

Streamlining Processes for Recording and Managing Local Government Assets

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SUMMARY

In 2001, it was recognised that there was a need to streamline the processes used to record, deliver, input and display infrastructure asset data within Local Government Geographic Information System (“GIS”) and Asset Management Information Systems (“AMIS”). As a result the concept to create a generic standard that could be adopted across industries interacting with Local Government was developed. This subsequently became known as A-Spec. The essence of the specifications is to record and provide “As Constructed” asset information in a consistent format to participating councils. The A-Spec Groups primary focus was twofold: 1. to attain a national approach for the development of infrastructure asset digital data standards for all assets created (new and or renewed) and 2. to manage the inclusion of interested organisations across Australia. The management and maintenance of existing A-Spec modules (currently drainage – known as D-Spec and Roads –known as R-Spec) and standards and the development of future modules and standards are managed on behalf of each member by Workforce Solutions. The A-Spec model recognises that through-out the world the public sector is involved in many aspects of service delivery through arrangements with private industry. In this way the specific strengths of the private and public sectors are combined to maximise value on a project. Change management is also an essential part of this process. This means that both councils and consultants need to think about how they currently capture and process as-constructed information.. The A-Spec group’s objectives are to align with other key initiatives such as “eDA” nationally, (SPEAR in Victoria) and ePlan nationally. A trial of the new LandXML format of D-spec released by the group in 2009 is currently being undertaken. For the implementation of D-Spec (the groups drainage specification), the critical success factors are largely independent of the technology aspects. The success of the project relies on 'constant and consistent' consultation and promotion of the specifications with survey consultants, engineering consultants as well as software vendors servicing the industry. This presentation will outline some of the key elements and examples identified as fundamental to the success of this initiative.

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