

The Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) was established in 2008 to provide the forum to facilitate increased collaboration and cooperation between public, private and community sectors in all aspects of spatial information in Tasmania.

TASSIC's role is to maximise opportunities for government, industry and the community through the efficient and effective development, maintenance and use of spatial information. The Council reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

Strategic Direction

Council is currently developing a Strategic Plan to define and guide priorities for spatial information to meet the needs of all sectors – business, government, education and the wider community.

TASSIC is determined to canvass the views of a wide range of organisations, individuals, peak bodies and government agencies in developing this strategic thinking.

In February 2009, a *Statement of Strategic Intent* was circulated and comments invited from over a hundred key individuals from around seventy organisations. To date, eighteen submissions have been received.

To further inform TASSIC's priorities, we are now delving deeper into discussion to ensure we have a clear grasp of strategic issues and opportunities. Comments already submitted are being used to initiate further consultation with stakeholders and develop an overall framework for the strategy. An outline of the proposed stakeholder consultation process is attached overleaf.

Council welcomes all input at any stage, so if you have any comments on the process or wish to lodge a late submission regarding the *Statement of Strategic Intent*, please don't hesitate to put them forward.

Public release of the fully developed plan is anticipated before the end of 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 Kneve, 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

The next TASSIC meeting is a full day strategic working session scheduled for 26 May 2009.

Further Information

For more information or the submission of comments, please contact the TASSIC Executive Officer, Caroline Palfreyman on 03 6216 4476 or email: caroline.palfreyman@dpiw.tas.gov.au.

TASMANIAN SPATIAL INFORMATION COUNCIL – ACTIVITY REPORT

Proposed Stakeholder Consultation Process

The 'Developing a Strategic Plan for Spatial Information Project' is focusing attention and energy on priorities for 2009-2012 that will make the greatest positive difference to the spatial information sector and to Tasmania.

Central to TASSIC's role is "to facilitate increased collaboration and cooperation between public, private and community sectors in all areas of spatial information". This makes it critical for TASSIC to consult broadly and effectively on key issues, and particularly in development of the (first) Strategic Plan. In this way, TASSIC will:

- make more informed, confident decisions on key issues;
- encourage greater support for and commitment to agreed strategic priorities;
- be able to engage relevant organisations & individuals in agreeing and taking action in support of defined goals;
- have greater credibility, influence and impact within and outside the sector in pursuit of TASSIC's vision and objectives.

By its nature, spatial information is a far-reaching and complex inter-relationship of players and processes. There are a large number of organisations, agencies, government functions, peak bodies and industry groups (as well as the wider community) who operate in different ways and at different levels. It is not always practical or possible to consult with each organisation on every issue, including the Strategic Plan.

In light of the above, a framework for stakeholder consultation has been developed that aims to deliver the benefits of effective dialogue while avoiding the pitfalls.

Principles of consultation

In consulting with the spatial information sector, TASSIC has been guided by the following principles:

1. Aim to achieve broad representation from across the public and private sector, large and small organisations, local, state and commonwealth government.
2. Avoid dominance of any one group or sector.
3. Ensure participation from each of the following categories of organisation within the sector¹:
 - data producers/generators
 - value-adders/Integrators
 - service providers
 - users
 - policy makers/regulators
 - infrastructure providers
4. Provide an opportunity for any organisation/group that is anxious to express an opinion to have its voice heard.
5. Take measured, objective decisions in light of the information received and considered.
6. Recognise that there are likely to be divergent views on some issues and that although consensus is desirable it is not a prerequisite.
7. Keep stakeholders informed of progress in a way and at a frequency that works for them.
8. Maintain a dialogue with interested parties, including following up on some of the responses to the *Statement of Strategic Intent* (SOSI) to clarify or deepen understanding.

Outline of Consultation Process

Step	Activity	Timing (approx)
1	Review feedback on SOSI	April
2	Interviews with 12-15 stakeholders	April/May
3	Short-list draft priorities and seek stakeholder comment	Mid-May
4	TASSIC Strategic Planning Session	26 May
5	Draft and refine Strategic Plan	June-July
6	Issue draft Strategic Plan for final comment	August
7	Invite stakeholders to participate in developing plans/strategies to address agreed priorities in the Strategic Plan	September onwards

¹ It is acknowledged that some organisations perform multiple roles; for example a user may also be a producer.