

## ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Volume 21, February 2011

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.

### **Activity since last report**

TASSIC continues to review and support the *Spatial Information Foundations* business case, which proposes further investment by the Tasmanian Government in spatial information. The business case is being developed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), and the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC). This work aligns closely with TASSIC's strategic activities, as outlined in the current work plan.

Council recently reviewed the national *Economic Assessment of Spatial Data Pricing and Access* report prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers for ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council of Australia and New Zealand. While the document proposes options rather than definitive recommendations, it tends to suggest a price discrimination model as the most achievable option. This document should provide a sound platform for future pricing and access decisions.

A focused assessment of the value of spatial information for Tasmania (Strategic Activity 1.1) was initiated by TASSIC in 2010. Responsibility for this activity has been assumed by DPAC, with the work being carried out by a respected consultant (ACIL Tasman) in tandem with development of the *Spatial Information Foundations* business case. Final outcomes will be described in future issues of this report.

Council is making steady progress on implementation of TASSIC's Communications Plan. TASSIC Chair, Gary Nairn, continues to meet and brief State and Federal Members of Parliament, as well as key State Government executives.

TASSIC also plans to engage more with representatives from local government and other relevant industry groups, including seeking out opportunities for spatial presentations at events and conferences hosted by other industries or focus groups. If you are involved with an upcoming event that would benefit from inclusion of a spatial information perspective, please don't hesitate to let us know.

In 2010, TASSIC worked on defining an ideal Tasmanian Spatial Data Infrastructure for the future. A draft document is currently being finalised for wider distribution and stakeholder feedback.

At last meeting, Council discussed a paper prepared by the Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA) about the potential establishment of a *Spatial Industry Statistics Program*. TASSIC is now establishing a formal connection with the SIBA-led working group, in an effort to reinforce the importance of this data at a jurisdictional level.



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

### ***Celebrate your spatial success story***

TASSIC is developing a portfolio of successful spatial information applications and case studies. Council plans to showcase these on the TASSIC website, which will be developed in coming months.

If you or your organisation would like to take advantage of this opportunity to highlight your spatial achievements, please contact the TASSIC Executive Officer by emailing [tassic@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:tassic@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au).

### ***Key briefings***

In February, TASSIC Chair, Gary Nairn, met and briefed:

- Minister for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Workplace Relations and Innovation, Science and Technology, Hon David O'Byrne
- DPAC Secretary, Rhys Edwards
- Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury, Scott Bacon.

### ***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).

### ***Meeting schedule for 2011***

The next TASSIC meeting is scheduled for 5 April 2011.

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

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

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

***'Abundant and useful spatial information within reach of all'***