

ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Volume 5, December 2008

The Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) was established in 2008 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.

Highlights and Outcomes for 2008

The inaugural meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 4 June 2008. A total of six meetings were convened between June and December 2008, including two full day sessions dedicated to progression of work on the development of a Strategic Plan for Spatial Information in Tasmania.

General activity to date includes:

- Discussion of the recognised components of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and the elements necessary for spatially enabled government, including existing and potential mechanisms to ensure Tasmanian SDI consistency with the national SDI.
- Review and amendment of the TASSIC Charter, highlighting the relevance and importance of outcomes and opportunities for government, business and the community.
- Recommendation of the appointment of one additional interim member to add a different user perspective and to ensure that TASSIC has an appropriate balance of competencies and experiences to meet its objectives.
- A presentation by Dr Marnie Leybourne, Director of the Western Australian Land Information System (WALIS).
- Wide ranging, regular discussion of a range of issues and activities at both local and national levels, in terms of establishing the best path forward for positive change in Tasmania.
- Endorsement of proposed amendments to the Charter by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water and agreement to the inclusion of one interim member with particular expertise in the application of spatial data to environmental and natural resource management.
- A DVD presentation on Spatial Awareness produced by the National Spatial and Information Management Working Group (NSIM), reflecting the importance (and sharing) of spatial information to support planning and decision-making in emergency situations.
- Exploration of possible synergies with the new Water and Sewerage Corporations, including a presentation by Garry Swain, Deputy Director Water and Sewerage Project.
- An approach to the Chair of the Water and Sewerage Corporations, Mr Geoff Willis, for consideration of the specific needs of the new Corporations, corresponding alignment with the Strategic Plan for Spatial Information in Tasmania and the realisation of mutually beneficial outcomes.

Strategic Direction

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

A one day strategic planning workshop was held on 7 October 2008, with TASSIC members critically reviewing the work done by other jurisdictions, as well as working on the identification of issues and critical gaps in a Tasmanian context. An external scan was provided by the facilitating consultant, Paul Kelly, illustrating a wide diversity of drivers, strategies and implementation methodologies.

Further action was required to develop the vision and key milestones which would form the basis of the strategic plan. It was recognised that there were a number of interrelated components which needed to be reviewed before the next stage of the strategic planning process could commence.

At the November meeting of TASSIC, it was agreed that there was a need for much broader thinking and robust discussion, as well as in-depth deliberation of issues and desirable outcomes. It was agreed that Council was not yet in a position to draft a dynamic and carefully considered strategic plan.

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A second full day working session was held on 9 December 2008, facilitated by Bronwyn Cross. This session delivered significant progress, with members considering issues raised at the October workshop in a Tasmanian context, and more intensive work on priorities and future direction. The importance of current drivers including climate change, water and sustainability was acknowledged.

An interim Statement of Strategic Intent is now being drafted, with delivery of a more developed strategy anticipated by June-August 2009.

TASSIC Membership

TASSIC has seven permanent members and one interim member, providing a balance of competencies and experiences in different industry sectors. 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;
- Dr Richard Mount (interim member).

Meeting Schedule for 2009

A total of seven routine meetings have been scheduled for 2009, with the first meeting to be convened on 17 February 2009.

Further Information

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

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