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WEEK 2025**

AND

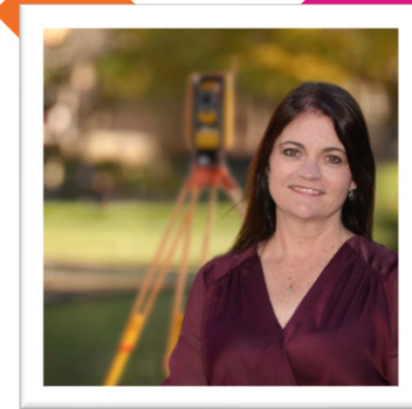
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THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience:  
Championing a Digital Generation

Presented at the FIG Working Week 2025  
6-10 April  
Brisbane, Australia 6-10 April

**Geospatial**  
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# Surveying Sustainability: Insights, Challenges, and Opportunities from the Sustainability Assessment Tool



*Michelle Blicavs*  
*Chief Executive Officer, Surveyors Australia*

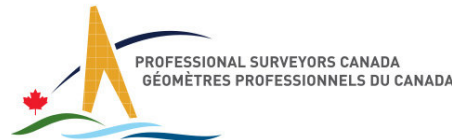
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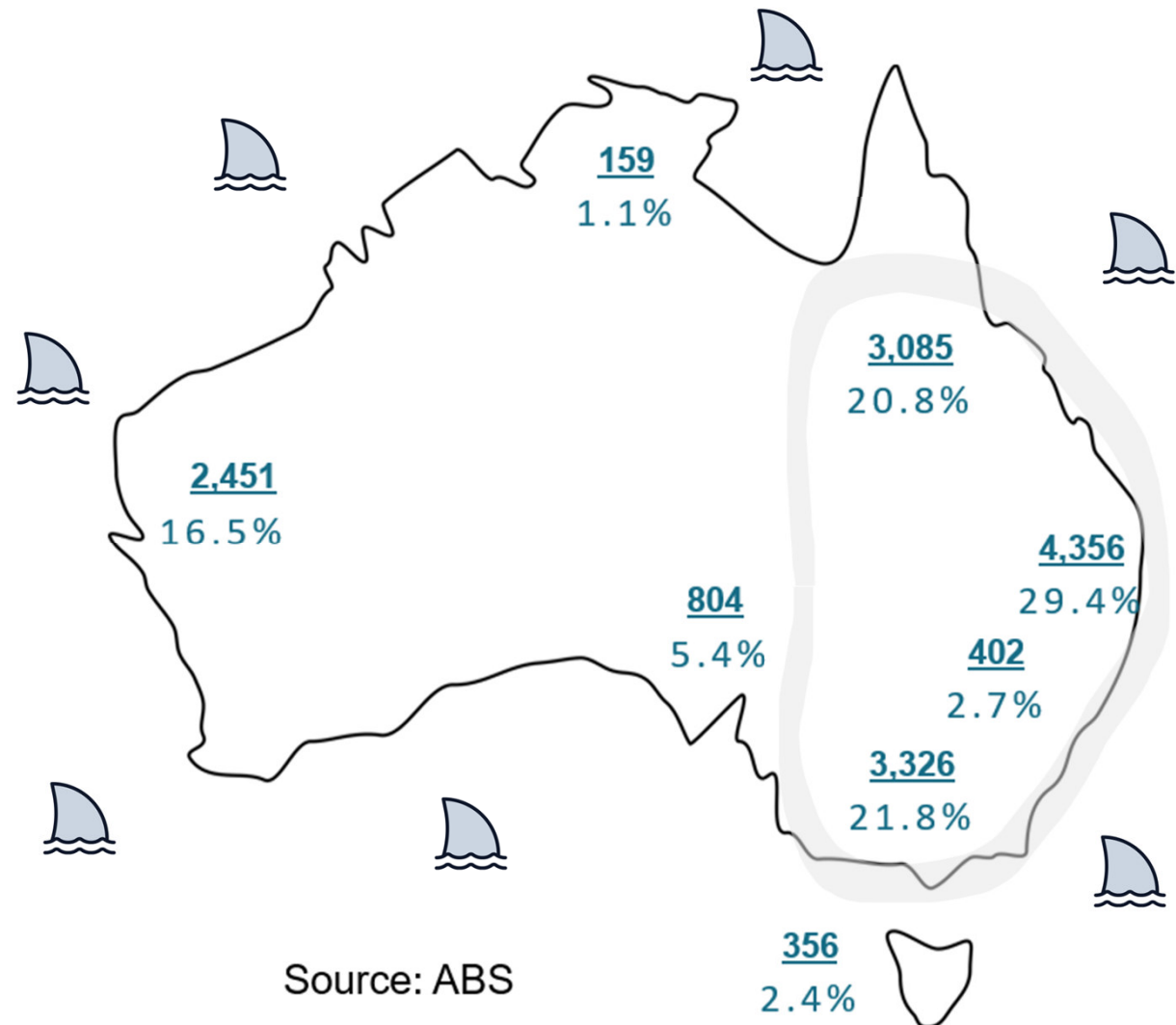
# In Collaboration With



# Mapping Australia's Surveying Workforce

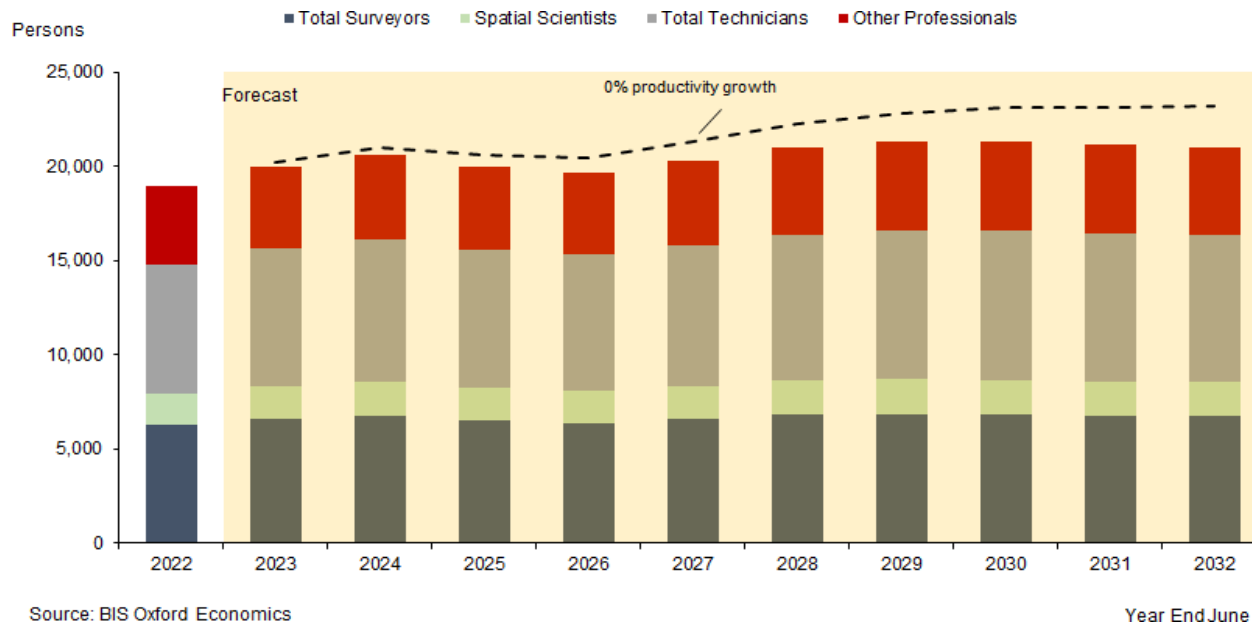
Current total workforce is around 19,000 persons – 15,000 surveying and geospatial professionals and 4,000 allied professionals.

East Coast accounts for 72% of the total skilled surveying and geospatial professionals



# THE SITUATION ACROSS AUSTRALIA

## Forecast Of Total Demand For Skilled Labour



Average 21,000  
professionals  
needed per year:

- 6,700 surveyors
- 1,800 spatial scientists
- 7,800 technicians
- 4,600 allied professionals

# NATIONAL WORKFORCE CAPABILITY POSITION

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Surveyors & spatial scientists	Deficit					Deficit				
	470	752	485	356	645	924	1014	1011	954	925
Surveying & spatial science technicians	Deficit					Deficit				
	403	656	446	359	620	883	1013	1040	977	911

- Current capability gap is 1408 surveyors and spatial scientists and technicians
- This gap rises to more than 2,000 in 2029

# IMPACT ON THE PROFESSION

**940 university students** are needed each year across Australia over the next decade.

This could represent a **170%** increase on the forecasted levels.

**517 vocational students** are needed each year across Australia over the next decade.

This could represent a **167%** increase on the forecasted levels.

- **Sustained workload pressure for current surveyors**
- **Less and less vocationally trained surveyors available to assist with project completion**





## FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR RESEARCH

1

Increase the number of enrolments in related educational courses

2

Improve the educational progression across a surveyor's career

3

Focus efforts on improving flexibility in internal labour mobility

4

Utilise technologies and systems to improve productivity





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# Surveying Sustainability



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### Surveyors' Impact on Sustainability:

- **SDG 6** – Water resource management
- **SDG 7** – Development of clean energy
- **SDG 9** – Industry innovation and infrastructure
- **SDG 11** – Sustainable urban planning
- **SDG 12 & SDG 13** – Waste management and climate action
- **SDG 14 & 15** – Hydrography, Sea change and land surveying lead to life



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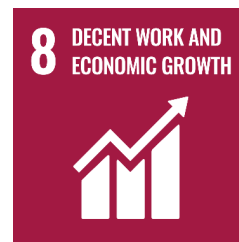


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### Beyond Climate:

- **SDG 3** – Good health & well-being – a focus for small business
- **SDG 4** – Education & workforce development
- **SDG 5 & SDG 10** – Gender equality & diversity in surveying
- **SDG 8** – Decent work and economic growth – economy built on surveying
- **SDG 17 - Collaboration is Key** – Industry data & collective action





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## The landscape

Australian small businesses (SMEs)  
& schools are key to achieving a  
more sustainable future.



**99.8%**

of all Australian businesses



**1/3**

total GDP



**4.7 million**

employees

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## The problem

They have fewer resources to drive sustainability initiatives and meet reporting requirements.

**7.7%**

globally have a sustainability plan

**73%**

concerned about upfront costs

**65%**

see current reporting standards as complex





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## The opportunity

Sustainable development isn't just a cost, it drives commercial & social outcomes. Sustainability Delivers Growth.



**83%**

say sustainability is  
important to their business



**58%**

are making sustainability  
commitments



**70%**

see digital technology play  
a role in developing a plan

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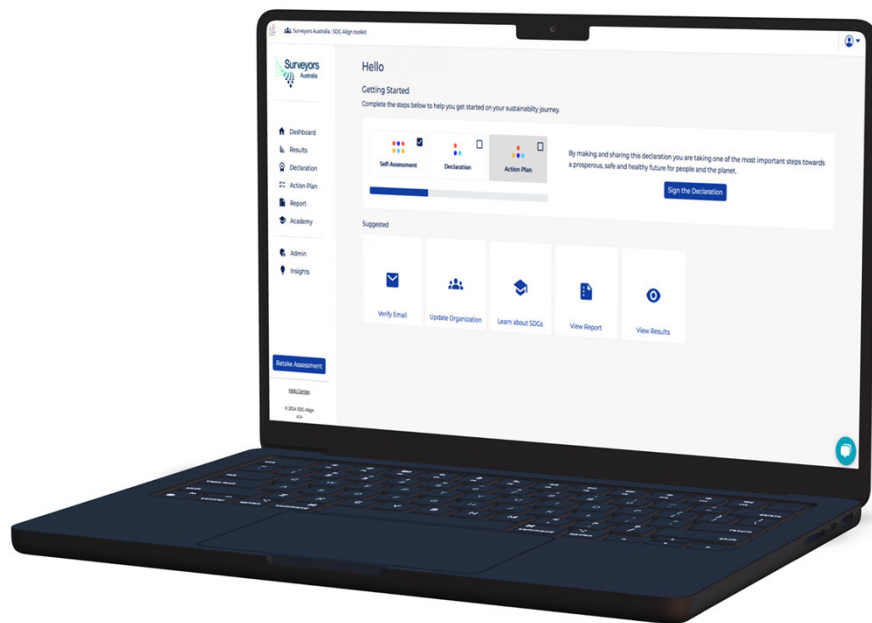
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**SDG ALIGN  
TOOLKIT**



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## A New Toolkit to Support Surveyors

<https://www.consultingsurveyors.com.au/about/sustainability/>

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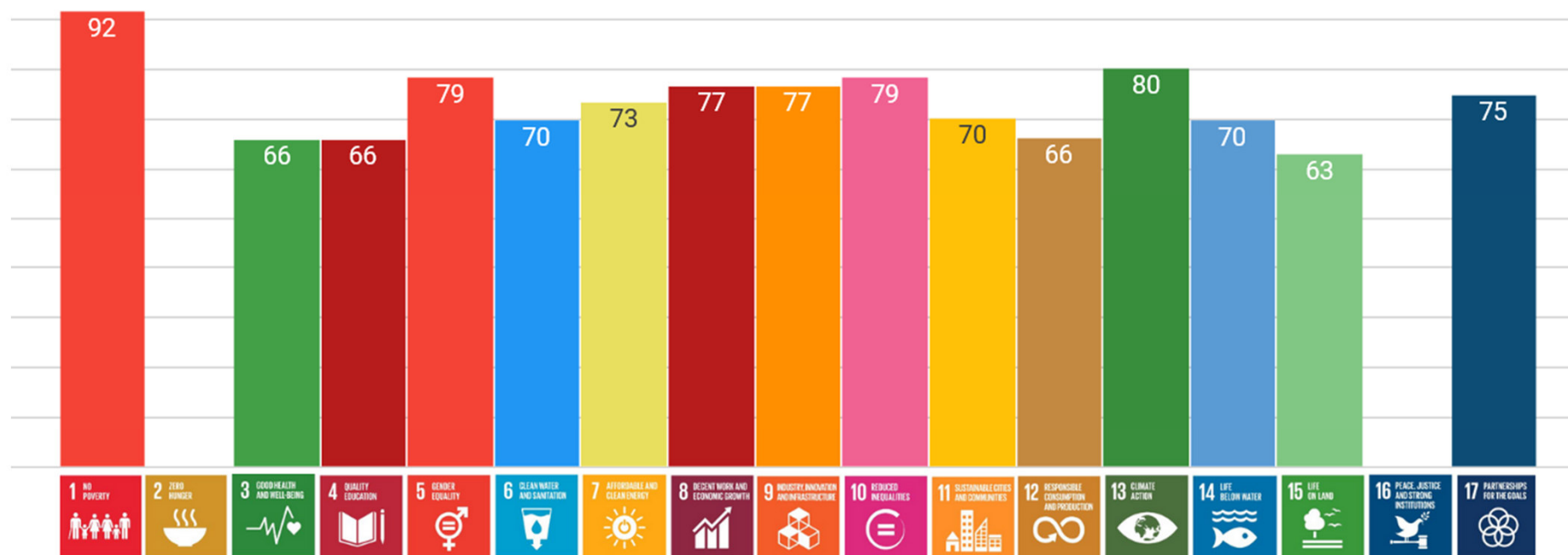


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## SURVEYOR DATA INSIGHTS



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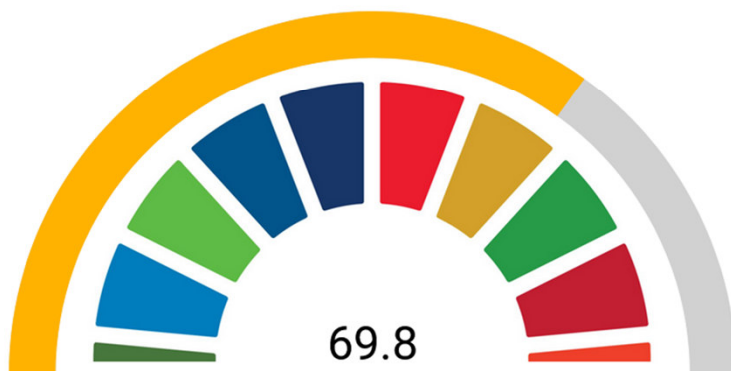


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# SURVEYOR DATA INSIGHTS



Average Benchmark score  
ALL Surveyors Australia USERS

Environment  
73.38



**E**

Society  
70.07



**S**

Governance  
72.94



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## Sustainable business transformation as a service

A self-service, platform for SME business owners wanting to kickstart their sustainability journey.



### Discover

Find out where you're at with a 10-minute Quickscore self-assessment to understand your current impact.



### Direction

Explore the results for guidance on how to progress your sustainability journey to the next milestone.



### Action

Prioritise your opportunity cards for an action plan to engage your team and move to the top.



### Reward

Celebrate your plan of action with a commitment to change, by signing your online declaration.



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**SDG ALIGN  
TOOLKIT**



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## Business sustainability journey with SDG Align



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# A SPECIAL FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Join us in P10 at 2:00pm and  
4:00pm





