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# Media Release

## **ASIBA tackles red tape**

**Canberra, 2 May, 2006:** The Australian Spatial Information Business Association (ASIBA) received positive news from its submission to the Taskforce on *Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business*, which the Australian Government commissioned late last year.

'ASIBA has been a key contributor to a number of important policy debates during the past five years,' said ASIBA Chairman, Michael Easton.

'One of ASIBA's essential roles is to comment on behalf of the private sector on matters that affect businesses in our industry sector. We have successfully built a strong reputation for constructive input and this has led to our opinions being referenced in reports on a range of debates, from External Earnings Targets for National Science Agencies to Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business,' said Mr Easton.

The most recent inquiry about commonwealth regulation was conducted under the auspices of the Productivity Commission, which established a Taskforce of experts to report on the impact the regulatory burden was having on business. The final Report was tabled in Parliament in January this year and it is expected that the government will adopt most of the recommendations.

'ASIBA's submission focused on how duplicated environmental regulation can affect and otherwise significantly delay development projects in the states and territories,' said ASIBA Chief Executive Officer, David Hocking.

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'As the only business association representing the spatial information industry private sector, it is important that ASIBA maintains a high profile with governments so that our views are not only sought but, just as importantly, accepted and integrated into government policies,' said Mr Hocking.

Over the past five years ASIBA has provided input to inquiries into external earnings targets, bushfire mitigation, salinity science, space policy and business red tape, among others.

'It is particularly gratifying when the various committees of inquiry recognise our work and, in some cases, refer to our opinions in forums other than those to which we have directly contributed, such as the COAG review of bushfire management,' the Chairman commented.

*'In that case, COAG quoted us, saying: "... [p]rivate sector capacity development reflects the private sector's increasing role in the spatial information realm. For example, members of the Australian Spatial Information Business Association are active in supporting the establishment of national standards and policy for spatial data and associated geospatial information technology. Use of private sector services, especially in specialist areas, is likely to increase...",'* said Mr Easton.

ASIBA maintains a close watch on government business at all levels and is working to establish a greater capacity to respond.

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