

ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Volume 2, July 2008

The second meeting of the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) was held on 4 July 2008.

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.

TASSIC has seven permanent member representatives, nominated by the selected key industry sectors to ensure an appropriate balance of competencies and experiences to meet its objectives. Members 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.

Meeting Highlights

Dr Marnie Leybourne, Director of the Western Australian Land Information System (WALIS), addressed the Council with a presentation on the WALIS Experience. Established in 1981, WALIS is the longest standing land/geographic information system cooperative arrangement in Australia.

WALIS is not a computer system – it is the WA government's mechanism for coordinating the management of spatial information. Its role is defined as a partnership of government agencies working with business, education and the general community to share, manage, improve and promote that state's geographic information.

WALIS is involved in developing policies that are ultimately endorsed by government, in areas such as data custodianship, data pricing and metadata standards. Policies are not generally legislatively based but may be included as directives in a 'Premier's Circular'. Premier's Circulars are used in WA to communicate matters of whole-of-government policy and issues of strategic importance to the State. It is the responsibility of CEOs to remain informed of Circular content, comply with their directions and disseminate information to relevant staff.

The Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP) is a key focus for WALIS for 2007-2010. Its development was based on four focus areas with lead agency responsibility, funded through a joint application by the relevant four WA government agencies. Those four agencies were collectively responsible for its implementation. SLIP has been online since August 2007. WALIS is now evaluating business opportunities and additional user applications in areas including marine, infrastructure, environmental health and storm water management.

New and changing policy issues for WALIS include pricing, access, data quality, custodianship, security and privacy. Future directions are greater industry and community involvement, as well as marketing to the mainstream.

After the presentation, Council discussed Marnie's impressions on developments and trends in other jurisdictions. Marnie emphasised the need for standards to ensure interoperability.

It was noted that the new governance arrangements for spatial information in Tasmania are potentially very advantageous for the achievement of future goals and the successful implementation of programs. The role of the TGSC is viewed as an important element.

Council participated in general discussion involving a range of issues and activities at both local and national levels, in terms of establishing the best path forward for positive change:

- *The availability of scanned plans through the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST):* The Information and Land Services Division of the Department of Primary Industries & Water is currently developing a new Survey Information Service. The service will instigate a cadastral search based on an identified parcel of land and provide instant access to a compilation of available scanned plans, and/or references with an online request for the manual searching of unscanned plans in the Land Titles Office. The introduction of the service will also provide consistency between over the counter, mail and online search requests.
- *Progress with the electronic lodgement of survey plans (ePlan) across jurisdictions:* QLD and NSW are making good progress in this area. NZ has implemented a similar system.
- *National Digital Elevation Model (AusDEM):* There has been consultation across jurisdictions to identify pathways for the development of a national DEM.
- *Issues and the role of local government as spatial data providers and users:* It was suggested that the current scale Tasmanian state cadastre was more than adequate for a range of purposes when first developed. Use of spatial data has changed considerably in recent years, bringing into question the continuing adequacy of the current data. An example was provided where NRM drivers are impacting on local government. Councils are obliged to report on activities within a 500m radius of botanical communities and threatened/endangered species fauna and flora.
- *Outputs from LIST Client Survey 2006:* The survey highlighted a number of stakeholder issues with LIST functionality and data.
- *Glenorchy City Council cadastral upgrade project:* TASSIC is interested in obtaining more information on the processes and standards involved in the upgrade, including the future availability of the improved data and its integration into the State cadastre.
- *Implementation of the State's Water and Sewerage Project:* Presents an opportunity to set spatial standards for the location of associated infrastructure and assets in a statewide framework.
- *Other jurisdictions' spatial strategies:* The VIC and WA spatial strategies have been distributed. The NZ and NSW spatial strategies will also be reviewed.

It was proposed that a TASSIC role is to promote the use of spatial data to develop evidence-based policies for defensible decision-making.

Administration

The next Council meeting is to be held on 21 August 2008. Subsequent meetings for 2008 have been scheduled for October and late November.

Further Information

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

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