



STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

Agenda Item Number: 14

Agenda Item Title: Toponymic data files and gazetteers

Title of paper/report: Harmonization of the Canadian Geographical Names Database

Statement/intervention provided by:

Australia

Statement/intervention:

Thank-you to the distinguished delegate from Canada for sharing details of their project to harmonise the Canadian Geographical Names Database, and for the invitation to comment on similar work.

Having similar governance and data management arrangements, Australia appreciates the challenges Canada faces in delivering a comprehensive national product from a collation of independently manage sub-national gazetteers.

Australia's first step toward harmonising and modernising its national gazetteer was to decide on nationally consistent feature type classifications; the approach is discussed in [E/CONF.105/136/CRP.136](#) from the 11th Conference in 2017 with some brief updates provided in our most recent country report ([GEGN.2/2021/25/CRP.25](#)). It has simplified and enabled semi-automated production of our national gazetteer.

Like Canada, Australian is now working toward reducing variability between jurisdictions in the range of feature types for which they each supply names.

Australia welcomes further discussion with our Canadian colleagues, should they wish to share learnings, remaining challenges and ongoing plans as we each progress these similar projects.

Submitted on:

23 April 2021