

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, environmental and social prosperity'*.

TASSIC's vision for the future of spatial information in Tasmania is for:

Abundant and useful spatial information within reach of all

Appointment of new Chair

A highly respected champion of the information economy and former Federal parliamentarian, Mr Gary Nairn, has been appointed as the new TASSIC Chair.

In announcing the appointment, the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Bryan Green, said that TASSIC would be playing a critical role in the ongoing development of Tasmania's spatial information infrastructure and that he was "delighted to appoint a person of Gary Nairn's calibre, experience and professional standing".

"This appointment will enhance the council's strong local representation from private enterprise, academia and government, and add an important national and international perspective," the Minister said.

After a 25 year career as a surveyor in Australia, the UK and Europe, including 13 years running his own surveying and mapping business, Gary served as the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro in the Australian Parliament from 1996-2007. His parliamentary career included appointments as Parliamentary Secretary and Special Minister of State. He now operates his own consultancy business specialising in business development, spatial information and property matters. Gary is also Chairman of Vekta Pty Ltd, a director of the Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA) and represents SIBA on the steering committee of the Australian Spatial Consortium (ASC).

TASSIC members take much pleasure in welcoming Gary and extending their appreciation to the immediate past Chair, Michael Giudici, and to Jon Osborn for assuming the role of Acting Chair over the last six months.

Activity since last report

The annual Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) State Conference was held on Saturday 10 July 2010, attended by around 100 delegates. The TASSIC Chair, Gary Nairn, was the first of four keynote speakers. His address centred on the lack of spatial data infrastructure at all levels of government in Australia and the resultant consequences for large infrastructure projects and other challenges such as bushfire and health.

As part of TASSIC's priority to improve recognition of the value of spatial information, TASSIC continues to conduct presentations outlining the Council's role and current activities.

At the SSSI State Conference, Ashley Mahar outlined TASSIC's work plan for the next 12-18 months and detailed some of the strategies to be used to achieve real results in both the short and medium terms.

Richard Mount outlined TASSIC's role in a presentation to staff in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment on 13 July 2010. Around 25 staff from a diverse range of non-technical and specialist areas within the Department participated. The presentation included practical examples of the value of spatial information and was followed by some interesting questions and discussion.

Report from last meeting

At the first meeting with the new Chair earlier this month, Council discussed national activities for raising awareness of spatial information and for planning of positioning networks.

Council also continues to review information about Onstream’s pilot project for a Tasmanian spatial data exchange, sponsored by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, in order to gain a better understanding of the next phase of the initiative. The spatial data exchange facility was discussed after hearing a presentation from the developers and a report from the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC).

Council has reviewed and amended its 12-month work plan for work on its strategic priorities. The plan has now been finalised.

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:

- Hon Gary Nairn, 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 Ashley Mahar, Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI)
- Mr Malcolm Lester, Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA)
- Dr Richard Mount (interim member).

Next meeting

TASSIC currently meets six times each calendar year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24 August 2010.

Further information

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