

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 is building closer links and more effective communication within the spatial information community, identifying opportunities, breaking down barriers and optimising the use of resources.

A total of seven Council meetings were convened throughout 2010.

### **Strategic activities in 2010**

In 2010, TASSIC developed a 12-month work plan based on the three critical priorities identified in the *Strategic plan for spatial information in Tasmania 2009-2012*. A number of committees and working groups are now working towards achieving the objectives identified in the strategic plan:

- TASSIC has been working with the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) on delivery of an independent economic assessment of the value of spatial information and the Tasmanian Spatial Data Infrastructure.
- Activities designed to raise the profile of spatial information, engage key decision-makers and build relationships have commenced.
- Members continue to receive regular briefings and updates on activities and trends in other jurisdictions and relevant spatial organisations.
- Council has been actively involved with development of a business case for the further investment in spatial information by the Tasmanian Government. The business case is being developed by DPAC in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE). This work encompasses the identification of priorities for data, spatial services and tools.
- The components of an ideal Tasmanian Spatial Data Infrastructure have been drafted for release in early 2011. This is a significant body of work which aims to reflect the future goals and priorities of all stakeholders.
- A working group has been investigating best practice in spatial data licensing and potential adoption of the National Government Information Licensing Framework.
- To build skills, capability and capacity in the Tasmanian spatial information community, TASSIC is partnering with education and training providers through the formation of a permanent committee which will scope future activities. In 2011, the committee intends to conduct a skills audit to determine current and future needs.



TASSIC members (from left to right): Malcolm Lester, Kate Kent, Mark Wise, Ashley Mahar, Hon Gary Nairn (Chair), Jon Osborn, Richard Mount, Mitchell Knevet

### **Appointment of new Chair**

The inaugural TASSIC Chair, Michael Giudici, stood down at the expiry of his term of appointment in early 2010, leaving the Council in a strong position to move forward. Michael's leadership and commitment during his term was much appreciated and valued. Jon Osborn then capably assumed the role of Acting Chair for a period of six months.

Expressions of interest in the position were advertised, and in July a highly respected champion of the information economy and former Federal parliamentarian, Gary Nairn, was appointed as the new TASSIC Chair. On announcing the appointment, the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Bryan Green, said that he was "delighted to appoint a person of Gary Nairn's calibre, experience and professional standing".



*Minister Bryan Green met with TASSIC Chair Gary Nairn and other TASSIC members in October 2010*

### **Other activities in 2010**

Other key activities for the Council in the 2010 calendar year include:

- ongoing review and discussion of activities and reports from relevant local, national and international committees including: Australian Spatial Consortium (ASC); Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA); Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI); 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); and the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC)
- formation of a sub-group for the review of stakeholder comments and the submission of consolidated input to the steering committee reviewing the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*
- review of Tasmania's *State Infrastructure Strategy 2010*
- submission of an annual report to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, noting the Council's support for a Tasmanian network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS)
- communication to stakeholders, including:
  - presentation by TASSIC member, Mark Wise, at SSSI's *State of GIS seminar*
  - keynote address by TASSIC Chair, Gary Nairn, at the *SSSI Regional Conference*
  - presentation by TASSIC member, Ashley Mahar, at the *SSSI Regional Conference*,
  - presentation by TASSIC member, Richard Mount, to the DPIPW Executive and interested staff
- review of the Allen Consulting Group's report on the *Economic benefits of high resolution positioning services*
- briefings and consideration of the development of the Tasmanian Spatial Data Exchange pilot project (tsdx), including presentations by the Tasmanian Planning Commission and Onstream
- an address to Council by the Regional Director of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and State Government Statistician, Adrian Bugg, outlining the ABS' role and interest in spatial information
- keynote address by TASSIC Chair, Gary Nairn, at *Spatial Information Day* in Adelaide, including a brief overview of TASSIC's activities
- promotion of the work of TASSIC by Gary Nairn as chair of an expert panel at the national *spatial@gov conference* in Canberra
- key presentation by TASSIC member, Kate Kent, at the *Women in Spatial* breakfast held in conjunction with the Canberra conference
- half-day workshop dedicated to development of a model depicting a future ideal Spatial Data Infrastructure
- informal meetings and discussions between TASSIC and ANZLIC members in conjunction with the national ANZLIC meeting convened in Hobart
- discussion of TASSIC's direction by TASSIC Chair, Gary Nairn, with Vanessa Lawrence (Director General, CEO Ordnance Survey, UK), including providing Vanessa with a copy of TASSIC's strategic plan
- the nomination and appointment/reappointment of permanent and interim members to represent key sectors of the spatial information industry in Tasmania.

### **Key briefings in 2010**

In October, Minister Bryan Green and Senior Advisor Peter Pearce met informally with TASSIC members. The Minister thanked all TASSIC members for their contribution and voluntary commitment. He noted the significance of TASSIC's work plan and its alignment with the 3-year Strategic plan for spatial information in Tasmania.

The Minister noted that the work of the Council is critical to a range of integrated, whole-of-government issues. Council specifically discussed the DPAC business case for greater investment in spatial information and the tsdx pilot project.

In the last quarter of 2010, Chair Gary Nairn also met and briefed:

- Premier, David Bartlett
- Treasurer, Lara Giddings
- DPIPWE Secretary, Kim Evans
- DPIPWE Deputy Secretary, John Whittington
- DPAC Deputy Secretary, Rebekah Burton

Further meetings with key stakeholders and decision-makers have been scheduled for early 2011.

### **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 Knevet, 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).

### **Meeting schedule for 2011**

A total of seven routine meetings have been scheduled for 2011, with the first meeting to be convened on 22 February.

### **Invitation to stakeholders and user groups**

Do you or your organisation have an issue or a proposal that you would like to discuss with TASSIC?

In 2011, TASSIC will be scheduling meetings with different stakeholder and/or user groups to discuss current and emerging issues or initiatives.

To express your interest in arranging a focus meeting, please email [tassic@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:tassic@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au).

### **Further information**

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

