

TASSIC Workforce Development Forum 2023

Thursday 9 November | Crowne Plaza Hobart

1.00pm for 1.30pm start

Workforce Development

Workforce supply and demand for the geospatial sciences and professions

The availability of sufficient workforce capacity in the surveying and geospatial sectors has been a concern at the national level for some time. This is also reflected in the workforce situation in Tasmania.

The surveying and geospatial sectors are important to many aspects of Tasmanian society including the productivity and competitiveness of Tasmanian industries, the efficient provision of government services, to consumers and to sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

A shortage of skilled professionals and technicians in these sectors threatens to constrain the contribution that these sectors will be able to make to Tasmania in the future.

The Proposed Forum on Workforce Development is designed to be a catalyst for change. It will harness the power of data and technology to drive our industry forward by bringing together thought leaders, practitioners, and experts. Here's what you can expect:

Diverse Perspectives: The forum will feature presentations from employers, both in the private and public sectors, as well as suppliers. These insights will provide a well-rounded view of the challenges and opportunities within the geospatial sector.

Interactive Moderation: We will employ the Menti-Meter program to facilitate discussions, ensuring that your voice is heard, and your input is valued. Active participation is encouraged.

Hybrid Accessibility: Recognizing the challenges of physical attendance, we have created a hybrid setup that allows remote participation, making it accessible to a broader audience.

Expert Speakers: Industry representatives, government officials, and educational institutions will present their insights and strategies for building a robust geospatial workforce.

The Forum will be held at Crowne Plaza in Hobart with a live stream. There will be an opportunity for networking from 5 pm to 6 pm.

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Workforce Development

Registration	1.00pm – 1.30pm
Forum opening The Hon. Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Parks, Heritage and Small Business	1.30pm – 1.45pm
Introduction to TASSIC Alan Smart Chair, TASSIC	1.45pm – 1.50pm
Workforce demands on public infrastructure – plan design, construct and operate... Paul Digney Jacobs	1.50pm
Plan B Rob Rowell Insight GIS	2.05pm
Spatial services and local government Michael Edrich Local Government Association of Tasmania	2.20pm
Thinking differently about solving the skills shortages – employing neurodiversity Michael Krome Australian Spatial Analytics	2.35pm
Geospatial Education at the University of Tasmania Arko Lucieer University of Tasmania	2.50pm
Break	3.05pm – 3.35pm
Delivery of Surveying and Geospatial Information at TAFE NSW to Meet the Needs of Industry Sam Ebert TAFE NSW	3.40pm
Technical Training in Tasmania and Tas TAFE's 10-Year Plan Troy Robbins Tas TAFE	3.55pm
Moderated Session Moderator: Danika Bakalich Geospatial Council of Australia	4.10pm – 5.00pm
Networking	5.00pm – 6.00pm

About TASSIC

The independently chaired Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) reports to the Minister for Energy and Renewables, Parks, Heritage and Small Business and comprises representatives from the spatial industry, profession, academia and all tiers of government. A key role of TASSIC is to facilitate broader access and application of spatial information across sectors and industries, to underpin the social, environmental and economic prosperity of Tasmania. TASSIC is supported by Land Tasmania, a division of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

Speakers



The Hon. Nick Duigan

MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Parks, Heritage and Small Business

Nick Duigan is a well-known Tasmanian, after more than three decades on television - including 20 years hosting the national fishing program Hook Line and Sinker.

Nick lives in Launceston with his wife Amanda and their three daughters. He has spent much of his career filming across Australia and his travels have reinforced how fortunate we are to enjoy the Tasmanian way of life.

Nick is an active member of local social, sporting, and recreational aviation communities, and has volunteered to support men's health initiatives, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and is a national Neighbour Day Ambassador.



Alan Smart

Chair, TASSIC

Alan Smart is the Chair of TASSIC. He is an engineer and economist who has undertaken assessments of the value of spatial information commencing with the first comprehensive review of the value of spatial information to the Australian economy in 2008 and subsequently the value of spatial information to the Tasmanian economy in 2012. He continued this work in New Zealand, the UK, Malaysia and Canada. Most recently he undertook research into the size of the space industry in Australia which revealed the importance of the spatial industry to applications of space sourced data in Australia.



Paul Digney

Global Technology Leader, Jacobs
President, Geospatial Council of Australia

Paul Digney is the Surveying Technical Director for Jacobs Australia and is a licensed surveyor in Tasmania and Victoria with over 25 years' experience in the surveying/spatial profession. Paul shares his employment equally between public and private sector roles with a strong focus on geodetic/cadastral surveying and more recently 3D laser scanning, digital engineering and strategic consulting.

Title: Workforce demands on public infrastructure – plan design, construct and operate...

Australia faces an unprecedented shortage in skilled workers to meet our ambitious plans for public infrastructure. Infrastructure Australia estimate in two years, the workforce will be 48 per cent short of demand, a deficit of 105,000 people, and if action is not taken now, delivery of public infrastructure projects – ranging from critical energy pipelines to an expanded road and rail network and resilient telecommunications – will be at risk. Tasmania is not immune to this impact, with significant state and national infrastructure projects being planned and built. Currently the skills shortage has and will continue to put pressure on the States ability to deliver. With Geospatial services and skills critical to all phases of the planning and delivery of major infrastructure, this presentation will explore the role of geospatial and how a skilled and sustainable workforce will be pivotal in realising these plans.



Rob Rowell

Business Development Manager
Managing Director
Insight GIS

Robert Rowell has been in the spatial industry for close to 40 years. Firstly as a licensed surveyor in Tasmania and Queensland. For the past 30 years he has been the owner and managing director of Insight GIS , a business focussed on GIS consultancy services and the supply of GIS software. He has a Bachelor of Surveying from UTas and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Additional roles have included being member of the Premiers Digital Advisory Board, involvement in the CRC for Spatial Information (CRCSI) thru 43PL, their Industry Leadership group and the transition committee from CRCSI to Frontier SI. Within Tasmania he has served as the regional chair of AURISA (now GCA) and SIBA .

Title: Plan B

Finding employees who have the capability to meet the growing needs of the geospatial industry is challenging, especially within the private sector. As a result, business has to look for alternative options to meet their workforce needs.

Michael Edrich

Senior Policy Officer

Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)

Michael is a Senior Policy Officer for the Local Government Association of Tasmania managing the policy areas of infrastructure, asset management, planning, and development. Michael engages in State and Federal policy and legislative reform processes and advocates on behalf of Tasmanian councils. Michael is a qualified environmental planner with experience in Tasmania and Queensland, including development assessment and strategic planning. In this work he has been involved in the preparation of several planning schemes for councils in regional Queensland, including Cook Shire, South Burnett Regional Councils and Weipa Town Authority.

Title: Spatial services and local government

Abstract: Michael will discuss why spatial services are so important to local government, the challenges with workforce broadly and the opportunities to build spatial capability within local government.



Michael Krome

Chief Sales and Marketing Officer

Australian Spatial Analytics

Michael is a seasoned spatial professional with over 25 years of experience building and growing products and professional services businesses to support his Geospatial, Engineering and Asset Management clients.

Michael has a passion for employing neurodiversity in the Geospatial and Digital Engineering professions. He and his colleagues at ASA are focused on expanding to over 300 neurodiverse staff over the next three years, who knows, maybe in Tasmania...

Title: Thinking differently about solving the skills shortages – employing neurodiversity

Our Geospatial profession is in the grips of a skills shortage, with a recent paper outlining the need for 1500 additional Surveyors and Geospatial professions every year. Imagine what could be possible if we could align the amazing cognitive skills of the neurodiverse mind with professions in dire need of a skilled and proficient young workforce?



Arko Lucieer

Head of School of Geography, Planning and Spatial Sciences

University of Tasmania

Arko is the Head of the School of Geography, Planning, and Spatial Sciences and a Professor in Remote Sensing at the University of Tasmania. Arko guides a team of 50 dedicated academic and professional staff members. Their collective efforts are directed towards addressing the region's most urgent challenges, as we strive to shape a sustainable future.

Arko is committed to teaching geospatial science and mentoring the next generation of remote sensing specialists. His approach to education emphasises the integration of theory and practical application, fostering an enriching learning environment that prepares students for real-world challenges. Arko is always keen to engage with students, colleagues, and anyone interested in the fascinating world of remote sensing.

Title: Geospatial Education at the University of Tasmania

Preparing graduates for entry into a modern geospatial workforce has been the focus of a recent curriculum review at the University of Tasmania. The outcomes of the review included a new flagship undergraduate degree with 3 distinct career pathways plus a suite of updated undergraduate/postgraduate certificates, short courses and masters level study options. By creating a new range of study options for a range of cohorts i.e. online, on-campus, school-leavers, and mature-age 'upskillers' we hope to foster growth in the local and national supply of geospatially-trained professionals. In today's presentation I will outline the current tertiary geospatial study opportunities in Tasmania and discuss student enrolment trends and predictions.



Sam Ebert

Team Leader Infrastructure, Civil, Mining and Surveying
TAFE NSW

Sam has had a varied spatial background from working at CSIRO in Townsville as a Spatial Analyst integrating economic, environmental and social choice criteria in land-use planning for the sugar industry, to the role of GIS Manager at the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (now DELWP), to his current role as Team Leader Infrastructure, Civil, Mining and Surveying at TAFE NSW, Region South. Sam is excited by the fact that spatial is woven through everyday life, and he feels empowered in bringing the next wave of practitioners into the industry.

Title: Delivery of Surveying and Geospatial Information at TAFE NSW to Meet the Needs of Industry

Most surveying organisations or individuals have a connection to TAFE NSW. Whether as a former or existing student themselves or working with someone who completed a vocational qualification. Surveying and geospatial information delivery has been occurring for over 50 years, with TAFE NSW delivering Certificate III, Certificate IV and Diploma qualifications to hundreds of geospatial professionals throughout NSW and inter-state. It is pivotal that TAFE NSW engages with industry to ensure we are meeting their demands and keeping abreast of the technological changes. There is complexity associated with training students who already work in the industry, students who have not yet found work in the industry, working with a declining number of teachers, and trying to remain engaging to learners amidst their hectic lives. In recent years, TAFE NSW has undergone structural changes, which has now resulted in a collaborative approach to delivery across the campuses of Ultimo, Wollongong, National Environment Centre (Albury) and Newcastle. Born out of this collaboration is a model of delivery incorporating face-to-face, online and connected (MS Teams) sessions. This model is scalable, allowing it to accommodate growing enrolment numbers, student location and available teachers. This presentation demonstrates that TAFE NSW is able to meet the demands of industry, while working with and better utilising that industry.

Troy Robbins

Manager, Industry Relationships and Business Growth
TasTAFE

Troy Robbins has been working within the TAFE sector for just over ten years. Troy comes to TasTAFE from the Victorian TAFE sector holding roles in research, marketing, communications, public relations, major projects and stakeholder relations. Before joining the TAFE sector, Troy held various positions within events, projects, media, advertising, PR and custom publishing. His media experience covers titles such as the Herald Sun, Weekly Times, mX Newspaper, J-Mag and Vogue Australia. Outside work, Troy can't survive without his daily coffee hit, is annoyingly curious, and will never get over putting the wrong day on the front of the newspaper.

Title: Technical Training in Tasmania and Tas TAFE's 10-Year Plan



Danika Bakalich

Executive Manager, Workforce and Strategy
Geospatial Council of Australia

Over the last 20 years, Danika has successfully participated in and led global initiatives across a range of sectors including technology and the digital economy, resources and infrastructure, international development, education and training. Danika has provided strategic development and program design solutions for private and public sector organisations across several regions including Africa,

Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Australia and the Pacific region.

A key component of Danika's professional experience has been in bringing together diverse stakeholders to identify issues and develop creative solutions to achieve sustainable impacts. Passionate about making a difference, Danika specialises in developing and implementing policy, governance and operational frameworks associated with workforce development strategies, industry standards, communications strategies and driving global market outcomes for organisations and governments.

Danika is the Executive Manager, Workforce and Strategy for the Geospatial Council of Australia.
