



Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society

# 'Earth Observation and Deriving Spatial Information for Disasters and Hazards'.

Past President, IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society,

Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRC-SI) and

School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052,



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Management "Best Practices for Risk Reduction and Rapid Response Mapping"  
Beijing, China, 22-25 November 2011





# Presentation

- Earth Observation(EO)
- Australian Examples
- EO Issues
- EO Challenges
- GRSS

## Case for Satellite Derived Data

- spatially extensive mapping
- localised event detection
- access difficult or dangerous sites
- near real time response
- geo-referenced and calibrated

*More than 40 nations with  
imaging satellites -160 sensors*

### **Systematic Observation Strategy**

Semi-continental wall-to-wall coverage

Spatial consistency over regional scales

Temporal consistency over regional scales

Acquisitions within a short time window

Accurate timing

Regional seasonality drives window selection

Consistent sensor configuration

"Long-term" repetition continuity

# EO Can Assist



## **Emergency Response**

- **Specific event**
- **Rapid provision**
- **Map information**
- **Support crisis management**

## **Recovery & Rehabilitation**

- Situation maps
- Time series
- Monitoring

## **Mitigation & Preparedness Planning**

- Vulnerability and risk assessment
- Modelling impact
- Early warning

*Creates different demands on satellite  
imagery*

Source: Dr Alex Held, CSIRO

**Operational  
(Weather and Comm)**

FY-3A

MTSAT

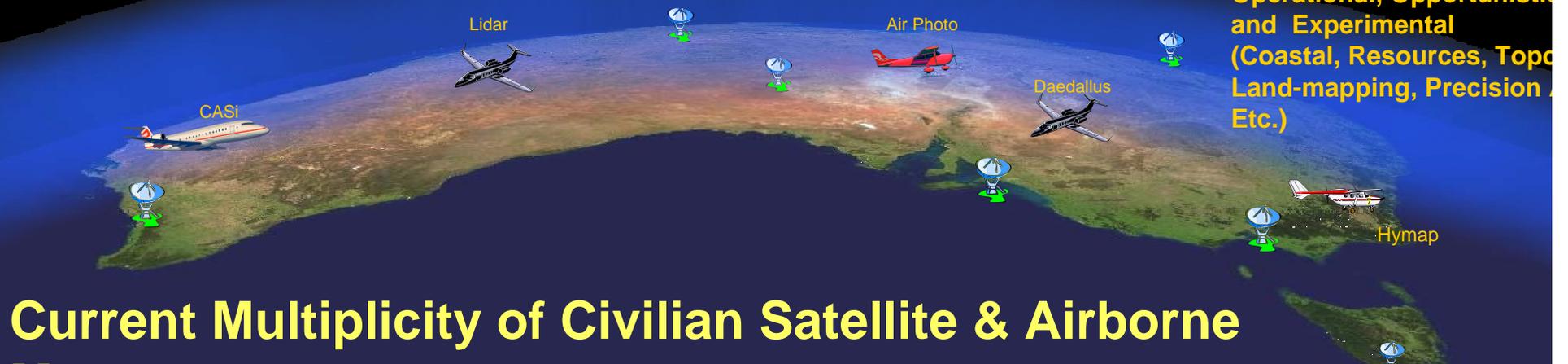
GOES

**Operational  
(GPS Navigation)**

**Operational  
(Weather, Ocean  
Land-mapping)**

**Semi-Operational  
And Experimental  
(Weather, Oceans  
Land-mapping, Environmen  
Atmosphere)**

**Operational, Opportunistic  
and Experimental  
(Coastal, Resources, Topo  
Land-mapping, Precision  
Etc.)**



# Current Multiplicity of Civilian Satellite & Airborne

## Measurements

Users of foreign satellite information; roughly close to around 20 TB of satellite and airborne data per month, across various agencies and the commercial sector



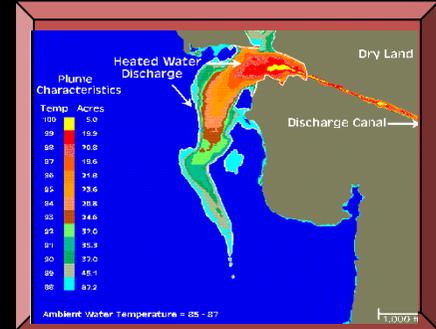
# Sensor Systems



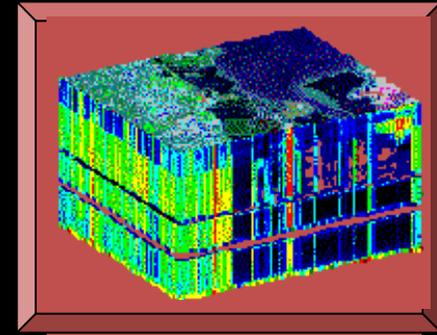
Multispectral



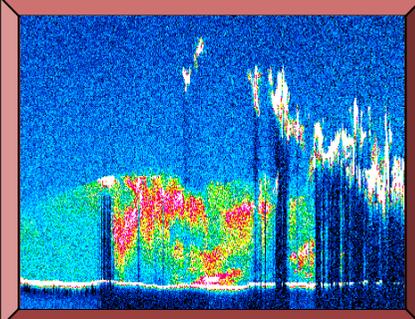
Radar/ SAR



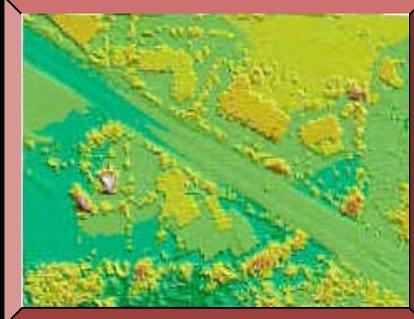
Thermal



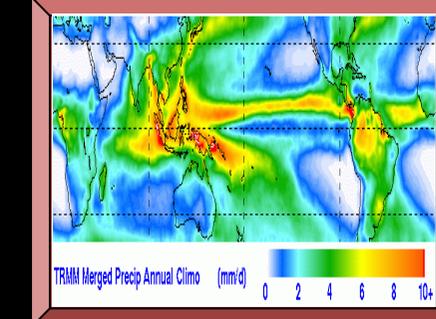
Hyperspectral



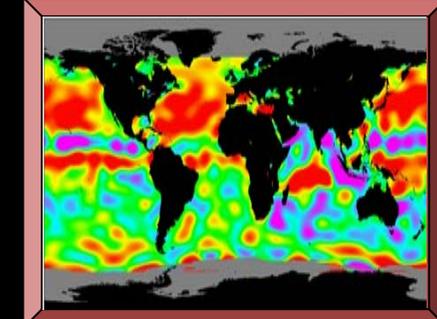
Atmospheric LIDAR



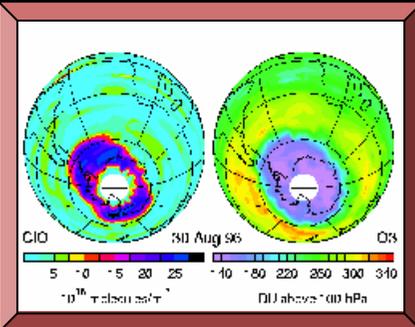
Surface LIDAR



Passive Microwave



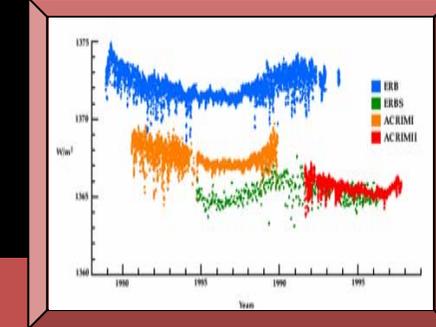
RADAR Altimetry



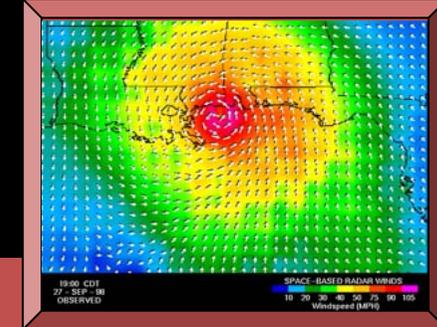
Limb Sounding



Gravitational Fields



Irradiance/Photometry



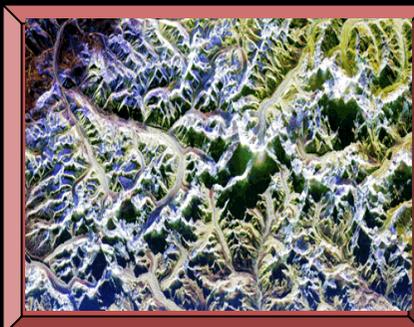
Scatterometry



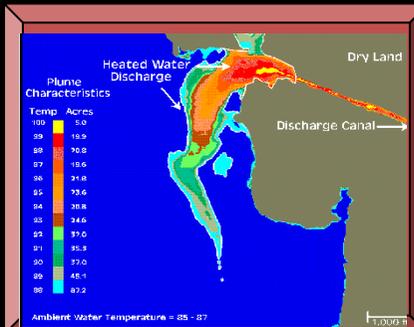
# Sensor Systems



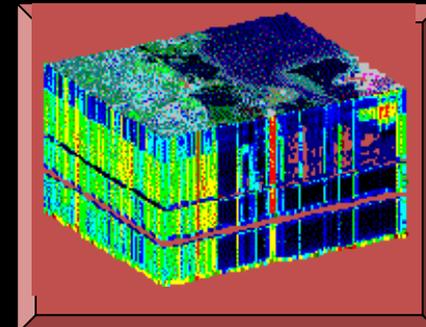
Multispectral



RADAR / SAR

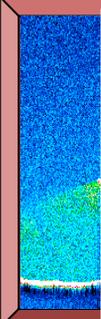


Thermal

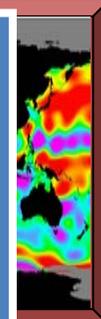


Hyperspectral

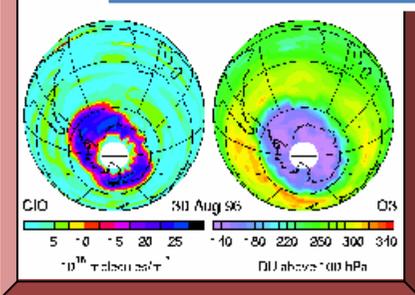
Evaluate satellite systems and sensors on their suitability for providing disaster event information



Atm



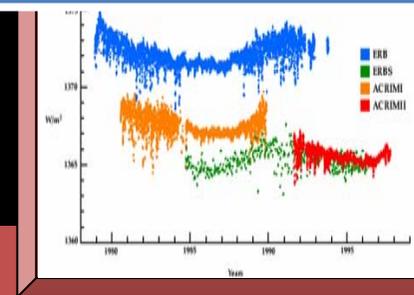
try



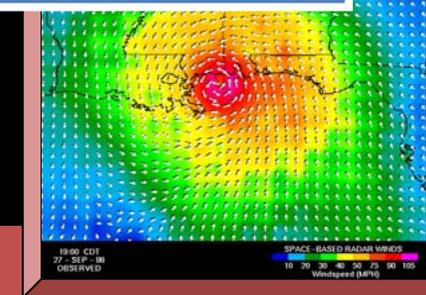
Limb Sounding



Gravitational Fields

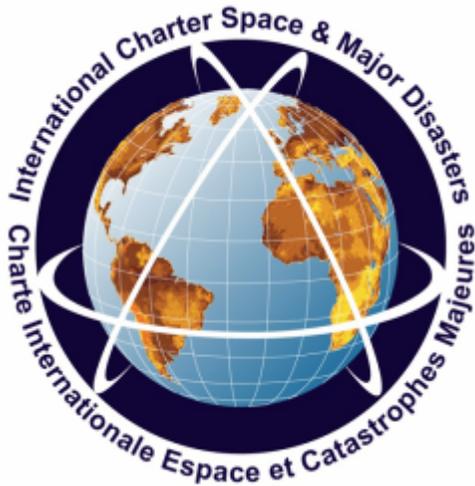


Irradiance/Photometry



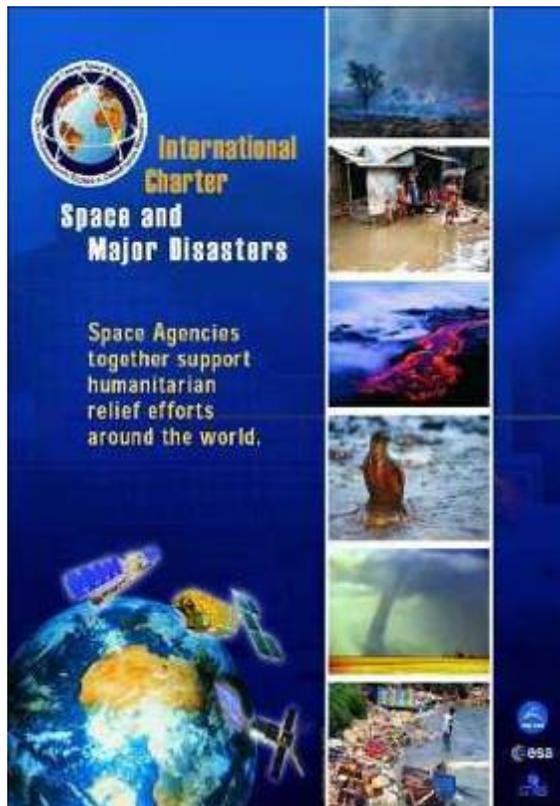
Scatterometry





# INTERNATIONAL CHARTER

## “Unified system of rapid space data acquisition and delivery”



### Members

European Space Agency (ESA): ERS, ENVISAT  
 Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES): SPOT  
 Canadian Space Agency (CSA): RADARSAT  
 Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO): IRS  
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
 POES, GOES  
 Argentina's Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales (CONAE): SAC -C  
 Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA): ALOS  
 United States Geological Survey (USGS): LANDSAT  
 Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC): UK, Nigeria, Algeria, Turkey  
 China National Space Agency (CNSA): FY, SJ, ZY satellite series

*Since Oct. 2010: German Aerospace Center (DLR)*

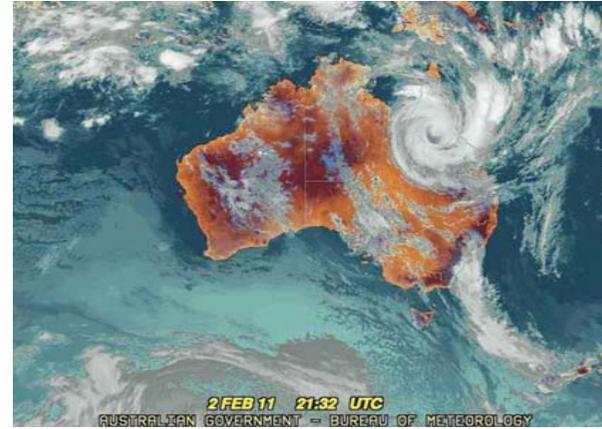
Collaboration with other organisations.... UNOOSA/UNITAR/UNOSAT/ GEO/EUSC/ ARDC and Sentinel Asia/GMES.....

# Australian Natural Disasters

## Examples



Floods



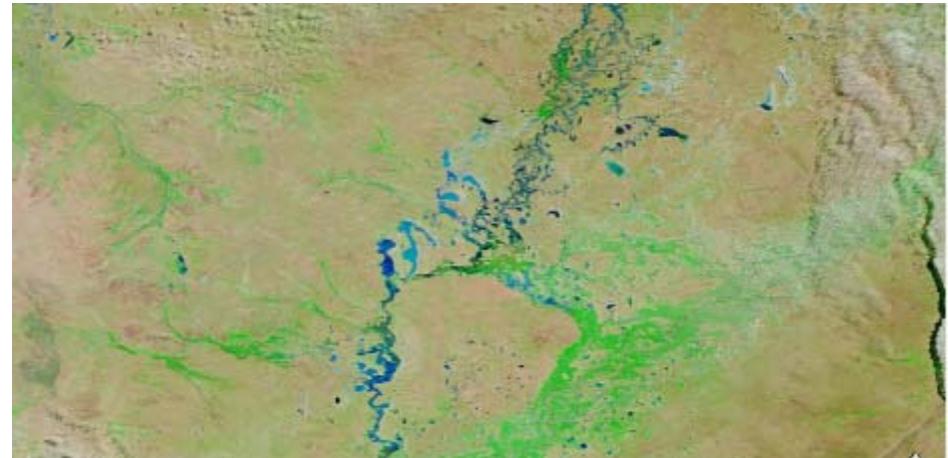
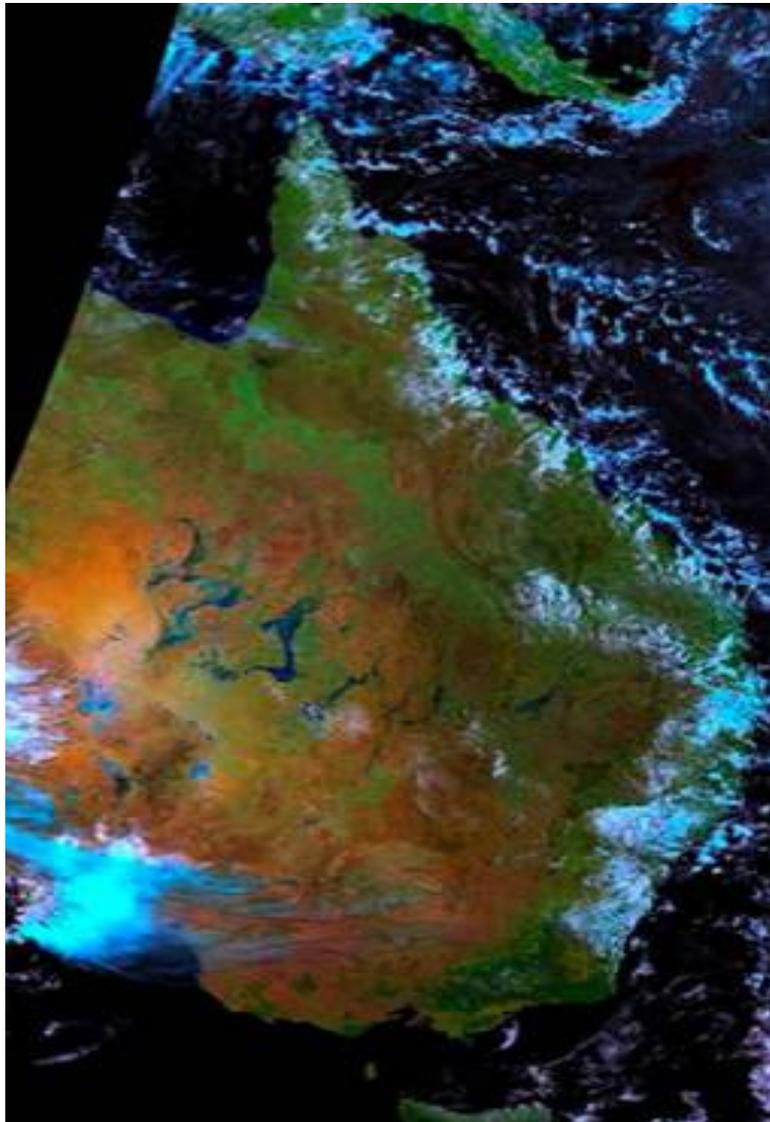
Cyclones



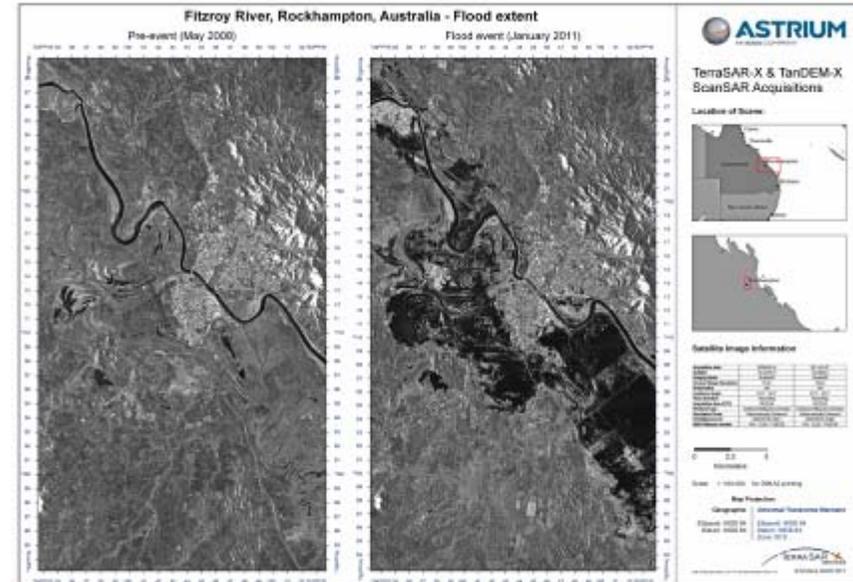
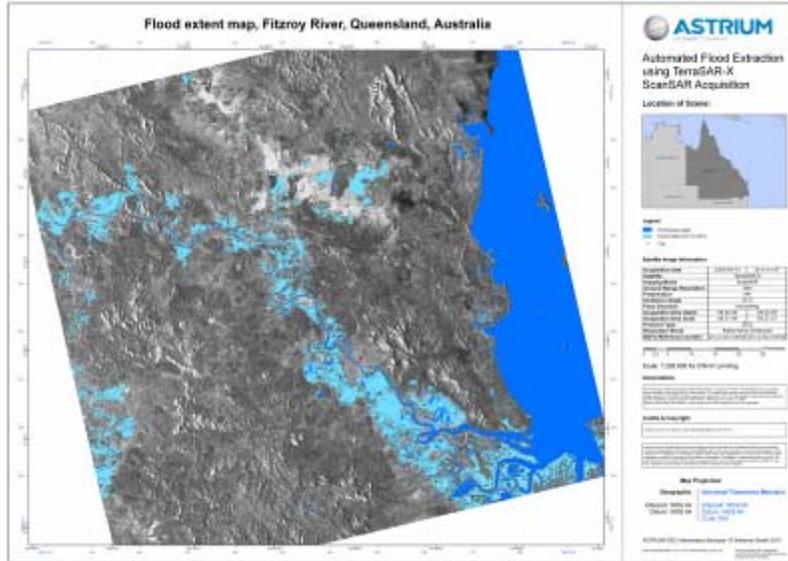
Bushfires

# Flooding

MODIS Channel Country and  
Paroo River Catchment March 14,2



# Rural Flooding, Queensland and Victoria, 2011



**Goulburn River**

# Brisbane Floods, January 2011



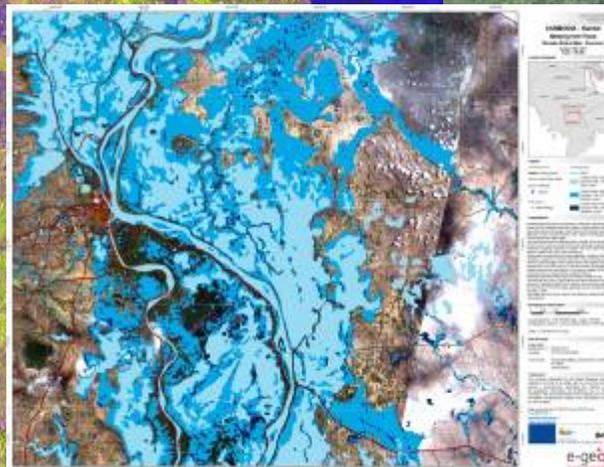
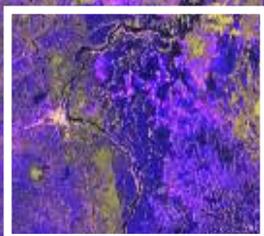
Image



Satellite Map

**Flood Model simulates a 5.5-metre flood in Brisbane - the level the river was expected to peak at during floods - to help authorities plan their response**

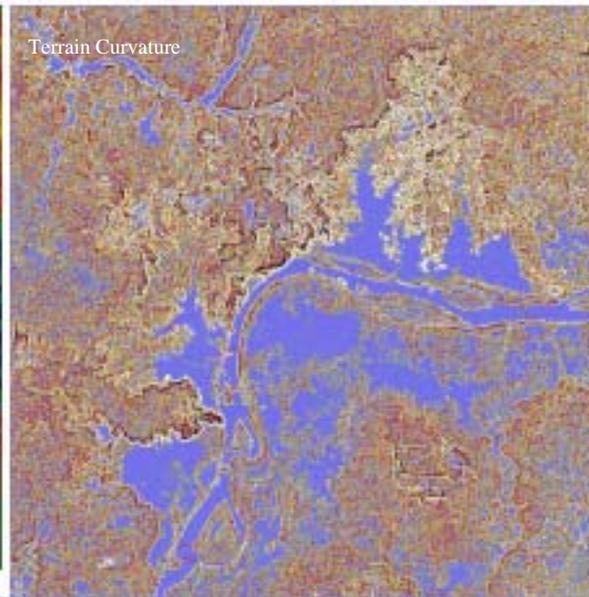
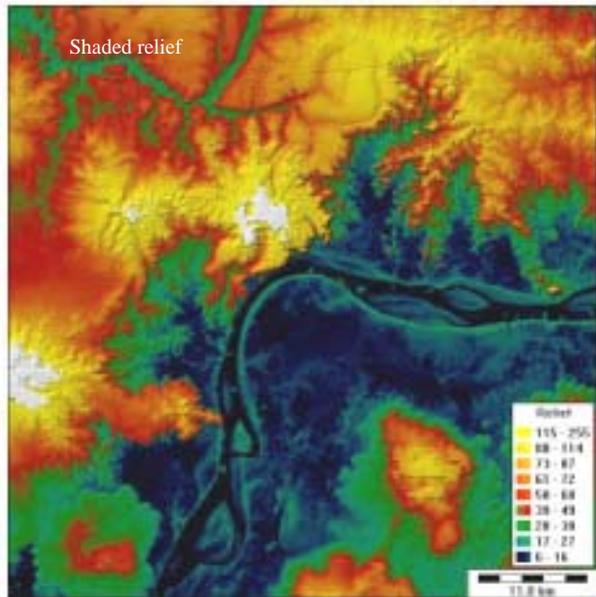
# Assessment of Flooding in Cambodia Using PALSAR Data



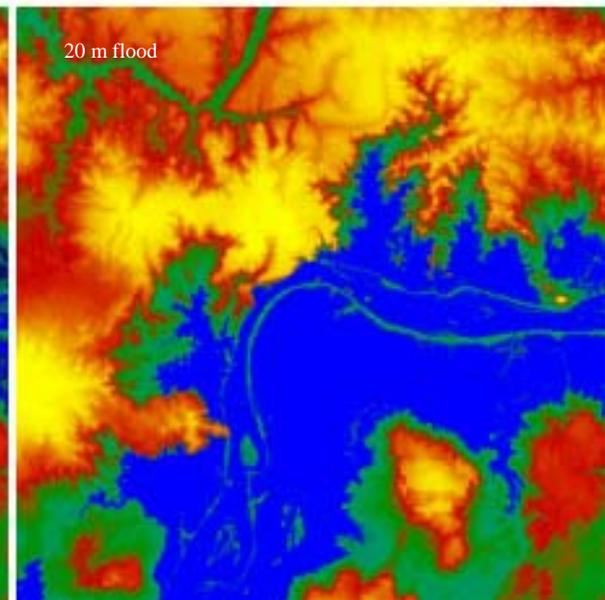
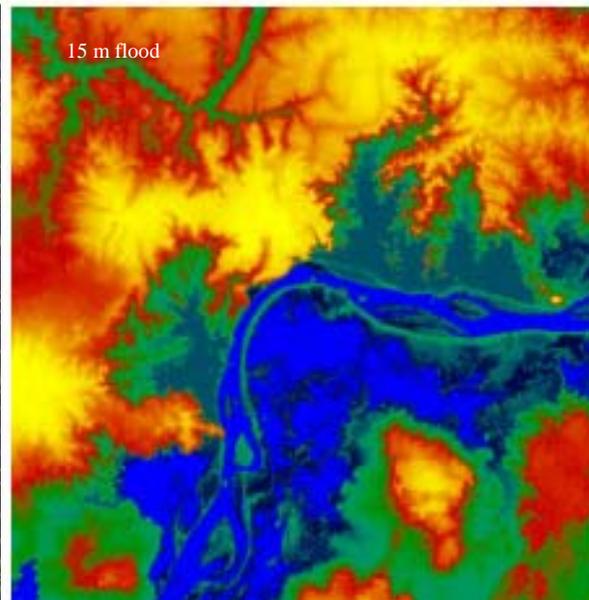
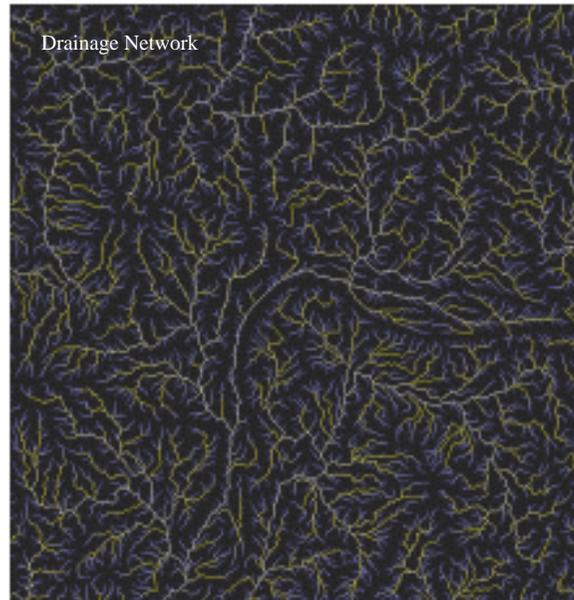
The central and western Mekong Basin Cambodia supports one of the most productive and diverse freshwater ecosystems in the world



**PALSAR 2008 Mosaic  
Lower Mekong Basin  
(HH,HV,HH-HV)**



## Modelling River Catchments using SRTM 90 DEM

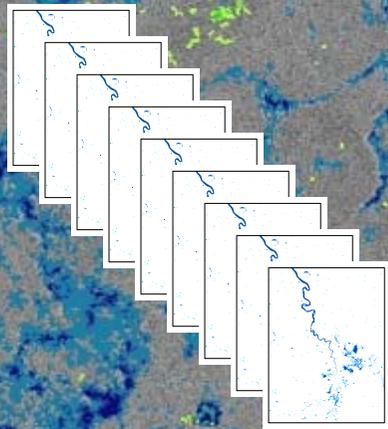


# Flood Recession Mapping

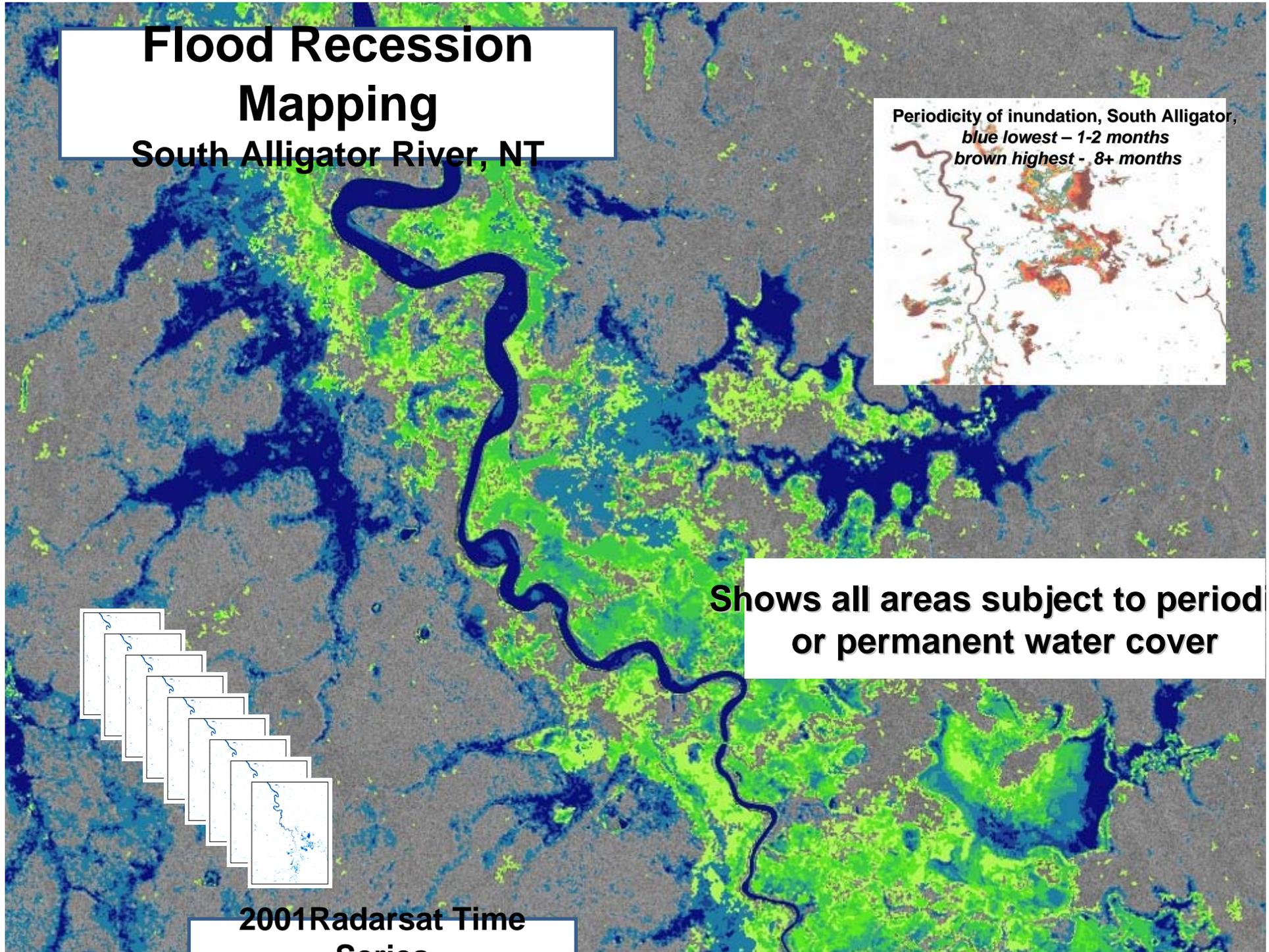
## South Alligator River, NT

Periodicity of inundation, South Alligator,  
*blue lowest – 1-2 months*  
*brown highest - 8+ months*

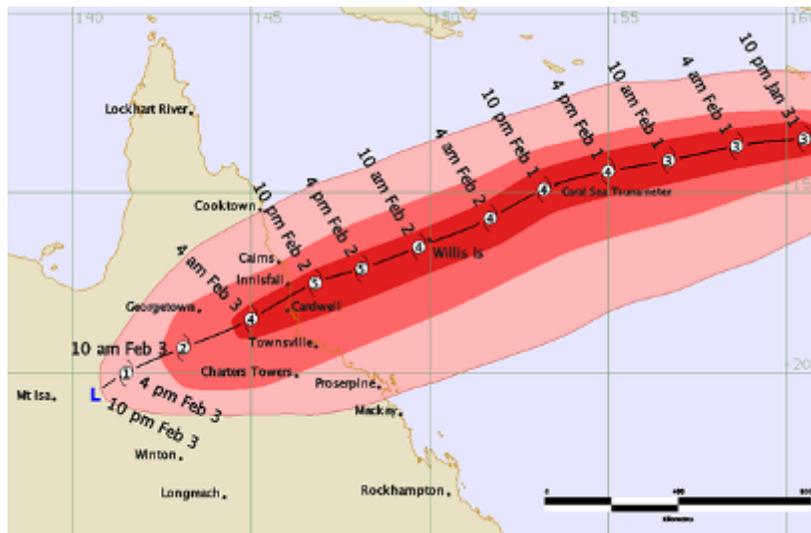
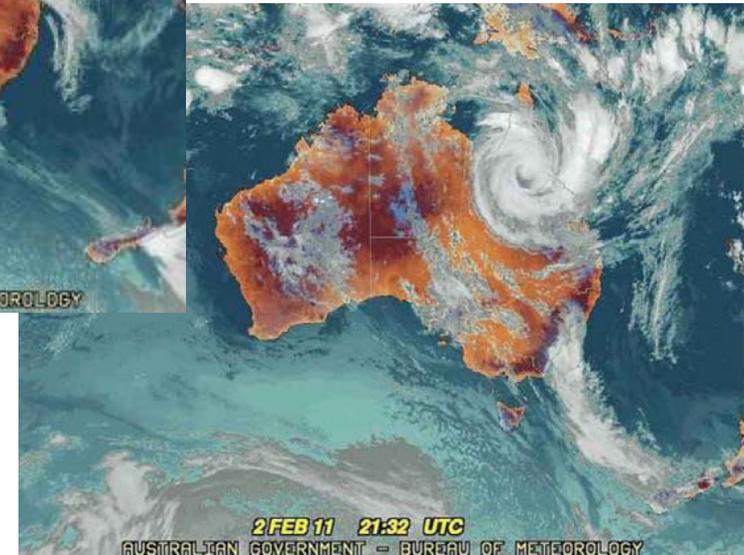
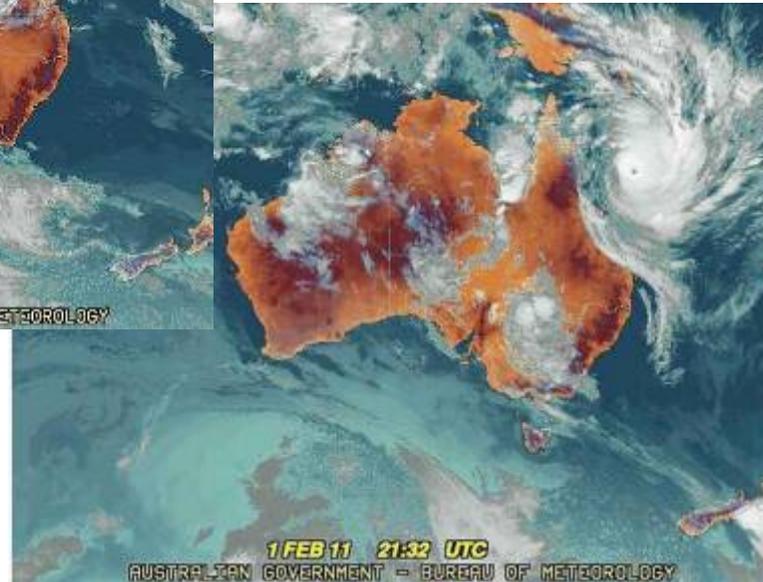
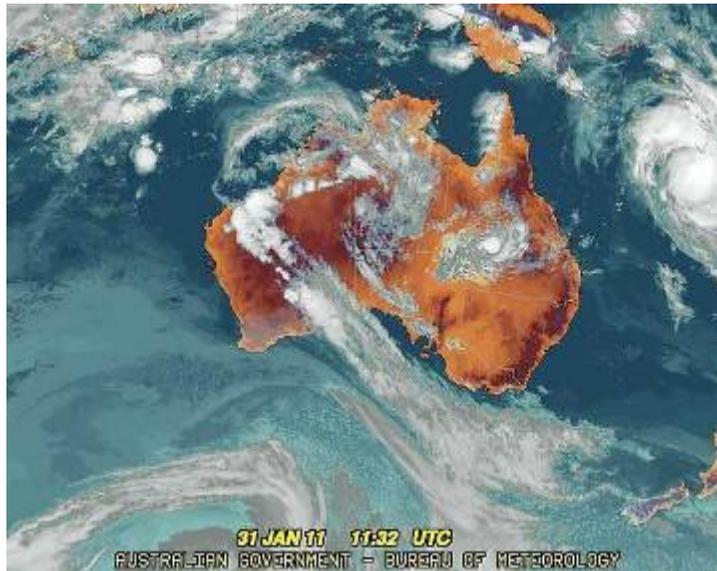
Shows all areas subject to period  
or permanent water cover



2001 Radarsat Time  
Series



# Tropical Cyclones



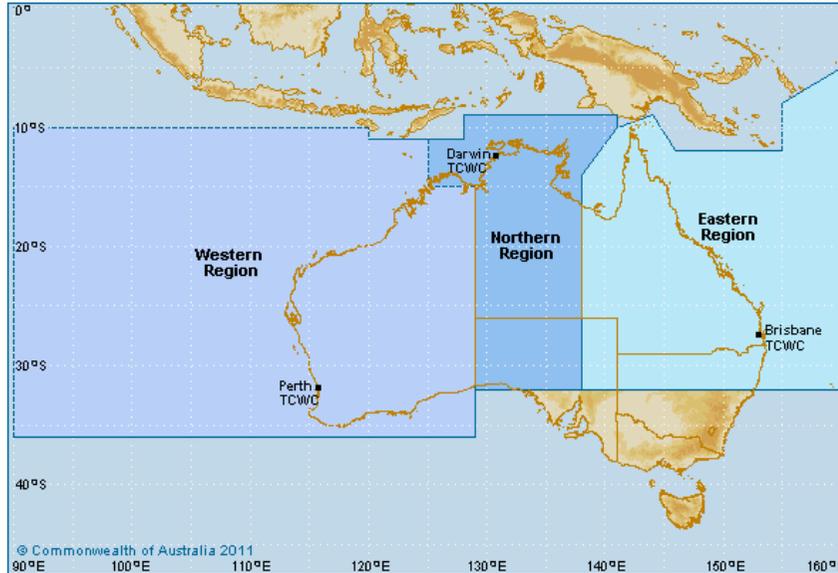
**Cyclone Yasi** is one of the most powerful cyclones to have affected Queensland since records commenced. On 2nd Feb 2011 it was upgraded to a marginal Category 5 system.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/yasi.shtml>

# Australian Regional Cyclone Network

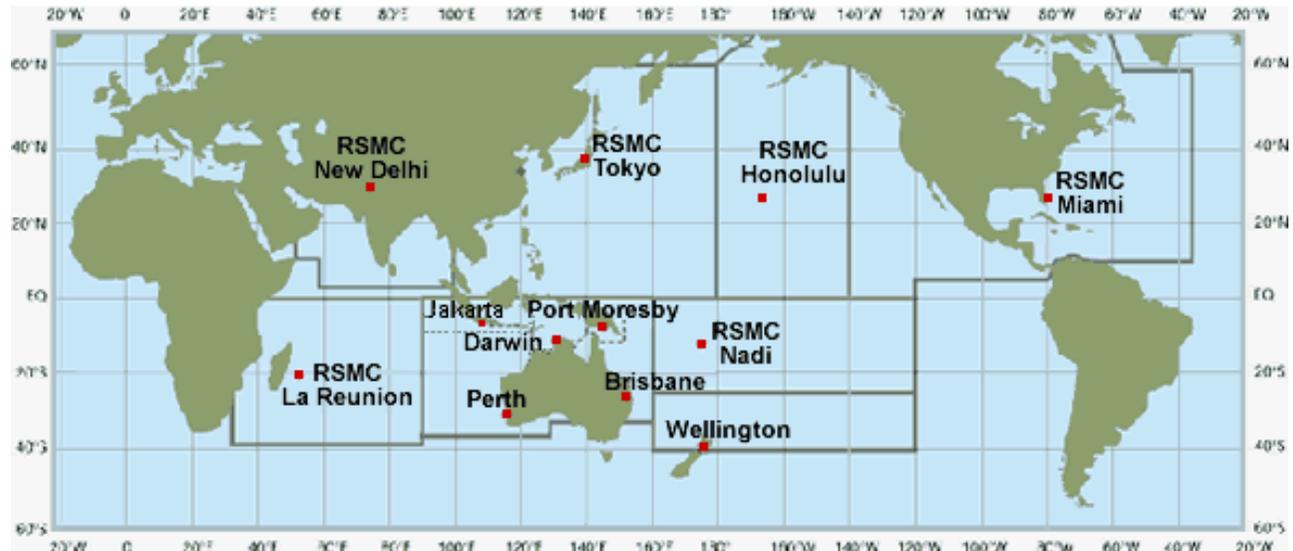
The Australian region tropical cyclone season runs from

**1 November to 30 April**

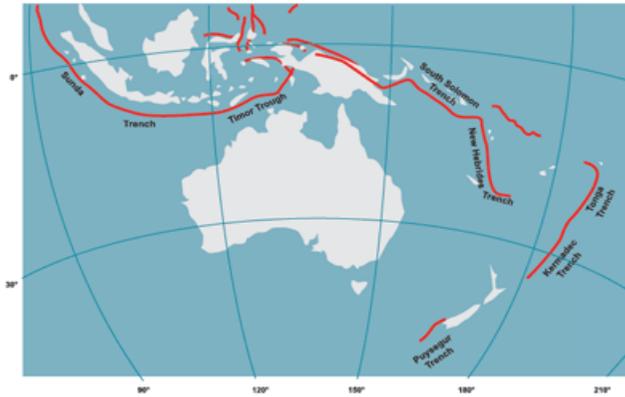


- Cyclones sometimes occur outside this period, mainly in the Central Indian Ocean southwest of Sumatra.
- Seasonal outlooks are issued in October and may be updated during the season.
- Three-day outlooks are issued during the cyclone season for most areas.
- They are issued throughout the year for the Indian Ocean area.

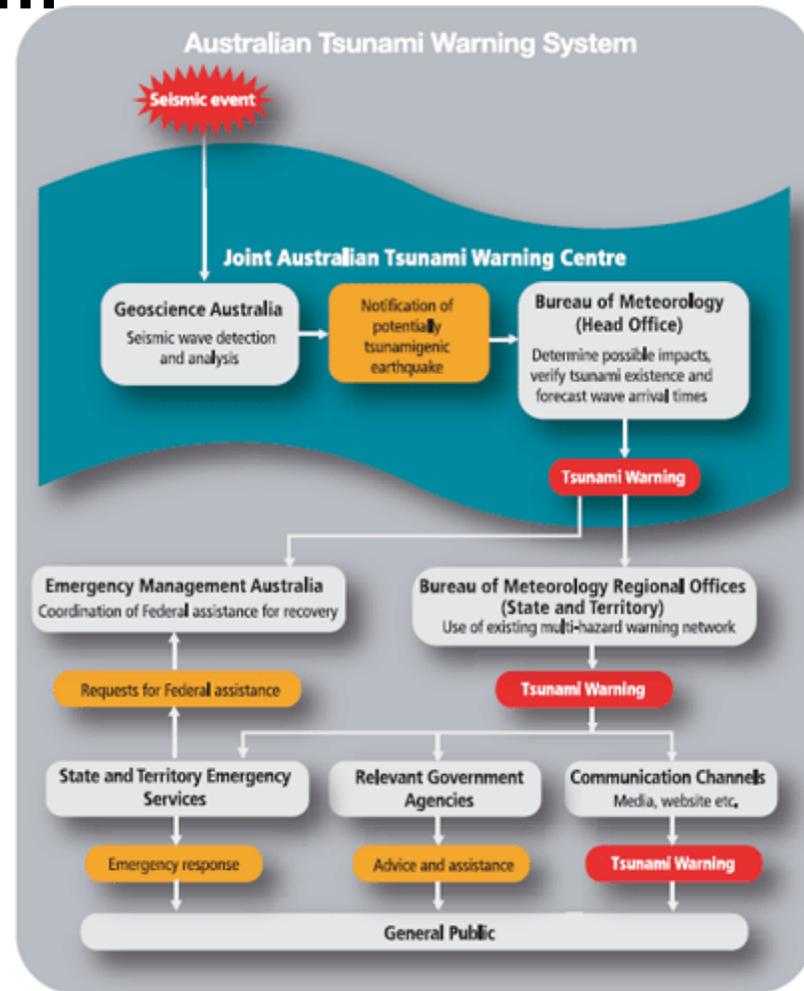
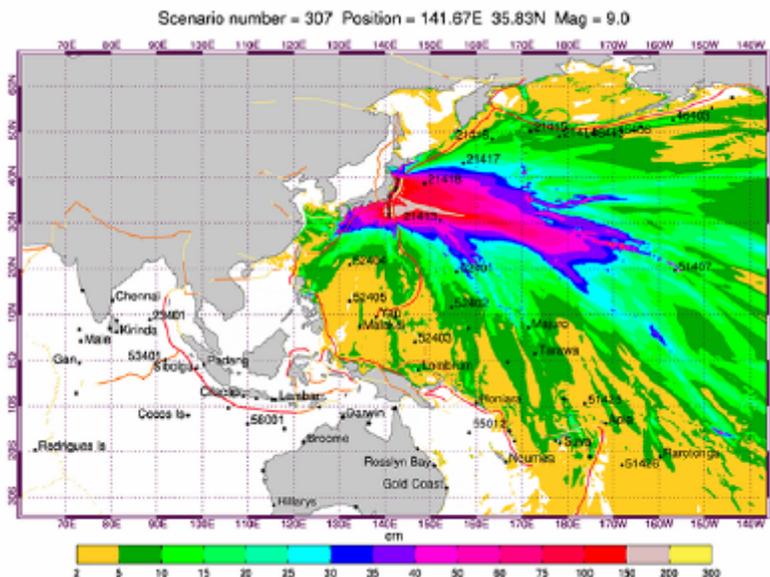
**Linked to International Network**



# Australian Tsunami Warning System

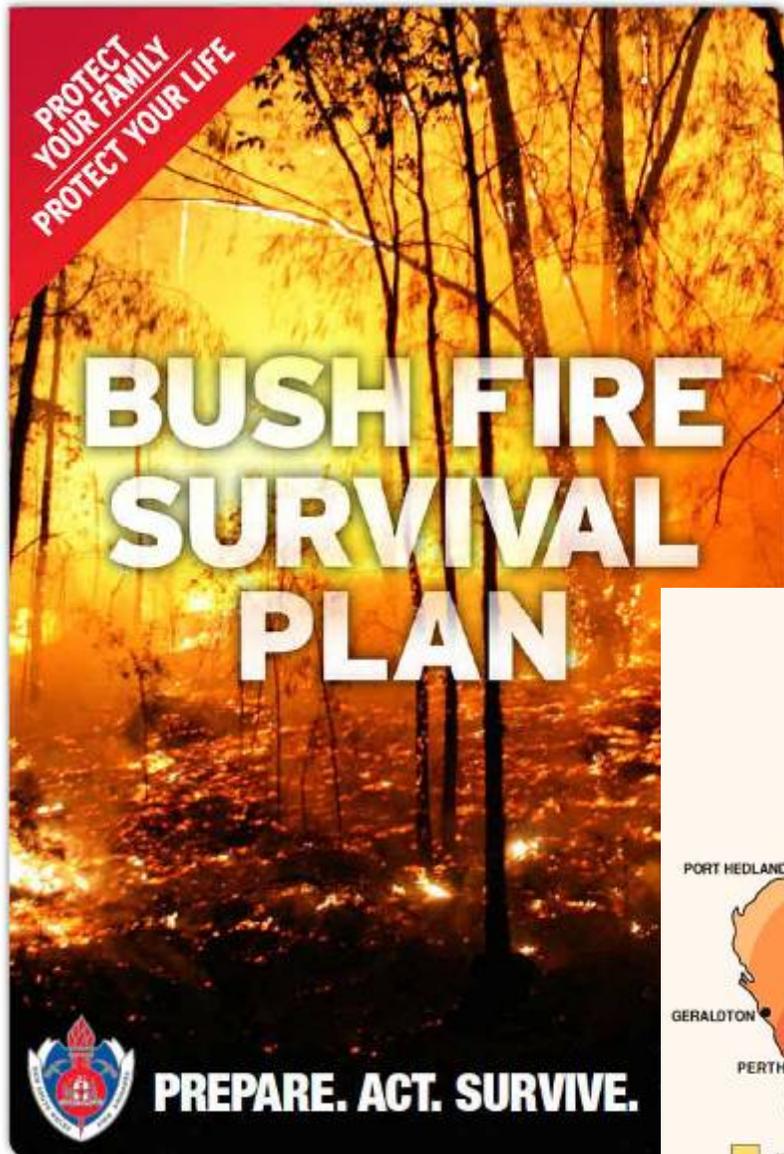


Australia is bounded on the northwest, northeast and east by some 8,000 km of active tectonic plate boundary capable of generating tsunami, which could reach our coastline within two to four hours. One-third of all earthquakes worldwide occur along these boundaries. The impact of a tsunami hitting vulnerable low-lying areas of the Australian coast could be significant.

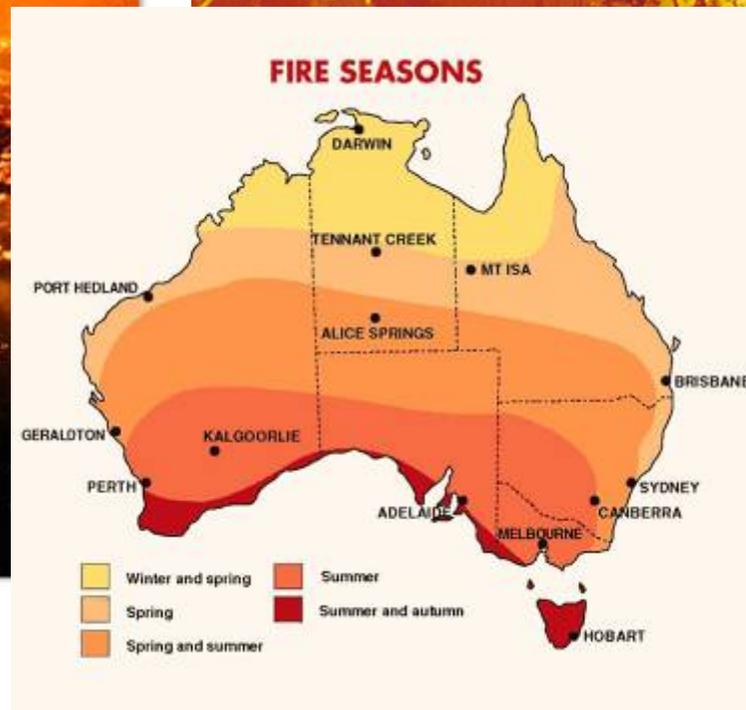


*Geoscience Australia* receives real-time data from over 50 seismic stations in Australia, and more than 120 international seismic stations.

# Australian Bushfires



Over 20% of the continental surface is burnt in any 12 month period



# Live coverage: WA's bushfire emergency

## Staff Reporters

*November 24, 2011 - 7:25AM*



A fire that has razed up to 20 properties in the Margaret River region is today contained but still not under control.

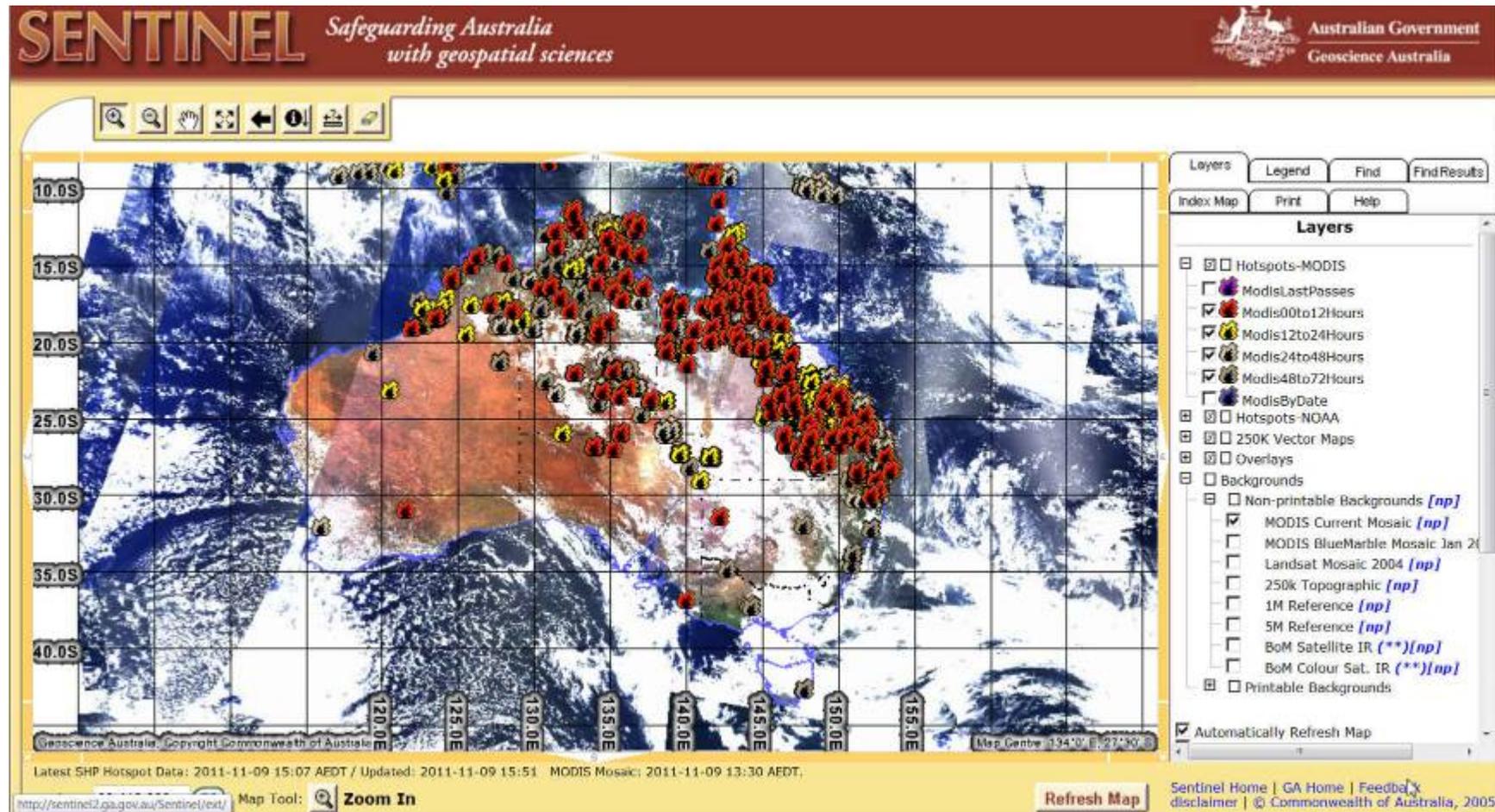
A bushfire emergency warning has been issued for people in the Kilcarnup, Prevelly and wilderness subdivisions and the area north of Wallcliffe Road and east of Caves Road in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

Read more:

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/bushfire-burns-homes-too-late-for->



# Australian Bushfires



**Sentinel is a national bushfire monitoring system that provides timely information about hotspots to emergency service managers across Australia. The mapping system allows users to identify fire locations with a potential risk to communities and property.**

# Australian Bushfires

**SENTINEL** *Safeguarding Australia with geospatial sciences*

Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Map Tools: **Zoom In**

Layers Legend Find Find Results  
Index Map Print Help

**Find**

Zoom to State

Find by Attribute  
Features within Buffer  
Zoom to Coordinate

Geoscience Australia - Copyright Commonwealth of Australia

Latest SHIP Hotspot Data: 2011-11-09 15:07 AEDT / Updated: 2011-11-09 15:51 MODIS Mosaic: 2011-11-09 13:30 AEDT.

<http://sentinel2.ga.gov.au/Sentinel/text/> **Refresh Map** Sentinel Home | GA Home | Feedback disclaimer | © Commonwealth of Australia 2001

# Australian Bushfires

**GRASS FIRES CAN KILL.  
TAKE ACTION NOW.**



After years of drought, the worst bushfire season in over a century has been unleashed in NSW. It has also brought an increased fire threat to the rest of the country.

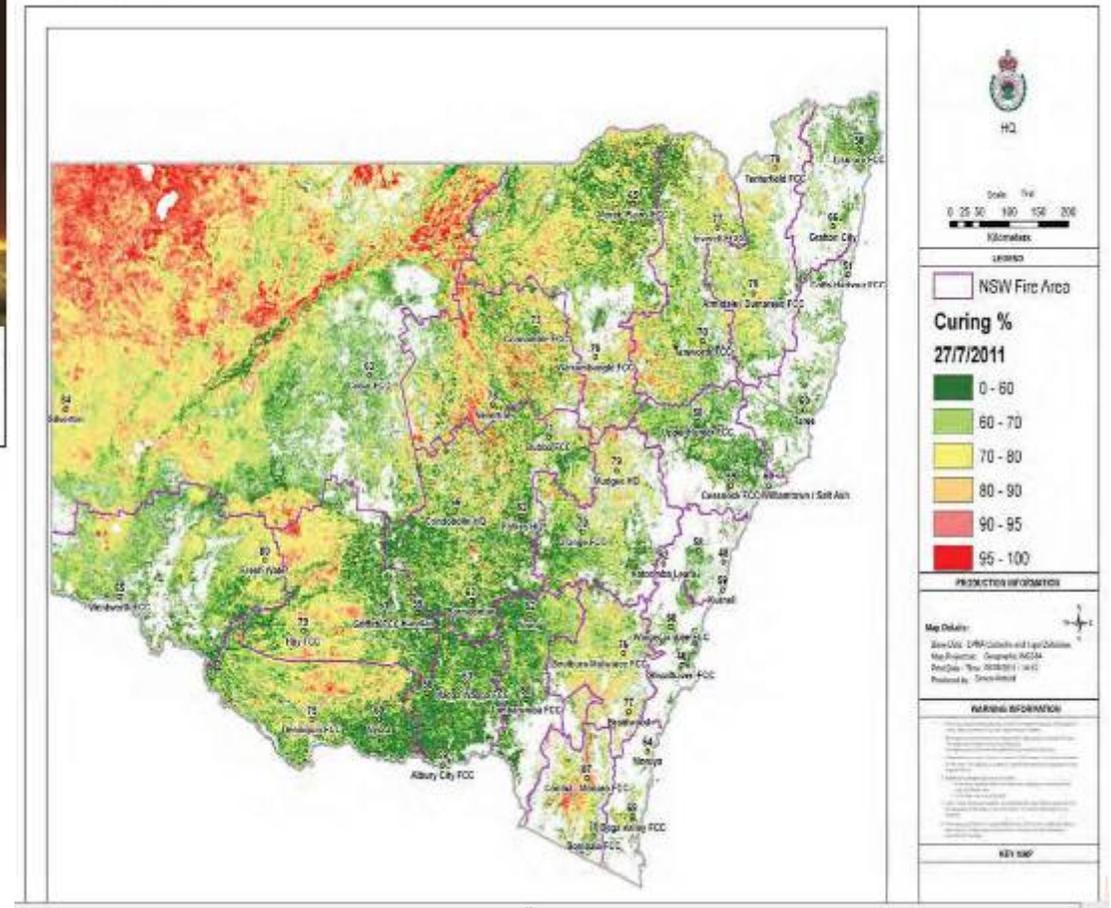
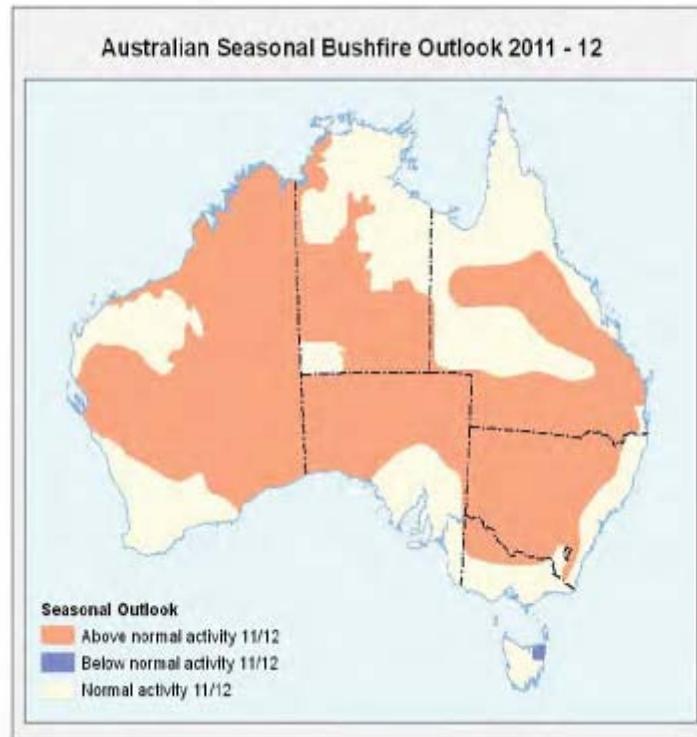
Check that you have a fire plan and that you know what to do in an emergency. Visit [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

Take a fire plan. Build a firebreak. Turn around and drive home. Most of all, prepare your escape plan. Make sure you've completed your Bushfire Survival Plan.

NSW Fire & Rescue Service is available 24/7 for advice and assistance. For more information visit [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au) or call 1800 679 737.



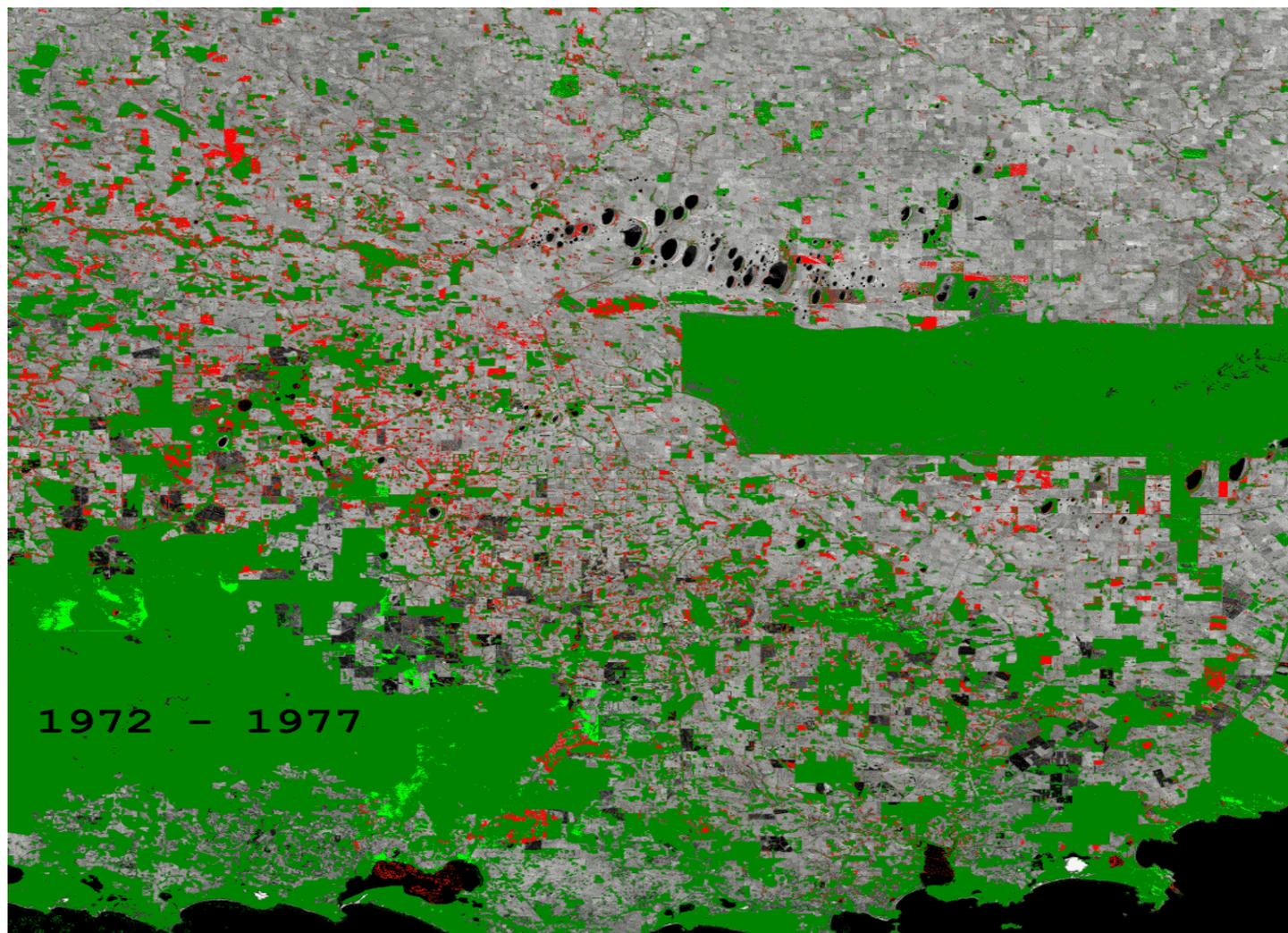



**Grassland Curing at 27 July, 2011**

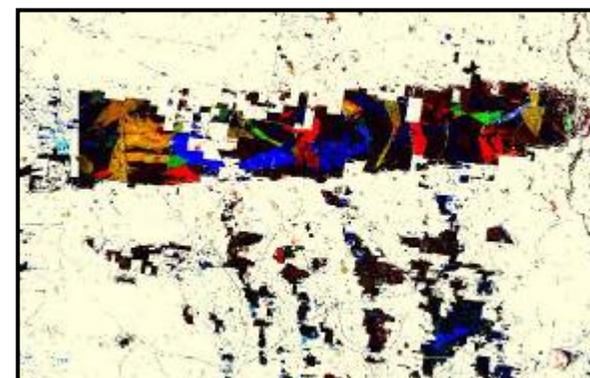


# Change Mapping

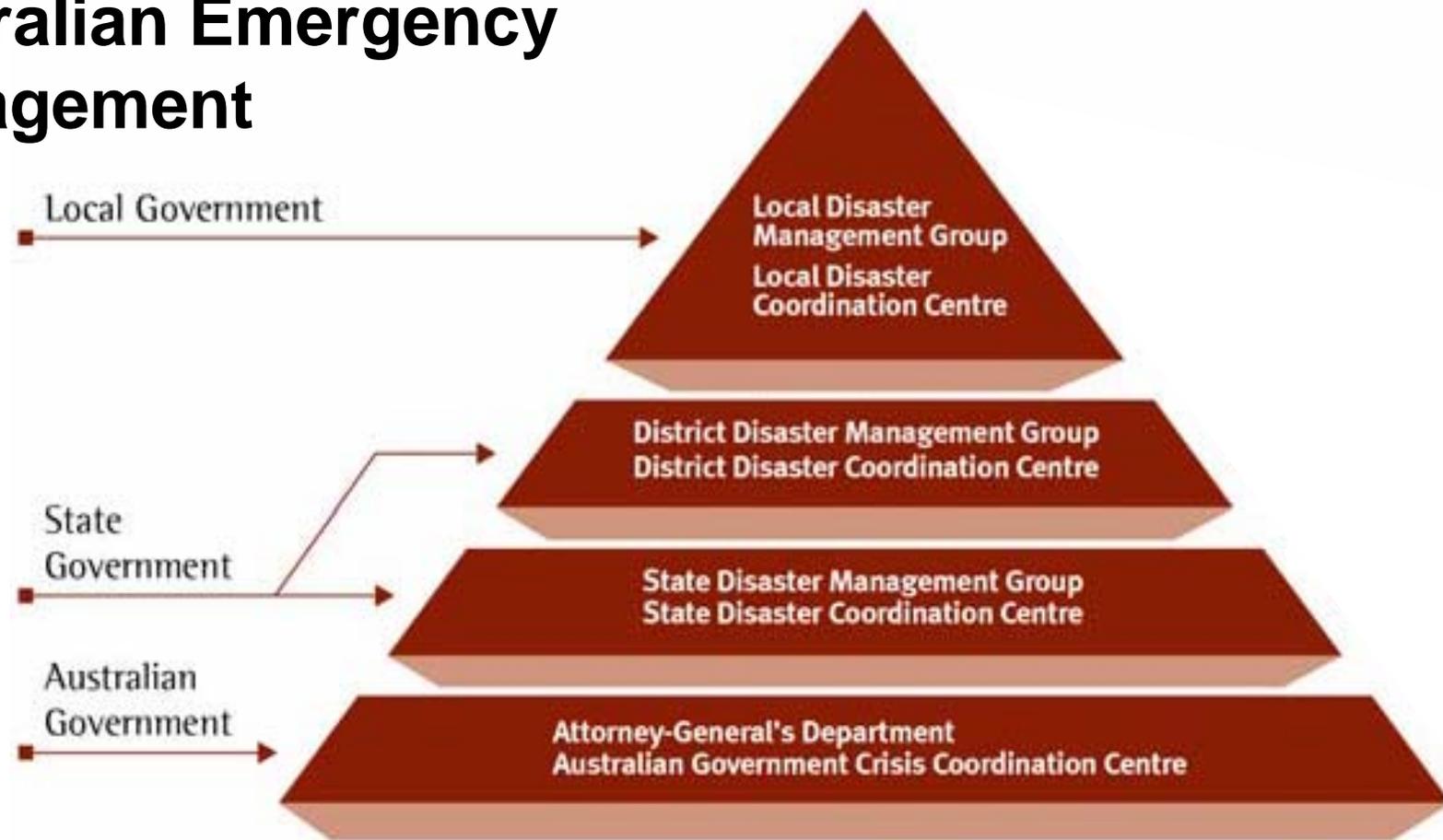
Trends 1996-2006



**Black:** stable over time  
**Colours:** fire history and recovery by date (Wallace et al.)



# Australian Emergency Management



Disaster management groups are established at local, district and State levels and supported by disaster coordination centres. The Australian Government is committed to supporting States and Territories in developing their capacity for dealing with emergencies and disasters, and provides physical assistance to requesting States or Territories when they cannot reasonably cope during an emergency. Australian Government agencies include :

[Department of Finance and Deregulation](#)  
[Metecology](#)

[Geoscience Australia](#)

[Bureau of](#)



# EO System Issues

- Timeliness
- Delivery mode - internet capacity and connectivity
- Duplication/redundancy of products-amount of data
- Communication and networking of providers – greater coordination
- Data policy and licence issues
- Data

**No single sensor source for all crisis events**  
**Multi-sourced data requirement**  
*Question of interoperability*



# IT System Issues

- Clear understanding of information products needed for emergency situations - “rapid mapping”?
- Analysis, interpretation - who does it??
- Products and service delivery – how ?
- Access to and incorporation of local baseline geospatial datasets - fusion
- Dissemination to disaster management community
- Degree of familiarisation with spatial products

Where should this processing take place  
*Question of repository*



# Capacity building Issues

- Must include financial, programmatic, institutional, personnel and community commitment
- Technology transfer – hardware/software
- Involve specialised technical training
- Include advisory services – best practice
- Integrate across emergency response, recovery and mitigation phase management

**Empowering and strengthening local and regional  
disaster management communities**

*Question of organisation*



No single sensor source for all crisis events  
Multi-sourced data requirement  
*Question of interoperability*

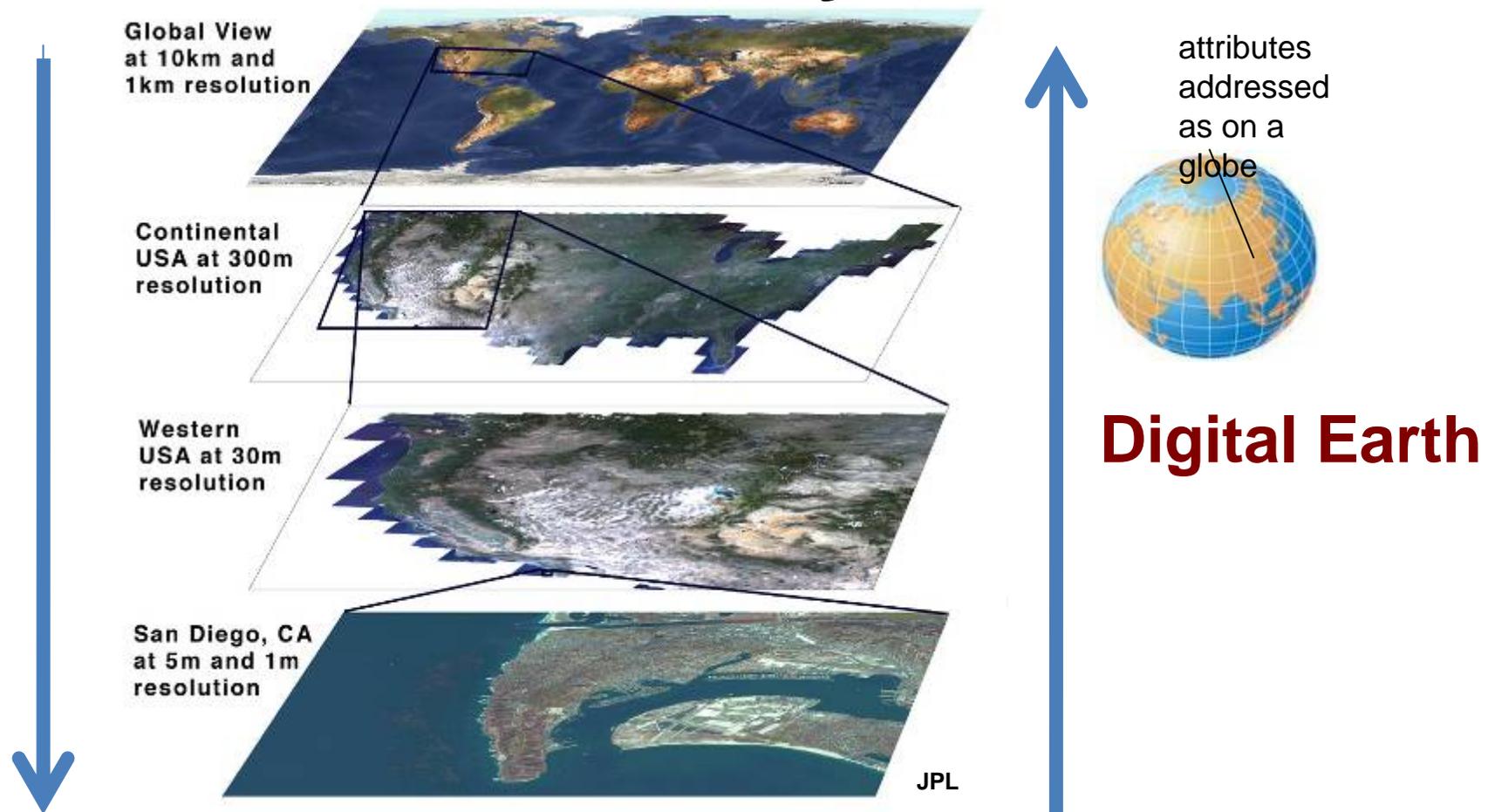
Where should this processing take place  
*Question of repository*

Empowering and strengthening local and regional  
disaster management communities  
*Question of organisation*



**Need for local knowledge, skills and the fusion of EO  
with other geospatial data is the most persuasive  
argument for equipping Country Disaster Co-  
ordination Centres.**

# Challenge – Greater Spatial Literacy



**Geospatial** is a term widely used to describe the combination of [spatial](#) software and [analytical](#) methods with terrestrial or [geographic](#) datasets

# Convergence of Information Technologies

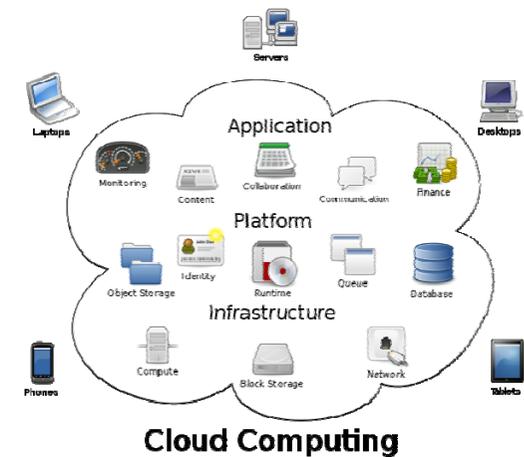


User generated content  
in a virtual community

# Convergence of Information Technologies



User generated content in a virtual community



Delivery of shared resources, software, and information to computers and other devices









# Convergence of Information Technologies



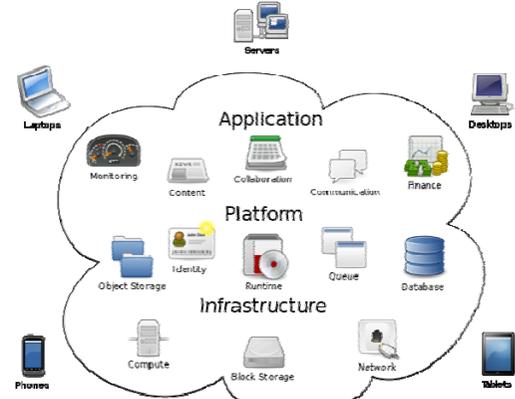
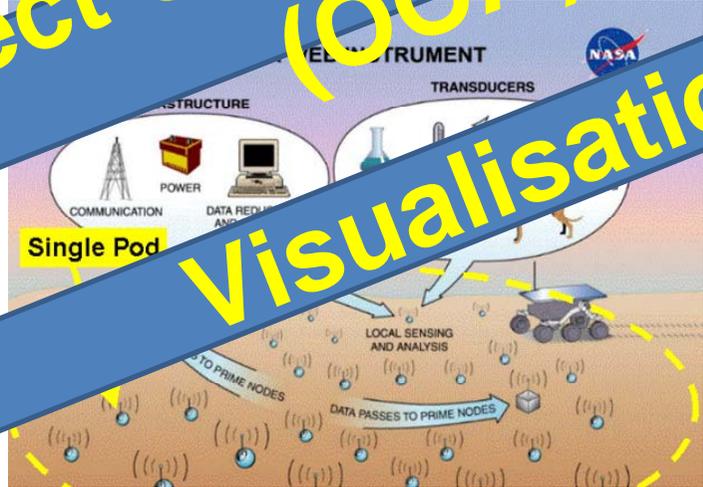
User generated content in a virtual community



To predict intelligent behaviour and actions

## Object Oriented Analysis (OOA) Visualisation

Data gathered from devices connected to computational intelligence and communication



Cloud Computing



Use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into an interactive dialogue

Delivery of shared resources, software, and information to computers and other devices

# Convergence of Information Technologies

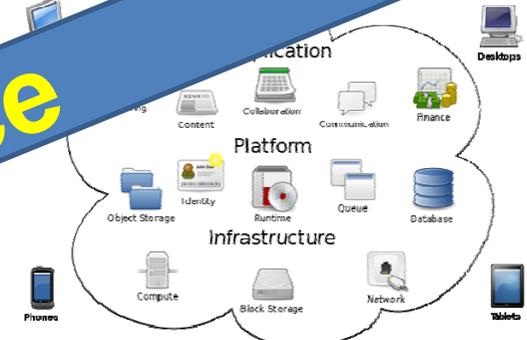
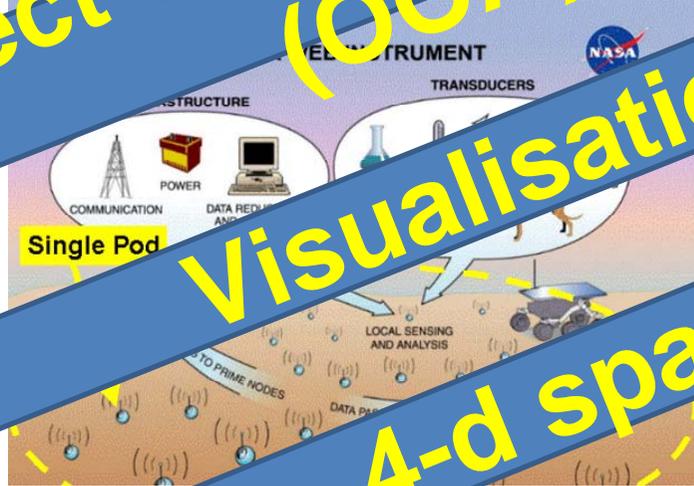


User generated content in a virtual community



To predict intelligent behaviour and actions

Data gathered from devices connected to computational intelligence and communication



Cloud Computing

Object Oriented Analysis (OOA)  
Visualisation  
4-d space



Web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into an interactive dialogue

Delivery of shared resources, software, and information to computers and other devices



**Bushfire Connect** is a free, community driven service that combines fire information from multiple sources: official and crowdsourced, through multiple media such as the web, mobile devices and SMS.

Bushfire Connect allows local communities to complement official emergency information with grassroots fire reporting.



**BushfireConnect**

# Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

## IEEE - the World's Largest Technical Professional Society

- Over 375K members
  - Including 80,000 students
  - In over 160 countries
- 1,525 Student Branches
- 324 Sections
- 38 Societies, 6 Technical Councils
- Over 1,600 Chapters



Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society

..... to work with other agencies to share GRSS's scientific, technical, educational and professional services more effectively with developing countries as well as contribute to societal benefits.....



## IEEE-GRSS Support to UN-SPIDER - On Going Dialogue

### *Major Points of Interest:*

- **UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices (RSO)**
  - infrastructure and facility program development
  - specialist consultations
- **Technical Advisory Missions**
  - providing suitable expert personnel
  - offering specialist workshops to interested countries and networks.
- **Capacity Building and Development**
  - technical training programs and curricula development
- **UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal**
  - providing Space Application Guides content ( introductory overviews case-studies and specific application examples)
  - providing Technology Guides content (introductory overviews)
  - providing free of charge access to selected eXPLORE papers dealing with Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

### *GRSS Preparatory Steps:*

- Identifying Disaster Management experts within the GRSS membership.
- Initiating a GRSS Working group on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.
- Establishing suitable GRSS/ UN-SPIDER communication and feedback mechanisms

***Thankyou!***

