



Australian Space Awards 2026 Finalist petitions NSW Government for decommissioned school access

14th June 2026

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Australian Space Awards

Dr Gabrielle M Caswell of SpacePort Australia® Pty Ltd, www.spaceportaustralia.com.au (SPA) has been named a finalist in the Australian Space Awards, 2026. Dr Caswell has confirmed her acceptance of the award nominations; she is finalist in seven of the 30 awards offered by the Australian Space Agency in 2026. Dr Caswell says, "It's an exciting time to be working in space, we are watching the renaissance of human space flight, beyond Low Earth Orbit (LEO), and a return to the Moon." She continued, "It's particularly exciting as Artemis II had a smooth launch, and all hands returned to Earth, and just last week the crew of Artemis III has been announced."

Dr Caswell stated, "The space industry was predicted to be valued at \$USD 1.1 trillion in or around 2032, now that the USA is 'on mission' to the Moon, I believe that industry value will double in the next three years, with obvious benefits to the Earth side communities." She continued, "There will be growing career and job opportunities, from materials science to biopharmaceuticals, to space medicine and education, and lets no forget astronomy, digital technologies, aerospace, mission management and agriculture." She noted that people focus on being an astronaut, and until recently, selection and training was predicated to those fortunate enough to have government employment, and almost unlimited access to government support and funding. SpaceX and Blue Origin are beginning to rewrite this scenario, Australia astronaut Eric Phillips is a shining example of the 'right stuff' making it to space.

Moree's Long History with the Space Industry

Dr Caswell added, "We should remember the pictures of the first landing on the Moon, Apollo 11, Artemis' brother ship, were directly beamed from Antenna One, Moree OTC, to the world. The Moree OTC station is now decommissioned, the site is 20 minutes from SpacePort Australia®. The Honeysuckle Creek Achieves has a wonderful repository of Australia's long history, of supporting space exploration. It has a great store of images, which are really worth reviewing".

Dr Caswell is a rural medical practitioner; she continues to work in the practices she established over 20 years ago, in rural NSW and has unique operational insight into the challenges of providing medical care for remote locations, a distinct advantage when understanding the operational space environment. SPA has a unique niche in the modern space industry landscape, being non-government funded, it has flexibility and has attracted many national and international partnerships and joint ventures.

With an eye on the next generation of space personal and problem solvers, Dr Caswell has formed several space education and training partnerships, including The Montana Spaceport and Test Range® and Arkisys®, international STEM educators AICompanyUSA©©, ChameleCo® and STEM Innovation Council.

These strategically focused education and space training bodies are working to prepare and train individuals for space careers. SpacePort Australia® is working with Arkisys®, to repurpose the International Space Station (ISS) Astrobees from maintenance robots to medical assistants. And with Alex Aerospace to create the holographic doctor, The Hamilton Project.

Dr Caswell stated she is privileged to have these associations, and excited to be mapping out academic and operational training pathways, coupled with excellent youth engagement strategies. “The STEM opportunities are enormous in the space industry, as I remind people what we have down here, they will want up there. And the challenge of keeping humans alive in space is just starting; deep space is a very different environment from LEO”. Amongst a number of projects that has brought Dr Caswell to the Australia Space Awards arena is the concept of a **Space Science School: Engagement, Education. Academic to Manufacturing**, rapidly been shortened to the ‘Triple S Atom Project’ (SSS-AtoM®). The SSS-AtoM project is a joint initiative with One Giant Leap Australia (www.onegiantleapaustralia.com.au), who are consummate space science educators.

One Giant Leap Australia and SpacePort Australia have constructed an NSW parliamentary e-petition for use of the Couralie, Carol Avenue decommissioned high school in Moree, NSW as a site for the space school. Those who reside in NSW are able to sign the e-petition for the decommissioned school in Moree, NSW, to become the Space Science School. Good for the bush, great for regional Australia.

Every signature helps secure the decommissioned school for this community building project:

Scan to sign e-petition:



Or copy and paste into your browser:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/Pages/ePetition-details.aspx?q=upWNGN5aqPg2KQOvdneovg>

The space economy dovetails with the technological economy, and for the next two upcoming generations of Australia to take part, opportunities need to be created, and focus broadened to all areas where young people can be involved. The SSS-AtoM project is a concept to provide Australian youth and communities avenues for space skills training (from robotics, to podcasting and media, to orbital mechanics and mission control). The SSS-AtoM Project has already attracted the interest of three universities, and a number of commercial partners.

Australian Space Awards 18th June 2026, Sydney

The Award ceremony will be held in Sydney, Thursday June 18th, 2026. As part of the awards ceremony each finalist is asked to nominate three songs. Dr Caswell nominated Russell Morris: *The Real Thing* and *On The Wings Of An Eagle*, and her third U2, *I Still Haven't Found What I Am Looking For*. Dr Caswell stated she was very grateful to her anonymous nominators. And it was fabulous to see so many young women in the finalist line up, and she is very excited for two of her mentorees, and five of her nominations who have made it to silver badge [finalist] status.

Dr Caswell is presenting at the SpaceCyt Institute, Australia Space Law and Policy Conference on Friday 19th of June and SpacePort Australia is a sponsor for SpaceLive – coming to Perth, Sydney and Melbourne in July and August.

End

###

Contact: contact@spaceportaustralia.com.au

Dr Gabrielle Caswell: www.DrGabrielleMCaswell.com

SpacePort Australia: www.spaceportaustralia.com.au

One Giant Leap Australia: www.onegiantleapaustralia.com

Honeysuckle Creek Archives: https://www.honeysucklecreek.net/msfn_missions/index.html

AICompanyUSA: www.aicompanyusa.com

Astrobees: www.spaceportaustralia/associates/astrobees

STEM Innovation Council: www.STEMinnovationcouncil.com