

ACTIVITY REPORT

Volume 1, June 2008

The inaugural meeting of the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) was held on Wednesday 4 June 2008.

The role of the Council is to maximise opportunities for government, industry and the community through the efficient and effective development, maintenance and use of the Tasmanian Spatial Data Infrastructure (TSDI).

The new Council has seven (7) permanent member representatives, appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water. Apart from the Chair, each of the other six members represents a key sector of the spatial information industry in Tasmania. Members have been nominated by the selected industry sectors to ensure that TASSIC has an appropriate balance of competencies and experiences to meet its objectives.

Foundation members of TASSIC and respective nominating organisations are:

- Mr Michael Giudici, Independent Chair;
- Mr Mitchell Knevet, Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPAC);
- Mr Stephen Godfrey, Department of Primary Industries & Water (DPIW);
- Mr Mark Wise, Local Government Association of Tasmania;
- Dr Jon Osborn, University of Tasmania;
- Mr Hugh Clement, Spatial Sciences Institute;
- Mr Malcolm Lester, Australian Spatial Information Business Association.

Background

Around two years ago, the Information and Land Services Division of the Department of Primary Industries and Water undertook a strategic review of the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST). A key direction emanating from that review was the need to establish a TSDI with the LIST redeveloped as its portal. This direction was viewed as the first step towards better management of spatial information both within government and for the whole of Tasmania.

The review identified a lack of formal coordination and integration across the spatial information sectors in Tasmania. The need to establish new governance arrangements was recognised. Previous governance for spatial information in Tasmania was provided by the Land Information Coordination Council (LICC), which involved representatives from State and Local Government and GBEs. A more holistic approach for future governance was recommended, involving government, academia, the private sector and professional institutions.

In late 2007, State Cabinet approved the formal disbanding of the LICC and the establishment of two new governing bodies – TASSIC and the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC).

TASSIC was established to provide a key forum to facilitate increased collaboration and cooperation between public, private and community sectors in all aspects of spatial information in Tasmania. One of the first major tasks for the Council is the development of a Strategic Plan for Spatial Information in Tasmania.

The role of the TGSC is to present a whole of government perspective on spatial information policy, issues and recommendations to both the Inter Agency Steering Committee and TASSIC. TGSC membership is limited to State Government Agencies and GBEs.

It is anticipated that other key sector groups will also set up their own committees to provide additional input to TASSIC.

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Strategic Direction

At the inaugural meeting, Council discussed recognised components of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and the elements necessary for spatially enabled government.

Council also discussed existing and potential mechanisms to ensure TSDI consistency with the national SDI. It was noted that Stephen Godfrey General Manager, Information and Land Services Division, DPIW) and Peter Murphy (Surveyor-General, Director Geospatial Information, DPIW) are Tasmanian representatives for ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council and the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) respectively. As such, they are well placed to keep Council informed about work being done at a national level.

Council commenced a preliminary discussion on major issues relating to the Council's future strategic direction. A key message to be addressed is 'How can we do it better?' Discussion on strategic direction will be continued at the next meeting.

Administration

The next Council meeting is to be held on 4 July 2008, with Dr Marnie Leybourne (Director Western Australian Land Information System [WALIS]) as an invited guest.

Subsequent meetings for 2008 have been scheduled for August, October and late November.

Further Information

For more information on TASSIC activities, please contact the Executive Officer:

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