket permit	AT Space Pty Ltd	Suborbital test launch of the A01 rocket from the Koonibba Test Range in South Australia.	Granted	07/11/2025
Return authorisation (variation)	Southern Launch Space Pty Ltd	A series of three returns of Varda Space Industries' Winnebago capsules to Koonibba Test Range, South Australia.	Given	03/11/2025
Overseas payload permit (variation)	EchoStar Global Australia Pty Ltd	The satellites will support narrowband Mobile Satellite Services (MSS), including Internet of Things (IoT) applications while communicating with user terminals on the ground.	Granted	02/06/2025
Overseas payload permit	Gilmour Space Technologies Pty Ltd	The Multi Mission Satellite 1 (MMS-1) will demonstrate the sovereign capability to design, build and deliver a satellite platform. The spacecraft will also utilise a hosted hyperspectral imager payload developed by the CSIRO for Earth Observation.	Granted	28/04/2025
Overseas payload permit	Akula Tech Pty Ltd	The Espresso and Nexus-01 payload work together to achieve data pre-processing and artificial model inferencing in space using hyperspectral imaging technology. The payload will be hosted on Dhruva Space's first commercial satellite LEAP-1.	Granted	15/04/2025
Overseas payload permit	Valiant Space Pty Ltd	The payload is a CubeSat propulsion demonstrator, with 3 propulsion systems integrated into the host satellite the D-ORBIT ION satellite.	Granted	15/04/2025

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Overseas payload permit	Skykraft Pty Ltd	The Skykraft-4 constellation spacecraft are technology demonstrators and pathfinders for the roll-out of a space-based Air Traffic Management constellation. The spacecraft will demonstrate ADS-B and VHF capabilities from space.	Granted	14/03/2025
Australian launch permit	Gilmour Space Technologies Pty Ltd	Orbital launch of the Eris Block 1 launch vehicle (TestFlight1/MSN001) from Bowen Orbital Spaceport, Queensland.	Granted	4/11/2024
Return authorisation	SouthernLaunch.Space Pty Ltd	A series of three returns of Varda Space Industries' Winnebago capsules to Koonibba Test Range, South Australia.	Given	16/10/2024
Overseas payload permit	Optus C1 Satellite Pty Ltd	The ADS-01 geostationary communications satellite will conduct in band testing on behalf of the Australian Defence Force.	Granted	10/09/2024
Overseas payload permit	EchoStar Global Australia Pty Ltd	The satellites will support narrowband Mobile Satellite Services (MSS), including Internet of Things (IoT) applications while communicating with user terminals on the ground.	Granted	10/09/2024
Overseas payload permit	Robinson Aerospace Systems Pty Ltd	The payload to be launched is the RASCube-1, a small platform for operating student experiments, which is to be hosted within The Exploration Company's Nyx Capsule. The RASCube-1 will operate two student led experiments	Granted	21/08/2024
Return authorisation (overseas payload)	Robinson Aerospace Systems Pty Ltd	The payload to be returned, returning within The Exploration Company's Nyx Capsule is the RASCube-1, a small platform for operating student experiments.	Given	21/08/2024
Overseas payload permit	Swinburne University of Technology	The payload to be launched to the International Space Station is a research project designed to provide educational outcomes for the participants of the Swinburne Youth Science Innovation Challenge 2024 program.	Granted	17/06/2024
Return authorisation (overseas payload)	Swinburne University of Technology	The payload to be returned from the International Space Station is a research project designed to provide educational outcomes for the participants of the Swinburne Youth Science Innovation Challenge 2024 program.	Given	17/06/2024
Australian high power rocket permit	Hylimpulse Technologies GmbH	Launch of the SR75-1 rocket not beyond the distance of 100km above mean sea level from the Koonibba Test Range in South Australia.	Granted	1/05/2024
Overseas payload permit	Myriota Pty Ltd	Kanyini is an Australian manufactured CubeSat that will carry an Internet of Things payload with custom software for communication purposes and an electro-optic sensor for Earth observation.	Granted	22/04/2024
Overseas payload permit	University of Sydney	CUAVA-2 will conduct science research using instruments carried on-board.	Granted	26/03/2024

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Overseas payload permit	University of Sydney	Waratah Seed-1 will conduct science research and technology demonstration using payloads carried on-board.	Granted	26/03/2024
Launch facility licence	Gilmour Space Technologies Pty Ltd	Operation of the Bowen Orbital Spaceport located near Bowen, Queensland, to support launches of the Eris Block 1 launch vehicle.	Granted	20/02/2024
Overseas payload permit	ResearchSat Pty Ltd	The payload to be launched on a suborbital sounding rocket launch is the ADI-E payload, a platform for conducting scientific research in microgravity conditions.	Granted	25/01/2024
Return authorisation (overseas payload)	ResearchSat Pty Ltd	The payload to be returned is the ADI-E payload, a platform for conducting scientific research in microgravity conditions.	Given	25/01/2024
Overseas payload permit	Curtin University	The 3 small 1U cubesats Binar-2, Binar-3 and Binar-4 will be used for a student star-tracking experiment, CSIRO research experiment and a STEM outreach program for high schools.	Granted	30/11/2023
Overseas payload permit	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	The MRS Astrobee payload is being launched to the ISS to perform experiments to support internal 3D scanning of the vehicle for logistics purposes.	Granted	28/11/2023
Overseas payload permit	Space Machines Company Pty Ltd	The Optimus-2 orbital transfer vehicle technology demonstrator will flight qualify key technologies and subsystems for use on future commercial flights.	Granted	15/11/2023
Overseas payload permit	University of Melbourne	Demonstrate a fully operational 6U Australian nanosatellite platform on-orbit and operate the HERMES payload from the Italian Space Agency as complement to the HERMES constellation.	Granted	7/09/2023
Overseas payload permit	Skykraft Pty Ltd	Skykraft satellite Skykraft-3 and 4 constellation spacecraft are technology demonstrators and pathfinders for the roll-out of space-based Air Traffic Management constellation. These spacecraft will demonstrate ADS-B and VHF capabilities from space.	Granted	15/04/2023
Overseas payload permit	Swinburne University of Technology	The payload to be launched to the International Space Station is a research project designed to provide educational outcomes for the participants of the Swinburne Youth Science Innovation Challenge program.	Granted	29/03/2023
Return authorisation (overseas payload)	Swinburne University of Technology	The payload to be returned from the International Space Station is a research project designed to provide educational outcomes for the participants of the Swinburne Youth Science Innovation Challenge program.	Given	29/03/2023
Overseas payload permit	Fleet Space Technologies Pty Ltd	Fleet Space satellites Centauri 6, 7 and 8 will act as communications relays for customer Internet of Things (IoT) and mineral exploration data through S-band radio.	Granted	16/02/2023

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Overseas payload permit	Skykraft Pty Ltd	Skykraft satellite Skykraft-1 and constellation spacecraft are technology demonstrators and pathfinders for the roll-out of a space-based Air Traffic Management constellation.	Granted	22/09/2022
Australian launch permit	AT Space Pty Ltd	A series of two suborbital launches and connected returns of the Hapith I launch vehicle from the Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex, South Australia.	Granted	24/06/2022
Launch facility licence	SouthernLaunch.Space Pty Ltd	Launch facility at Whalers Way, Sleaford, South Australia to support up to two suborbital test launches.	Granted	24/06/2022
Australian launch permit	Equatorial Launch Australia Pty Ltd	Suborbital launches of the Black Brant IX vehicle for the 2022 NASA scientific sounding rocket campaign from Arnhem Space Centre, Northern Territory.	Granted	24/05/2022
Launch facility licence	Equatorial Launch Australia Pty Ltd	Launch facility known as the Arnhem Space Centre, located in East Arnhem, Northern Territory. This facility licence is limited to the 2022 NASA scientific sounding rocket campaign.	Granted	24/05/2022
Overseas payload permit	Fleet Space Technologies Pty Ltd	Fleet satellite Centauri-5 will provide communication with the Fleet network.	Granted	16/05/2022
Australian launch permit	Taiwan Innovative Space Inc.	Suborbital launch of Hapith I launch vehicle from Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex, South Australia.	Granted	9/08/2021
Launch facility licence	SouthernLaunch.Space Pty Ltd	Launch facility at the Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex at Sleaford, South Australia for a suborbital test launch campaign.	Granted	12/07/2021
Overseas payload permit	Fleet Space Technologies Pty Ltd	Fleet satellite Centauri-4 will provide communication with the Fleet network.	Granted	25/05/2021
Overseas payload permit	The University of Sydney	The CUAVA-1 satellite will collect research data from low earth orbit and transmit to the research team for use in scientific and engineering analyses undertaken by the CUAVA Centre and collaborators.	Granted	14/05/2021
Overseas payload permit	EchoStar Global Australia Pty Ltd	Satellite 'EchoStar Global – 3' (EG-3), a communications satellite, will also be used to expand testing of the EchoStar mobile satellite service network.	Granted	10/05/2021
Overseas payload permit	Curtin University	Satellite Binar-1 will test a number of systems designed by Curtin to be used in future satellites.	Granted	29/04/2021

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Launch facility licence	SouthernLaunch.Space Pty Ltd	Mobile launch facility at Koonibba Test Range, South Australia for suborbital launches.	Granted	9/03/2021
Overseas payload permit	Fleet Space Technologies Pty Ltd	Fleet satellite Centauri-3 will provide communication with the Fleet network.	Granted	5/02/2021
Overseas payload permit	University of New South Wales	UNSW satellites M2-A and M2-B will test a number of systems designed by UNSW, including decoupling, artificial intelligence and space situational awareness capabilities.	Granted	2/02/2021
Overseas payload permit	Myriota Pty Ltd	Myriota satellite 'Myriota 7' will provide direct-to-orbit satellite connectivity for the Internet of Things (IoT) devices.	Granted	20/11/2020
Overseas payload permit	Myriota Pty Ltd	Myriota satellite 'Myriota 6' will provide direct-to-orbit satellite connectivity for the Internet of Things (IoT) devices.	Granted	20/11/2020
Overseas payload permit	Myriota Pty Ltd	Myriota satellite 'Myriota 5' will provide direct-to-orbit satellite connectivity for the Internet of Things.	Granted	11/09/2020
Overseas payload permit	EchoStar Global Australia Pty Ltd	Communications satellite (CubeSat) testing Internet of Things connectivity.	Granted	23/03/2020
Overseas payload permit	EchoStar Global Australia Pty Ltd	Communications satellite (CubeSat) testing Internet of Things connectivity.	Granted	23/03/2020
Overseas payload permit	The University of New South Wales	The M2 Pathfinder satellite (CubeSat) will test communications architecture and other technologies that will assist in informing future space capabilities.	Granted	13/02/2020
Overseas payload permit	Space Environment Research Centre Limited	Payload mounted on a CubeSat to support research undertaken by the Space Environment Research Centre.	Granted	4/12/2019