

# nams.au update

November 2009

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

### REPORT & DECISIONS

of meeting 13 November 2009

#### 1. Committee Membership

Brian Edwards has resigned as Tasmanian Representative on NAMS.AU to take up a role as Director on the IPWEA National Board. Brian was a founding member of NAMS.AU and has represented Tasmanian since 2004.

Brian's replacement is Harry Galea, Director Infrastructure Services, Launceston City Council.

The meeting resolved to present Brian with a Certificate of Service as an acknowledgment and thanks for his contribution to NAMS.AU.

#### 2. Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines

The Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines are a joint project with IPWEA and the National Local Government Financial Management Forum with IPWEA providing project management services. The Guidelines were launched at the Melbourne International Public Works Conference in September 2009. Copies are selling strongly and to order your copy go to the website at [www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG](http://www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG).

NAMS.AU will be arranging a series of 2 day training workshop in 2010 held in metropolitan and regional locations. Details will be available at the Guidelines web site [www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG](http://www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG).

The committee resolved that a regular (six monthly) review of changes to Australian Accounting Standards and impact on the Guidelines be established and updates be advised or issued to users through the Guidelines web site at [www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG](http://www.ipwea.org.au/AIFMG).

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

40% of Councils in Australia are now part of the NAMS.PLUS program. A new series of training workshops in being planned to commence in 2010.

NAMS.AU resolved to investigate the establishment of NAMS.PLUS User Groups. A Training Day for NAMS.AU Consultant Supporters has been held and those who attended will be acknowledged on the NAMS.PLUS web site as those Consultants that can assist Councils on their NAMS.PLUS journey.

#### 4. NAMS.AU Condition Assessment Practice Notes

The Buildings Practice Note was published in June 2009 with over 150 copies sold to date. This follows on from the Footpaths and Kerb & Channel condition assessment Practice Notes published earlier. Training on use of the Buildings Practice Note is under development for rollout in March 2010.

The meeting resolved to continue development of Practice notes for

- Stormwater condition assessment
- Water and Sewage condition assessment
- Asset Management for Small Communities,
- Long Term Financial Planning

#### **5. National AM Liaison**

NAMS.AU has agreed to participate in discussions to establish a national AM liaison and coordination mechanism among like minded organisations working in the asset management field.

#### **6. AM Standard for Australia**

NAMS.AU has resolved to participate in discussions convened by Standards Australia to review the need for an asset management standard for Australia with the possibility PAS 55 being updated to an ISO Standards.

### **REPORTS**

#### **7. NAMS.PLUS Training 2010**

IPWEA's NAMS.PLUS continues to be strongly supported by organisations needing to prepare infrastructure asset management plans. An update of NAMS.PLUS is underway to review the templates, data input methodology, on-line modelling incorporating scenario modelling, e-book guidelines and delivery systems, improved on-line support (FAQs and guidelines) and training/support for the AMP improvement stage.

A one day intensive course was held for the consultant supporters group in November. This will update consultants on NAMS.PLUS and how they can assist organisations to write their own asset management plans. Further detail of those who undertook this course will be made available at the NAMS.PLUS website.

The 2010 training program for IPWEA NAMS.PLUS Asset Management is being planned and details will be available at [www.namsplus.org.au](http://www.namsplus.org.au). The training comprises a series of 4 workshops staged 2 months apart and is planned to assist participants complete an asset management plan using the NAMS.PLUS templates, on-line modelling, training and e-book guidelines with help through AssetMatesPlus.

NAMS.PLUS compliments the existing asset management improvement programs and provides the tools and templates to actually write an asset management plan.

#### **8. Infrastructure Condition Assessment Guidelines**

The framework document and guidelines for Footpaths & Cycle Ways, and Kerb and Gutter, Condition Assessment Guidelines are available. The preamble and guidelines are available from the Practice Notes section of [www.nams.au.com](http://www.nams.au.com). The framework is free and individual sections are available for a fee of \$100 to cover development costs.

The Buildings and Property Condition Assessment Practice Note was published in June 2009. It is available from [www.nams.au](http://www.nams.au) in hard copy form for \$240 plus GST. Thanks to the members who have undertaken peer review of the draft guidelines.

The next condition assessment guidelines to be prepared will be for stormwater drainage. Anyone interested in contributing information or assisting with peer review is invited to contact Peter Way at [pway@ipwea.org.au](mailto:pway@ipwea.org.au).

## **9. Graduate Certificate in Infrastructure Asset Management**

IPWEA has been working with the Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE) to develop a graduate certificate in infrastructure asset management. The course was launched by the University of Tasmania in second semester 2009. The course requires the completion of four units, two compulsory units based on the International Infrastructure Management Manual and two electives from a suite of subjects offered by CPEE and Chifley University. The Grad Cert. course has been supported by the Australian Government reducing the cost to just under \$1,000 for Australian resident students. A further 20% discount is available for up-front payment. Further details and to lodge enrolments for first Semester 2010, go to [www.ipwea.org.au/GradCertIAM](http://www.ipwea.org.au/GradCertIAM)

## **10. IIMM Update**

The Australian reference group for review and update of the International Infrastructure Management Manual met in September and discussions are proceeding with stakeholder partners on the brief and agreement for the update.

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

Planning is underway for a study tour to New Zealand in November 2010 incorporating the NZ Advanced Asset Management Conference and to view demonstration of asset management practices at NZ councils. Details will be posted at [www.nams.au.com](http://www.nams.au.com) when available.

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

The NAMie for 2009 was presented to Dr Ian Greenwood of Opus International Conference for his paper 'Using a Framework to improve Asset Management Outcomes'

## **13. Electronic 'As Constructed' Drawings - ADAC**

NAMS.AU has reached agreement with IPWEA Qld Division to make ADAC available nationally. An awareness workshop was held in SE Qld for councils and software vendors to encourage their take-up of the ADAC tools into their existing software.

Interest in ADAC has been shown in Western Australia and South Australia

## **14. NAMS.AU Newsletter**

The Quarterly NAMS.NEWS has been published throughout 2009. The newsletter includes case studies provided by NAMS Consultant Supporters which attracted strong downloads. Past NAMS.NEWS case studies are available on the NAMS.AU website at [www.nams.au.com](http://www.nams.au.com).

## 15. NAMS.AU Flyer

The NAMS.AU information brochure has been updated and re-issued in May 09. The brochure which spells out the various resources available through NAMS.AU is available at [here](#).

<http://www.ipwea.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Committee&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=6374>

## STATE REPORTS

### 16. Queensland State Report

#### **Local Government Act Review and Performance Evaluation**

The Queensland Local Government Act 1993 has been amended to require for integrated planning, community consultation, asset management plans, 10 year financial plans and annual performance reporting. The Queensland State Government has published an 'Asset Management Advancement Program 2009/10'.

Details of the Program and supporting documents are at

<http://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/LocalGovernment/Aboutlocalgovernmentandcouncils/SustainabilityandReporting.aspx>

IPWEA was invited to participate in a State wide tour of workshops convened by the Department with the Minister for Local Government talking directly to Mayors about the need to lift their performance on asset management and sustainability.

*"The program is designed to support councils in developing asset management plans in a progressive manner during 2009 and 2010. It does not promote any specific approach to asset management planning, and encourages councils to choose the resourcing approach that best suits its needs and circumstances."*

This is the Message given also by the Minister who supported both the LGAQ LGAsset Program and the NAMS.PLUS Program and basically said it is up to Councils to decide what tools best suit their needs.

LGAQ has updated its LGAsset Program to the LGAsset Advanced program to suit the elements in the national frameworks.

### 17. NSW State Report

#### **Fair Value Valuation**

Roads, bridges, footpaths and drainage assets to be valued at fair value by 30 June 2010,

#### **Local Government Reform Program**

The Local Government Act has been amended to require councils to have:

- 10 year community strategic plan,
- Long term resourcing strategy to achieve the objectives in the community strategic plan,
- 4 year delivery program detailing activities to achieve objectives established in the community strategic plan (replace current management plan),
- Annual operational plan,
- The councils' charter is to be amended to include specific reference to long-term strategic planning on behalf of the community and planning for its assets.

## 18. Victoria State Report

- MAV Step program visits delayed to March 2010 to allow development of Advanced Step methodology aligned to national frameworks.
- MAV is working with Sandy Muir on development of asset data models for national consistency. MAV has called for membership of technical steering committee.
- Star ratings and Levels of Service. Some work done on public toilets. For most council's this work is on hold as priority is given to the advanced Step process.
- Swinburne University are building a Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure to focus on water, wastewater, bridges and pipe assets. The Centre may include an accelerated testing facility for infrastructure materials testing. It is part of a new \$120m Science and Engineering building that is currently under construction. Swinburne is very keen to engage with industry to help meet our needs and to deliver research with impact.
- Monash University were seeking industry support from partners on a proposal being submitted to the Australian Research Council on concrete bridges. It is likely that several State Road Authorities are going to support Monash's application for funding by the ARC.
- Corangamite Shire is involved in a research project on timber bridges with RMIT.
- The Civil Contractors Federation has surveyed its members – they are generally keen to implement "greener practices" including reuse and recycling of material. The challenge appears to rest with purchasers of services. The nature of tender documents and/or specifications can impact on a contractor's ability to be innovate and/or sustainable.
- RMIT have commenced a project on the "sustainable management of community buildings". Links have been made to work that was done on preparing IPWEA's Condition Assessment Practice Note and the project's submission for funding. This multi-year project will include working on a community building condition project to develop building condition assessment and degradation curves based on confidence limits and user guidelines. Numerous Victorian partners are involved as industry partners.

## 19. South Australia State Report

### LGA Financial Sustainability Program

The LGA Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee (incorporating IPWEA Representation) met 15 October.

### Digital As Constructed Data

There is still interest in progressing a standard specification for capture of asset data from land developments electronically into asset management systems. Involvement with industry has been delayed until more detail on the release of ADAC into South Australia becomes available.

## 20. Western Australia State Report

### WAAMI Programme

Interest in the WAAMI Programme has slowed over the last few months. This is probably because Councils have been otherwise engaged with structural reform issues that are presently being canvassed by the Department of Local Government and require submission of a series of reports to identify Councils' intentions in this regard.

### **WALGA Asset Management Preferred Supplier Panel Contract**

Since the introduction of this panel contract in April/May consultants have identified a considerable amount of interest from many Councils.

### **WALGA/Department of Local Government Asset Management Forum**

The Asset Management Forum organised by WALGA and the Department of Local Government as detailed in the last State Report was considered to be an outstanding success. As a result of this WALGA are already making plans to hold another one day Asset Forum in 2010. The IPWEA has continued to run lunch time Asset Forums on a variety of topics since the last State Report the following further forums have been held :

- Linking Property Strategy with Asset Management
- NAMS Building Condition Guidelines
- Australian Infrastructure Management Guidelines
- CCTV use to Identify Defective Storm Water Assets

In addition to these individual lunch time forums a half day forum was held by the IPWEA's South West Group in Bunbury which included presentations on:

- Bush Fire and Bridge Maintenance Practices
- NAMS Building Condition Guidelines
- Australian Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines
- Release of the IPWEA – WA Subdivisional Guidelines Version 2

### **UPDATING OF WAAMI /STEP PROGRAMMES**

It is anticipated that the requirements of the proposed Commonwealth Funding for Local Government Asset Management Frame Work and Processes will require some amendments to the WAAMI/STEP Programme reporting framework. As a result of this and in order to facilitate a national framework on reporting measures, CT Management have been requested to facilitate a workshop between Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria.

Subsequent discussions between parties (including IPWEA) have identified a route for producing a national consistent framework.

### **Local Government Reform Funding – Western Australian Submission**

The Western Australian Submission for the Commonwealth Local Government Reform Funding is being coordinated by the Department of Local Government, in collaboration with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA), and Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) Western Australian Division, each of whom have members on the Submission Working Group.

IPWEA's representative is Andrew Bruce, the Executive Committee Member responsible for the Asset Management portfolio. The Submission is considering a submission around Integrated Business Planning, with a number of project components in line with the Commonwealth Guidelines. The principal focus is on long term asset and financial management.

## **21. Tasmania State Report**

### **State Water & Sewerage Reform**

The 3 regional Water Authorities set up by the State Government and owned by local governments took over the ownership and operation of water and sewerage services within Tasmania from 1 July 2009.

## National Framework Implementation

The Tasmanian Government and LGAT commissioned a report on implementation of a common Framework for Long-Term Financial and Asset Management Planning for all Tasmanian Councils. The NAMS.PLUS Maturity Model was used to assess current asset and financial management maturity by councils attending the 3 Regional Consultation Forums. The project was extended to include an implementation report.

## 22. Other Reports

### Austrroads Assets Task Force

Austrroads released the Austrroads Guide comprising over 100 individual guides in July 2009. These are available to councils free of cost.

Mick Savage has joined the Austrroads Pavement Management System User Group representing local government.

Austrroads are reviewing the CPEE Grad Certificate in Infrastructure Asset Management unit course notes.

Projects under consideration by the Task Force include:

- telecommunication assets in road reserves especially with the rollout of the National Broadband Network. Reinstatement of road surfaces is likely to become a major issue.
- impact of heavy loads on bridges is being researched including road pricing of High Mass Limit (HML) vehicles and the distribution of a fair share of licence fees and other revenue to council.
- standard methods of measuring condition
- managing the conflicts between the council engineers road related responsibilities to provide 'clear zones' on regional roads (protect people who drive off roads) and environmental requirements to maintain vegetation and landscape on road reserves.

## 23. Next NAMS.AU Meeting: Face to Face Meeting – Saturday 29 May 2010.

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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)

#### **IPWEA National Board**

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