Australian Government

Statement on Space

Australian Space Agency

space.gov.au

Maal [One: Gomeroi]

by Jake Duczynski, Gomeroi Man

This artwork reflects Gomeroi cultural knowledge, embracing the philosophy of interconnectedness between land, sky, and all living things. It visualises the concept of time as cyclical, not linear, with past, present, and future coexisting. Drawing from ancestral lore, the sky or Warrambul (Milky Way), is depicted as a living river of stories and knowledge, guiding life on Country. Three interconnected layers represent family: immediate, community, and the natural world. Together, they embody a delicate balance, illustrating how Gomeroi identity and culture are woven into the fabric of existence, held in art, song, dance, and language.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Space Agency acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Holders of complex, deep and significant Star Knowledges which have informed custodianship of the land, sea, and sky countries of First Nations across Australia for over 65,000 years.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Lore Keepers, First Scientists and First Astronomers of this nation and to their elders past and present.

The Agency recognises the many nations of First Peoples throughout Australia and their cultural expressions which demonstrate the rich diversity that exist across our lands, seas and skies.

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Disclaimer

The purpose of this publication is to support industry, government and partners to better understand where Australian space industry can contribute to a more competitive, productive and resilient economy.

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The Statement on Space complements, but remains distinct from, ongoing work and dedicated arrangements on space technology development, adoption and use by Australia's national security, defence, intelligence and law enforcement agencies. All financial figures in this document are in Australian dollars (AUD), unless specified otherwise.

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Statement on a Page

Backing Australian industry capability across five space focus areas, supported by action themes to contribute to economic and strategic outcomes.

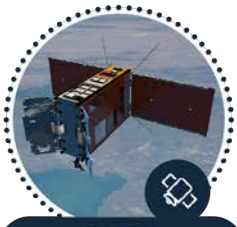
VISION

An enduring space ecosystem that supports Australia's economic resilience and security, is globally competitive, and secures our place in a changing world.

FOCUS AREAS

TRUSTED SPACE SERVICES

SPACEFLIGHT ECOSYSTEM



SPACE PLATFORMS

MICROGRAVITY ECOSYSTEM

EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES

ENABLED THROUGH COORDINATED GOVERNMENT ACTION

ACTIONS

- PROMOTE AUSTRALIA'S STRENGTHS IN SPACE
- COORDINATE DEMAND SIGNALS
- SHAPE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT
- DEEPEN AND HARNESS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
- ADVANCE REGULATION AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

Introduction

Space is fundamental to Australia's prosperity and security. Space-enabled systems support essential services like communications, navigation, weather forecasting, environmental monitoring and emergency response. These systems support improved productivity across critical sectors, such as agriculture, resources and transport. They also help Australia monitor, manage and protect its unique environment as climate and natural hazard risks change. As more essential services rely on space, Australia's ability to access, use and contribute trusted space capability is increasingly relevant to national resilience, productivity, defence and economic security.

Global space activity is accelerating. Technologies are converging. The environment in which nations and firms engage in space is changing. Strategic competition, supply chain pressures, disruptive business models, changing investment settings and growing demand are reshaping how nations and industry participate in space. International counterparts are increasing investment and placing greater emphasis on trusted systems, secure connectivity and enduring capability. For Australia, this creates a resilience imperative and a timely opportunity to contribute distinctive capability into a growing space economy.

Australia's space sector has a credible base of growth in capability, workforce and investment. Analysis of 275 Australian SMEs shows this sector has $4.6 billion in annual turnover (2021). The sector is contributing to major international initiatives, such as the Artemis program and to technologies that support activity on Earth and beyond.

Continuing this growth trajectory and realising the full benefits of space requires clearer focus, effective coordination and practical signals to support Australian industry to connect with markets, missions and national needs. This includes areas where space technologies can support resilient communications, trusted data, sovereign decision-making and continuity of critical services. Australian industry is set to build on existing expertise, respond to changing demand and participate in international markets as a reliable partner.

The Statement on Space (the Statement) identifies five areas where Australia's space industry is well placed to engage, contribute and grow across the global space economy. These areas provide a framework for concentrating effort where Australian capability, market demand and national resilience needs intersect. This focus is intended to support industry, government and partners to better understand where Australian space industry can contribute to a more competitive, productive and resilient economy.

This is not only a growth story. As space becomes more central to the systems Australians rely on, it is also a question of resilience, trusted access, national capability and acting responsibly. Responsible Australian space activity recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, cultural authority and enduring connections to land, waters and skies. The Statement focuses attention on where Australia can make practical contributions to the economy by supporting essential services and playing a larger role in the next phase of the space economy.

VISION

An enduring space ecosystem that supports Australia's economic resilience and security, is globally competitive, and secures our place in a changing world.

Why Australia, Why Now

Australia is a trusted partner for space activity and a reliable destination for space and adjacent technology investment and cooperation. Our stable institutions, regulatory settings, research base and industrial capability provide a clear basis for businesses, investors and international partners to build capability, access markets and pursue space-related opportunities in Australia.

Australia also has natural advantages that matter for space. Our large landmass, southern hemisphere location, clear skies and low-density operating environments support space domain awareness, including space monitoring, tracking and data fusion, as well as Earth observation, ground segment services, launch, return and testing. Australia's geography can support access to a range of launch options, overland testing opportunities and mission operations. This is reinforced by Australia's growing space infrastructure. Our world-class universities and research institutions strengthen the science, engineering and technical capability needed to support high-technology activity across civil, commercial and national security applications.

These strengths support industry, investors and international partners seeking clear pathways into a growing sector that is increasingly connected to economic resilience, productivity, defence capability and essential services.

The Australian Government is helping to translate these strengths into a clearer investment context through economy-wide mechanisms that support industrial capability, commercialisation and market growth.

Examples include:

- The Government announced in the 2024–25 Budget it will invest $22.7 billion over a decade in a Future Made in Australia agenda to maximise the economic and industrial benefits of the international move to net zero and secure Australia's place in a changing global economic and strategic landscape. Since the 2024–25 Budget, the Government has progressed a broad range of reforms that underpin the Future Made in Australia agenda.
- The $15 billion National Reconstruction Fund supports investment in priority areas of the economy, including critical technologies and enabling capabilities with potential relevance to the space sector.
- Under the 2026 Integrated Investment Program, Defence will invest between $27 billion and $38 billion over the decade in space and cyber capabilities, including $9.08 billion to $12.28 billion in enhanced space capabilities focused on resilient communications, space domain awareness and space control.

These initiatives are complemented by broader settings such as the Research and Development Tax Incentive, which can offset some costs for eligible research activity in Australia, alongside international science and technology collaboration programs.

Australia's advantage is practical and investable, connecting the geography with the capability, partnerships and policy settings needed to turn space technologies into enduring economic and strategic value.

Outcomes

Science, research, policy and governance inform the Statement's framework. While the Statement is an industry-focused document, Australia's research system and skilled workforce support the translation of emerging technologies into capability and commercial outcomes. Policy and regulatory settings provide the certainty required for responsible, safe and sustainable growth. The Statement recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems as a valued part of Australia's broader science, research, cultural and stewardship context. Together, these foundations support a responsible approach that is grounded in evidence, aligned with international norms, and able to respond to changing market and operating conditions.

The Statement is focused on the following outcomes:

DELIVER ESSENTIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIANS RELY ON

Strengthen trusted space-enabled services that support continuity of service, civilian and Defence requirements.

OWN MORE OF THE VALUE CHAIN

Expand domestic capability in areas that increase Australia's participation in higher-value segments of the space economy.

REALISE BENEFITS BEYOND SPACE

Grow pathways that translate space activity into adjacent sectors and broader economic benefit.

EXTEND CAPABILITY INTO GLOBAL MARKETS

Support deeper participation of Australian capability into complex operating environments, off and on Earth.

Focus Areas

The Focus Areas highlight where Australia's space capability differentiates globally, has market potential, and supports national resilience. The Focus Areas reflect domains which are commercially orientated and are not intended to capture the full breadth of Australia's space ecosystem. Together, they provide a basis for focusing effort where Australian industry capability can support national needs, connect into global demand, open market pathways, and contribute to the productivity, resilience and security of Australia's economy.

TRUSTED SPACE SERVICES

SPACEFLIGHT ECOSYSTEM

SPACE PLATFORMS

MICROGRAVITY ECOSYSTEM

EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES

Focus Area 1: Trusted Space Services

What it is:

Position Navigation and Timing, Communications, Earth Observation, Space Monitoring

Trusted space services are the space-enabled functions, data and operational capabilities that support everyday life, economic activity, and national resilience. This includes Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT), communications, Earth Observation (EO) and space monitoring, underpinned by the mission operations, data systems and ground segment capabilities needed to deliver those services reliably. These services support emergency management, weather forecasting, environmental monitoring, efficient and safe transportation, internet access and location services. They underpin activity across sectors, including in agriculture, emergency management, resources, financial services, and Defence.

Australia has recognised capability in ground segment, trusted downstream services, and low-power and remote communications, including Internet of Things and tactical communications from low Earth orbit. These technologies are inherently dual use. Providing space-enabled information supports decision-making across government and industry.

Australia's geography and analytical heritage provide a credible basis for growth in space monitoring, tracking and data fusion services. These capabilities help safeguard critical space assets, support trusted operations in an increasingly complex domain, and align with broader national priorities around resilience and the protection of critical infrastructure.

Key opportunities

Building Australian capability in trusted space services could expand opportunities in:

- Trusted national communications - strengthening resilient and self-reliant secure communications for remote, regional and infrastructure-constrained environments, including applications enabled by emerging low Earth orbit and direct-to-device services.
- Resilient multi-orbit architectures - integrating capabilities across orbits to improve responsiveness, continuity and flexibility of service delivery.
- Ground segment platforms - supporting sovereign control of data, command and service-delivery pathways through ground stations, operations centres, calibration/validation, analytics platforms and associated software systems.
- Space monitoring and data fusion - improved detection, tracking, analytics and decision-support to protect critical space assets and our interests on the ground in an increasingly congested and contested domain.
- Operational and data-driven applications - expanding services in disaster monitoring, emissions detection, environmental and resource monitoring, maritime and infrastructure.

Why it matters

Trusted space services support functions Australians rely on every day, including emergency management, internet connectivity, weather forecasting, and position and navigation services, with an increasing role in supporting public safety and security outcomes. They also support productivity across core sectors such as agriculture, resources, maritime logistics and environmental management, where Earth data communications and operational services improve connectivity, situational awareness and decision-making. Enhanced capability in communications, mission operations, space monitoring, data processing and analytics, and service assurance can support a more connected national value chain from data capture through to downstream applications. It creates opportunities for Australian industry participation where trusted operations and secure data pathways are increasingly important.

By reducing reliance on externally controlled systems in areas where continuity, trust and operational assurance matter most, sovereign space services help to secure trusted supply chains, critical technologies and resilient communications, including connectivity in remote and regional Australia.

Focus Area 2: Spaceflight Ecosystem

What it is:
Launch, Re-entry and Ground Segment

The spaceflight ecosystem is the capabilities that support missions across launch, re-entry, recovery, test, evaluation, mission support and associated ground services. Building domestic capability in this area supports more of the value chain being captured onshore and creates the pathway through which platforms, payloads, research and downstream services can reach flight opportunity.

Australia's geography, established spaceflight activity, enabling infrastructure and supporting regulation settings provide a practical foundation for this ecosystem. Australia is an experienced delivery partner, trusted to handle sensitive technologies, with operational sites and ranges for launch and recovery, clear access to a more diverse set of orbits, and a streamlined regulatory framework. As international partners increase their investment and operational commitments in space, Australia has an opportunity to build on this momentum and strengthen its role in commercial launch, return and associated services.

Key opportunities

Areas of opportunity for a commercially scalable spaceflight ecosystem include:

- Launch and return services - supporting domestic and international missions through secure and responsible launch, re-entry and recovery pathways that leverage Australia's geography.
- End-to-end mission support - building capability in tracking, telemetry, range operations, flight safety, re-entry planning, recovery logistics, payload processing and post-flight handling to support the full mission lifecycle.
- Testing and qualification services - strengthening onshore capability in flight-readiness, environmental and mission-related testing that supports launch, return and payload integration.
- Sub-orbital flight applications - applying range, safety and operational capability to novel activities including hypersonics, space planes and overland flight testing.
- Ground segment and operational support - expanding the supporting services needed for mission planning, control, monitoring and recovery across domestic and international activity.

Why it matters

Australia has the opportunity to establish itself as the Indo-Pacific's preferred space launch and returns destination. Spaceflight capability matters because access to space, and return from space, underpin more than launch activity alone. They provide the pathway through which Australian technology, research and payloads reach application, and through which more of the value from mission activity can be retained onshore. Strengthening capability across launch, return, testing, tracking, recovery and mission support would improve Australia's participation in higher-value parts of the space economy.

International case studies show that development and operation of spaceflight technology onshore builds a highly skilled workforce with translatable expertise to other complex sectors and industries.

Focus Area 3: Space Platforms

What it is:
Satellites and Multi-Orbit Constellations

Space platforms are the satellite buses, subsystems, payload development and manufacturing, and ground segment capability that allow missions to be designed, integrated, deployed and operated. Over the past decade, Australia's space sector has steadily matured this capability, providing a foundation for growth that can support civil, national security and defence capability needs. Australia has relevant capabilities in space environment testing, including radiation testing, supported by national facilities able to qualify electronics and materials for space.

Domestic space platform capability offers an opportunity to integrate Australian technologies into both domestic and partner missions. Over time, this can reduce reliance on foreign systems in areas where continuity, responsiveness and national resilience are increasingly important.

Global demand is increasing for responsive and adaptable satellite systems that can be integrated into larger mission architecture. Australia's opportunity is not only in the supply and manufacturing of components, but in building platform capability that supports flexible mission design, self-reliance and payload integration.

Key opportunities

Areas of opportunity for Australia's space platforms would include:

- Responsive, cyber-secure and scalable satellite systems - building platforms that can be adapted for different missions and service requirements, supporting more flexible deployment.
- Platforms for trusted services and resilient communications - supporting systems that underpin communications, timing, monitoring, data delivery and service assurance.
- Advanced subsystems and onboard capability - strengthening domestic capability and supply chain resilience in power systems, sensors, software, communications, onboard data handling and AI that support space-based applications, interoperability and resilience to malicious interference.
- Technology for extreme environments - developing propulsion, robust and novel materials, including radiation tolerant and thermally robust designs that improve durability, reliability and performance across a range of missions.
- Onboard intelligence and interoperability - in-space mobility, onboard autonomy and processing, trusted controls, software-defined radios, and mission systems that support secure, flexible operations and integration across networks.

Why it matters

Building domestic capability in platforms allows Australia to move beyond being primarily a user of foreign-built systems and towards participating in higher-value parts of the spacecraft value chain. It could support greater control over how Australian payloads and services are deployed, help retain more value onshore, and build the industrial depth needed for more responsive mission delivery.

This is not only a manufacturing opportunity. More capable domestic platforms can strengthen the systems that underpin trusted communications, monitoring and operational awareness. In this way, platform capability supports broader national resilience and contributes to Defence-aligned capability needs, while positioning Australian industry to participate more deeply in domestic and international missions.

Focus Area 4: Microgravity Ecosystem

What it is:
In-Space Manufacturing and Biotechnology Development

Microgravity can enable physical, biological and chemical processes that are difficult or not possible to replicate on Earth, including in medicine, advanced materials, food systems and specialised manufacturing.

Australia has a credible basis to participate and capture value where flight and returns can be linked to research capability and translational pathways, supported by robust regulatory settings. Existing strengths in medical research, plant and food technologies, and advanced manufacturing provide a basis for participation in both orbital experimentation and downstream commercial outcomes onshore. Australia already attracts global biotechnology and pharmaceutical investment. Microgravity has the potential to add a new upstream advantage, particularly where it can augment preclinical evidence and pharmaceutical formulations.

Australia's opportunity is not limited to conducting experiments in orbit. Establishing an integrated microgravity ecosystem in Australia can capture benefits through return, payload processing, analysis, translation, and commercialisation to support resilience across areas from agriculture to communications.

Key opportunities

Australia's advantage can be to capture down mass and translation, not only orbital experimentation. A "microgravity to market corridor" could expand opportunities in:

- Biotechnology and health - improving preclinical evidence, supporting drug discovery and formulation, regenerative medicine, immunology, oncology, human performance and safety research, and other high-value therapeutic pathways.
- Agriculture, food and bioproduction - developing space agriculture and controlled-environment plant systems, including stress-resilient crops, high-protein food platforms, food preparation technologies, and plant-based production of pharmaceuticals, fuels and other high-value biological products.
- Advanced materials and specialised manufacturing - supporting production and testing of specialised materials and devices such as photonics, optical fibres, semiconductor materials, and new materials.
- Translational capabilities - domestic laboratory, analytical and regulatory enablers that can accelerate movement from space-based experimentation into trials, products and commercial use.

Why it matters

Over time, a more integrated microgravity pathway could support broader innovation, industrial capability and economic resilience across sectors that already draw on Australia's strengths in research, regulation, and advanced manufacturing.

Greater benefit will come where space flight and returns are linked to secure handling, analysis, regulatory integration, and commercial application onshore. This Focus Area is less about a single activity in orbit and more about building a connected pathway from experimentation to terrestrial use. A focus on "down mass and translation" supports improving Australia's ability to capture value domestically, particularly where microgravity can support preclinical evidence, new therapies, food and agriculture technologies, specialised materials, and other commercially relevant outcomes on Earth.

Focus Area 5: Exploration Technologies

What it is:
Remote Operations and Lunar Applications

Exploration technologies support safe, reliable, and sustained operations in harsh, and remote environments, including on the lunar surface and in other exploration contexts. This includes capabilities in remote operations, autonomy, rugged robotics, sensing, mission operations, systems assurance, extreme-environment engineering and deep space communications.

International demand for these technologies is growing as lunar and exploration programs move from discrete missions toward longer-duration surface activity and enduring supporting infrastructure.

Australia has a credible basis to contribute through existing capability in robotics, remote mission operations, advanced engineering and systems integration. Australian industry already operates complex systems in harsh and remote terrestrial settings, including mining, remote health, and agriculture in isolated environments, Antarctic operations, subsea and other extreme-environment systems. These capabilities are directly relevant to mission critical and enduring lunar surface operations.

This creates opportunities to build exportable capability for exploration missions, support participation in global supply chains, and translate high-assurance technologies into broader applications on Earth. Australia's expanding role in the NASA-led Artemis program, highlights this emerging capability base.

Key opportunities

Areas in which Australia can be a partner of choice include:

- Rugged robotics, autonomy and sensing — supporting resource detection, inspection, sampling, handling and navigation in extreme conditions, and building exportable capability in autonomous systems and robotic operation.
- Remote mission operations — building capabilities in data-driven systems including AI driven mission planning, digital twins, high-assurance command-and-control and safety critical systems for sustained operations.
- High-bandwidth communications and human-in-the-loop operations - developing capabilities in resilient communications, remote command and control, and supervised autonomy for operations in harsh, remote and latency-affected environments.
- Extreme environment systems - strengthening technologies for dust mitigation, thermal resilience, asset protection, communications and reliability, resource prospecting and sensing, and lunar night survival.
- Systems integration and assurance - capacity in verification, validation, mission assurance and interoperability to support participation in complex exploration architectures and global supply chains.

Why it matters

As lunar and exploration programs move towards longer-duration and sustained presence on the Moon, demand is increasing for trusted technologies that can operate safely and reliably in harsh, remote and communications-constrained environments. This creates opportunities for Australian industry to participate in specialised supply chains including those on Earth.

For Australia, the value of this focus area extends beyond a single mission or technology stream. Exploration activity provides a high-assurance environment in which to develop and validate capabilities that also have application back on Earth across mining, critical minerals, energy, infrastructure, Defence, and other sectors that rely on safe operation, resilient communications and effective human oversight in remote conditions.

Action Themes

To support further translation of Australian space industry capabilities into strengthening our national resilience and securing our future in a more competitive global environment, the Statement outlines thematic actions where Government activity enables conditions for investment, coordination and delivery.

These Action Themes are a framework focused on existing levels to build visibility, strengthen market pathways, improve settings for adoption and growth, and further capability development in areas of comparative advantage. This approach is consistent with the targeted, industry-facing nature of the Statement, a Future Made in Australia, and with broader government efforts to encourage private investment, build national capability, and support a more resilient economy.

Action: Promote Australia's strengths in space

- Improve visibility of Australia's strengths in space and reinforce Australia's reputation as a trusted and capable partner in global space activities.

Action: Coordinate demand signals

- Provide visibility of current and emerging demand, including across government, to help industry understand where capability may translate into operational use, procurement or market access.
- With consistent and longitudinal signals, the sector can further align investment and capability development with future opportunities.

Action: Shape capability development

- Support Australian industry to develop capability aligned with Government's objectives of national resilience, productivity growth and a fairer and more inclusive economy.
- Leverage current momentum to position Australian industry to participate more deeply in supply chains and meet national requirements.

Action: Deepen and harness international partnerships

- Structured engagement with international partner agencies, institutions, and industry to assist Australian industry to position their capabilities within global programs and translate collaboration into commercial opportunities.

Action: Advance regulation and international governance

- Evolve domestic regulatory frameworks to support current and emerging Australian space activities, ensuring safety, security and national interests while enabling entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Shape international governance by contributing to global rules and norms for the safe and sustainable use of outer space.

Closing

Australia stands at an inflection point in its space journey. As space becomes increasingly intertwined with economic activity, environmental management, critical services and national security, greater clarity on where Australia can contribute has increasing practical importance.

The Statement lays the foundations to position Australia's space sector to meet demand, address national resilience needs, and maximise opportunity within a rapidly evolving global environment.

Next Steps

The Statement on Space sets out the Government's vision and priorities.

We will work with industry, academia, government stakeholders, and the community on the actions outlined in this statement.

These consultations will include Ministerial and industry-led roundtables, alongside targeted engagement undertaken directly by the Australian Space Agency with key stakeholders across the Australian space sector.

Following these consultations, the Government will provide further information on the actions to be taken to support our vision.

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