

ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Volume 23, June 2011

The Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) provides a local forum for increased collaboration between public, private and community sectors in the collection, maintenance and use of spatial information.

Led by an independent Chair, TASSIC members are nominated by key spatial organisations to ensure an appropriate balance of competencies and experiences. The Council reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

TASSIC is focused on three key objectives:

- 1 Establish recognition of the role and value of spatial information and the Tasmanian spatial information community
- 2 Ensure the development of a more effective Tasmanian Spatial Data Infrastructure through addressing:
 - a policies and standards
 - b data capture, management and access
 - c enabling infrastructure
- 3 Build skills, capability and capacity.

'Abundant and useful spatial information within reach of all'

Spatial Innovation Showcase

Council continues to work on the development of constructive opportunities for individuals, community groups, business and government to come together to promote and achieve shared outcomes and mutual benefits through the use of spatial information.

TASSIC is also keenly aware of the need to communicate the role and value of spatial information to people **outside** the traditional spatial information sphere.

Council is currently liaising with SSSI and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment to arrange a one-day ***Spatial Innovation Showcase*** later this year. This event will present the big picture, showcasing relevant national and international issues, concepts and ideas for addressing multiple business needs and achieving operational efficiencies. It will include practical, real-world demonstrations of the embedded use of spatially referenced information in day-to-day operations that everyone can understand and appreciate.

It is hoped that this will become an annual event, covering a range of thought-provoking initiatives as well as opportunities for specialist professional development. Future events may be held in conjunction with local awards for innovation and excellence in spatial information.

For more information, email tassic@dpipwe.tas.gov.au.

Presentations and briefings

TASSIC Chair, Hon Gary Nairn, continues to focus on raising the profile of spatial information across governments at local, state and federal levels.

Gary recently delivered a presentation at the Tasmanian Region of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) *State of GIS* seminar, held in Hobart on 17 May 2011. His presentation *'Tasmania – its PLACE in the Australian spatial context'* provided an assessment of Tasmania's current position when measured against the internationally accepted benchmarks set by the *Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)* Directive. Gary's presentation included a reminder about TASSIC's three key objectives and conveyed the message that Tasmania is well-placed to move forward.

In April and May, Gary also met and briefed:

- Bryan Green, Minister for Primary Industries and Water
- Senator David Bushby (Deputy Opposition Whip in the Senate)
- Norm McIlfratrick, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy & Resources
- Mark Kelleher, Secretary, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
- Members of the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM)
- Liberal Party Members of Parliament – Michael Ferguson, Adam Brooks, Vanessa Goodwin and Elise Archer.

In coming months, Gary is scheduled to meet with the new Chair of the Tasmanian Infrastructure Advisory Council, Philip Clark, other State and Federal MPs and representatives from local government.

Spatial skills, capability and capacity

TASSIC's newly-established Education and Skills Committee has been reviewing issues and options for addressing the shortage of skills in the spatial industry workforce in Tasmania and other Australian jurisdictions.

The next meeting of the committee will be held later this month.

TASSIC members



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

Meeting schedule

Three meetings have been held so far this year. The next TASSIC meeting is scheduled for 28 June 2011.

Further information

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

Celebrate *your* spatial success story . . .

TASSIC is developing a portfolio of successful spatial applications and case studies. If you or your organisation would like to highlight your spatial achievements, please contact the TASSIC Executive Officer by emailing tassic@dpiwve.tas.gov.au.