

Localities

1.1

Geoscape

24 December 25

Contents

1	Preface	3
1.1	Responsible Party	3
1.2	Copyright and disclaimer	3
1.3	Privacy	3
2	Product Version	5
3	Overview	7
4	Technical Description	9
4.1	Linkages	9
4.2	Attributes	10
4.3	Data Model	11
4.4	Data Dictionary	11
4.5	Domain Values	11
4.6	Update Frequency	12
4.7	Data Quality	12
4.8	Extent/Geographic Description	13
4.9	Spatial Reference System	14
4.10	Delivery Format	14
4.11	Product Versioning	16
5	Appendix	17
5.1	Appendix I: Metadata	18
6	Annex A - User Guide	21
6.1	Differentiating Gazetted Localities from Districts in the ACT	21

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Preface

1.1 Responsible Party

PSMA Australia Limited trading as Geoscape Australia

ABN: 23 089 912 710

Unit 6, 113 Canberra Ave, GRIFFITH ACT 2603 Australia

T: +61 2 6260 9000

E: info@geoscape.com.au

URL: www.geoscape.com.au

1.2 Copyright and disclaimer

Please see geoscape.com.au/legal/data-copyright-and-disclaimer/

1.3 Privacy

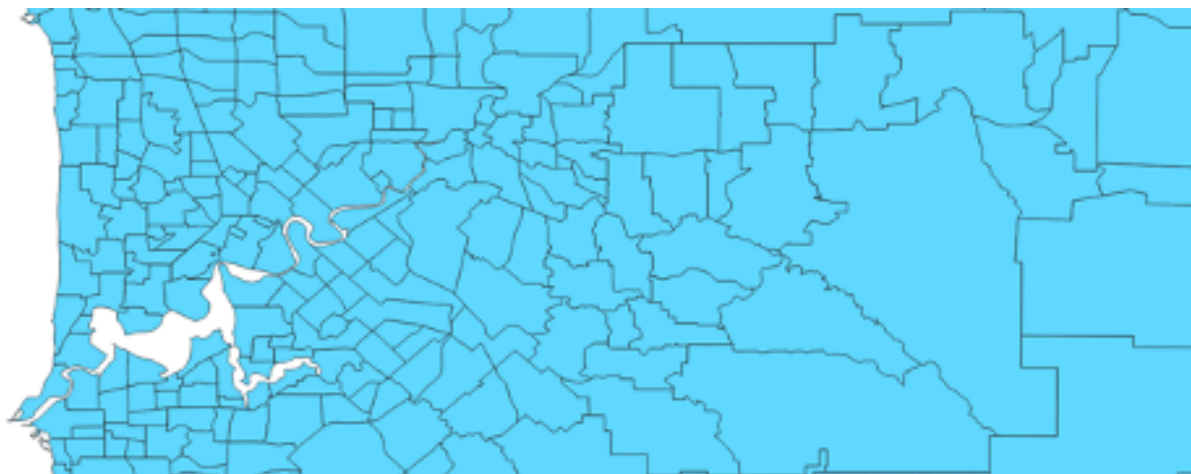
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Product Version

1.1

Overview

National Localities is a spatial representation of suburbs (urban) and localities (rural) defined by the State and Territory governments of Australia. They represent distinct communities across the country. National Localities aggregates the representations unique to each jurisdiction into a consistent, seamless representation of suburb and locality boundaries across Australia. Localities are integral for addressing and postal distribution purposes.



National Localities is designed to meet the needs of organisations that require a geospatial representation of suburb and locality boundaries at both a local and national scale. The attribution provided within National Localities allows for the application of the data across a wide range of commercial, government and research uses. National Localities can also be used to identify the creation of new suburbs. Geoscape Australia welcomes your feedback on our National Localities product. We also publish regular updates on the development of our products on the Geoscape website (www.geoscape.com.au).

Technical Description

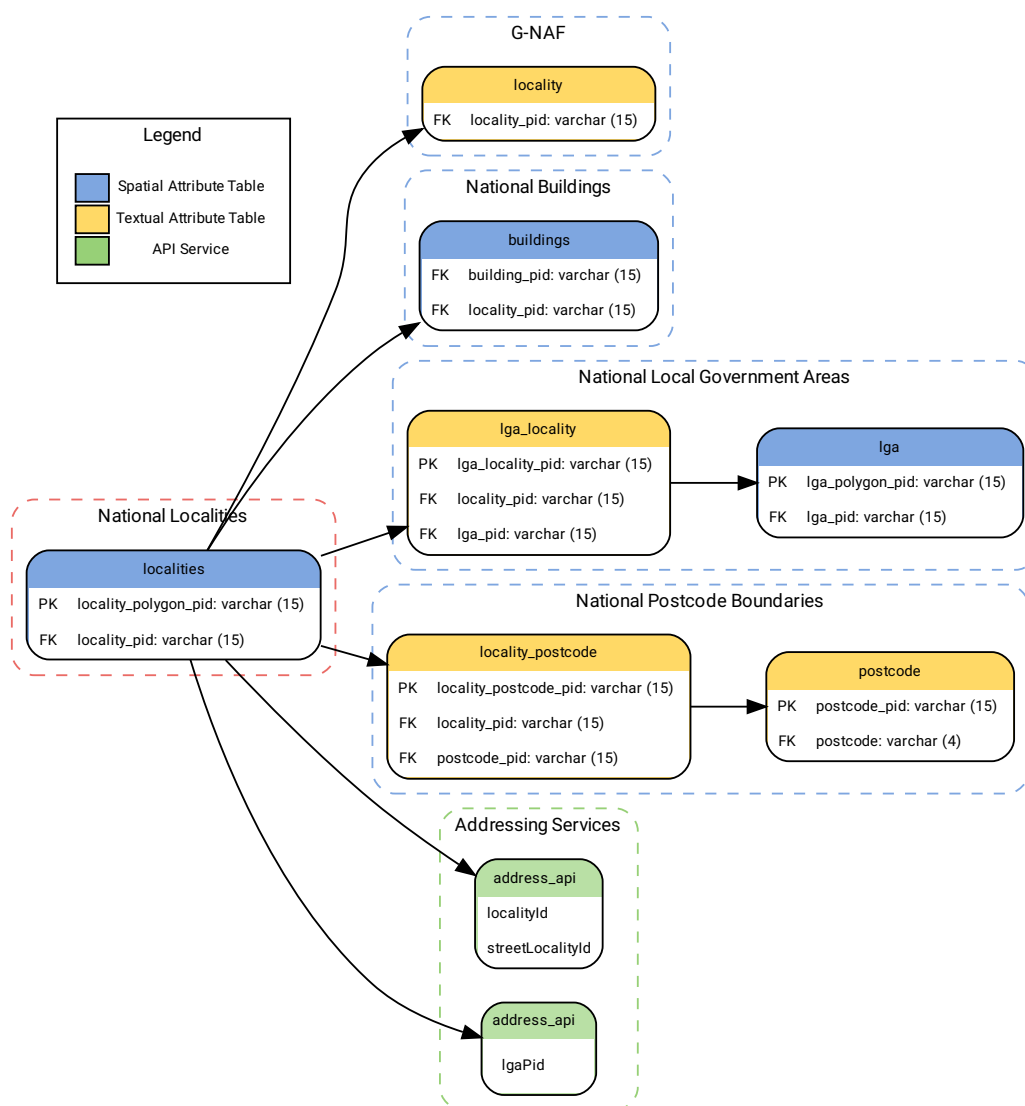
National Localities is created through processing suburb and locality data sourced from Australia's States and Territories. Source attributes are mapped and standardised to provide a coherent definition across the jurisdiction supplies, with associated geometry being cleaned and processed to output a topologically consistent layer of Australia's suburb and locality boundaries at a national scale. Additional attributes have been generated and integrated by Geoscape to support the jurisdictional information as well as to provide convenience in the use and representation of the dataset. National Localities is updated and released regularly and has integrated relationships with other Geoscape Products. Further information regarding attributes, quality, coverage and product release details are outlined below.

4.1 Linkages

This product is integrated with the following Geoscape products:

- G-NAF
- National Buildings
- National Local Government Areas
- National Postcode Boundaries
- Addressing Service

The joins used to link to these products are shown below, with attributes used in the joins described.



4.2 Attributes

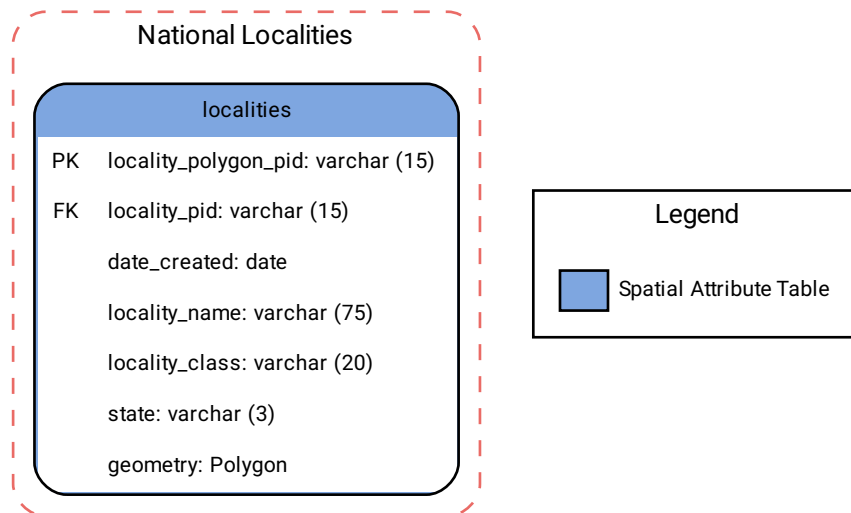
4.2.1 Locality Name

The Locality Name attribute provides the name of the suburb or locality in Title Case (e.g. 'Belmont North', 'O'Bil Bil', 'McLoughlins Beach'). Geoscape has provided these names with reference to jurisdictional definitions. Where there are localities with the same name within a state that represent different localities, the assigned locality_pid differentiates the records.

4.2.2 Locality Class

The Locality Class attribute describes whether the suburb/locality is a Gazetted Locality (provided for all States and Territories) or a District (included in the ACT only). Districts describe regions within the ACT (e.g. Tuggeranong, Belconnen, Gungahlin) that can contain Gazetted Localities (suburbs) but also cover areas that are not covered by the Gazetted Localities. Districts are included for coverage and addressing purposes.

4.3 Data Model



4.4 Data Dictionary

Table 1: localities

Attribute Name	Data Type	Description	Primary Key	Mandatory Field	10 Character Alias
locality_polygon_pid	character string (15)	Unique persistent identifier for the locality polygon.	Yes	Yes	LC_PLY_PID
locality_pid	character string (15)	Persistent identifier for the locality feature.	No	Yes	LOC_PID
date_created	date	The date the record is first introduced to the Geoscape product.	No	Yes	DT_CREATE
locality_name	character string (50)	Name of the suburb or locality.	No	Yes	LOC_NAME
locality_class	character string (20)	Describes the class of locality.	No	Yes	LOC_CLASS
state	character string (3)	The abbreviated name of the State or Territory that the locality spatially resides within.	No	Yes	STATE
geometry	Polygon (2D)	The geometry of the polygon.	No	Yes	GEOMETRY

4.5 Domain Values

Table 2: locality_class

Domain Value	Description
Gazetted Locality	Gazetted localities have been officially recognised (gazetted) by the State or Territory Authority.
District	The Australian Capital Territory is divided into geographic areas known as Districts. Districts are further divided by deposited plans into Divisions (suburbs). There are areas in the ACT where Divisions and Districts overlap, as well as areas only covered by Districts. Divisions have been classified as gazetted localities as they represent suburbs. Districts have been assigned their own classification of 'District'.

Table 3: state

Domain Value	Description
NSW	The data is located within the state of New South Wales.
NT	The data is located within the Northern Territory.
OT	The data is located within the Other Territories classification. Other Territories covers the external Australian territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island.
QLD	The data is located within the state of Queensland.
SA	The data is located within the state of South Australia.
TAS	The data is located within the state of Tasmania.
VIC	The data is located within the state of Victoria.
WA	The data is located within the state of Western Australia.

4.6 Update Frequency

This product is continuously updated and released with the most up to date data available on a quarterly schedule in the months of February, May, August and November.

4.7 Data Quality

4.7.1 Positional Accuracy

This product has been created by combining LGA boundary information from multiple jurisdictional sources. Each jurisdiction has a range of collection methodologies to capture the digital representation of the LGA boundary. The varying approaches to maintaining the boundaries will contribute to the dataset's overall accuracy. As the jurisdiction capture programs improve or otherwise change LGA boundaries, we incorporate these changes as an update into the product and the positional accuracy is maintained. Geoscape makes minor changes only where they are required to create valid features described in Geometry Validity.

4.7.2 Coordinates Referencing the GDA2020 Datum

Spatial features referencing the GDA2020 datum are produced using a coordinate transformation from the GDA94 datum using the following parameters.

- shift_x = 0.06155,
- shift_y = -0.01087,
- shift_z = -0.04019,
- rotate_x = -0.0394924,
- rotate_y = -0.0327221,
- rotate_z = -0.0328979,
- scale_adjust = -0.009994

4.7.3 Geometry Validity

The geometry is validated to ensure polygons are a valid representation and free of self-intersection. Issues being detected and resolved include spikes, bow ties, duplicate vertices, null geometries, multi-part geometries and self-contacts. Gaps and overlaps are resolved for polygons within each State or Territory. Gaps and overlaps between State or Territory boundaries are not resolved. Where valid holes are present in the jurisdictional data, such as lakes or rivers, these holes are retained.

Polygon orientation conforms to the following specifications:

- OGC Simple Feature Access Specification v1.2.1 [Section - 6.1.11.1]
- The GeoJSON Specification RFC7946 [Section 3.1.6 dot point 4]

This means the polygon outer boundary will be counter clockwise and the inner boundary will be clockwise for file formats that support the above standards.

4.7.4 Further Comments

National Localities has been processed to assure all polygons are stored as single part features to improve compatibility with a range of software applications. As a result, there can be a duplication of the locality_pid for some localities that are represented by multiple, separate, polygons.

4.8 Extent/Geographic Description

The spatial coverage of this dataset includes Australia's land mass and surrounding offshore islands.

The Bounding Box for this data is as follows:

- North bounding latitude: -8°
- South bounding latitude: -45°
- East bounding longitude: 168°
- West bounding longitude: 96°



A detailed description of the coverage for each State and Territory is provided in the table below.

Table 4: Coverage Extent

State	Specific Area	Coverage.
ACT		Complete Coverage.
NSW		Complete coverage.
NT		Complete coverage.
OT	Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Complete coverage.
	Jervis Bay	Complete coverage.
	Norfolk Island	Complete coverage.
QLD		Complete coverage ¹ .
SA		Complete coverage.
TAS		Complete coverage.
VIC		Complete coverage.
WA		Complete coverage.

¹ Additional coverage of coastal sea areas.

4.9 Spatial Reference System

4.9.1 GDA94

Horizontal Datum: The Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94) is the target horizontal datum.

Coordinate System: Geographic Coordinate System Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94).

4.9.2 GDA2020

Horizontal Datum: The Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) is the target horizontal datum.

Coordinate System: Geographic Coordinate System Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020).

4.10 Delivery Format

The data is provided at a National and a State/Territory level, depending on the file format selected. The data is made available in the File Geodatabase, GeoJSON, ESRI Shapefile and MapInfo TAB formats described below.

Format	National	State/Territory
File Geodatabase	Yes	Yes
GeoJSON	Yes	Yes
ESRI Shapefile	.	Yes
MapInfo TAB	.	Yes
Geopackage	Yes	Yes

4.10.1 File Geodatabase

Format name

File Geodatabase – ESRI™

Specification

This format includes files with the following extensions: *.gdb

ESRI File Geodatabase Technical Description. Follow this link: <http://desktop.arcgis.com/en/desktop/latest/manage-data/administer-file-gdbs/file-geodatabases.htm>

Language

English

4.10.2 GeoJSON

Format name

GeoJSON

Specification

This format includes files with the following extensions: *.geojson

GeoJSON specification: <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7946>

Language

English

Note

The GeoJSON specification states that the coordinate reference system for all GeoJSON coordinates is:

“a geographic coordinate reference system, using the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84) datum, with longitude and latitude units of decimal degrees”

National Localities will be provided with coordinates using the datum selected for download (GDA94/GDA2020) with longitude and latitude units of decimal degrees.

4.10.3 JSON

Format name

JSON

Specification

This format includes files with the following extensions: *.json

JSON specification: <https://www.json.org/json-en.html>

Language

English

4.10.4 ESRI Shapefile

Format name

Shape – ESRI™

Specification

This format includes files with the following extensions: *.shp, *.shx, *.dbf

ESRI Shapefile Technical Description, an ESRI White Paper, July 1998. Follow this link:

<https://www.esri.com/library/whitepapers/pdfs/shapefile.pdf>

Language

English

4.10.5 MapInfo TAB

Format name

TAB – MapInfo Professional™

Specification

This format includes files with the following extensions: *.tab, *.dat, *.id, *.map

The MapInfo TAB format is a popular geospatial vector data format for geographic information systems software. It is developed and regulated by MapInfo as a proprietary format. TAB files support geospatial standards such as Open GIS, the OGC, ISO, W3C and others.

Language

English

4.10.6 Geopackage

Format name

Geopackage

Specification

This format includes files with the following extensions: *.gpkg

OGC Geopackage Standards. Follow this link: <https://www.geopackage.org/>

Language

English

4.11 Product Versioning

The product versioning is managed through incrementing when there is a change to the product schema or a significant change in data population, these are described further below:

- A schema change can affect a major or minor increment to the versioning. Additive changes (changes that won't break customers' ability to work with the data) will be incremented with a minor version increment, an example is the addition of a new attribute. Removal of attributes or changing the structure of the schema will enact a major change to identify that this requires the attention of all customers and partners.
- Where a significant geography of Australia either has a new population of data for an attribute or is populated from a much higher quality source a minor increment will be applied to the product version.

Therefore, the product's versioning will not increment with every data update. Published releases will have a name (e.g. 'August 2021') and will reference a version of the product (e.g. '1.0').

Appendix

5.1 Appendix I: Metadata

Direct Download `localities.xml`.

5.1.1 National Localities Metadata Statement

Metadata for the Metadata

Metadata Identifier: 9d3f2b6a-8c4e-4a7d-9e2b-7f6a3c8d1b24

Time:

- Create Date: 2022-02-02T01:56:57.785613Z
- Revision Date: 2025-06-18T06:30:35.152518Z

Responsible Party:

- Individual: Michael Dixon
- Organisation: Geoscape Australia
- Position: Chief Data Officer
- Telephone: +61 2 6260 9000
- Delivery point: Unit 6, 113 Canberra Ave Griffith ACT 2603 Australia

Access, Use, Security:

Standard: ISO 19115-3

Language: English

Resource Metadata

Title: National Localities

Abstract: National Localities is a spatial representation of suburbs (urban) and localities (rural) defined by Australia's State and Territory governments, aggregated into a consistent, seamless national boundary layer. It supports nationwide identification of communities and is integral for addressing and postal distribution.

Purpose: The purpose of National Localities is to provide organisations with a national scale geospatial dataset of suburb and locality boundaries suitable for use at local and national scales, enabling broad application across commercial, government and research use cases and helping identify new suburb creation over time.

Responsible Party:

- Organisation: Geoscape
- Telephone: +61 2 6260 9000
- Delivery point: Unit 6, 113 Canberra Ave Griffith ACT 2603 Australia

Access, Use, Security:

- Legal Constraints: Geoscape Australia and its authorised partners license this dataset. Users must comply with the applicable licence terms and the Geoscape Copyright Notice and Disclaimer, available at geoscape.com.au/data-copyright-disclaimer/.
- Security Constraints: None. This dataset is not subject to any security classification.
- Use Limitations: Refer to the product guide available via docs.geoscape.com.au for data quality and related information.
- Releasability: This dataset must not be distributed except in accordance with the terms of the licence under which it was accessed.

Extents



- West/Min X: 96.00
- East/Max X: 168.00
- South/Min Y: -45.00
- North/Max Y: -8.00

Reference System:

- GDA2020 (EPSG:7844)
- GDA94 (EPSG:4283)
- Australian Height Datum (EPSG:5111)

Keywords:

- National Localities
- National Localities datasets
- National Localities file

Distribution:

This dataset is available from Geoscape Australia.

Format/s:

- ESRI Shapefile
- Mapinfo TAB
- GeoJSON
- ESRI File Geodatabase
- OGC GeoPackage

Status: completed

Lineage:

Statement:

National Localities is created by processing suburb and locality boundary data sourced from each State and Territory. Jurisdictional source attributes are mapped and standardised into a coherent national definition, and the supplied geometries are cleaned and processed to produce a topologically consistent national polygon layer. Geoscape also generates and integrates additional attributes to better support jurisdictional information and improve usability, and the dataset is updated and released regularly, with defined integration/linkages to other Geoscape products including G-NAF, National Buildings, National Local Government Areas, National Postcode Boundaries and Addressing Service. Production includes geometry validity checks (e.g., resolving self-intersections, spikes/bow-ties, duplicate vertices, null/multipart geometries, and self-contacts) and resolving gaps/overlaps within each State/Territory for polygons of the same locality class, while retaining valid holes (e.g., lakes/rivers) where present in source data.

Additional Documentation

- Title: National Localities Product Description
- Alternate Title: National Localities Product Guide
- Edition: 1.1
- Presentation Format: documentDigital
- Linkage: https://docs.geoscape.com.au/projects/localities_guide/en/stable/index.html
- Name: National Localities Product Description
- Description: Product Description of the current version of the National Localities Product.
- Function: information

Maintenance and Update Frequency: quarterly

Annex A - User Guide

6.1 Differentiating Gazetted Localities from Districts in the ACT

The Australian Capital Territory is divided into geographic areas known as Districts. Districts are further divided by deposited plans into Divisions (suburbs). There are areas in the ACT where Divisions and Districts overlap, as well as areas only covered by Districts. Divisions have been classified with a locality class of 'Gazetted Locality' as they represent suburbs. Districts have been assigned their own classification of 'District'. Districts and Divisions can be differentiated by selecting locality_class values of 'District' or 'Gazetted Locality' respectively.

