

Application of GIS in the 2011 Australian Census of Population and Housing and Plans for 2016

Alister D Nairn*

Director of Geography, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, Australia
alister.nairn@abs.gov.au

Conducting a Census is inherently a spatial undertaking and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) provide an essential capability in their planning, operations and information dissemination. A number of innovations were introduced for the 2011 Census including using GIS and new sources of spatial data to improve the design of enumeration areas and output geographies, utilising geocoding to geographically locate dwellings and the additional use of online mapping in the dissemination of census information for the wide range of geographies required by users of Census information. Planning for the 2016 Census is well underway and the uses of additional GIS capabilities are being tested. These capabilities include the use of GPS and mobile mapping applications to improve enumeration and the development and use of an address register to facilitate a mail out for large parts of the country. Network analysis is also being tested to improve allocation of the field workforce. This presentation will cover these key areas where GIS has been utilised in 2011 and the additional capabilities being considered for use in 2016.

Key Words: Spatial data, Geographical Information Systems