

WASTAC

(Western Australian Satellite Technology and Applications Consortium)

WASTAC was a consortium of state and federal departments and universities whose main objectives were to maintain a reliable, comprehensive and accessible archive of [NOAA-AVHRR](#), [Terra and Aqua MODIS](#), [SeaWiFS](#) and [SNPP VIIRS](#) satellite data. They also ran seminars and workshops to broaden public awareness of the available data sets and applications. Annual reports are available and a complete history of WASTAC has been compiled.

The organisations involved were:

- [Bureau of Meteorology](#)
- [Landgate](#)
- [Curtin University of Technology's - Remote Sensing and Satellite Research Group](#)
- [CSIRO Space Sciences and Technology](#)
- [Murdoch University](#)
- [Geoscience Australia](#)



Original WASTAC L-band receiving dish at Curtin University of Technology, Bentley.

Facilities:

When the WASTAC consortium was dissolved there was one receiver: an L and X-band receiver at Murdoch University, Murdoch. The receiver was sold to Landgate at the end of 2018 and they continue to maintain this as part of the ANGSTT network.

Archive:

The NOAA-AVHRR raw data archive (1981-2016) is stored by Landgate and CSIRO. The SeaWiFS raw data archive (1997-2003) is stored by CSIRO.

Future:

In 2016, WASTAC commissioned an independent study to develop options for the long-term siting of ground station facilities so that WASTAC could continue to meet user needs as part of a national ground station network, and as a basis for future investment.

The report examined the policy drivers supporting improvements to a national strategic earth observation supply chain network and the development of siting options for the expansion of ground station reception facilities in Western Australia. Three sites warranted detailed examination. The recommended site preferences are: (1) Bureau of Meteorology facility at Learmonth Airport and (2) Yarragadee Geodetic Observatory for equal site preference, followed by the (3) CSIRO Australian Academic and Research Network fibre repeater at Mullewa. A copy of the report can be found here: [Siting Study 2016](#)