

# **Policy on Recognition of GISP-AP Credential Holders from the Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA)**

**Effective Date:** December 4, 2025

**Approved By:** GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) Board of Directors

## **Purpose**

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) recognizes the achievements of geospatial professionals who earned the GIS Professional – Asia Pacific (GISP-AP) credential through the former Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA). In acknowledgment of the shared standards and alignment between the GISP-AP and GISCI's GISP® certification programs, GISCI will offer an opportunity for GISP-AP credential holders to obtain the GISCI Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP®) certification.

## **Background**

The GISP-AP certification program, administered by the Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA), was developed using the existing GISCI GISP® program standards as its foundation. Following the dissolution of the GCA in August 2025, GISCI seeks to preserve the professional recognition earned by those who achieved the GISP-AP designation.

## **Policy**

- **Eligibility:** Individuals who earned the GISP-AP credential through the Geospatial Council of Australia and who remain in good standing as of August 2025 are eligible to transfer their credential to GISCI.
- **Certification Transfer:** Eligible GISP-AP holders may apply to receive the GISP® credential from GISCI at no cost. This one-time transfer recognizes their prior certification under standards equivalent to those of the GISCI GISP® program.
- **Ongoing Requirements:** After transfer, all GISP-AP transferees will be subject to GISCI's existing recertification standards, timelines, and requirements, including payment of any applicable recertification fees at the time of renewal.
- **Verification:** GISCI reserves the right to verify GISP-AP credentials and standing through available documentation or references before approving the transfer.
- **Expiration and Recertification:** Transferred GISP®s will follow GISCI's established three-year recertification cycle, beginning from the date of acceptance into the GISCI program.

## **Rationale**

This policy ensures continuity and professional recognition for geospatial practitioners affected by the closure of the Geospatial Council of Australia. Because the GISP-AP program was based on the established GISCI GISP® framework, this transfer maintains the integrity and equivalence of certification standards while supporting the global geospatial community.

## **Application Process**

### **1. Prepare Documentation**

Applicants should gather the following:

- Proof of GISP-AP certification (e.g., certificate copy, letter of confirmation, or digital credential record).
- Identification matching the name on the credential.
- Contact information (email, phone number, mailing address).

### **2. Submit Request**

Send the documentation and a request for conversion to [info@gisci.org](mailto:info@gisci.org) with the subject line: **“GISP-AP to GISCI GISP® Conversion Request.”** Anyone wishing to transfer their GIS-AP certification to the GISP® must submit for the transfer on or before July 1, 2026.

### **3. GISCI Review and Verification**

- GISCI staff will review the submission and verify credential authenticity.
- Additional information may be requested if verification cannot be completed with materials provided.
- Verification may include cross-checking with available GCA archives or references.

### **4. Approval and Confirmation**

- Once verified, applicants will be informed to create an account at GISCI if they do not already have one.
- GISCI will issue a digital *GISP®* certificate and credential to the applicant at **no cost**.
- The new GISP® credential will be considered effective as of the date of approval.

### **5. Recertification Requirements**

- Converted GISP®s will enter the standard **three-year recertification cycle** under current GISCI recertification policies.
- Standard **recertification fees** will apply at the time of renewal.