

# nams.au update

November 2011

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## NATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia

### REPORT & DECISIONS

of meeting 18 November 2011

#### 1. Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines

The Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines are a project of IPWEA working in association with the National Local Government Financial Management Forum. The Guidelines have been well received with over 600 copies purchased to date. Copies are available at [www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG](http://www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG).

Updates of the Guidelines are now available. Update No. 1 July 2010 covers 134 pages and covers the considerable changes to Australian Accounting and Auditing Standards since release of the Guidelines. Update 1 is available for purchase as a hard copy. Update 2 January 2011 covers 34 pages and is available as a pdf download from [www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG](http://www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG).

Eight *Infrastructure Financial Management* courses based on the Guidelines have been held in Oct/Nov 2011. Feedback was positive from attendees.

#### 2. Asset Management Plan Preparation Training – NAMS.PLUS

330+ Councils in Australia are now part of the NAMS.PLUS program. Feedback at the training workshops continues to be very positive. Six NAMS.AU courses were held over June/Nov. The update of NAMS.PLUS templates and modelling based on the research and development of the Asset Management for Small, Rural or Remote Communities Practice Note is nearing completion for release early in 2012.

In response to several enquiries, an information sheet to clarifying the roles of and complimentary positions of WAAMI and NAMS.PLUS was prepared and issued to all WA councils by WALGA in a circular. This statement is available [www.ipwea.org.au/namsplus](http://www.ipwea.org.au/namsplus) (scroll to bottom of page).

A similar information sheet was prepared for councils operating under the STEP and LGAsset programs.

#### 3. Asset Management for Small, Rural or Remote Communities – AM4SRRC

Two copies of the AM4SRRC Practice Note were made available to small councils (less than 5,000 population) free of cost by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Governments through IPWEA. 420 copies have been distributed/sold. 13 rounds of the 2 day AM4SRRC training course were held in 2011. available to assist in writing AM Plans using the templates and modelling. AM4SRRC includes a maturity model to assess councils' maturity with the Local Government Sustainability Frameworks.

IPWEA was requested to trial the AM4SRRC for 8 small communities in British Columbia and Saskatchewan, Canada in June 2011. A second round is planned for December for 6 communities in Saskatchewan.

#### **4. Long Term Financial Plan Practice Note**

The Long Term Financial Plan Practice note is to assist councils develop long term plans based on the Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines. The Practice Note is due to be available in early 2012.

#### **5. Building Condition Practice Note**

Seven training courses for the Building Condition Practice were conducted in 2011. The course is held over 2 days. The 2011 training program is included in Section 15 of this Update.

#### **6. Stormwater Drainage Condition Practice Note**

The Stormwater Drainage Practice Note was released by Chair Peter Way at the Canberra Internationals Public Works Conference in September 2011. NAMS.AU resolved to prepare a one day training course on the Practice Note. This will be developed in 2012.

#### **7. Road Condition Practice Note**

NAMS.AU resolved to investigate the preparation of a Road Condition Practice Note based on existing road condition resources including ROADCON 90, ROMAN, the IPWEA NSW SE Group Manual and other sources.

#### **8. Levels of Service Practice Note**

NAMS.AU resolved to prepare a discussion paper to define and scope the content of the Levels of Service Practice Note, prior to establishing a reference group to be involved in the development of the Practice Note.

#### **9. Practice Notes Program**

Work has commenced on a Water and Sewerage Condition Assessment Practice Note. Future Practice Notes have been identified to cover:

- Parks Management
- Levels and Service
- Community Consultation
- Data Management
- Street Tree Management
- Marine and Waterways Structures

#### **10. Asset Management Study Tour to New Zealand**

Two of the delegates (Andrea Jeynes and Stacey Lee) from the 2010 Study Tour presented an excellent Paper on the learning's from the Tour, at the recent IPWEA International Public Works Conference in Canberra.

The next Study Tour will likely be held in 2012 again with the NZ Advanced Asset Management Forum, most likely to be held in Wellington. The Tour may include visits to councils around Wellington and Auckland as major amalgamations in Auckland should be bedded down by then. Planning will start in first half of 2012.

## **11. National Asset Management Competition (NAMie)**

The National Asset Management Award was awarded to Mick Raby of Fairfield City Council (NSW) at the Canberra International Public Works Conference. The NAMie is awarded biennially for the paper that best demonstrates the most significant contribution towards advancing AM within an organisation.

## **12. Tertiary Education in Asset Management**

The IPWEA / CPEE / University of Tasmania's graduate certificate in infrastructure asset management has been expanded to a Graduate Diploma. It continues to be well supported with over 110 unit enrolments in 2011. IPWEA has developed two core asset management units based on the International Infrastructures Management Manual (IIMM). A third has been added based on the Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines' (AIFMG). For further details and to lodge enrolments for Semester 1 2012, go to [www.ipwea.org.au/GradCertIAM](http://www.ipwea.org.au/GradCertIAM).

Peter Way's call for additional course tutors has been responded to by two members. John Truman will take on the Tutor role for AM Fundamentals and Geoff Glynn for AM Practices. Thanks to John and Geoff for assisting Peter by sharing the course workload. Anyone interested in becoming tutors should contact Peter Way at [pway@ipwea.org.au](mailto:pway@ipwea.org.au)

## **13. IIMM Update**

The 2011 new Edition of the International Infrastructure Management Manual published with NAMS NZ was released in September. The IIMM 2011 is available from <http://www.ipwea.org.au/bookshop/iimm/>.

NAMS.AU will continue to work with NAMS NZ on resolving issues relating to an electronic version of the IIMM and other Manuals. This includes how best to manage the associated security issues and the format to achieve this.

## **14. Asset Management Standard for Australia**

Peter Way represents IPWEA on the Standards Australia's Mirror Committee set up to address Australia's interest in the development of an ISO Standard for asset management.

The second meeting of the International Standards Organisation Project Committee (ISO PC251) was held in Washington DC in October 2011 to develop 3 separate standards:

- ISO 5500 Asset management – Overview, principles and terminology
- ISO 5501 Asset management – Management systems – Requirements
- ISO 5502 Asset management – Management system – Guidelines on the application of ISO 5501

Working drafts of the standards include the IIMM as a reference and include the linkage between asset management and financial management. Peter Way will be seeking input and comment from the IPWEA's reference group on the drafts to ensure the Australian position is appropriate to Australian needs. Contact Peter for further information.



## 21. National Data Set for Infrastructure Assets

ACELG is currently researching the current data collected by various agencies and the ABS with a view to identifying existing data collections and developing a draft discussion paper for a national data set for infrastructure assets.

## STATE REPORTS

### 22. Queensland State Report

#### **QLD State Government Requirements for AMPs**

In August 2011 the Queensland State Government release version 2 of the Asset Management Advancement Program (AMAP) for 2011-12.

Version 2 of the AMAP extended the deadline for Councils to have core Asset Management Plans to 30 September 2011. The following requirements were also included in the AMAP:

*"It is expected that whole of life costing, community planning and asset management planning will be introduced into local government budgeting processes by January 2012 in preparation for the 2012-13 annual budget.*

*Asset management plans must underpin the 2012-13 budget for Queensland local governments. For local governments that have not previously done so, the asset management plans will need to be formally adopted in conjunction with the formal adoption of the 2012-13 budget."*

The AMAP details how the \$2,695,000 in Local Government Reform Funding from the Commonwealth Government is to be utilised by the eligible Councils, including a milestone based program.

#### **Local Government Reform Fund**

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) provided the following information on the status of the Local Government Reform Fund (LGRF):

1. \$2.695M of the LGRF has been approved for Queensland based on a joint submission by the State Government and the LGAQ. To date, the Commonwealth has paid \$2.426M (via three progress payments) based on achievement of Program milestones.
2. The LGAQ is project managing the LGRF program for Queensland. CT Management, the default provider for the program, is progressing rolling out the Program across all participating councils in Queensland.
3. Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) has completed training the indigenous councils in the 10-year financial model, with the councils currently at various stages of completing the model.
4. To date, CT Management has focused its rollout efforts on:
  - assessing each of the participating councils' current asset management systems and processes against the National Asset Management Assessment Framework (NAMAF);
  - assisting councils to complete their assets and services management plans

As the program moves forward, emphasis will be placed on continuing to develop the asset management plans. Specific attention will be given to improving the integrity and costing information across all councils to support the Renewal Gap / Sustainability calculations.

5. Throughout November and December, the LGAQ is facilitating a series of workshops across the state involving all participating councils, the Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP), and QTC. These meetings provide an opportunity for the councils to engage with the DLGP and QTC regarding financial planning and sustainability, and also each other to share information about their experiences and achievements in the Program.

#### **ADAC (Asset Design & As Constructed) Product Update**

IPWEAQ have further progressed the ADAC Data Schema. Since the May 2011 update the following activities have been completed:

- Presentation on ADAC to IPWEAQ Branch Conferences
- Paper presented at IPWEAQ State Conference Queensland 1 along with a workshop
- Presentation to Western Australian NAMS Group.
- Presentation to Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) in Cairns
- Articles included in Position Magazine, IPWEA magazine, IPWEAQ Bulletin and LG Focus

Representatives of IPWEAQ are attending the NAMS committee meeting in Sydney on the 18 November 2011 to provide a presentation on ADAC and seek further NAMS support for this product.

For more information on ADAC visit: <http://www.adac.com.au/>

#### **SEQ Regional Asset Management Group Activities**

The Regional AM Group has been meeting regularly, with three meetings in the past six months. Recently the focus has been on:

- The development of 'core' Asset Management Plans to meet the September 2011 deadline, including sharing of knowledge and experience
- The approach to meeting the requirement for Asset Management Plans and whole-of-life costs to underpin the 2012-13 budget
- Commencing an activity to benchmark unit rates regionally

#### **FNQROC Regional Asset Management Group Activities**

The Regional AM Group was formed in 2004 under the Far North Queensland Regional Group of Councils. Recent activities of the group include:

- Developing a unit rate methodology document for Councils
- Completed Levels of Service Templates for Roads, Bridges, Footpaths, Buildings, Open Spaces (sporting fields and parks)
- Developing Asset Management for Natural Areas including Levels of Service. This initiative has by-in and support from State agencies as well as the Wet Tropics Management Authority and Terrain NRM.
- Review of FNQROC Asset Management Strategy now that councils have a much better understanding of the assets under our control.
- Over 35 staff from the region undertook NAMS.PLUS training which was assisted by a \$20,000 subsidy from the Roads Alliance.

## 23. NSW State Report

### **IPWEA Infrastructure Financial Management 2 Day Workshop**

The IPWEA Infrastructure Financial Management Workshop is continuing to be offered in NSW as well as other states. It is pleasing to see that some courses have been fully booked, whilst there remains opportunity for bookings to be made at some venues.

### **Australian Rural Road Group Inc.**

This recently formed group ([www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)) continues to be active and has facilitated the following papers:

*Going Nowhere: The Rural Road Crisis, its National Significance and Proposed Reforms*, November 2010; and more recently,

*Worth Feeding* – Case studies of rural local road efficiency and Reform of Australia's road pricing and investment systems, October 2011.

Of interest from an asset management perspective are the case studies in the Worth Feeding paper and the proposal for mandatory road asset reporting by all governments and the collation and analysis of this information by a national portfolio manager as being practical ways to start getting to grips with the true rural road funding crisis. The paper can be downloaded from the ARRG web site.

### **Reform of Australia's Urban Water Sector**

Several NSW Councils responded to the Productivity Commission inquiry into the case for microeconomic reform in Australia's urban water sector. This inquiry report into Australia's Urban Water Sector was released on 12 October 2011 and may be located at the following link <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/urban-water/report>.

The scope of the Productivity Commission's inquiry includes the provision of water, waste water, recycled water and storm water services in cities, towns and regional centres / villages.

Whilst many of the Recommendations and findings apply on a national basis, one of the points made relating specifically to NSW (and QLD) was that:

*There is scope to achieve material efficiency gains in areas of regional New South Wales and Queensland by either aggregating utilities or establishing regional alliances. State Governments, in consultation with Local Governments, affected communities and other parties should determine the precise approach to reform.*

The proposed aggregation of existing water entities remains a key concern for many NSW local government authorities that currently operate water and sewer schemes.

### **Draft NSW Water & Sewerage Asset Management Guidelines – 2011.**

The NSW Office of Water is preparing the Draft NSW Water & Sewerage Asset Management Guidelines –2011 and it is understood that the document is not yet ready to be published.

The purpose of the NSW Water and Sewerage Asset Management Guidelines is to enable local water utilities to prepare and implement a sound total asset management plan for water supply and sewerage in accordance with the Best-Practice Management Guidelines.

The draft document builds upon the following publications:

- NSW Water and Sewerage Strategic Business Planning Guidelines, NSW Office of Water July 2011;
- Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines , NSW Department of Water & Energy August 2007;
- NSW Country Town Water Supply and Sewerage Asset Registers, NSW Public Works Department January 1991.

One of the requirements of NSW Water and Waste Best Practice Management is that Strategic Business Planning and Financial planning is undertaken.

## 24. Victoria State Report

### Recent Events – Fires and Floods

Emergency management, in particular in response to significant fire and flooding events, is becoming an increasingly significant and strategic issue in Victoria.

Many opportunities for improvement in State and Federal assistance programs are being identified, particularly in relation to the repair and/or replacement of damaged assets. This is an issue that NAMS could support by way of preparing a Position Paper.

The range of issues that relate to asset management and financial sustainability is broad, and many of the issues interact in complex ways. Examples include the granting of insufficient funds to upgrade damaged infrastructure to modern standards, and too much money spent on new or replacement assets that either do not service an identified need or are unaffordable without significant increases in operational/rate revenue (which often is at a time when the community can least afford it).

### 'Business Planning for Major Capital Works and Recurrent Services in Local Government'.

The Victorian Auditor General recently completed an audit of 'Business Planning for Major Capital Works and Recurrent Services in Local Government'.

This audit examined a representative selection of metropolitan and rural councils (Glen Eira, Whittlesea, South Gippsland and Hepburn) to determine whether they had:

- effectively integrated their planning and budgeting;
- considered the long-term sustainability of selected investments; and
- produced accurate and reliable budgets and forecasts.

The auditor found that there is much variance in the quality of the strategic, financial and asset management plans at these councils. Objectives, strategies and actions were not always clearly specified, nor linked to useful performance indicators. Community input into the development of council plans could be improved, and these plans, including shorter-term operational plans, are could be underpinned by more rigorous service and asset management strategies.

The report mentions the value of sufficiently integrating and aligning these strategies with annual budgets. It also recognizes the value and benefit of demonstrating that investment decisions are sound, that services are appropriately targeted, and/or that they are effective and efficient in meeting community needs.

The report was released in September, and a link to the report is below:  
[http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports\\_and\\_publications/latest\\_reports/2011-12/20110914\\_business\\_planning.aspx](http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_and_publications/latest_reports/2011-12/20110914_business_planning.aspx)

### **Asset Management Information Systems**

The majority of metropolitan councils now appear to have committed to some sort of formal corporate "asset management information system" solution.

The initial focus appears to be the maintenance management function (roads, footpaths, drains, buildings) along with the management of customer enquiries including GIS. It still appears that a lesser number of these councils are using their system to handle the Financial Asset Register (valuations, depreciations, etc).

### **Asset Management Frameworks**

Councils are proceeding with the Advanced STEP Program and the National Asset Management Assessment Framework & self assessment.

The National Framework requires a high level of demonstrated community consultation in the determination of service levels.

Also, some commonality between the Department of Planning and Community Development's Performance Measures Project and the STEP Program formats is being achieved.

The STEP Program is also recognising that the small "cash strapped" rural councils require special consideration.

### **Intelligent Water Networks**

All 19 Victorian water utilities are formally involved in the *Intelligent Water Networks* (IWN) program. IWN considers all supply and demand side aspects of the water network. The water network includes drinking water, waste water, recycled water, stormwater, and rainwater. The IWM is taking a holistic look at the way the themes of water quantity, water quality, and smart infrastructure could interact to deliver better customer value.

### **Asset Management Resources**

In the USA, the Water Environment Research Foundation, in conjunction with the Water Research Foundation, deliver a "Sustainable Infrastructure Management Program Learning Environment" (aka. SIMPLE) to their constituents via the internet. Many Australian water utilities also have full access to SIMPLE.

SIMPLE mainly focuses on drinking water and waste water, but has many thousands of pages of information on asset management. The website also includes a range of tools, training resources, and other resources and support services. It operates on three levels of asset management (basic to advanced).

It is likely that all the "basic" level information, including the full range of on-line training resources, will soon be made freely available to the general public. A subscriber based log-in will still be required to access the intermediate and advanced levels of SIMPLE.

## 25. South Australia State Report

### **Membership**

Our membership database is being actively reviewed and updated. Current membership stands at 260 with approximately 4 new members joining per month (17 since July 2011)!

### **Climate Change Project under way**

The joint LGA/UniSA/IPWEA SA National Climate Change Adaptation and Response Fund (NCARF) asset management project is continuing.

The project, with a total budget of approx \$600,000, comprises a research component looking into potential impacts from climate change on public infrastructure, and will identify likely climate change scenarios, the impacts they are expected to have on infrastructure, and will develop responses and adaptation measures to integrate into asset management frameworks – ideally in conjunction with the NAMS asset management framework.

IPWEA SA has a role on the technical panel and project management committee as well as facilitating interaction of the academic research group with AM practitioners so there will be plenty of opportunity for IPWEA members to contribute to the project.

Important progress has been made, especially in regard to the numerical model proposed for integration with the NAMS.PLUS asset management template. A full project team meeting was held several weeks ago, which included representation from WA, TAS, VIC and SA. Overall this was a good response, and the interest levels are high.

There is an expectation that NAMS.PLUS will "take over" the model ownership and updating, as a part of the NAMS.PLUS package, this may require some resources and commitment from NAMS.

### **Infrastructure Financial Management**

An Infrastructure Financial Management workshop was held in Adelaide on 3 & 4 November 2011, based on the IPWEA Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines.

### **Local Government Reform**

LGA (SA) via the LG Reform fund has been continuing to work with IPWEA on AM implementation in the State.

The IPWEA Asset Management for Small Communities project was actively trialed with a session for a number of small rural councils in SA late in 2010. The system, providing a "cut back" version of the NAMS system, tailored to the smaller resource base and capability of small communities, whilst still delivering robust asset management plans, is a perfect fit for smaller Councils in SA. Follow-up sessions are planned for 24 & 25 November 2011.

Feedback from the session suggested that the AM for small communities program will help fill a significant gap in AM implementation in Rural SA.

### **LGA (SA) Asset Management Consultants Roundtable**

On 9 November 2011, IPWEA (SA), together with the LGA (SA) and IPWEA National, hosted a "local" consultants' roundtable. The session, attended by the 10 local AM consultants, was an introductory session, focusing on potential opportunities for

consultants to connect with the Local Government Reform Fund (funding from the Commonwealth being administered by the LGA).

During the session a focused discussion was held on why Councils are using (or not using) IPWEA's NAMS.PLUS and/or 'Asset Management for Small, Rural, or Remote Communities' (AM4SRRC), and the reasons why?

At the meeting it was reported that 53 Councils are currently subscribed to NAMS Plus in SA.

### **Development Engineering Committee (SA)**

For several months now IPWEA(SA) have had a development engineering committee working on a myriad of issues confronting councils in the area of contributed assets and development engineering approval. The committee recently reported back with good progress and the Board has proposed a survey of Councils to better understand the scale and extent of the issues and assist with taking these issues to the UDIA, LGA and State Government in due course.

## **26. Western Australia State Report**

### **Asset Management Forums**

Recent forums included

- June 2011 - ADAC
- July 2011- South West Group Half Day Forum

The following forums are currently being organised:

- MRWA – Iris Web Information/Roman II
- Local Government Reform funding – Asset Management Framework

### **Local Government Reform Process - WA**

The Asset Management Working Group have now finalised the Asset Management Framework which sits within the new Integrated Planning Framework.

The new regulations for integrated planning were gazetted at the end of August and the Department is currently developing an advisory standard to both explain the regulations and inform LGs on what they have to do to meet basic (core compliance), intermediate and advanced standards for integrated planning. The Advisory Standard is aligning with the Department's KPI framework, so meeting core compliance on one will immediately meet basic capability on the other. To ultimately reach core compliance level, local government will need to have asset management plans in place and be able to calculate the asset sustainability ratios by June 30, 2013. We have been communicating this to LGs through Circulars and the LGMA MasterClasses as well as via the website.

The IPWEA State Asset Management Steering Committee is also in the process of assisting to communicate this work further.

### **ROMAN II Project**

The following report has been received from the WALGA Roman II Project Manager

1. Software development and delivery of ROMAN II to participating Local Governments has now been fully completed;
2. There are 134 participating WA Local Governments out of a total of 140 WA Local Governments;
3. Usage of the new software has reached approximately the same level as usage of the old superseded software;

4. Work is continuing to improve knowledge, training and use of the new system and achieve full value from its greater capability;
5. The project office has transitioned from project delivery to ongoing service delivery;
6. A representative user group is being formed which will likely connect the majority of asset management professionals in Western Australian Local Government and consulting practice; and
7. The ROMAN Project is currently developing a strategic plan for the next 5 years in consultation with stakeholders.

The Project Manager has further suggested

- There is a good opportunity for NAMS plus and ROMAN to coordinate activities and explore mutual opportunities.
- ROMAN II is a service focussed on provision of data management services and software which are an essential requirement of any asset management regime. To obtain best value from ROMAN II Local Governments need to fit it in the context of an overall framework of asset management (such as that provided by NAMS.PLUS)

### **National Asset Management & Financial Planning Assessment Framework**

The WA Asset Management Improvement Program (WAAMI) has been aligned with the National Asset Management & Financial Planning Assessment Framework (NAMAF). Fifteen Local Governments (8 Rural, 7 Metro/Outer Metro) have completed the Core Assessment.

### **Participation**

Interest in WAAMI continues to grow, particularly with the demand generated by the State Government's Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework. The State Government has provided some funding to support Local Governments entering into amalgamation and other cooperative arrangements. CT Management Group has been successful (in conjunction with KPMG) in winning the Goldfields Esperance Regional Cooperation Group Integrated Strategic Planning Project. The first workshop of the WAAMI Program is included in this project and hence 9 of the 10 Goldfields Esperance Regional Cooperation Group Local Governments will commence the WAAMI program this month bringing the total number of Local Governments that have commenced the program to 62.

## **27. Tasmania State Report**

### **Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project**

IPWEA will be providing services to TAS government and LGAT under the National Reform Fund in 2011/2012 for:

- Council assessments (9 in late December, with remainder in early 2012)
- Councillor education – 3 regional training sessions
- NAMS.PLUS training
- AN4SRRC training

## **28. IPWEA NSW Roads & Transport Directorate**

### **Austrroads**

Since the last NAMS Meeting the Austrroads Assets Task Force has met on 19 & 20 May, 2011 and 6 & 7 October 2011. Items of interest to NAMS include:

The Assets Task Force is currently undertaking the following tasks:

### **Current Austroads ATF Projects List**

- AT1480 Predicting dynamic wheel loading and its effects on the network
- AT1489 Identifying best measure of variation in longitudinal surface profile for triggering pavement rehab works
- AT1484 Review of standard methods for measuring road condition
- AT1488 Improving skid resistance measurement
- AT1612 Future Availability & Increasing Cost of Bitumen or Alternative Surfacing Binders
- AT1691 Managing Asset Management related Civil Liability Legal Risk
- AT1692 Asset Management within a Safe Road System Framework
- AT1064 Long-Term Performance Monitoring to Develop Consistent Performance Models
- AT1534 Management of road related assets (including electrical and electronic)
- AT1536 Good Practice Reseal Management
- AT1537 Bridge Management through Performance Models
- AT1540 Understanding impact on pavement surfaces from next generation freight vehicles & developing practical network prediction models & responses
- AT1490 Improving the Estimation of the Cost of Accelerated Road Wear Due to Possible Increases in Axle Mass Limits
- AT1539 Application of New Technologies to Improve Risk Management
- AT1693 Using Financial Data in Asset Management Decision Making

### **Austroads Assets Task Force – Sub Groups**

- Austroads Telecommunications In Road Reserves (TIRR)
- Road Authority Pavement Marking Group
- National Pavement Management System User Group
- Asset Valuation Group

### **National Transport Policy Framework & CRRP**

The NTC report Modelling the Marginal Cost of Road Wear has recently been published and can be found at <http://www.ntc.gov.au/viewpage.aspx?documentid=2114> . This report contains some important data for local roads. It confirms that the cost of using local roads for heavy vehicles is an order of magnitude greater than for state roads reflecting the different design assumption made at the time of initial construction.

### **National PMS Users Group**

John Statton (RTA) and Andrew Golding (TMR) provided a brief update on the group's activities. The last meeting was held in April 2011 in Queensland.

Topics included:

- Asset Management in Department of Transport and Main Roads Queensland (TMR)
- TMR PMS, Scenario <sup>TM</sup>
- Managing Surfacing and Rehabilitation Needs and Performance
- Work Selection Criteria, Intervention thresholds, Network targets
- Findings related to Traffic Speed Deflectograph

### **Round Table Discussion - Legal environment surrounding clearing 'hazardous' trees**

This discussion arose from a Roads & Transport Directorate report on the conflict for local government engineers, which arises from the need to balance "Clear Zone" requirements for safety against environmental considerations.

All states are experiencing this problem to some degree but it appears that the leaning towards environmental legislation by the courts is more pronounced in NSW.

At the October Meeting the following matters were discussed:

### **Marginal Cost of Road Wear**

John Statton (RTA) provided an update on the Marginal Cost work underway in RTA NSW and provided a number of papers to the meeting. These papers have been uploaded to the Austroads database.

The following Roads & Transport Directorate summary was presented:

Historically councils have generally provided budgets that are sufficient to maintain local networks in their current condition. This level of funding has been established over a considerable number of years and is generally not questioned by elected representatives. The effectiveness of the adopted level of funding is evidenced by the long term condition of the network over a period of years.

The R&TD's recently published Asset Benchmarking Reports (<http://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/IPWEA/c7e19de0-08d5-47b7-ac3f-c198b11cd969/UploadedImages/Asset%20Benchmarking%20Project/Road%20Benchmarking%20Report%202010.pdf>) conclude that Present funding to meet existing service levels for NSW regional and local roads and bridges is 45% of the life cycle costs, a reduction from 57% in 2007/08. Current level of service with current level of expenditure is not sustainable.

Councils are now aiming at getting increased life from their reseals. Inspections now result in decisions to postpone treatment, to do further testing, check pavement design or to reseal.

Pavements having ages of 25 or 30 years are not uncommon in regional areas. Council engineers now look at these pavements and determine to reseal if possible or to return to gravel if adequate funding is not available.

## **24. Next NAMS.AU Meeting: NAMS.AU Face to Face Meeting May 2011.**

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**NAMS Australia** is an initiative of the IPWEA National Asset Management Strategy [NAMS] Committee. NAMS.AU seeks to provide national leadership and advocacy in the sustainable management of public works infrastructure, community assets and services.

### **NAMS.AU Committee**

#### **Chair**

Peter Way, Qld, [pway@ipwea.org.au](mailto:pway@ipwea.org.au)

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