

## ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

*Volume 3, August 2008*

The third meeting of the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) was held on 21 August 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.

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 Knevett, 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.

### **Review of Council Expertise**

The Minister for Primary Industries & Water has endorsed Council's proposed amendments to the Charter and has also agreed to the inclusion of one interim member of the Council, in accordance with sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the revised Charter V1.0.

Council is seeking to appoint an interim member for a one year term with particular expertise in the application of spatial data to environmental and natural resource management to ensure that TASSIC has an appropriate balance of competencies and experiences to meet its objectives.

### **National and Local Activities in Spatial Information**

Stephen Godfrey provided a DVD presentation on Spatial Awareness produced by the National Spatial and Information Management Working Group (NSIM). The presentation reflected the importance that governments are placing on the sharing of spatial and other information to support planning and decision-making in emergency situations.

As Chair of the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC), Council member Mitchell Knevett reported on TGSC activities to date. It was noted that, to a large extent, the Committee is looking to TASSIC for strategic direction and guidance. The TGSC is currently reviewing core spatial datasets in an effort to identify issues and key opportunities for data improvement, as well as examining opportunities for its future work program.

Council reviewed the new governance arrangements for Water & Sewerage Reform and agreed that the project presents an opportunity for the standardisation of spatial information. Possible synergies will be explored in the future.

### **Strategic Direction**

One of the first major tasks for the Council is the development of a Strategic Plan for Spatial Information in Tasmania.

A full strategic planning day has been scheduled for 7 October 2008. Participants will critically review the work done by other jurisdictions, with a view to identifying issues and critical gaps in a Tasmanian context. The anticipated output for the day is a conceptual framework for the Strategic Plan.

### **Administration**

The last Council meeting for 2008 is scheduled for 25 November.

## Further Information

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

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