

Where is TRUE NORTH ?

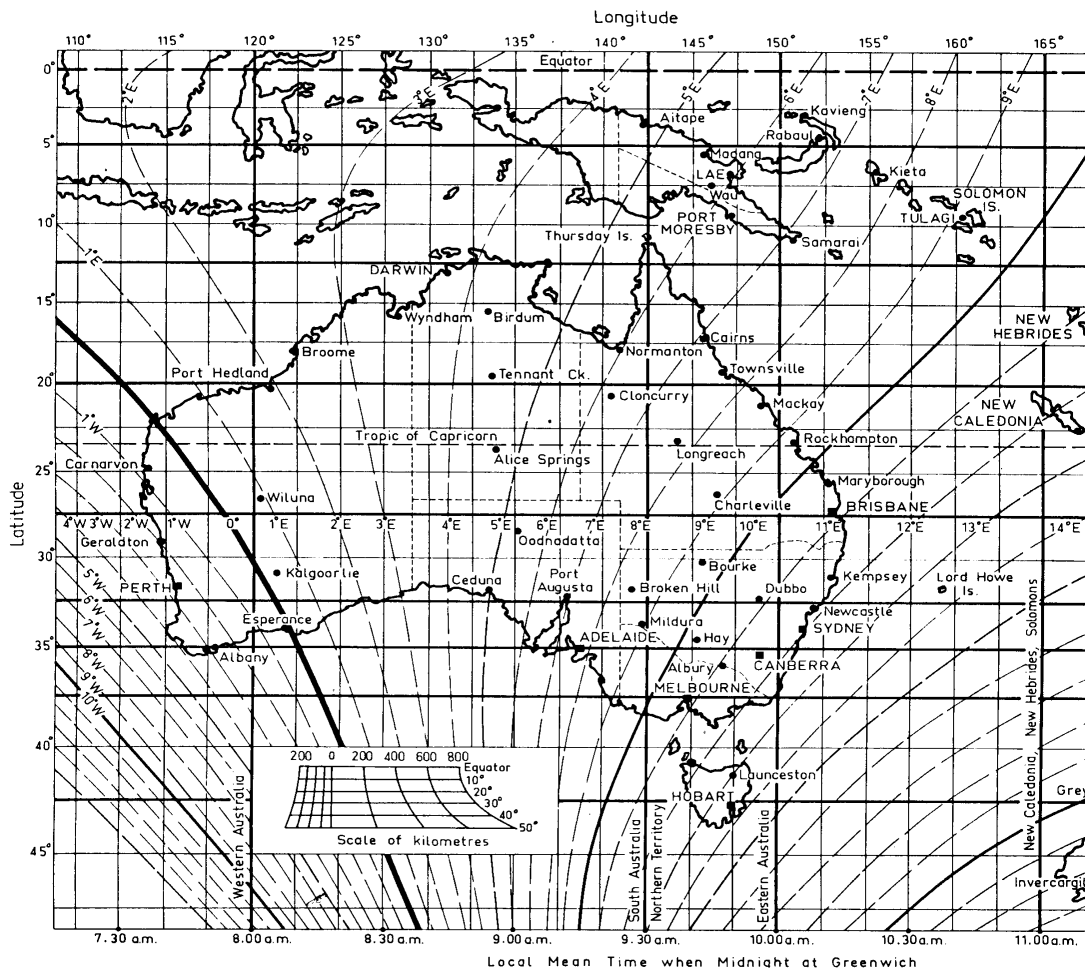
If you get out your compass it will point to magnetic north. Many people orient their building to the compass points (magnetic). Other buildings will be oriented for the view.

To maximise daily energy production AS 4509.3 recommends PV arrays face true north $\pm 5^\circ$. Any PV design should account for the difference between magnetic North and true North.

The map below gives an indication of the variation between mag. north and true north. (The magnetic pole moves around over time.)

It's over 10 years old and is not totally accurate but for PV design is close enough.

To confirm any variation go to https://www.ga.gov.au/oracle/geomag/minute_ftp.jsp



Map showing the variation of magnetic north from true north.
(Source: Phillips, R.O., (1992). *Sunshine and Shade in Australasia*.
Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra)