

2026 CEOS Chair Period

***Positioning CEOS for Success in a
Rapidly Changing Context***

2026 Australian Chair Team

CSIRO
Australia's National
Science Agency



Australian Government
Geoscience Australia
Bureau of Meteorology

Credit: USGS/NASA Landsat 9

CEOS Chair 2026

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- ❖ Team Australia - *“three for the price of one”*
 - **CSIRO** - Chair Team Lead, CEOS Chair: Dr Alex Held
 - With **Geoscience Australia** and the **Bureau of Meteorology**
- ❖ Chair Term focused on ensuring delivery of current activities while also enabling Principal-level strategic discussion on key topics
 - Focus on issues/topics with relevance across the CEOS organisation
 - Respectful of Agency resourcing
 - Dedicated Chair Team capacity for proposed activities
 - Ensuring complementarity to NASA SIT Chair
- ❖ This session is to inform you of our plans and
 - Identify additional contributors/participants from Agencies and Entities

Structure of CEOS Chair 2026 Work

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- ❖ **Two Focus Activities** under the headline theme:
 1. Information Products on Satellite EO and CEOS Support to Adaptation and Resilience
 2. Updated CEOS ARD Strategy - Ensuring CEOS ARD is Fit for the Future
- ❖ Finite activities to be concluded within the 2026 Chair Term
 - No expectation of ongoing investment/support from CEOS organisation
 - Open to input and contributions from all Agencies and Entities
 - Information to support strategic Principal-level discussions as well as to help communicate CEOS's value proposition and relevance
- ❖ **Three Highlight Topics** - focused, standalone events
- ❖ All complementary to NASA SIT Chair

Headline Theme

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“Positioning CEOS for Success in a Rapidly Changing Context”

- ❖ **Environmental change adaptation and resilience** as a lens to explore and communicate CEOS’s positioning, role and unique value as an organisation
 - Change is happening and will continue - satellite Earth observations have great potential to add value and support tangible impact that changes lives
 - Action required at global/national level, but critical at regional/local scales - even at the level of individual businesses.
 - The EO sector *itself* is changing rapidly - how do we capitalise on this potential?
 - What might this mean for CEOS in terms of opportunities and challenges? positioning and partnerships?
- ❖ **CEOS, as the leading global coordination body, can be a powerful factor in ensuring satellite EO data plays its part:**
 - Making the increasing volume of data - government and commercial - **easier to use, for more purposes, by more people** - empowering action at increasingly local levels
 - Facilitating satellite EO integration into **decision support products** that enable practical action on adaptation at **all scales** - where local relevance is key
 - Ensuring data and information is generated and used in a way that **builds trust and protects the reputation of the satellite EO community** in the eyes of stakeholders

Activity 1: CEOS Support to Environmental Adaptation and Resilience

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- ❖ **Prepare information products that support Principals at the 2026 Plenary to strategically consider the role CEOS is playing, and can play, in supporting societal adaptation and resilience in the face of environmental change**
 - Multiple drivers of such change
 - Applications rely on access to, and ability to integrate, multiple datasets at different spatial scales
 - *In particular* at local scales.
 - A lens through which to explore CEOS's role in the EO ecosystem and value chain, including threads around commercial sector engagement and scalability of demonstrators/pilots
 - Relevant across many parts of CEOS, as evidenced by efforts to date
- ❖ **Product 1 - Outward focus - the next EO Handbook!**
 - Captures case studies and exemplars of current impact and value
 - Highlight demonstrators, resources, tools and examples (e.g. code)
 - Printed booklet and corresponding online portal
 - Opportunity for thematic views - small islands, polar, biodiversity, water, etc
 - An asset to support communication of value at major events

Activity 1: CEOS Support to Environmental Adaptation and Resilience

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❖ Product 2 - Inward focus

- ❑ Collation and analysis of challenges and opportunities that support Principals to consider strategic topics such as:
 - Where can CEOS get the greatest 'bang for buck' and add the greatest unique value?
 - Do we have the right partnerships? Are we leveraging existing partnerships effectively?
 - Are existing CEOS activities/efforts connected and aligned to support greatest impact?
- ❑ Key sources:
 - CEOS's efforts and experiences, e.g. WGDisasters, COAST-VC, GST Strategy, Biodiversity Study Team, Agriculture, etc
 - Synthesis of issues and themes arising from the case study capture and analysis process

Agencies invited to submit case studies and referrals

Coordinators: Alex Held (CSIRO) and Mark Dowell (EC)

*With sincere thanks to **ESA!***

Activity 2: Future CEOS ARD Strategy



- ❖ **Provide additional capacity and attention to support the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group in their effort to prepare the next iteration of the CEOS-ARD Strategy ready for Plenary 2026**
- ❖ **Purpose: Ensuring CEOS-ARD is Fit for the Future**
 - ❑ Building on significant interest and momentum from Principals and stakeholders - including pull from the commercial sector
 - ❑ Ensure CEOS-ARD remains consistent with and relevant to the evolving user base and their expectations
 - ❑ Maximise the societal benefits of satellite EO – including for adaptation and resilience to a changing environment (CEOS-ARD is a key enabler)
- ❖ **Driven by evidence:**
 - ❑ Engagements with the community at key events such as ESA's LPS, IGARSS, IAC, WGCV, LSI-VC (more to come)
 - ❑ Survey to gather feedback to *"Help Shape the Future of CEOS-ARD"* (open: ceos.org/ard/survey)



Themes to explore

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- ❖ Ongoing quality assessment procedures
- ❖ Measurement equivalence
- ❖ Standardisation
- ❖ Linkages to agency purchasing frameworks
- ❖ Commercial engagement geometry
- ❖ Continued relevance beyond land
- ❖ Alignment to / implementation of interoperability handbook
- ❖ Implications of “AI Ready” data
- ❖ Higher-level products
- ❖ Specification change management and modularity

(not exhaustive)

Writing Team: established - additional contributions welcome

Lead: Ferran Gascon (ESA), Chair Team Contact: Matthew Adams (GA)

Highlight Topics

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❖ Antarctica Plenary Experience

- Opportunity to deepen the CEOS community's connections with polar issues through in-person engagement with leading experts with lived experience
- Leverage Plenary in Hobart, Australia's gateway to Antarctica

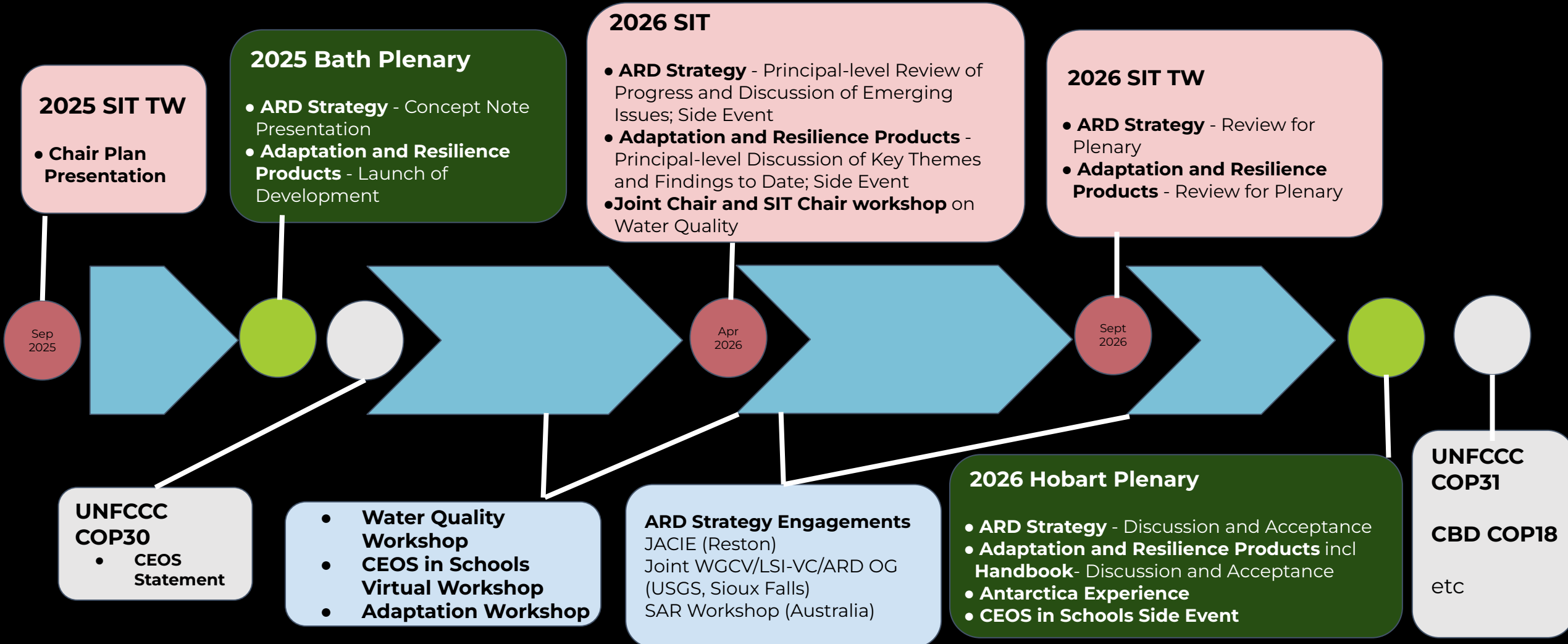
❖ Water Quality Workshop

- **Joint Chair and SIT Chair** demonstration of EO based methodologies for water quality, with a focus on how these methodologies could fill the gaps identified in the Adaptation and Resilience chair theme.
- How to transform EO archives into actionable water quality insights to support adaptation strategies.

❖ CEOS in Schools Sessions

- Continue legacy of the 2025 UKSA CEOS Chair

Timeline



Chair Team Members

CSIRO



Alex Held
CEOS Chair
Adaptation and
Resilience PoC



Amy Parker
Agency Contact
Antarctica
Co-PoC



Flora Kerblat
Agency
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Shaun Levick
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Jonathon Ross
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Maggie Arnold
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Antarctica Co-PoC



Matt Adams
CEOS-ARD PoC



Medhavy Thankappan
WGCV Vice-Chair

Bureau of Meteorology



Agnes Lane
Bureau Principal
CEOS in Schools PoC

Supported by experts from GA,
CSIRO and the Bureau

CEOS Chair Support



Stephen Ward



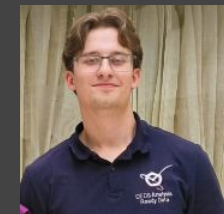
Matt Steventon



George Dyke



Libby Rose



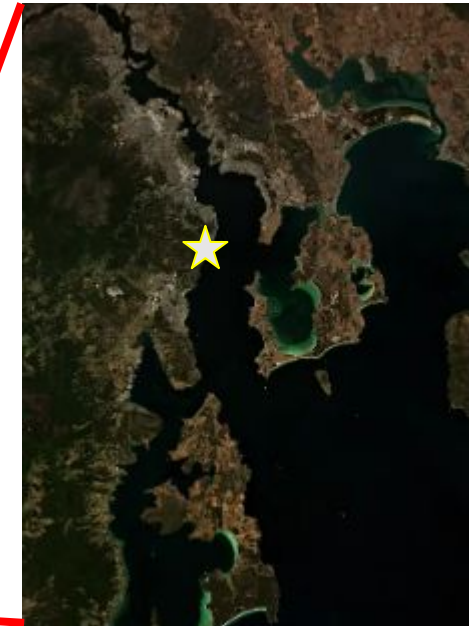
Harvey Jones

40th CEOS Plenary

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- ❖ 3-6 November 2026
- ❖ Hobart, Australia



BREAKING NEWS!!! Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor

Credit: European Union
Sentinel-2