

Mining, Exploration and Geoscience's response to the Geological Survey of NSW Review

	Review recommendations	Mining, Exploration and Geoscience response
1	<p>To provide greater clarity and reduce duplication, streamline Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW) current roles into three core roles and four enabling functions as follows:</p> <p>Core roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Providing expert advice and information to support the sustainable management of NSW mineral and petroleum resources. Collecting and making available data to de-risk and attract exploration investment. Providing advice and information to support non-resources related decision-making. <p>Enabling functions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Providing custodianship of NSW's geoscientific data and reference collections. Undertaking geological assessment of resource industry activity. Supporting promotion of resource prospectivity and exploration investment in NSW. Supporting community engagement and education in geological sciences. 	<p>Partly supported</p> <p>Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) supports GSNSW having more clearly defined roles and functions which are consistent with GSNSW responsibilities under NSW mineral, petroleum and other legislation.</p> <p>MEG will adopt the following definition:</p> <p>GSNSW role is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> collect geoscientific data and information, including acquisition of pre-competitive data, and collation of industry and research data and information. manage, interpret and deliver geoscientific data and information. provide expert geoscientific information and advice to support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> exploration and mining, including attracting investment into regional NSW land use planning and natural resource management community awareness of the value and benefits of the NSW mineral and petroleum industries. <p>GSNSW functions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> custodianship of NSW geoscientific data, information and physical geological reference collections geoscientific assessment of exploration and mining activity identification, assessment and promotion of mineral and petroleum resources community engagement and geoscientific education.
2	<p>To provide strategic direction, an overarching strategy should be developed which outlines GSNSW role, priorities and objectives, and articulates GSNSW relationship with its primary stakeholders: industry, government, the research sector and the public.</p> <p>This should be co-developed and communicated with stakeholders to improve the line of sight between GSNSW funding and outcomes, and to support more effective collaboration with industry.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>MEG supports developing a public strategy which provides a clear statement of GSNSW priorities and strategic context, including its relationship to other geoscience organisations. The strategy will build on the work already carried out for GSNSW existing strategic plans, including the New Frontiers Initiative, Coal Resource Identification Program and the MinEx CRC, and MEG's Business Plan 2019/20-21/22.</p> <p>When developing this strategy, GSNSW will release the draft strategy for public comment and engage with all relevant stakeholders for input.</p>
3	<p>GSNSW should move towards the digital delivery of all information, and immediately discontinue, reduce or amend the following lower priority products and services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Geotours app, Geo-tourism maps / brochures and Field excursion guides. 3D models which are less valuable to industry, who are primarily concerned with obtaining raw data. Printed maps, which are expensive and resource intensive to produce and are 'out of date' once printed. 	<p>Partly supported</p> <p>The survey conducted as part of the review did not target community or educational organisations and had a low response rate from all sectors other than industry.</p> <p>GSNSW has already ceased production of printed standard map sheets, moved most printed map-related products to digital platforms and delivers up-to-date geological mapping through the NSW Seamless Geology database. However, there is still a need for special purpose printed maps, for example, the map of high-tech metal resources of NSW.</p> <p>GSNSW will not immediately discontinue, reduce or amend the products identified in i. to iii as more information is needed on the users and benefits of these products before their priority can be determined.</p> <p>GSNSW will collect and assess information on the users and benefits of the products in i. to iii. as part of implementing its response to Recommendation 2 to develop a public strategy for GSNSW.</p>

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4	<p>In the medium term, GSNSW should prioritise its existing products and services using a multi-criteria analysis approach.</p> <p>Criteria should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the alignment of products and services with core roles, functions and strategic priorities. ii. end user satisfaction. iii. benefit or return on investment. 	<p>Partly supported</p> <p>MEG supports establishing a transparent process to prioritise and invest in GSNSW products and services. MEG will establish this process as part of implementing its response to Recommendation 2 to develop a public strategy for GSNSW.</p>
5	<p>In the longer term, GSNSW should apply similar principles to support future strategic investment in data acquisition, management and delivery, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. supports delivery of at least one of the three core roles ii. seeks to address stakeholders' needs, as identified through a stakeholder engagement process iii. aligns with the policies and strategies set by government iv. is collaborative, where appropriate, to leverage additional resources, create efficiencies and reduce duplication v. provides products or services to industry when industry is unable or unwilling to provide them and it is possible to demonstrate the products or services will deliver significant benefit to the citizens of NSW, that is, the investment will address a market failure. 	<p>Partly supported</p> <p>MEG supports establishing a transparent process to prioritise and invest in GSNSW products and services. MEG will establish this process as part of implementing its response to Recommendation 2 to develop a public strategy for GSNSW.</p>
6	<p>Revise GSNSW four business unit structure into a more streamlined three business unit structure which aligns with its three core roles, i.e. acquiring geoscience data, managing and organising geoscience data, and providing expert advisory services.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>MEG will consult closely with GSNSW staff as it revises the Branch structure to broadly align with GSNSW's more clearly defined roles and functions.</p> <p>MEG will continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on our business. It will implement the proposed streamlining of GSNSW business units when the impacts of the pandemic have been reduced to an extent that the restructure can be undertaken with appropriate processes in place, including necessary staff consultation.</p>
7	<p>Address information gaps by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. developing a process to survey a broader range of end users, to inform the design of products and services and understand their value ii. interviewing GSNSW staff and relevant senior staff on GSNSW's contribution to state and national priorities iii. conducting detailed business process mapping by collecting information on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. labour and capital costs of GSNSW products, services and activities b. the role of each business unit in delivering products and services c. personnel funding and budgeted personnel expenditure disaggregated by business unit function. 	<p>Supported</p> <p>MEG supports actions to improve how it measures the effectiveness and efficiency of GSNSW products and services.</p> <p>MEG will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. investigate potential methods and approaches, including incorporating monitoring and evaluation into product and service design. 2. develop a strategic approach to measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of GSNSW products and services as part of its response to Recommendation 2 to develop a public strategy for GSNSW.

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