

The Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) provides a forum for increased collaboration and cooperation between public, private and community sectors in the collection, maintenance and use of spatial information in Tasmania.

TASSIC has defined its purpose as *'facilitating full access to, and application of, spatial information to underpin Tasmania's economic, environment and social prosperity'*.

In fulfilling this purpose, TASSIC intends to build closer links and more effective communication within the spatial information community, identifying opportunities, breaking down barriers and optimising use of resources.

A total of seven Council meetings were convened throughout 2009, including a full day session dedicated to work on development of the *Strategic plan for spatial information in Tasmania 2009-2012*.

Strategic planning activities in 2009

In 2009, TASSIC developed a three-year strategic plan to reflect and guide priorities in spatial information in the State, working in consultation with an extensive range of stakeholder groups from across the Tasmanian spatial information community.

As part of that process, a *Statement of Strategic Intent* was circulated to stakeholders in February. Over a hundred key Individuals from around seventy private and public organisations were invited to submit comments, particularly suggestions for initiatives and specific courses of action that would enable the more effective use of spatial information in Tasmania. Around twenty formal submissions were received by the closing date, 31 March.

An external consultant was engaged to work with Council in the next phase of consultation. Comments from submissions were used to initiate a series of personal interviews more than twenty stakeholders, to gain a clear grasp of strategic issues, opportunities and priorities. Priority goals and broad focus areas were established and an overall framework for the strategy was developed.

A draft plan was released to stakeholders for final comment in July. The plan was refined and subsequently endorsed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water in September.

TASSIC's *Strategic plan for spatial information in Tasmania 2009-2012* was publicly released in early November.

Vision and strategic priorities

TASSIC's vision is for *'abundant and useful spatial information within reach of all'*.

The three critical priorities to be addressed as the foundations for delivering this vision are:

1. establish recognition of the role and value of spatial information and the Tasmanian spatial information community
2. ensure the development of a more effective Tasmanian Spatial Data Infrastructure through addressing:
 - a. policies and standards
 - b. data capture, management and access
 - c. enabling infrastructure
3. build skills, capability and capacity.

These priorities emerged through consultation with stakeholders and TASSIC is committed to working with the spatial information community to facilitate activities to address each priority as we strive to achieve our vision.

Work on the first priority has commenced. A short-term communications and awareness strategy has been developed, with one of the first activities being a presentation at a workshop convened by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 16 December.

Council has also been working on a *Collaborative Model* that describes processes and mechanisms to stimulate and support effective collaboration. This model should provide a framework through which to engage partners and

facilitate constructive opportunities for individuals, community groups and organisations, business, industry and government sectors to work together to achieve shared outcomes and mutual benefits.

In early 2010, TASSIC will work on the scope and focus of each priority area, develop terms of reference and recruit members for working groups. Council encourages people to highlight areas where they see opportunities to get personally involved or in which they have a particular interest or expertise.

Other activities in 2009

Other key activities for the Council in the 2009 calendar year include:

- ongoing review and discussion of activities and reports from relevant local, national and international committees including: PSMA Limited; ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council of Australia and New Zealand; the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRC-SI); the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM); the UK's Ordnance Survey; and the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC)
- correspondence with ANZLIC proposing the inclusion of Tasmania as a focus jurisdiction in ANZLIC's *Economic Study for Access and Pricing of Spatial Resources*
- discussion of potential opportunities associated with the Digital Regions Initiative and the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN)
- a presentation by Mr Peter Murphy, Surveyor General and Director Geospatial Information (DPIPWE), on the development of ANZLIC's Spatial Marketplace (ASM)
- a briefing by Mr Peter Murphy, and review of a paper submitted by the TGSC, on the demand, issues and opportunities for upgrading one of the State's most fundamental spatial datasets – the cadastre
- consideration of the findings of a discussion paper, submitted by the TGSC, outlining the issues and challenges of confidentiality associated with the sharing and publication of sensitive personal-spatial information
- liaison with ANZLIC acknowledging activities in the development of the ASM and the potential opportunity for linking a Tasmanian Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) network with the NBN rollout
- a letter of support to SKM in response to a request for comment on the feasibility of developing a CORS network in Tasmania, using the Cradle Coast region as a model for development and operation
- establishment of a TASSIC sub-group to review compiled stakeholder comments and provide consolidated input to the steering committee for the review of the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*
- reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, including a meeting between the Minister and the Chair, Mr Michael Giudici, in August, and an informal meeting with all Council members in September to endorse the strategic plan for publication and public distribution, and discuss the scope and challenges of progressing actions against priorities
- a briefing and powerpoint presentation to Cabinet by TASSIC representatives, Mr Michael Giudici, Dr Jon Osborn and Dr Richard Mount
- a joint press release from the Minister and the Chair announcing the release of the strategic plan
- review and consideration of the three major State Government initiatives relating to infrastructure, innovation and social inclusion, including a presentation on the *Tasmanian Infrastructure Strategy* by Mr David Spence from the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER)
- a presentation on a proposed 'spatial data exchange' by the Executive Commissioner of the Tasmanian Planning Commission, Mr Greg Alomes
- a presentation and demonstration of *Eonfusion* 4D geospatial visualisation and analysis software, by Dr Hugh Pedersen (Technical Sales Manager Myriax, Honorary Research Associate, Tasmanian Aquaculture & Fisheries Institute, University of Tasmania)
- formal acknowledgement of the role and personal contribution of outgoing member, Mr Stephen Godfrey, in the establishment and early activities of the Council
- the appointment of Ms Kate Kent as a permanent member representing the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)
- the reappointment of Dr Richard Mount as interim member with expertise in natural resource management for a further one year term.

TASSIC Membership

TASSIC has seven permanent members and one interim member, providing a balance of competencies and experiences from private enterprise, academia and government.

Current members and their respective nominating organisations are:

- Mr Michael Giudici, Independent Chair
- Mr Mitchell Knevett, Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPAC)
- Ms Kate Kent, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment (DPIPWE)
- Mr Mark Wise, Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
- Dr Jon Osborn, University of Tasmania (UTAS)
- Mr Hugh Clement, Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI)
- Mr Malcolm Lester, Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA)
- Dr Richard Mount (interim member).

Meeting schedule for 2010

A total of seven routine meetings have been scheduled for 2010, with the first meeting to be convened on 16 February.

Further information

For more information, please contact the TASSIC Executive Officer, Caroline Palfreyman, on 03 6216 4476 or email tassic@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au.