



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia



POSITIONING  
AUSTRALIA

# Global to the Regional

Dr John Dawson

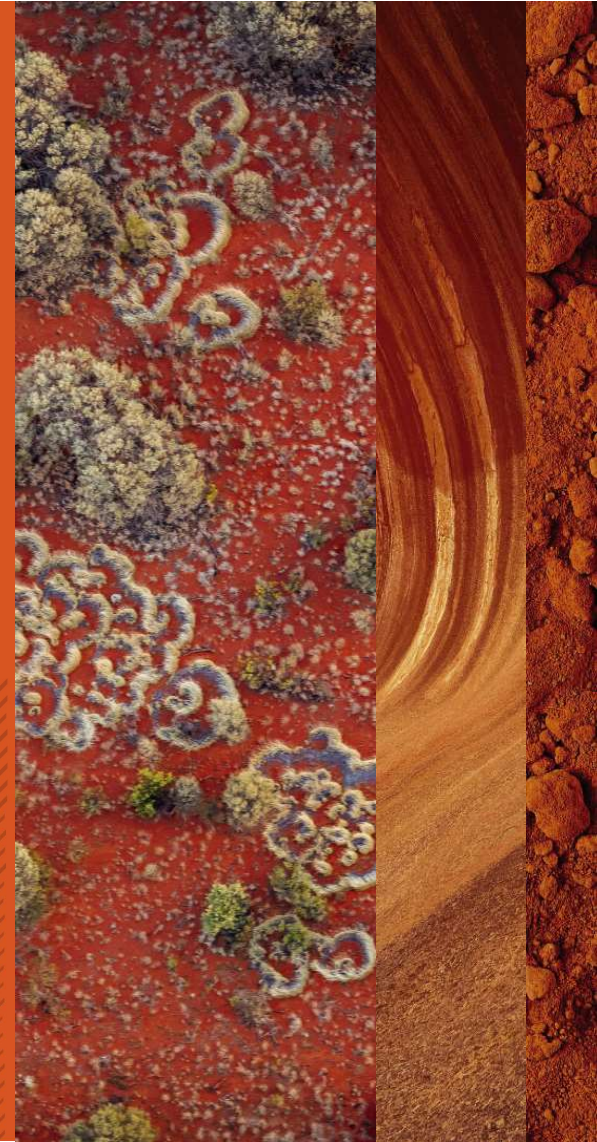
Director of Positioning, Geoscience Australia

Vice-Chair UN-GGIM-AP WG1

UN-GGIM-AP Canberra 2019



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# Presentation Overview

ITRS and ITRF and their importance

Regional ITRF densifications and the Asia Pacific Reference Frame

Overview how member states can contribute to APREF

Australian example of how we use APREF products

# ITRS and ITRF and their importance

# International Terrestrial Reference System

## International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS)

- > An internationally-agreed set of prescriptions and conventions to define a Conventional Terrestrial Reference System
- > Realised through creating a reference frame – International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)
- > Connected to International Celestial Reference System (ICRS) via Earth Orientation Parameters (EOP)
- > More information:

<https://www.iers.org/iers/EN/Science/ITRS/ITRS.html>

International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS)  
Service International de la Rotation Terrestre et des Systèmes de Référence

IERS Technical Note No. 36

## IERS Conventions (2010)

Gérard Petit<sup>1</sup> and Brian Luzum<sup>2</sup> (eds.)

IERS Conventions Centre

<sup>1</sup> Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM)

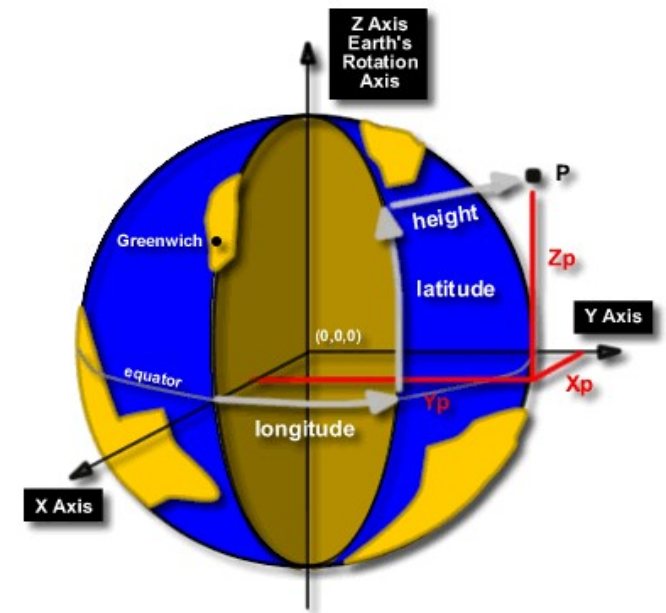
<sup>2</sup> US Naval Observatory (USNO)



# International Terrestrial Reference System

An ITRS meets the following conditions

- > Geocentric (origin is Earth centre of mass)
- > Uses the metre as the unit of length
- > Initial orientation given by BIH orientation at 1984
- > The time evolution of the orientation is ensured by using a no-net rotation condition with regards to horizontal tectonic motions over the whole earth.
- > The ITRS is of very little use to the practitioner – we need a realisation (some coordinates)



# International Terrestrial Reference Frame

## International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)

- > Follows the conventions set out for the ITRS
- > Re-realised routinely (ITRF89, ITRF90, ITRF91, ITRF92, ITRF93, ITRF94, ITRF95, ITRF96, ITRF97, ITRF2000, ITRF2005, ITRF2008, ITRF2014)
- > Provides a set of coordinates and velocities for several hundred stations worldwide
- > Uses a geocentric coordinate system (XYZ)
- > Data from four space geodesy observing systems
- > Most recent is ITRF2014
- > ITRF2020 is in development

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IERS Technical Note No. 38

## Analysis and results of ITRF2014

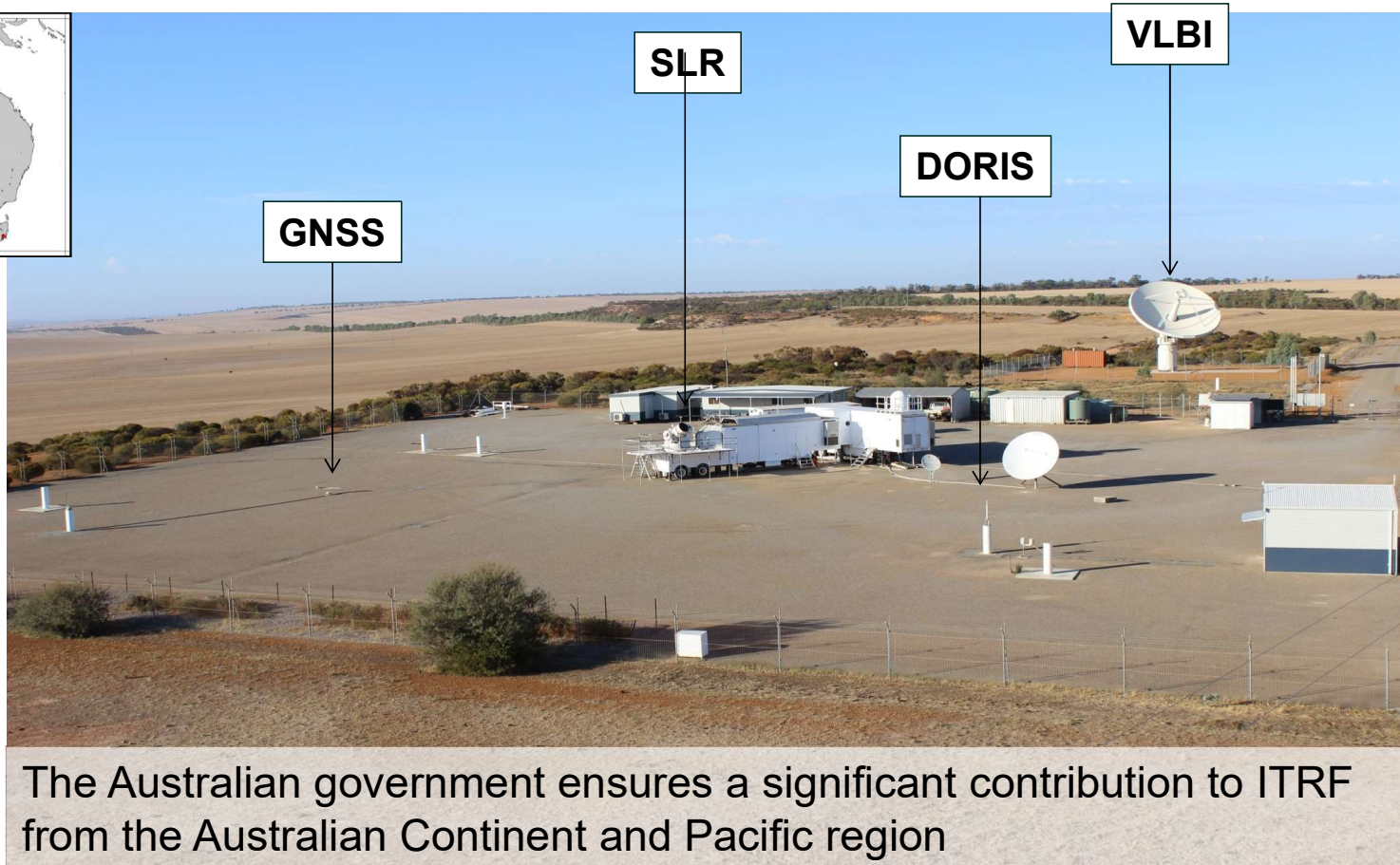
Z. Altamimi, P. Rebischung, L. Métivier, X. Collilieux

# Data for ITRF

Four observational techniques

- > GNSS (GPS and GLONASS)
  - > Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR)
  - > Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI)
  - > Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated by Satellite (DORIS)
- 
- > Station position time series
  - > Earth Orientation Parameters (EOP)
  - > Local ties (high accuracy survey connection between the above techniques at observatories)

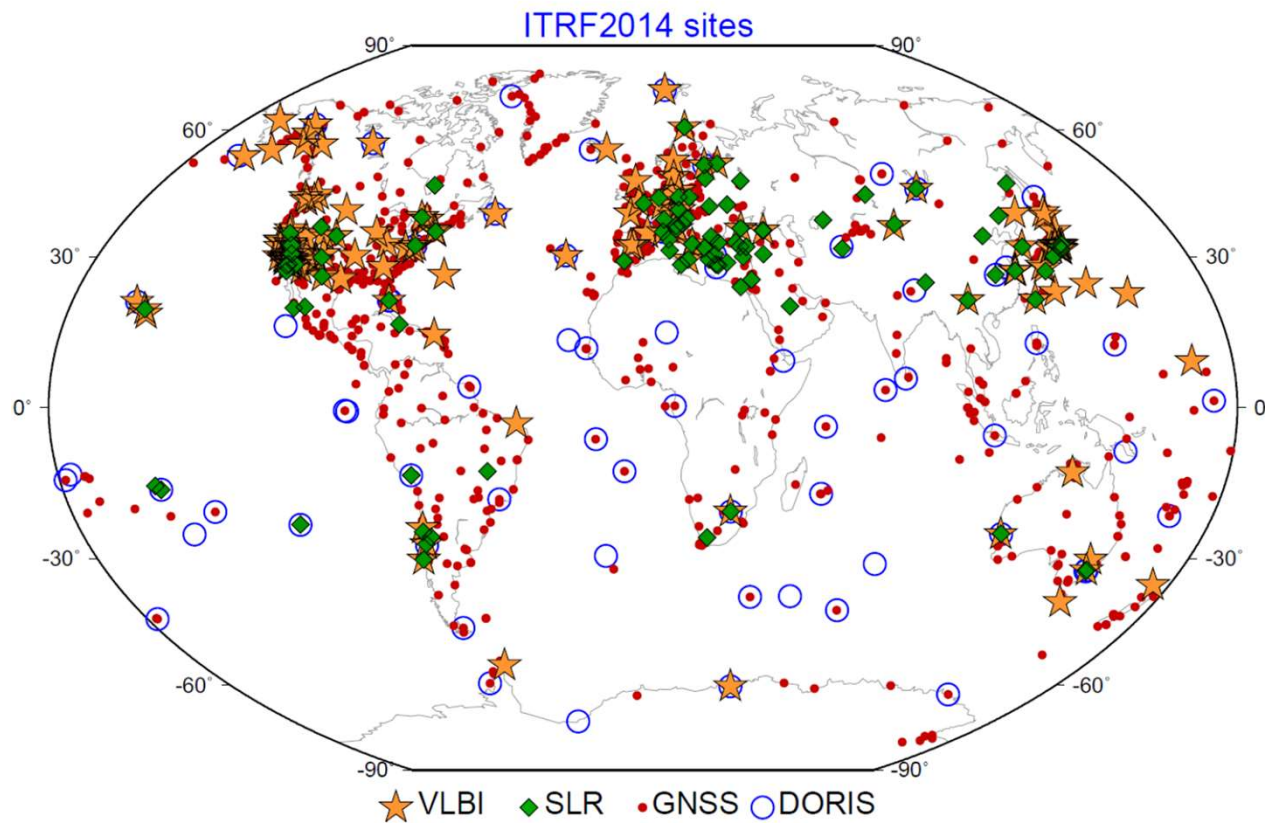
# Yarragadee Observatory, Western Australia



The Australian government ensures a significant contribution to ITRF from the Australian Continent and Pacific region



# International Terrestrial Reference Frame

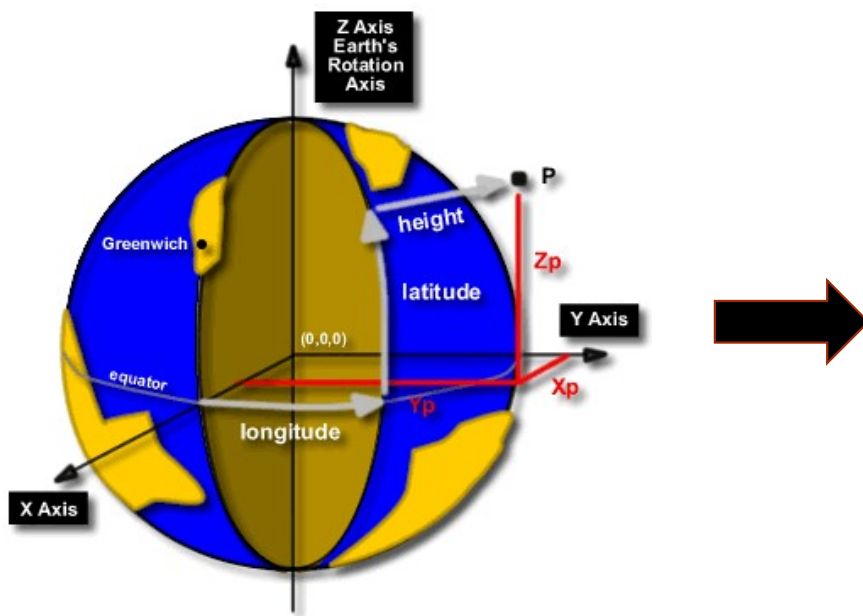


# International Terrestrial Reference Frame

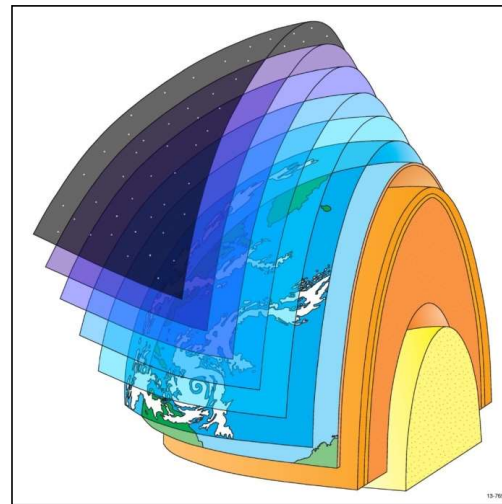
## ITRF2014

- > Observations from 1980.0 to 2015.1 (but only a few stations have observations over the entire period)
- > Accounts for annual and semi-annual signals
- > Includes post-seismic deformation models for sites affected by significant earthquakes
- > Products include coordinates, velocities and transformation parameters
- > More information: <http://itrf.ensg.ign.fr/>

# Why the ITRF is so important



## Earth System Science



Well defined and realised station coordinates (and velocities) underpin science of the Earth's interior, solid Earth, atmosphere, oceans, cryosphere, space environment

# Regional ITRF densifications and APREF

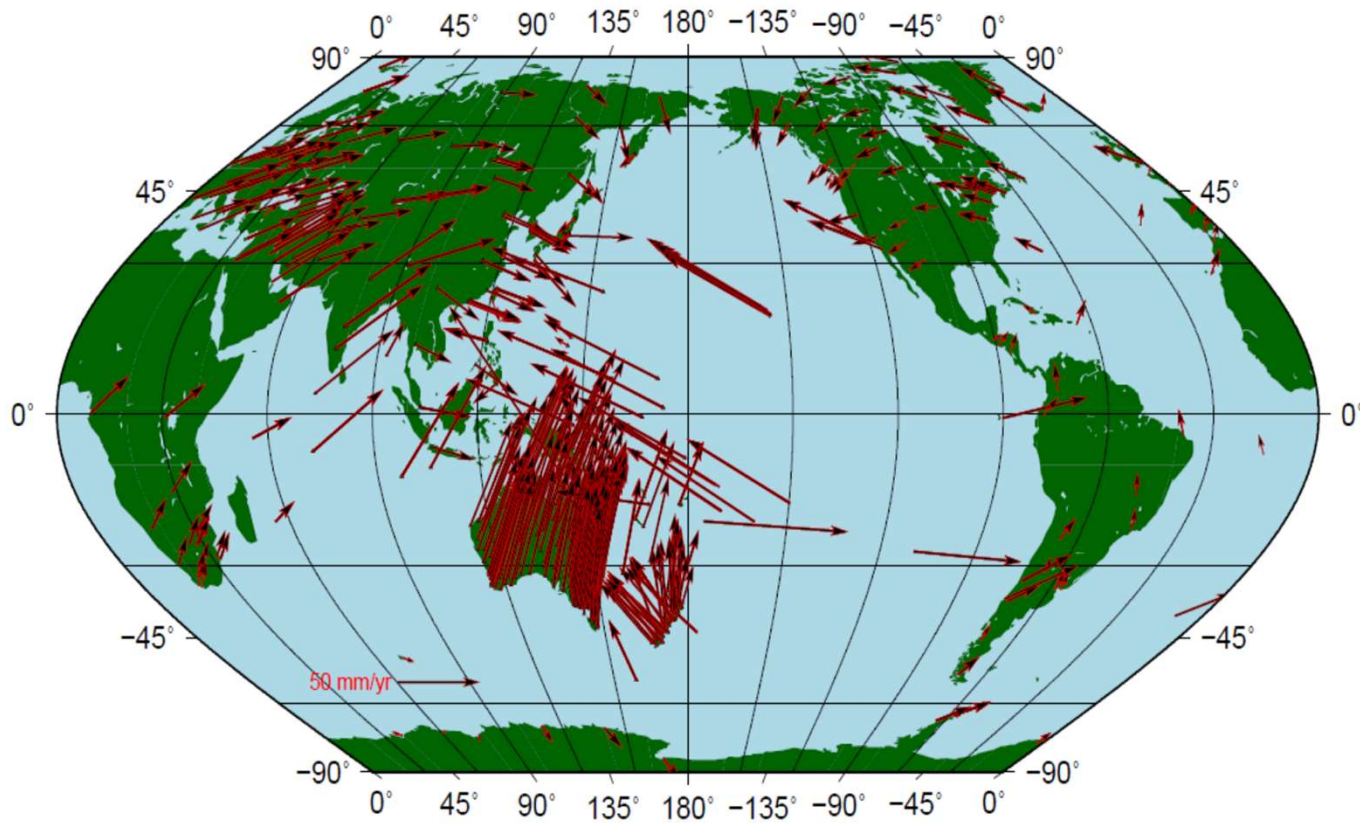
# Regional Reference Frames

## Regional Reference Frames

- > Cover large regions of the globe
- > Greater densification of stations
- > Easier (but slightly indirect) link to the ITRF
- > Consists solely of GNSS stations (including ITRF GNSS stations)
- > Coordinates, velocities and time series plots produced
- > Africa – AFREF
- > Europe – EUREF
- > North and South America – SIRGAS
- > Asia-Pacific – APREF (also APRGP – campaign mode)



# Asia Pacific Reference Frame



















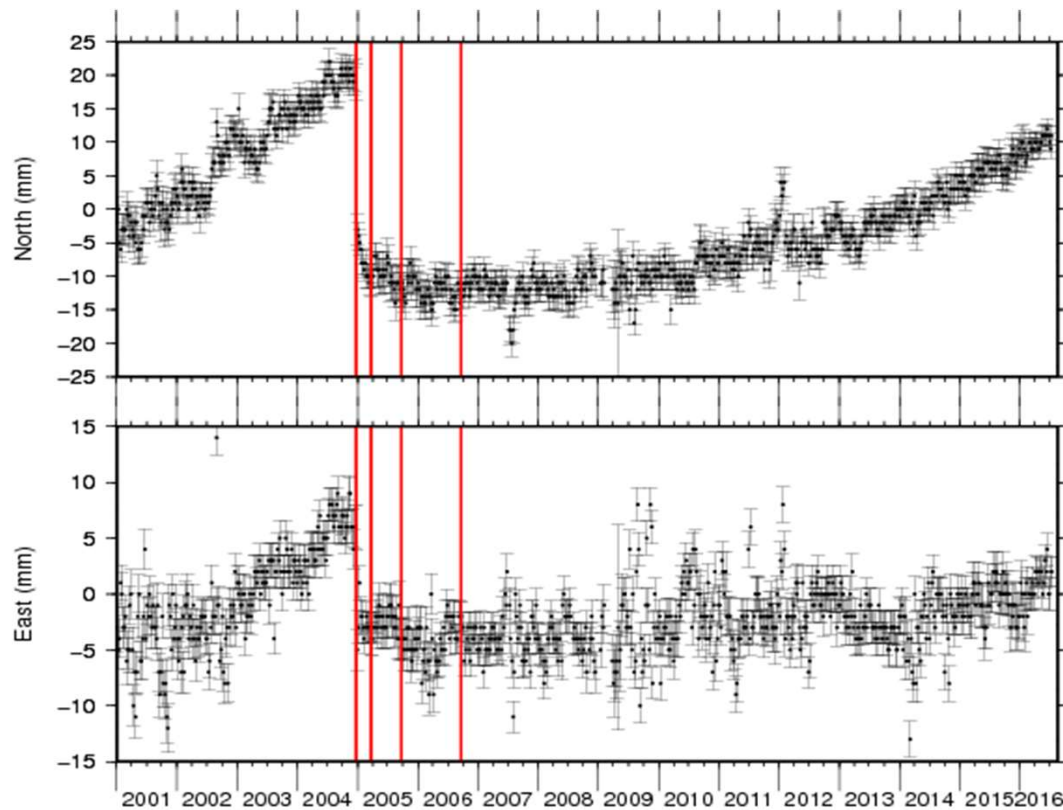






# Asia Pacific Reference Frame

Macquarie Island coordinate time-series

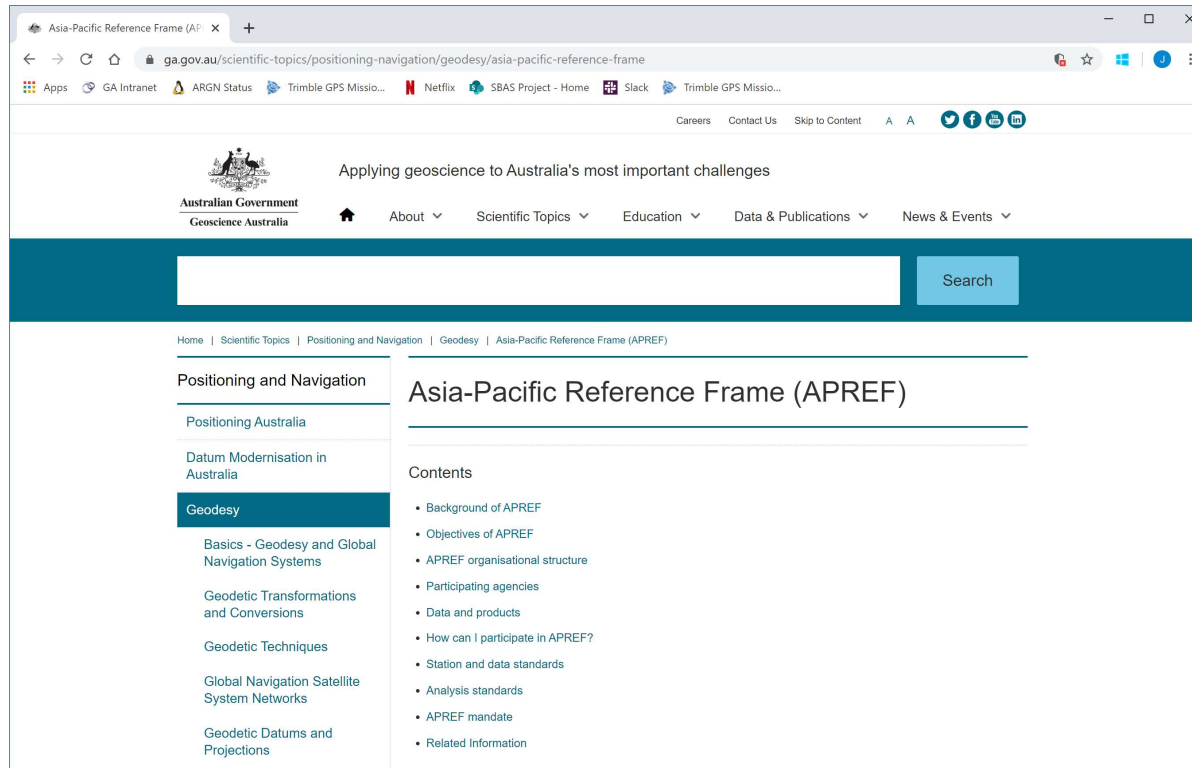


## Report on the Asia Pacific Reference Frame (APREF) Project

GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA  
RECORD 2019/17

G. Hu, M. Jia, J. Dawson

# Asia Pacific Reference Frame



> [www.ga.gov.au](http://www.ga.gov.au) then search for APREF



# Proposing a New APREF Station

## 4.2 Propose an APREF Station

- (a) Station Operators, who have are participating in the APREF project, can propose new stations for inclusion into the network via email to:

**gnss@ga.gov.au**

**Subject: Proposed APREF Station**

The email should state:

- A long-term commitment (at least 2 years) to operate the station.
- The chosen four-character identification code.
- Digital photos of the station.
- The receiver and antenna type using standard names.
- The planned data products (RINEX daily files are the minimum requirement).
- Any restrictions to be placed on the data products.

**Unless otherwise stated it is assumed that all data products will be open access.**

- If the Station Operator is not the Station Owner, then a signed letter of consent should be issued by the Station Owner for a secondary party to submit on their behalf.

Send	From ▾	Ryan.Ruddick@ga.gov.au
	To...	<input type="checkbox"/> GA GNSS Operations;
	Cc...	
	Subject	Proposed APREF Station

Dear APREF Data Centre,

I would like to propose the GNSS reference station "CBIA00AUS" into the Asia-Pacific Reference Frame (APREF) network.

The station is located near the town of Columboola in Queensland, Australia. The station has been in operation for 4 years and we have an agreement to operate this station for a further 10 years. The station is owned and operated by Geoscience Australia.

To help with your assessment I have attached photos of the station showing the monument, the antenna serial number and the antenna from all four cardinal directions.

The station is equipped with a "LEIAR10 NONE" geodetic antenna connected to a "LEICA GR25" geodetic multi-GNSS receiver. The equipment has been configured to track the GPS, GAL and GLO constellations.

The station will provide Daily RINEX Files. Geoscience Australia encourages open data, as such there is no restriction on the files.

Kind regards,

**Ryan Ruddick**  
 Section Leader | GNSS Infrastructure and Informatics  
 National Positioning Infrastructure | Positioning and Community Safety Division  
 t +61 2 6249 9426 m +61 (0) 429 771 069

**GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA**  
 APPLYING GEOSCIENCE TO AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES

*Make flexibility work. If you receive an email from me at a time that is outside of normal business hours, I am sending it at a time that suits me. I am not expecting you to read or reply until normal business hours.*


4.2	<b>Propose an APREF Station</b>
(a)	<p>Station Operators, who have are participating in the APREF project, can propose new stations for inclusion into the network via email to:</p> <p><b>gnss@ga.gov.au</b></p> <p><b>Subject: Proposed APREF Station</b></p> <p>The email should state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A long-term commitment (at least 2 years) to operate the station.</li> <li>• The chosen four-character identification code.</li> <li>• Digital photos of the station.</li> <li>• The receiver and antenna type using standard names.</li> <li>• The planned data products (RINEX daily files are the minimum requirement).</li> <li>• Any restrictions to be placed on the data products.</li> </ul> <p><b>Unless otherwise stated it is assumed that all data products will be open access.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Station Operator is not the Station Owner, then a signed letter of consent should be issued by the Station Owner for a secondary party to submit on their behalf.</li> </ul>

Check Site ID


Not secure | sopac-old.ucsd.edu/checkSiteID.shtml




DataMetadataAppsMetricsAppian

Scripps Orbit and Permanent Array Center / California Spatial Reference Center

SOPAC

[SOPAC HOMEPAGE](#) / [CSRC HOMEPAGE](#)





Check Site ID


List of 4-character site IDs to check:  
 (space delimited, max=20)  

Check your list against codes in use

Show all site codes

Site codes already in use:  
cbla

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CBLA00AUS\_ANT\_SN.JPG



CBLA00AUS\_MN\_001.JPG



CBLA00AUS\_ANT\_000.JPG



CBLA00AUS\_ANT\_090.JPG



CBLA00AUS\_ANT\_180.JPG



CBLA00AUS\_ANT\_270.JPG



CBLA00AUS\_MN\_002.JPG

<b>5</b>	<b>Metadata Submission</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Site Log Files</b>
(a)	<p>Accepted stations are invited to submit their complete metadata records.</p> <p>Metadata will be accepted via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Geoscience Australia GNSS Site Manager. <a href="https://gnss-site-manager.geodesy.ga.gov.au">https://gnss-site-manager.geodesy.ga.gov.au</a></li> <li>• IGS style site log files.</li> <li>• GeodesyML site log files.</li> </ul> <p>To use the Geoscience Australia GNSS Site Manager, Station Operator are required to have an individual account. The APREF network operations team will provided account details and submission instructions.</p>

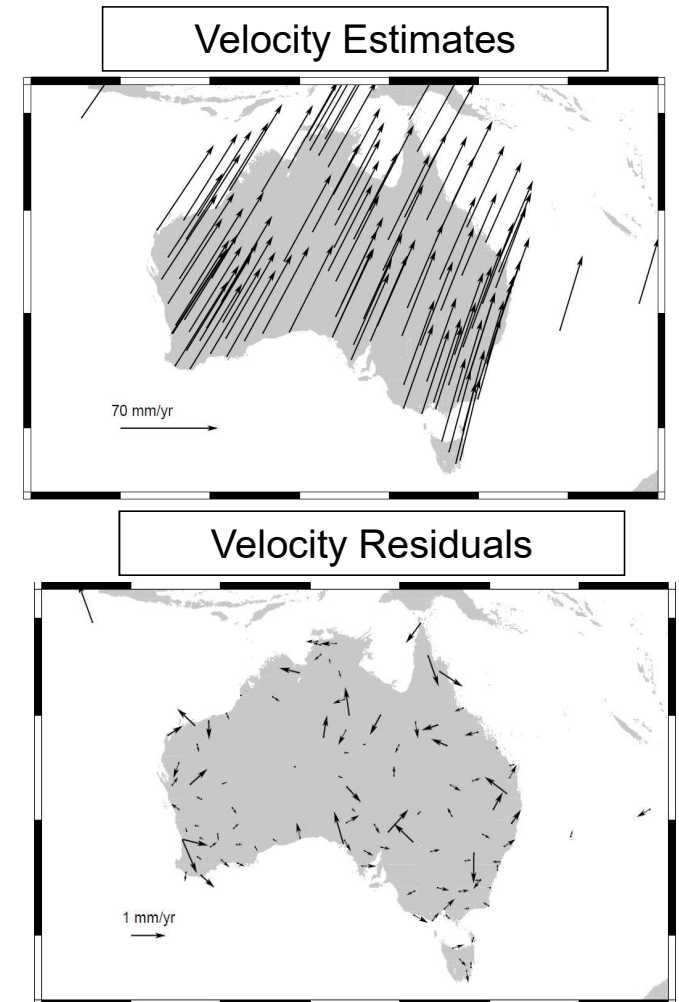
<b>6</b>	<b>Data Submission</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>RINEX Daily Files</b>
(a)	<p>Accepted stations are invited to submit RINEX daily files to one or more APREF data repositories</p> <p>Data submission will be accepted via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pushing to a secure API (https).</li> <li>• Pushing to a secure FTP server (sftp).</li> </ul> <p>Both methods require the Station Operator to have an individual account. The APREF network operations team will provided account details and submission instructions.</p>



# How we use APREF in Australia

# Geocentric Datum of Australia

- > The Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) was derived from the APREF solution
- > ITRF2014@2020
- > 109 high quality sites extracted and their coordinates are the basis for legally traceable positioning in Australia
- > Velocity estimates used to determine plate model which is subsequently used to model between ITRF@epoch and GDA2020







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