

nams.au update

May 2013

NATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia

REPORT & DECISIONS

of meeting 25 May 2013

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. Copies are available at www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG.

The Guidelines are reviewed biennially and updates issued to ensure consistency with Australian Accounting and Auditing Standards. 3 Updates of the Guidelines are now available. Update No. 4 May 2013 will shortly be available as a pdf download from www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG. IPWEA conducts *Infrastructure Financial Management* courses based on the Guidelines. Feedback was positive from attendees.

The AIFMG Glossary is available as a free download from www.ipwea.org.au/bookshop/aifmg. Click on AIFMG Glossary on the bottom of the page.

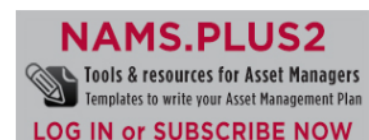
The meeting resolved to continue to review the need for actions to improve local government infrastructure data quality.

2. Asset Management Plan Preparation Training – NAMS.PLUS2 and NAMS *lite*

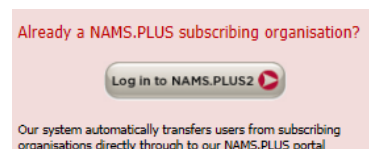
310 councils and other organisations in Australia are now part of the NAMS.PLUS program. Feedback at the training workshops continues to be very positive. The NAMS.PLUS training has been shortened to 3 days and incorporates the AM4SRRC Practice Note training – now NAMS *lite*. It requires attendees to complete templates and download graphs and reports to develop a ‘first cut’ AM Plan over the 3 days.

The enhanced NAMS.PLUS2 templates and modelling is to be released in conjunction with a single sign on for all IPWEA web based resources. . It will provide direct access from the IPWEA website using IPWEA login’s instead of a different NAMS.PLUS2 login.

Authorised NAMS.PLUS users who are logged in as a user on the IPWEA website will be able to log directly on to the NAMS.PLUS2 website by clicking on the link on the Assets page



And then clicking the button on the RH side of the page



IPWEA was contracted to run a fourth pilot of NAMS.PLUS in North Vancouver BC, City of Calgary AB and Humboldt SK, Canada in December 2012. 36 communities are now participating in the NAMS.PLUS2/NAMS lite program in Canada. A fifth round is scheduled for June 2013 for communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

3. Long Term Financial Plan Practice Note

The Long Term Financial Plan Practice Note No. 6 prepared under partnership with ACELG and authored by John Comrie, assists councils develop long term plans based on the Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines. A hard copy of the Practice Note is available from IPWEA for (\$55 + GST) and a pdf version (free) from the NAMS.AU web site. The LTFP PN includes a simple LTFP model spreadsheet. 130 hard copies have been sold and a further 6,154 PDF copies have been downloaded.

The two day workshop based on the LTFP Practice Note 6 includes a 'hands-on' LTFP preparation day. 19 courses have been run to date. The feedback has been very positive.

4. Building Condition Practice Note

639 copies of the Building Condition Practice Note No. 3 have been sold. Buildings.PLUS tools are now available through IPWEA (under arrangements with SPM).

The meeting resolved to liaise with RMIT on their community buildings research to ensure consistency with IPWEA resources.

5. Stormwater Drainage Condition Practice Note

265 copies of the Stormwater Drainage Condition Practice Note No. 5 have been sold. IPWEA provides a one day training course on the Stormwater Drainage Practice Note No. 5 developed with the co-authors Alf Grigg Consulting and Pipe Solutions. Current actions under the PN include:

- Assisting WSAA in revision of their Code for Conduit Inspection Appendix D Scoring of Defects for SWD assets,
- Working with NatSpec to develop a Standard Specification for CCTV inspections,
- Working with another organisation to develop a specification/guidelines for use of fixed zoom cameras for initial surveys of SWD conduits.

The meeting agreed to investigate development of a spreadsheet tool kit to assist the Stormwater PN.

The meeting agreed to discuss with WSAA the possible implementation of a competency assessment process for operators trained in defects scoring under the WSAA Code.

6. Water & Sewerage Condition Practice Note

A second draft of the PN produced with Cardno was circulated to the reference group for comment by 19 April. A Paper on this new PN is being presented at the International LESAM Conference in Sydney in September.

7. Road Condition Practice Note

Peter Way, Leon Patterson and Mick Savage, Manager NSW Roads Directorate have developed a draft of the Road Condition Practice Note.

The meeting agreed to establish a peer review group through the AM Discussion Forum.

8. Levels of Service supported by Infrastructure Practice Note

A discussion paper prepared by John Howard on the Levels of Service and Community Consultation Practice Note was circulated to an invited reference group for review by 10 May. Responses will be summarised and a draft PN prepared and circulated to the reference group for review. It is planned to have this completed by October.

9. Asset Management – Disaster Recovery Practice Note

The meeting agreed to prepare a scoping document on the possible development of a Practice Note for Asset Management – Disaster Recovery dealing with physical asset data/information management arising from emergency response and recovery to facilitate better asset management.

10. Practice Notes Program

Future Practice Notes have been identified to cover:

- Parks Management,
- Data Management
- Street Tree Management,
- Marine and Waterways Structures,
- Natural Assets/Waterways,
- Evaluating and Prioritising Capital Works Proposals.

11. National Asset Management Competition (NAMie)

The National Asset Management Award for 2013 will be awarded at the Darwin 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 241 unit enrolments since 2009. 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, go to www.ipwea.org.au/GradCertIAM.

Discussions were held with CPEE and AWA to possibly generate additional water related subjects.

CPEE are working with the Asset Management Council on a trial assessment of the course against the GFMAM Accord.

13. National Approach to Electronic 'As Constructed' Drawings

NAMS.AU continues to promote ADAC, a data schema designed to standardise data collection to simplify the updating of asset registers and GIS records for infrastructure organisations. The Queensland Foundation has also allocated some funding towards assisting IPWEAQ and the Consortium run a Case Study at Bundaberg Regional Council to demonstrate end-to-end implementation. Details on ADAC are available from www.adac.com.au.

14. Elected Members Training Resources

The 8 minute short version of the *Sustainable Communities, Critical Insights* video is now freely available at the NAMS.AU web site at:

<http://www.ipwea.org.au/AssetManagement/ViewDocument/?DocumentKey=d3f9eb4b-7168-41c8-acaf-4aae29752262>.

IPWEA has made available a series of AM video clips produced by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Municipal featuring IPWEA Trainers, John Howard & Allen Mapstone. The clips are an excellent way to present the key concepts in asset management. The principles are complimentary to the approach used by IPWEA in Australia and would be of benefit to Local Government here also. The videos are available at www.ipwea.org.au/CanadianVideos.

15. 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. This will incorporate

- ISO 55000 Asset management – Overview, principles and terminology
- ISO 55001 Asset management – Management systems – Requirements
- ISO 55002 Asset management – Management system – Guidelines on the application of ISO 55001

The fifth and final meeting of the International Standards Organisation Project Committee (ISO PC251) was held in Calgary in May 2013. A Communiqué from the ISO AM Standards Meeting in Calgary has been released by the Secretary of PC251 and a copy of that is available [from here](#).

It is intended that the Standards will be available for publication by October/November 2013. Peter Way will be presenting a paper on implications of the ISO standard for Australian local governments at the Darwin IPWEA Conference.

The IPWEA National Board has adopted a Policy on *Application of ISO Asset Management Standard to Local Governments* prepared by Peter Way. The policy is available from [here](#).

16. National Asset Management Assessment Framework

The development of the NAF Portal Asset and Financial Management maturity assessment is complete. The Pilot with 2 Councils in each state was successful with a number of issues raised and resolved.

The log on and passwords have been set up for all Australian councils. The Portal details have now been distributed to the state jurisdictions and the NT to make arrangements for release to their respective councils.

17. Local Government Reform Fund Progress

IPWEA assisted the NSW, Tas and NT governments with professional development associated with the LG Reform Program. This includes elected member's awareness, NAMS.PLUS/NAMS *lite*, Infrastructure Financial Management and Long-Term Financial Planning courses.

18. National Professional Development Program

IPWEA's national professional development program is available from <http://www.ipwea.org.au/AssetManagement/AboutNAMS AU/NAMSAustralia/>.

Click on Education & Events and Upcoming Events to see the calendar. The program includes:

- NAMS.PLUS2 including NAMS *lite* (formerly the AM for Small, Rural & Remote Communities PN) 3 day course,
- NAMS.PLUS2 User Group 1 day workshop,
- NAMS.PLUS2 Advanced 2 day workshop,
- Infrastructure Financial Management 2 day workshop,
- Long-Term Financial Planning 2 day workshop,
- AM for Buildings
- Stormwater Drainage 1 day workshop.

19. Global Network of Asset Management Societies

The proposal for a gNAMS focussing on municipal and public assets has been adopted by the International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME). The first meeting of gNAMS was held in Helsinki and there is keen support for this initiative. Chris Champion is convenor and the initial work was to develop a simple strategic plan incorporating a vision, mission, objectives for gNAMS, and an initial Work Plan.

Discussions have also commenced to explore the possibility of gNAMS becoming an Associate or Affiliate Member of the Global Forum for Maintenance and Asset Management (GFMAM). We are investigating the constitution and objectives of GFMAM to assess whether there might be a benefit in any association between the Bodies.

20. Personal Growth Pathway

Discussions took place on options that could be pursued to better provide technical officers and para-professionals with a structured pathway to gaining some formal qualification in asset management, possibly based on the sustainability training workshops in AM currently offered by IPWEA.

The meeting agreed to: investigate further qualifications/competency certification for practitioners in asset management –particularly para professionals.

21. NAMS.AU Strategic Plan 2013/14 – 2015/16 and Business Plan 2013/14

NAMS.AU adopted Strategic Plan 2013/14 – 2015/16 and Business Plan 2013/14. These are available from:

<http://www.ipwea.org.au/AssetManagement/AboutNAMS AU/ObjectivesCommittee>

STATE REPORTS

22. Queensland State Report

SEQ Regional Asset Management Group

Two Asset Management Workshops with Attendees from South East Queensland Councils have been conducted to date during 2013.

The first workshop was hosted by Brisbane City Council on 08 February. Topics included the use of smartphone apps to contact Councils on maintenance and other issues; technical levels of service, and a strategic approach to improving maintenance processes. In addition to the presentations, a document which contained many maintenance principles was forwarded to Attendees.

The second workshop was hosted by Logan City Council on 19 April. During the workshop, the latest news and developments on ADAC (Asset Design As Constructed) and the lessons learned in its implementation were presented. The group had also collated unit rates for some asset activities and these and cost index updates were discussed. Another presentation covered the consumption of road seals and pavements and also the residuals for stormwater. Lastly, there was a presentation on asset management by an Officer from the Torres Strait Regional Council. The next workshop will be hosted by the Gold Coast City Council in June.

Although there will be no Regional Asset Management Group conference this year, Brisbane City Council is hosting a conference on Lean Sustainable Continuous Improvement for BCC and other SEQ Council Officers. These conferences consist of presentations **by** Council Officers **for** Council Officers on areas that are topical and practical to apply in workplaces on return to their Council. This information sharing model has worked well and in past years, approximately 100 Officers attend, with significant interest expressed in attending the conference later this year.

Far North Queensland Regional of Councils

The FNQROC Board has identified (end 2012) infrastructure and asset management as our highest strategic priority. In meeting this direction, we have employed a full time Regional Infrastructure Project Coordinator. In terms of asset management there are two elements he is responsible for (in this portfolio) in meeting this strategic direction:

1. Strategic element – Answering the question: What is our funding gap and what is Councils' capacity to raise revenue to meet this funding gap? To commence this, he will be undertaking a "helicopter" view of the region using existing asset management plans / information vs. QTC financials. Once this is complete we will work on the second part of the question: What is Councils' capacity to raise revenue to meet this funding gap? Understandably, this will not be a short term project.
2. Operational element – As we are aware, current asset management plans have significant improvement plans attached to these. The Regional Officer will be reviewing these plans to ascertain where as a region, we can work collaboratively to help improve asset management within Councils (whilst still allowing them to retain their autonomy).

Local Government Reform Fund

All milestones were achieved for the Local Government Reform Fund which is now deemed completed by the Commonwealth Government. The Local Government Association of Queensland is working with Councils to finalise several outstanding visits.

State Local Government Changes

There are feelings in Qld local government that with the recent changes in the State Departments, there has been a loss of momentum in the State providing direction on AM practice and reporting.



23. NSW State Report

TCorp - Sustainability Review of NSW Local Government.

During April 2013, the NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) published an independent analysis into the financial sustainability of every Council in NSW. The report is available from <http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/Index.asp?areaindex=LGR&index=42&acode=TR&mi=2>

TCorp defined sustainability in the following terms:

A local government will be financially sustainable over the long term when it is able to generate sufficient funds to provide the levels of service and infrastructure agreed with its community.

The report has found that over 25% of councils in NSW are currently in a 'weak' or 'very weak' financial position and, based on councils' own projections, the sector's financial sustainability outlook is set to deteriorate significantly over the coming years.

TCorp identified that a majority of councils are reporting operating deficits, with only 1/3 of councils recording a surplus in 2012. Over the period 2009 to 2012, the cumulative operating deficits for all councils totalled about \$1 billion.

Compounding this problem is the fact that most councils are not providing sufficient funds to maintain their assets to a satisfactory standard, which is further adding to the local government infrastructure backlog.

TCorp found that councils' deteriorating financial performance has been occurring for some time and this has led to a gradual weakening of the local government sector. TCorp concluded that these factors, if not corrected, will lead to further deteriorating financial strength and ultimately a lower quality of assets and hence services that can be delivered by the sector.

Independent Local Government Review

Also during April 2013, the Independent Local Government Review Panel issued a progress report on the "Future Director for NSW Local Government" for further consultation. The report is available from www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au. The Final report is due in September 2013.

The panel's task has been to undertake a wide-ranging review looking ahead to 2036 and beyond, and to formulate options for governance models, structures and boundary changes.

The review also addresses the estimated \$7 billion Infrastructure Backlog. One of many preferred options is to expand training in asset management and associated financial planning for councillors and staff.

An extract from page 21 of the review notes:

"A related step would be to provide technical assistance to all councils in the areas of setting realistic condition standards and service levels for infrastructure, including undertaking community engagement to determine what is acceptable. It needs to be more widely understood that at any given time a significant percentage of a council's infrastructure assets will be at a less than desirable standard: it is simply financially impossible to aim for every road, bridge, drain, building etc to be "satisfactory" or better.

Some councils have already done excellent work in this regard. Also, the Institute of Public Works Engineering and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government are preparing a 'practice' note which should provide a sound basis for training programs."

The remaining part of this report has been prepared by Ms Kylie Kerr, Asset Manager at Moree Plains Shire Council.

Road Trains East of the Newell Highway

The NSW Minister for Roads has announced that road trains can run east of the Newell Highway under a permit system as long as they meet a number of conditions including:

- Must use a tri-axle dolly with certified road friendly suspension

- Must not be longer than 36.5m
- Must be part of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS).

Type One road trains are now operating on specified roads in both Gunnedah and Gwydir Shire LGA's.

NSW IPWEA Training

- NAMS Plus 2 Introductory
- Long Term Financial Planning

24. Victoria State Report

Competency. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is providing support to Councils to meet the target. This target aims to ensure Victorian Councils can satisfy the requirements of both federal and state governments for funding under the National Framework for Asset Management and Reporting.

The MAV is holding its 2013 National Local Government Infrastructure and Asset Management Conference in Melbourne on 29-30 May 2013. Themes in this year's conference include:

- strengthening leadership and influence to deliver better outcomes
- integrating community priorities, asset management and service planning
- does your Council's Long Term Financial Plan reflect reality?

Victorian Audit Office

The Victorian Auditor General published a report on Public Asset Valuation in April. The audit focussed on the Valuer-General Victoria's "independent valuations to public sector agencies". The report includes Background, Conclusions and Recommendations.

By way of background, Victorian public sector agencies manage more than \$170 billion in land, buildings, infrastructure, and other non-current assets and they account for the value of these assets through annual financial reports. Public sector agencies include Councils.

A copy of the Report can be obtained from

http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_and_publications/latest_reports/2012-13/20130417-public-asset-val.aspx.

The Victorian Auditor General is also proposing to conduct a "Local Government Asset Management Performance Audit" commencing in 2013. In addition to meeting with the MAV and the relevant State Government Department, Audit Office staff requested a meeting with IPWEA vic. Chris Champion and John Howard also attended this meeting and tabled a Background Paper detailing the work IPWEA does nationally in this area. The Background Paper is attached as Appendix D.

RMIT Research Projects

RMIT is working with Councils and others on a couple of collaborative research projects.

1. Community Buildings – this project has been running for a number of years

An aim is to produce an online Council Asset Management Systems (CAMS).

The deterioration forecasting module of the building asset management system has been completed. Work continues on the decision making module incorporating risk cost optimisation for maintenance as well as sustainability indices in decision making. The national survey on this component received responses from 107 councils, which contributed to the factors derived. It is expected that the tool will be completed within the next two months and that the final version will be demonstrated to all councils by August 2013.

RMIT received a further \$50,000 from the state government to implement the tool in partner councils. This will include installing the software, uploading existing data and assistance with the use of the system during the initial period. There are also plans to develop a data collection

applet to enable immediate uploading of condition data to the system by inspectors. Partners' input to this stage will be discussed at the next project workshop.

2. Stormwater Drainage Assets – a new project due to commence in July 2013.

This project proposes to cover “Development of A Risk-Cost Minimised Tool for Whole Life Care of Stormwater Pipeline Network”. It is likely that numerous Councils and Melbourne Water will partner with RMIT in this project.

The objectives of the proposed project are summarised as:

- Identify and examine the underlying factors that affect pipe deterioration,;
- Assess the extent and severity of deterioration as measured by structural safety and serviceability for a selected group of pipes;
- Develop and validate rational and practical models for pipe deterioration in terms of design criteria of safety and serviceability as a function of critical underlying factors as well as time;
- Develop and validate a scientifically advanced method for predicting the remaining safe life of this group of pipes;
- Develop a framework for the whole life care of storm water pipe systems based on risk-cost optimization for this group of pipes;
- Demonstrate the effective application of the developed framework on stormwater pipe systems.

Local Government Victoria

Local Government Victoria (Department of Planning and Community Development) upcoming projects include a Strategic Asset Management Review. I will share more details as they become available to me.

Vic Asset Management Technical Reference Group

The next Asset Management Technical Reference Group meeting is scheduled for late June. The meeting will focus on recent research on how public entities have used policy and strategy to achieve real and significant improvements in asset management. The discussion will then link current practice with the proposed ISO55000 standard. The meeting will be held at Siemens who have an “innovation room”. Siemens have a game where teams of players can make choices between finance, transport, water and power to try and deliver the best outcome to the community (i.e. liveability = levels of service).

VicRoads

VicRoads celebrates its centenary in 2013 and has published a magazine to commemorate. VicRoads started as the Country Roads Board in 1913. VicRoads now look after 22,000 kilometres of roads and more than 3,100 bridges. The magazine mentions that Victoria’s first “road” was built by the Government of New South Wales on Phillip Island in 1801.

25. South Australia State Report

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. It 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.

During the course of the project, the LGA(SA) was able to secure funding over and above the required amount so that additional aspects of the project, including development of a promotional poster and fact sheets, and further engagement with (IPWEA) and (JR & Associates), to integrate the project into the NAMS+ toolkit.

The model developed in the project has been tested using real data and currently contains data for 139 Councils across Southern Australia. The outputs of the model will provide Local Government with an indication of the likely impacts of climate change on road assets' useful life and corresponding changes to maintenance and repair costs.

On 30 May 2013 a workshop has been arranged in Adelaide that presents the results of a National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility research project to develop a financial model to calculate the impacts of climate change on three major asset classes of importance to Australian councils – sealed roads (both hotmix and spray sealed) and unsealed roads. The workshop will include:

- A presentation describing the project and its key findings;
- A demonstration on how to use the project outputs in the Institute of Public Works Engineering asset management NAMS.PLUS software.

Development Engineering Committee (SA)

IPWEA (SA) has had a development engineering committee, working on a myriad of issues confronting councils in the area of contributed assets and development engineering approval, since 2010. The committee is made up of a group of our members from the Local Government Industry who meet regularly to discuss various issues, exchange ideas and network on all matters relating to Land Division Management.

The purpose of the Interest Group is to establish a forum for discussing common issues in the land division process and to provide recommendations for improvements on a number of issues to assist Local Government, developers and others involved in the land development process.

Last year they conducted a survey to identify issues regarding Land Division Development which requires further investigation and action. This has led to the need to undertake some research to determine the availability and success of various design guidelines and associated documents used within South Australia and nationally, whilst also identifying funding opportunities to develop standards and guidelines. The outcome from this research would be a report identifying various models and standards currently in use, the success of these models and standards, funding opportunities and the collation of the relevant documents for use by Councils.

Financial contributions have been sought from growth Councils within South Australia to assist in funding this worthwhile research project.

2013 IPWEA (SA) State Conference

The 2013 IPWEA (SA) State Conference will be held on Friday 31 May 2013 in the Hilton Adelaide Hotel in Victoria Square Adelaide. The theme for this year's Conference is *'Building Communities - Sharing Experiences' – Major developments/economic development - challenges and opportunities.*

The afternoon session is dedicated to Asset Management with guest speakers Peter Way, Chair of the IPWEA NAMS Group, Jeff Roorda, Executive Director Jeff Roorda & Associates and Adam Hain, ADAC (Asset Design and As Constructed) IPWEA Queensland.

The Conference will be followed by the celebration of IPWEA SA's Gala Dinner at 7pm including the presentation of the 2013 Excellence Awards to recognise innovation and excellence in the public works field.

26. Western Australia State Report

Western Australian Asset Management Committee

As advised at the last meeting, IPWEA W.A. Executive Committee has restructured all portfolio responsibilities and resolved that all main committees should be convened by a member of the Executive Committee. The committee now has a more diverse membership involving representatives of WALGA, LGMA and the Department of Local Government.

One of the first activities of the new committee was a Strategic Planning session which identified a number of objectives and strategies.

Objectives

- Provide direction and advice to the State Executive in relation to asset management
- Communicate asset management to members
- Schedule and run regular Asset Management Forums
- Keep the State Executive informed in relation to emerging Asset Management Issues
- Provide advice to the State Executive on the communication of Asset Management issues to the Industry and wider community
- Provide advice to key stake holders, via the State Executive, on the development and implementation of State asset management frameworks and capacity building need.

Strategies

1. Developing consistent and credible practices in all areas of asset management
2. Integrating with Government asset management plans and frameworks
3. Creating a vision and promoting leadership excellence
4. Practicing effective 'all of issues' communication strategies
5. Synergising alignment and co-ordination with National initiatives
6. Building capacity through proactive training and mentoring

A number of sub-groups have been formed to progress items between the bi-monthly meetings. These groups include 'Leadership', 'Resource' and 'Capacity'.

Asset Management Forums

There has been a hiatus in forums due to the restructure and the next one being on 23 May 2013 with the subject being Roads with delivery by Main Roads W.A.

Western Australian Asset Management Improvement (WAAMI) Program.

The WAAMI Programme is still being run by WALGA with the programme now being delivered by Core Business Australia (formerly CT Management).

Local Government Reform

The Department of Local Government is implementing a suite of reforms aimed at improving the sustainability of local governments, including their capacity to plan strategically for the future needs of their communities.

No further update has been received since the last NAMS meeting.

Amalgamations are still being discussed with submissions on the most recent report closing just after the recent W.A. State Election. There is now a new Minister and the future direction is currently unclear.

ROMAN Update

The Roman Project Manager Graham Lantzke has resigned and been replaced by Craig Hansom who has a background in I.T. Craig has recently spent time catching up with both users and other stakeholders. Internally at WALGA, the Roman project has been transferred to the 'Business Solutions' area identifying that the project has now been delivered and has shifted into operational mode.



27. Tasmania State Report

Financial and Asset Reform Project

The first stage of the Commonwealth funded Financial and Asset Reform Project, implementing strategic planning all councils, was officially completed on 31st December. The second phase of the project commenced from this date and is focused on continuing improvement and refinement of strategic asset and financial planning. One of the successes of the original project was the regional approach it employed, as highlighted by an Independent Evaluation of the project and industry leaders. This regional approach, encouraging collaboration and support among councils, has been extended to deliver the objectives of the second stage.

Regional asset management groups were established and supported during the first stage of the project and these were invaluable to progressing the project and improve communication networks, as well as offering mentoring, networking and professional development benefits to members. Recently, finance groups were also established in both the North and South of the state, amongst widespread enthusiasm and support. Both regional finance and asset management groups indicated they will be conducting meetings on the same day to enable joint discussions, and this will be vital for contributing to increased integration between engineering and accounting functions within councils.

While some aspects of the project, including a finance and asset management forum later in the year and developing resources for elected members on level of service requirements will be coordinated centrally, there is some funding available to these regional groups. Individual councils, groups of councils or regional groups can apply for funds to progress the project objectives such as completing asset management plans in small or remote councils. Priority will be given to projects that encourage regional collaboration and support and may include for example, a statewide workshop or training event.

An example of the success that a regional approach can inspire is the recent combined North and South asset management meeting held in the state, which was extremely well attended by both engineering and finance staff. There was a presentation to this meeting outlining the scope of a joint Tasmanian Audit Office and Department of Local Government project addressing road depreciation issues.

This joint project, reviewing road asset depreciation and revaluation practices by Local Government broadly aims to ensure consistency and transparency within Tasmania's twenty nine councils. JRA have been contracted to conduct this work. It will determine workable and cost effective approaches to road asset valuation and depreciation, appropriate for financial reporting and compliant with Australian Accounting Standards. This will include for example, the development of a road hierarchy for local government infrastructure.

Other Projects in operation

- Update of Tas Standard Drawings
- Update of Tas Subdivision Guidelines
- Update of Tas Municipal Specifications
- Update of Tas Road Agencies Traffic Management Guide

28. IPWEA NSW Roads & Transport Directorate

NSW Benchmarking Reports

The Roads Directorate has published the 2012 Road Management and Timber Bridge Management Reports for NSW Local Roads. These are the fourth benchmarking reports published since 2006. The reports are available from the Directorate's web site at

<http://www.ipwea.org.au/RoadsTransportDirectorate/AboutRD/AssetBenchmarkingProject>

Austroads Assets Task Force

David Darwin, National Assets Manager, New Zealand Transport Agency is the new Chair of the Austroads Assets Task Force.



Current projects of the Task Force include:

- Review of Standard Methods for Measuring Road Asset Condition,
- Austroads Guide to Asset Management is to be updated to meet ISO 55001 requirements,
- Guide to Asset Management Part 8 *Asset Valuation and Audit* based on AIFMG also to be updated,
- National Transport Policy Framework updates for national heavy vehicle regulation and heavy vehicle charging.

29. Next NAMS.AU Meeting: NAMS.AU Face to Face Meeting in November 2013 in Sydney.

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

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