

ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Volume 22, April 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.

Celebrate **your** spatial success story . . .

TASSIC is developing a portfolio of successful spatial applications and case studies. These will be showcased on the TASSIC website, which is currently under development.

If you or your organisation would like to highlight your spatial achievements, please contact the TASSIC Executive Officer by emailing tassic@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au.

Activity since last report

TASSIC continues to actively promote and support further investment by the Tasmanian Government in spatial information, as proposed in the *Spatial Information Foundations* business case, which is being submitted by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) for consideration in the 2011-12 budget process.

The business case was jointly prepared by DPAC and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), in consultation with TASSIC, the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC) and a broad cross-section of representatives from GBEs, local government, academia and private sector organisations.

The business case responds to growing demand for spatial information across Government and all sectors of the community. It recommends a five-year program of investment to build a solid foundation upon which Government can deliver improved services and infrastructure which will, in turn, provide widespread benefits for the Tasmanian community.

In early April, TASSIC Chair Gary Nairn, TASSIC member Kate Kent and Mathew Healey from DPAC met with Minister Bryan Green to brief him on how investment in the recommended program could rationalise and appropriately target resources to deliver the most efficient, cost-effective outcomes.

The business case is supported by a focused assessment of costs, benefits and the economic impact of the proposed investment. This work was initiated by TASSIC in 2010 and taken up by DPAC earlier this year through the engagement of economic consultants ACIL Tasman Pty Ltd.

Council continues to implement our strategic plan, concentrating on the key priority areas set out in the plan. In his role as TASSIC Chair, Gary Nairn is raising the importance of spatial information across governments at the State and Federal level. He will also be speaking with representatives in local government in coming months.

TASSIC is liaising with secondary and tertiary education providers through the establishment of a semi-permanent committee to focus on strengthening the spatial component of education and skills development in Tasmania. The first meeting of the Education and Skills Committee is scheduled for 3 May 2011.

'Abundant and useful spatial information within reach of all'



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

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

Two meetings have been held so far this year. The next TASSIC meeting is scheduled for 17 May 2011.

Further information

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