

Long Term Intentions

A couple of people have asked about the long term plans for Tracks4Australia, i.e. free or shareware or full commercial etc.

That is an excellent question and we'd like to address it now to avoid any misunderstandings.

Please note this document describes our intention today but we are open to objective input. If you would like to comment please do so on the forum. (Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tracks4australia/>)

All input will be considered as Tracks4Australia must be both a combined and co-operative effort if we are to thrive. It would be great if this could remain entirely free but that is probably unrealistic although we will always endeavour to keep this a very cost conscious effort.

The initial foundation of Tracks4Australia (T4A for short) was 1:250K data licensed from Geoscience Australia. Fortunately this can be downloaded without charge. We have already begun to augment/improve the existing data using track log contributions from Tracks4Australia users & others and since commencement a month or so ago we have received more than 115,000 km of user track logs but we are hungry for more.

As we move forward there will be some costs that I'd like to mitigate if possible so my suggestion is as follows:

Over the longer term we will provide two similar but separate map products, i.e.

1. **A basic map set covering all of Australia, including major roads in metro areas plus all roads - from freeways to 4WD tracks - in rural areas.**

It will also include railway lines plus all major cities & towns as Points of Interest (POI) but these POI will not be searchable.

If user interest warrants it and data is available we will add additional points of interest including camping grounds, police stations, hospitals, user recommended rest stops etc.

Updates for the free version may not be regular, perhaps twice per year. There may be a small charge to cover direct costs if users want update CD's mailed to them.

This map set will always remain absolutely free to all contributors and we will make it available to non-contributors as well in the hope that they will contribute in the future.

We will attempt to distribute this map set widely and will encourage users to share the CD with others.

2. **A second map set will consist of all of the basic map set as above plus more. . . .**

The second map set will be made available on a semi-commercial basis that will help cover some of our costs. I anticipate a single user license will be A\$40 - A\$50 including all updates for two years.

This semi-commercial map set will include many additional features, e.g.

- Lakes, dams, rivers etc
- National parks, forest areas, aboriginal reserves etc
- Searchable Cities & POI
- Additional features in remote areas such as fence lines, water points

Some of you have test tiles that include such features but they won't be part of the freeware edition.

We won't implement any copy protection schemes but hope that users will respect the license conditions so as to enable us to recover enough to keep T4A thriving.

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This second map set will be updated regularly – initial aim is four times per year. Updates will be made available to registered users via a web site.

Something to consider. We have a number of contributors who have sent in some excellent track logs although they can't actually use Tracks4Australia because they don't own Mapsource. **Special thanks to these people.** . . . maybe one of the Garmin dealers on the mail list would like to offer a special T4A deal on *Trip & Waypoint Manager* to allow these people to get a real taste of T4A.

An important comment while we are on this subject:

The Tracks4Australia map set will compete with some Garmin proprietary products but Tracks4Australia will respect all Garmin copyrights and request all T4A users to do likewise.

Mapsource software is bundled with many Garmin GPS or it is available separately from any Garmin dealer. We can also put you in contact with one of our Garmin dealer members who have mail order capability for both hardware and Mapsource products.

We don't want to have advertising on the forum but from time to time we'll circulate a list of Garmin dealers to all members. If you would like to be on this list then please provide full contact details by an email direct to myself.

Some people purchase GPS hardware/software overseas with the aim of reducing the cost of GPS hardware and/or software. If you intend to do that then please consider the full costs including freight & GST and make some allowance for the return freight that may be involved if you have a warranty issue.

However, when price differentials exist, inevitably people will consider other markets and there is nothing illegal about purchasing a GPS overseas or discussing such intent on the forum.

However, we will not tolerate any discussion on the forum re copying Mapsource CD's or otherwise breaching Garmin license conditions.

NOTE:

It is possible to download maps to a map capable Garmin GPS using free third party software such as Sendmap. However, Sendmap will not allow you to view the maps on a PC and we are unable to provide technical support.

If you would like to comment on this white paper then please do so on the forum. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tracks4australia/>

If you haven't yet received an invitation to join the forum please contact me by return email.

Regards,

Graham