

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***

### **Activity since last report**

The TASSIC Chair, Hon Gary Nairn, was keynote speaker at the recent Spatial Information Day in Adelaide, hosted by South Australia's three principal spatial organisations:

- Spatial Industries Business Association - SIBA
- Spatial Information Committee – SICOM
- Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute – SSSI.

His address, titled *Establishing Spatial Data Infrastructures as Mainstream Infrastructure*, included a brief overview of TASSIC's activities.

Gary will also be chairing an expert panel at the upcoming *spatial@gov* conference in Canberra.

Council is working in conjunction with the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC) on the development of a business case for further investment by the Tasmanian Government in spatial information. A number of TASSIC members were involved in recent workshops convened by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, reviewing priorities for spatial services and tools as well as priorities for data acquisition, development or update.

### **Report from last meeting**

At the TASSIC meeting held on 24 August 2010, the Regional Director of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Adrian Bugg, outlined the ABS's role and interest in spatial information.

ABS believes there is substantial public good in providing broad access to aggregated information, and there are a number of potential synergies and opportunities for alignment between ABS and TASSIC. ABS is interested in exploring the potential for State and Commonwealth Governments to host agricultural census outputs on jurisdictional Spatial Data Infrastructures in order to increase public accessibility to that information. Regional ABS staff members are also keen to be involved in potential TASSIC working group scenarios.

A range of activities to address TASSIC's three key strategic priorities have been initiated, in accordance with TASSIC's 12-month work plan (June 2010 – June 2011). A communications plan has also been developed.

A workshop session was held in conjunction with last meeting to define the components of an ideal Spatial Data Infrastructure for Tasmania. When finalised, this work will be distributed for stakeholder review and further refinement.

A working group involving participants from private enterprise, local and state government has been established to review current best practice in spatial data licensing. Wider stakeholder input will be sought as work progresses.

TASSIC is also working on building skills, capability and capacity in spatial information. To gain a broader thought process and perspective, TASSIC is liaising with secondary and tertiary education providers, as well as government and non-government employers, in the formation of a semi-permanent committee focusing on this area.

### ***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 12 October 2010.

### ***Further information***

For more information, please contact the TASSIC Executive Officer, Caroline Palfreyman, on 03 6216 4476 or email [tassic@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:tassic@dpipwe.tas.gov.au).