

# Andrew Barr MLA

## Chief Minister



Member for Kurrajong

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Dear Australian Space Industry Stakeholders

Today I launched *Canberra: The National Home for the Australian Space Agency* – the ACT Government’s prospectus for permanently locating the Australian Space Agency in Canberra. I have attached a copy of the document for your information.

Our prospectus is based around the responsibilities set for the agency by the Commonwealth Government, including setting national policy and strategy for the civil space sector, leading Australia’s international space engagement, regulating space activities and supporting the growth of Australia’s space industry.

Every Commonwealth stakeholder, except the Bureau of Meteorology, is based in Canberra. National policy agencies such as the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Attorney-General’s Department and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science are based in Canberra providing the opportunity for effective ongoing collaboration with the agency.

Additionally, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and 80 embassies and high commissions are located in Canberra. Close relationships with our international network will be the key to the success of the Agency’s international engagement.

Space policy is inextricably linked to national security policy. The dual use nature of many space technologies means that even seemingly benign civil and commercial initiatives will require coordination with the national security community. Such connections will require coordination through the Department of Defence, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the national security agencies located in Canberra.

In addition, Canberra provides a compelling, enabling environment for the Agency – we have a high concentration of space industry organisations with extensive technological capability. Canberra’s capabilities include:

- The Space Mission Concurrent Design Facility at UNSW Canberra and the ANU National Space Test Facilities, which provide Australia’s only end-to-end facilities for the design, building and testing of spacecraft;
- Geoscience Australia’s Satellite-Based Augmentation System, National Positioning Infrastructure Capability and Digital Earth are all managed in Canberra and supported by the National Computational Infrastructure at ANU, which recently received an additional \$70 million in Commonwealth funding for maintaining Australia’s Tier 1 HPC capability;

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- CSIRO's Centre for Earth Observation, headquartered in Canberra, will be a catalyst for engagement with Australian businesses, government agencies and research organisations;
- The Space Environment Research Centre located at Mount Stromlo combined with EOS Space Systems makes Canberra a leader in space situational awareness and debris monitoring;
- The Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, managed on behalf of NASA by CSIRO, is one of only three NASA Deep Space Network Facilities in the world and currently supports more than 30 deep space missions; and
- The Canberra Region Space Industry Capability Directory ([www.act.gov.au/space](http://www.act.gov.au/space)) lists Canberra Region based space companies such as Q-Labs, Liquid Instruments, Locata, Shoal Group, EOS Space Systems, Geoplex, Geospatial Intelligence, Clearbox, Equatorial Launch Australia, Via Sat, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Airbus Defence and Space.

Locating the Australian Space Agency in Canberra will demonstrate national leadership and allow the agency to get on with its primary task – growing the Australian space industry for the benefit of all states and territories.

Further information on Canberra's capabilities can be found at [www.act.gov.au/space](http://www.act.gov.au/space)  
If you would like to discuss Canberra's commitment to growing the Australian space industry please contact the Industry and Investment Team in my directorate at [SpaceCBR@act.gov.au](mailto:SpaceCBR@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA  
Chief Minister