

# Victorian Spatial Council Annual Report 2006

The Victorian Spatial Council has been established under the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-07. The Victorian Spatial Information Strategy is a whole-of-Government strategy concerned with all aspects of Victoria's spatial information industry. It considers roles and requirements of the public and private sectors and academia in advancing Victoria's social, economic and environmental goals through the provision and application of spatial information.



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## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

2006 was another busy year for the Victorian Spatial Council, as it continued to raise its profile and address critical issues facing the spatial information industry in Victoria.

Two of its most important initiatives were the establishment of the Imagery Assurance Group and the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee.

These two Groups, both representing a cross-section of key stakeholders, will considerably strengthen the management and delivery of the Coordinated Imagery Program and Property Information Program, respectively, and I thank those who have agreed to join these two important Groups for their efforts.

During the year, the Council ran two more successful Forums, and published three editions of Landmark.

A major milestone was the reintroduction of a printed version of Landmark in November 2006 to accompany the popular on-line edition, and from 2007 the Council will continue to publish the magazine in both forms. We thank RBA Communications for once again delivering a consistently high quality product, and we look forward to continuing our association in 2007.

The implementation of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007 continued. Five of the accompanying Guidelines were completed during the year and published on the Council's web site.

One of the pleasures in Chairing the Council is seeing the number of ground breaking developments taking place in Victoria to improve the quality of spatial information and enhance its accessibility to users.

The range of activities undertaken, and the truly collaborative approach that underpins them, cement Victoria's place as the leader in spatial information practice and development in Australia.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Council members for their contributions during the year. The time that they put into its activities is voluntary, but without it the Council would not be as successful as it is.

2007 promises to be a significant year in determining the future of the spatial information industry in Victoria, as we embark on the development of the next Victorian Spatial Information Strategy. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various events planned as part of this year-long project.

I have pleasure in commending the Victorian Spatial Council 2006 Annual Report to you.



**Independent Chair**



## ABOUT THE VICTORIAN SPATIAL COUNCIL

The Victorian Spatial Council (VSC) was established in September 2004 to coordinate spatial information development in Victoria and lead the implementation of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007 (VSIS).

It does this by providing a coordinated approach to spatial information policy and management, as well as facilitating opportunities for a greater strategic focus on spatial information development, including greater partnership building, collaboration, cooperation and education.

In summary, its terms of reference cover policy and strategy, driving the application of spatial information, promoting its use, and educating government, business and the community of the value and importance of spatial information.

Its objectives cover facilitating implementation of VSIS, examining issues, promoting initiatives, establishing and maintaining communication channels, building networks, and promoting best practice.

The Terms of Reference and objectives are described in full in Appendix 1.

### *Victorian Spatial Information Strategy*

The Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007 aims to establish a coherent spatial information management framework based on a key set of principles for describing spatial datasets, managing them, making them available and making people aware of them.

The successful application of spatial information in mainstream business activities must be supported by a sound underpinning management approach that guarantees that spatial information is available and able to be used.

Hence, the current focus of policy in Victoria is on providing the information management framework and institutional structures to enable that to occur.

### *Spatial Governance Model*

The VSC operates under a participatory governance model established by VSIS. Under this model, all sectors of the spatial industry are represented through the peak bodies for business, government, academia and the professions, as well as key interest groups, to ensure all interests can be addressed.

All sectors therefore have a role in setting Victoria's strategic direction for spatial information and implementing policies and standards for the whole spatial industry, including Government.

### *Mode of operation*

The VSC achieves its aims through facilitation, advocacy, and communication, including:

- being a sponsor and/or champion of major spatial information initiatives
- publishing policy statements, guidelines, discussion papers
- running forums and briefing key decision makers in business and government.

Council members represent their constituencies' interests and provide an opportunity for them to raise matters of concern. VSC members also speak on behalf of the VSC and represent its interests in their sectors.

The VSC relies on generating the support for its policy direction via the participation of members and their championing of that direction among their sectors.

*Structure and reporting relationships*

The VSC's members represent the peak spatial information associations in Victoria:

- Association of Consulting Surveyors (ASCV)
- Australian Spatial Information Business Association (ASIBA)
- Australasian Spatial Information Education and Research Association (ASIERA)
- Local Government Spatial Information Reference Group
- Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI)
- Victorian Government Spatial Committee (VGSC).

The Australian Government is represented through Geoscience Australia. Specialist interests, such as the emergency services and utilities are also represented.

The Chair is independent.

**Table 1: VSC membership structure**

Private Sector – 2 members	Academia – 2 members
Professions – 2 members	State Government – 2 members
Local Government – 2 members	Australian Government – 1 member
Emergency Management Sector – 1 member	Catchment Management Authorities – 1 member

*2006 Membership*

During 2006, the distribution of the VSC's membership was as follows:

**Table 2: 2006 membership**

Private Sector – 2 members	Academia – 1 member
Professions – 1 member	State Government – 2 members
Local Government – 2 members	Australian Government – 1 member
Emergency Management Sector – 1 member	Catchment Management Authorities – 0 members

Council members in 2006 are listed in Appendix 2.

*Stakeholders/Partners*

The Imagery Assurance Group and the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee advise the Council on the Coordinated Imagery Program and the Property Information Program Evaluation.

Under its collaborative approach, each sector also has a particular role to play.

The Council has published a set of business principles that define these roles and provide a sound basis for coordination and collaboration of the government, private and academic sectors. They cover policy and standard setting, data provision, development of new products, developing markets, and research and development. These roles may be performed individually or through cooperative approaches, but together they will contribute to the growth and development of the spatial information industry.

### *Administration*

The VSC reports to the Secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), and is supported by a Secretariat located in the Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII) branch of DSE.

The Council's reporting arrangements and relationship with the VGSC are shown in Appendix 7.

## **2006 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Strategic Plan 2004-07**

The VSC's annual programs of activities take place within the context of its three year strategic plan.

The Strategic Plan is located in Appendix 6.

### **2006 Work Plan**

As a result of a review of its operations, conducted in late 2005, the Council has focused its attention on five groups of activities:

1. VSC Operations
2. Communications
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Policy and Strategy
5. Projects

The following pages report on the Council's achievements under these categories during the year.

The full work plan for 2006, with specific tasks and a report on performance against milestone targets is provided in Appendix 6.

## 2006 REPORT

### Achievements

#### 1. VSC Operations

- Membership

The Council Chair initiated a series of discussions with the Catchment Management Authorities to seek representation from the natural resources sector. The Council will continue to seek a representative from this sector during 2007.

The Council's Terms of Reference were updated in June 2006.

- Relationship with Government

The Council maintains close links with the Victorian Government Spatial Committee.

A joint meeting of the Council and Committee was held in December 2006, and the Chair, Ollie Hedberg and VSC member Geoff Spring, addressed the Committee's August meeting.

The Council's and Committee's relationship in relation to policy development was highlighted in the VSIS Governance Guidelines, published in May 2006.

#### 2. Communications

- Events

The Council's Forum program is a vital element of its mission to examine spatial information issues, establish effective channels of communication across the spatial community, and build networks for sharing and improving the usefulness of spatial information.

Two public Forums were held during 2006.

***Forum 1: 'The Property Information Program – a vital infrastructure for Victoria'***

The Council's first Forum was held on 19 July 2006, and attracted over 100 participants.

The Forum presented the findings and recommendations of the Property Information Program (PIP) Evaluation; heard responses to the report from Local Government, State Government and users; and provided an opportunity for contributions from major stakeholders in the data to identify key issues.

The keynote presentations were given by:

**Olaf Hedberg**, Chair, Victorian Spatial Council, who gave the welcome and introduction.

**Graham Thiessen**, General Manager Operations, Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority; **Glendon Dickinson**, Executive Manager Revenue and Property, Warrnambool City Council; and **Bruce Thompson**, Director, Spatial information Infrastructure, Department of Sustainability and Environment, who each gave a user's perspective on the fitness for purpose of Property data.

**David Alexander**, from Alexander-Tomlinson, summarising the challenges and recommendations identified by the PIP Evaluation.

**John Hennessy**, Municipal Association of Victoria; **Diane Daniell**, Chair, Local Government Spatial Reference Group; and **John Gallagher**, Manager, Stakeholder Management, Spatial Information Infrastructure, who each responded on behalf of

the PIP Collaborative Action Plan Working Group that oversaw the Evaluation.

The key message of the Forum is that, while the Property Information Program in its current form is no longer sustainable, the participating stakeholders regard the relationships and coordination it provides as important and valuable. The immediate priorities should be to raise awareness of the Program outside the traditional stakeholder groups, define the 'fitness for purpose' of the data so that it can meet a range of user needs, and agree on the appropriate performance standards (accuracy and currency) of the data.

These messages were incorporated in a comprehensive report of the proceedings, which is available from the Council's web site.

***Forum 2: 'Where to next for the spatial information industry in Victoria?'***

The Council's second Forum was held on 12 December 2006 to consider the changes that are taking place in the availability and delivery of spatial information, and begin to identify the key issues that should be considered in the forthcoming spatial information strategy (to be developed during 2007). The Forum attracted over 70 participants.

The keynote presentations were given by:

**Olaf Hedberg**, Chair, Victorian Spatial Council, who gave the welcome and introduction.

**Peter Woodgate**, CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information, who considered the spatial information environment and how the paradigm is changing – where we've been, where we are now and what is the future.

**Mark Judd**, Director, Geomatic Technologies, on what these changes might mean for the spatial information industry in Victoria.

**Alex Tao Chen**, PhD Candidate, Department of Geomatics, University of Melbourne, who gave a demonstration of a current example of a new use for spatial information in meeting business needs.

The key messages to emerge from the Forum are that the pace of change in spatial information availability will only increase, with new players continuing to enter the market, and that the traditional spatial industry needs to think seriously about the role it will play in the future. However, quality and availability of the spatial data that underpins the new applications and the standards that support the delivery and exchange of that data must continue to improve.

A report of the Forum's proceedings is to be published on the Council's web pages in early 2007.

- **Web Site**

During 2006, the Council's web pages were revamped. They now include more comprehensive information on the Council and its activities, and links to the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy and accompanying Guidelines.

The minutes of each meeting and proceedings of the Council Forums are also published.

New material is added to the site on a regular basis.

- Publications

### Brochure

A promotional brochure outlining the Council's role and objectives was produced for distribution at forums and other events.

### Landmark

In 2006, the Council took over the publication of the Landmark magazine, publishing three editions (March, July and November). The November edition was produced in both hard copy and on-line formats.

In publishing the magazine, the Council's aim is to provide a means of communication to the industry on spatial developments and a platform to showcase activities and new products.

An Editorial Committee, chaired by the VSC Chair, was formed to provide strategic direction for the magazine. See Appendix 5 for a list of the members.

## 3. Stakeholder Engagement

A key objective of the Council is to establish effective channels of communication across the spatial industry. During 2006, it undertook a number of activities to inform the industry of its activities (described elsewhere in this report), and maintain the Council's awareness of activities and challenges across the industry.

- Sector briefings

A series of regular briefings to Council members was initiated to give the key industry sectors opportunities to highlight issues and challenges from their perspectives as a way of opening up the potential for further collaboration.

During 2006, Council members heard from ASIBA (August) and the CRC-SI (September). Further briefings will be held in 2007.

At the October meeting, presentations were given by Google (Australia) and PSMA Australia Ltd on new developments in delivering and using spatial information.

## 4. Policy and Strategy

- VSIS Guidelines

During 2006, five of the Guidelines accompanying the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007 were either published or endorsed (for publication early in 2007).

The **Governance, Custodianship, and Pricing and Licensing** Guidelines were published; and the **Framework Information** and **Data Quality** Guidelines were endorsed for publication.

The remaining Guidelines (**Business Information, Metadata, Privacy and Awareness**) will be prepared during 2007.

- Policy

The Council endorsed the development of a 'Positioning Policy' at its October meeting.

The policy is a response to the assigning of so-called 'Regulation 13 Certificates' to Victoria's GPSnet base stations. The impact will be to change the realisation of the geodetic datum in Victoria from ground marks to GPS Base stations and deliver a better geodetic datum (because the positions of the base stations will incorporate smaller errors and will be continually monitored).

The policy will be developed during 2007 in consultation with major stakeholders.

## 5. Projects

- **Single View**

The purpose of the 'single view' is to enable spatial data users to access a list of datasets, their history, the custodian and the contact details by clicking on the location of an area of interest displayed on a browser-based map.

During 2006, the focus of activity was on delivering access to DSE/DPI data in a single view; developing functionality to select/display via a map; providing current metadata; developing a modular/scalable system; and developing interface standards to connect services.

- **Custodianship Program**

The Council endorsed the two-year Custodianship Program in March 2006. It is a key initiative in implementing VSIS.

The Program has four objectives:

1. Establish and maintain a decentralised model for data collection and distribution.
2. Establish the conditions that facilitate the sharing of spatial data and information across Victoria.
3. Establish an environment in which high quality spatial data and information is created and made available.
4. Develop an awareness of what data sources are available in Victoria.

During 2006, the Program published the Custodianship Guidelines; developed a process for negotiating custodianship agreements; agreed to use the Victorian Spatial Data Directory as the basis for a registry of custodianship agreements; and began negotiations for custodianship of datasets with a number of public and private sector organisations.

The Program will continue in 2007.

- **Coordinated Imagery Program**

The Council established an Imagery Assurance Group in March to provide a formal consultative arrangement between government, industry and users for continuous improvement under the Coordinated Imagery Program.

See Page 11 for a full description of the IAG.

- **PIP Evaluation**

The Council established a PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee in August 2006. The formation of the Committee is one of the 35 recommendations of the Property Information Program Evaluation that was received by the Council in 2005. The Committee will be fundamental to ensuring that PIP achieves the benchmark performance targets recommended by the Evaluation.

See Page 11 for a full description of the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee.

## Meetings

### *Council Meetings*

The VSC met 10 times in 2006. It meets monthly in the offices of SII at 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Minutes of the meetings are published on the Council's web site.

### *Meetings of the Chair*

The Chair met with a wide range of stakeholders during 2006 as part of the Council's ongoing efforts to raise its profile, and increase awareness and recognition of its role and its activities.

#### **Major meetings and presentations in 2006**

- Formal presentation of the VSC 2004-05 Annual Report to the Secretary of DSE and Secretary of DPI (May 2006).
- Multimedia Victoria (May 2006).
- Victorian Catchment Management Council (May 2006).
- Chief Information Officer and Deputy CIO (May 2006)
- Valuer-General (June 2006).
- Host of the Inaugural Meeting of the Imagery Assurance Group (June 2006).
- Registrar-General and Acting Surveyor-General (June 2006).
- SSI Regional Committee Meeting (July 2006).
- Executive Director of Land Victoria (July 2006).
- Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority, the Country Fire Authority, and DSE (August 2006).
- Victorian Government Spatial Committee (August 2006).
- Catchment Management Authority CEO's Forum (August 2006).
- Keynote speaker at the Spatial Sciences in Victoria 2006 one day conference hosted by the Spatial Sciences Institute, on the topic '*The Victorian Spatial Council's Vision and Plans for Spatial Information in Victoria*' (September 2006).

## VSC WORKING GROUPS

### Imagery Assurance Group

The Imagery Assurance Group was formed in March 2006.

#### Objective

Its objective is to provide a formal consultative arrangement between Government, Industry and Users for continuous improvement in the specification, acquisition and provision of imagery under the Coordinated Imagery Program (CIP).

#### Terms of Reference

Its Terms of Reference are to:

1. provide technical recommendations on proposed specifications for the acquisition of imagery;
2. provide expertise on market/business arrangements for imagery acquisition (including IP and licensing); and
3. communicate Australian and International best practice strategies on government and industry partnerships.

#### Membership

The Group's membership is drawn from industry and users, as well as the Coordinated Imagery Program Manager. The Group has an independent Chair who is a Member of the Victorian Spatial Council. The list of members is provided in Appendix 3.

#### Report on activities

During 2006, the IAG

- developed and endorsed a number of template documents, including a requirements form which is being used during project initiation meetings
- provided advice to the program and its partners
- provided regular updates to the Victorian Spatial Council
- played an important role of addressing a number of issues impacting upon industry and Government collaboration on key initiatives

The IAG met 4 times in 2006; the minutes of the meetings are available via the VSC's web pages.

### PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee

The PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee was formed in September 2006.

#### Objective

Its objective is to ensure that a sustainable property data transfer environment between State and Local Government is maintained.

#### Terms of Reference

Its Terms of Reference are to:

1. Set the direction to achieve a sustainable property data transfer environment between State and Local Government.
2. Develop a strategy to achieve the correct level of support from State and Local Government decision makers.
3. Implement a risk management strategy to manage risks to public and property arising from incomplete and inconsistent addressing information.

The Committee will also take into account the use of Vicmap to support Victoria's emergency response capabilities, by addressing the quality of this core spatial data

beyond its use as a parcel and property base.

### Membership

The Committee's membership is drawn from State and Local Government, the Victorian Spatial Council, and Australia Post; the list of members is provided in Appendix 4.

### Report on activities

The Committee met twice in 2006, and agreed to

- A PIP Migration Work Plan that will implement the recommendations of the PIP Evaluation through four projects –
  1. Develop a high level Property Creation and Maintenance Framework for Victoria
  2. Develop Vicmap products that are fit for stakeholder purposes
  3. Standardise Local Government practices and systems
  4. Restructure Vicmap maintenance derived from the Property Information Program
- The immediate commencement of Project 1. Projects 2 to 4 are dependent on the former and will commence during 2007.

The minutes of the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee are available on-line via the VSC's web pages.

## MAJOR ISSUES

### Data Quality

The biggest single issue that emerged out of the discussions and activities of the Council during the year, including its two Forums, was that of data quality.

This was both in the context of the data being able to support key government operations (local government, emergency management) or in relation to how it underpins (as content) new developments in applications that can be used by traditional and non-traditional users alike.

The growing demand for spatial data is resulting in users' requirements for quality beginning to exceed existing standards for a range of spatial data. There is also great potential for this gap to widen further as reliance on spatial data grows corresponding to its use becoming more widespread, and as it becomes increasingly applied in automated systems (such as emergency response).

The importance of data quality has been highlighted this year as a result of major initiatives occurring across the Victorian Government.

#### *Quality of data for dispatch of emergency vehicles*

In 2005-06, the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) answered 1.48 million calls for emergency assistance. At present, the system covers only the greater metropolitan and Geelong regions, but will be expanded to Regional Victoria during 2007, increasing the reliance on the Vicmap datasets for emergency vehicle dispatch. It is critical that the standard of the data for regional Victoria matches that in the metropolitan areas.

There are significant risks associated with any inaccuracies or incompleteness in the spatial information used by the emergency vehicle dispatch system – omissions or errors can often lead to extended response times, which in turn can have major consequences. For example, inadequate data can extend the time required to process an emergency call, which has an ongoing impact on the ability to dispatch appropriate resources in a timely manner, and in turn can have a compounding impact upon subsequent calls for assistance (one operator tied up on a call for 5 minutes, which could have been addressed in 45 seconds, means that subsequent calls may not be addressed as quickly as they might otherwise have been).

There are obvious benefits associated with using Vicmap data for emergency call taking dispatch, because it has whole of state coverage on a large scale, its management is based on solid principles including custodianship, and the data comes from a single authoritative source. However, it is essential to ensure that it meets a consistently high standard across the whole State.

#### *High quality image acquisition and spatial data accuracy*

The acquisition of high precision imagery under the Coordinated Imagery Program is also highlighting a range of quality issues. Areas where the spatial data is out of alignment are now able to be identified and planning for the upgrade of the data can take place.

During the year, Council's discussions touched on a range of developments occurring in the world of spatial information. They suggest that a number of significant elements are emerging that will impact on data quality.

With the greater availability of technology that can deliver spatial information to an

expanding user base, including the internet, the demand for immediately available and accurate spatial information will continue to increase.

The focus is also shifting to delivery of business solutions. For spatial information to become ubiquitous (a Council objective) it must be integrated into mainstream technology.

The industry is well aware that the range of opportunities to access spatial information is increasing, with the offerings of Google and Microsoft being just the most visible and well-known.

In both Council Forums during 2006, data quality also featured.

The first Forum underlined the importance of spatial information – particularly property and address – to core services of state and local government.

Quality for these purposes is manifested in ‘fitness for purpose’, which in turn leads to a range of definitional issues – for whom is the data ‘complete’, ‘current’, or ‘correct’? How are these to be measured for all users?

This poses serious questions for an organisation responsible for a dataset – how does it determine what that fitness is so that all types of users are catered for? Does it automatically respond to the highest and best use of the data? Does it compromise, and require more sophisticated customers to pay for the additional requirements they are seeking?

Addressing quality is also about relationships – between custodians and users, agreeing standards, and exchanging data according to those standards.

To support this aspect, the focus is on establishing performance targets for the data to give users a basis for assessing the standard of the data.

The second Forum also highlighted how quality issues are still prominent.

Here the focus was on the growth in the ways in which spatial information is being delivered and the uses to which it is being put. Users are demanding ‘anywhere anytime’ data of a quality that meets their needs.

The pressure is on to maintain quality and supply the content for these new applications.

But there is an equally important need to educate users about the data – it is not necessarily capable of meeting each and every use to which it is being put. The growing demands for and use of spatial data mean that it is increasingly being asked to meet requirements it was not designed to meet.

Standards are facilitating the exchange of data, with the result that the range of users of spatial information is increasing.

There is also a view that this increasing use will help drive quality improvements.

For more on the discussion at the Council’s Forums, go to its web site and read the proceedings.

The Council acknowledges that despite the progress made under the Victorian

Spatial Information Strategy, there are still some basic requirements that are yet to be fully established.

Our success in delivering new applications to users, and in meeting the challenges provided by the growth in spatial information providers, will be dependent on the quality of the data that underpins them.

The Council has already taken a significant first step in supporting the long term quality of Victoria's property and address data by forming the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee – one of the recommendations of the Property Information Program Evaluation conducted during 2005. The Committee is now undertaking its first project to develop a framework in which the creation and management of property and address information takes place in Victoria. The results of this project will be available in July 2007.

The Council also views the custodian as the key player in managing and promoting quality. Under the spatial information management framework being put in place by VSIS, the custodian will be required to set quality standards for their data in consultation with users. *Spatial Information Data Quality Guidelines* were endorsed in late 2006 that will support custodians in this task.

The development of the 2008-2010 Strategy will provide a further opportunity to consider what has been achieved during 2004 to 2007 and focus on the work still to be done to ensure that the quality of the data that underpins the new applications is known and understood by users.

## **Spatial Information policy setting in Government**

Over the last two years, the Victorian Spatial Council has gone a long way toward addressing the need for cooperative and collaborative relationships across the spatial information industry in Victoria.

After the 2003 Review of the Regulatory and Administrative Framework for Survey and Spatial Information had noted a lack of coordination across the spatial industry for policy development and frameworks, and the development of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007 had recommended the formation of a peak body representing all sectors of the industry, the Victorian Spatial Council was established.

Since 2004, the Council has undertaken the role of leading the development and implementation of the State's strategic direction for spatial information.

It is now providing the long sought after coordinated industry approach to policy and management, and facilitating opportunities for a greater strategic focus on spatial information development.

However, while the institutional arrangements that underpin Victoria's spatial information management framework are now in place, there remain concerns that Government's importance as the leader in spatial information policy development is not fully recognised in the senior levels of Government itself.

At present, Victoria's spatial information policy function is undertaken by the Spatial Information Infrastructure branch (SII), located in the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

So far, the coordination mechanisms provided by the Council (and within Government, by the Victorian Government Spatial Committee) are ensuring that

the policy focus for Victoria is wide ranging and is able to take into account the needs and demands of a diverse stakeholder group.

The Council is concerned however to ensure that this important role is recognised and given appropriate status in the host Department.

It has been brought to the Council's attention that Victoria's spatial information policy and management function (as provided by the Spatial Information Infrastructure branch) has been located into the Building Policy and Housing Affordability Division – one that appears to have little connection with spatial information policy and core spatial data management.

A strong policy and core spatial data management function should provide significant leadership to both Government and the industry as whole and be recognised for that role by being situated in an appropriate and visible position within the Department of Sustainability and Environment, and speak with an authoritative voice to a diverse group of stakeholders.

The Council recommends that the Department reconsider its decision and locate SII into a central corporate area, consistent with its mandate to provide, not only DSE, but also the necessary Government and industry-wide, leadership for spatial information policy and management.

## **2007 – THE YEAR AHEAD**

### *Major initiatives for 2007*

The focus for 2007 will be on developing the next Victorian Spatial Information Strategy, covering the period 2008-2010. Stakeholders will be invited to participate in a range of activities to support the identification of key themes and Victoria's approach to dealing with them.

Other key activities for the year ahead include:

- Publishing three editions of Landmark
- Conducting two Forums
- Publishing the remaining VSIS Guidelines
- Scoping a Positioning Policy
- Implementing the Custodianship Program
- Continuing the development of the 'Single View'
- Receiving the Victorian Property and Address Information Management Framework and accompanying business case from the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee and providing a response to Government.

## **APPENDIX 1 – VSC TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Terms of Reference**

- Initiate and develop policy for the Victorian spatial information industry.
- Develop strategies for financing, maintaining and developing spatial information and resources.
- Drive the application of spatial information and resources to achieve Triple Bottom Line benefits.
- Develop spatial information strategies for the future.
- Promote the use of spatial information and educate the community, business and Government of the importance and value of spatial information.

### **Objectives**

- Facilitate implementation of VSIS and the establishment of the spatial data infrastructure through cooperation between Victorian spatial sector organisations.
- Promote spatial initiatives and provide a forum for examining spatial information issues.
- Develop and assist others develop a variety of educational programs and materials through a variety of media to enhance and promote discussion of ideas regarding spatial information management and integration.
- Establish effective channels of communication across the spatial sector, including promoting interaction among Council members, federal, state and local governments, professional associations, and public and private sector groups.
- Build networks of people and technology to share spatial information and to continually improve its usefulness and accessibility, to facilitate maximum advantage of the capability to share and integrate data, and to secure the maximum return from public investments in spatial data.
- Promote the development of best practice and standards for Spatial Information Management.

The full Terms of Reference can be accessed via the VSC's web pages, at the address located in the inside cover.

## APPENDIX 2 – VSC 2006 MEMBERSHIP

	<b>Peak Body/sector represented</b>
Mr Olaf Hedberg – Chair	Independent
Associate Professor Chris Bellman Head of Discipline (Geospatial Science) School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences RMIT University	Spatial Sciences Institute
Mr Danny Broadbent Datamaxx Pty Ltd	Private Industry
Mr Glenn Cockerton Managing Director and Chief Executive Spatial Vision	Australian Spatial Information Business Association – Victorian Region
Ms Jennifer Hart City of Wangaratta	Local Government
Mr John Hennessy Sector Development Manager Municipal Association of Victoria	Local Government
Mr Steve Hodgkinson Deputy Chief Information Officer Department of Premier and Cabinet	Victorian Government Spatial Committee (To June 2006)
Mr Peter Holland General Manager, Spatial Information Industry Advice and Facilitation Branch Geospatial & Earth Monitoring Division Geoscience Australia	Australian Government
Mr David Johnson Office of the Chief Information Officer Department of Premier and Cabinet	Victorian Government Spatial Committee (From July 2006)
Mr Alan Norman Director Reeds Consulting	Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria
Mr Geoff Spring Director Strategic Planning and Area Co-ordination Country Fire Authority	Emergency Services
Mr Bruce Thompson Director, Spatial Information Infrastructure Department of Sustainability and Environment	Victorian Government Spatial Committee
Professor Ian Williamson, AM Department of Geomatics The University of Melbourne	Australasian Spatial Information Education and Research Association

The VSC's Secretariat is provided by Spatial Information Infrastructure branch, Department of Sustainability and Environment

## APPENDIX 3 – IMAGERY ASSURANCE GROUP MEMBERSHIP

	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Mr Chris Bellman (Chair)	Victorian Spatial Council (Appointed Independent Chair in November 2006)
<i>Users</i>	
Mr James Hargreaves	Moira Shire Council (Chair until November 2006)
Ms Sue Argus	SunRISE21 Inc
Mr Mark Dyll	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Mr Phil Hughes	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Mr Keith Wesley	Melbourne Water
Mr Mark Garvey	Country Fire Authority
<i>Industry</i>	
Mr Dave Presley	Geomatic Technologies Pty Ltd
Mr Michael DeLacy	Fugro Spatial Solutions Pty Ltd
Mr Brendan Francome	AAMHatch Pty Ltd
Mr Lindsay Saunders	Photomapping Services
<i>Coordinated Imagery Program</i>	
Ms Karina Donaire	Program Manager

The IAG's Secretariat is provided by Spatial Information Infrastructure branch, Department of Sustainability and Environment

## APPENDIX 4 – PIP MIGRATION STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

	Organisation Represented
Ms Jane Treadwell (Chair) Chief Information Officer	Office of the Chief Information Officer Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Glenn Cockerton Managing Director and Chief Executive Spatial Vision	Victorian Spatial Council
Mr John Hanna Acting Deputy Secretary Strategic Policy and Projects	Department of Sustainability and Environment
Mr Bruce Thompson Director, Spatial Information Infrastructure	Department of Sustainability and Environment
Mr Neil Foster Chief Executive Officer	Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority
Mr Geoff Spring Director Strategic Planning and Area Coordination	Country Fire Authority Victoria
Mr Chris Reynolds Network Data Management	Australia Post
Mr Paul Strickland Manager Electoral Enrolment Branch	Victorian Electoral Commission
Mr Peter Williams Enterprise Business Systems	Yarra Valley Water
Mr Peter Brown Chief Executive Officer	Moreland City Council
Mr Ray Park Acting Director Business Services	Wangaratta City Council

The PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee's Secretariat is provided by the PIP Collaborative Action Plan Working Group.

**APPENDIX 5 – LANDMARK EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Mr Olaf Hedberg (Chair)	Victorian Spatial Council
Mr Michael DeLacy	ASIBA
Mr Gary Hunter	SSI
Ms Dianne Daniell / Mr Steve Truman	Local Government Spatial Reference Group
Ms Elizabeth Thomas	VSC

## APPENDIX 6 – VSC STRATEGIC WORK PLAN

### Strategic Plan 2004-07

The Council's three year Strategic Plan aims to facilitate

- Growth of the spatial industry
- Effective bringing together of the resources and capabilities of all sectors of the spatial information community
- Improvement in the quality of spatial information and increasing its use

### Outcomes

The outcomes that the Council is aiming to achieve by 2007 are:

**Ubiquitous spatial use** evidenced by a growing Victorian spatial industry, increased contribution to Victoria's GDP, and Victoria's leadership in spatial R&D

**Clear future strategy** evidenced by understood objectives and way forward that are accepted by the spatial information community and meet their requirements

**Effective policy coordination** evidenced by the acceptance and implementation of the policy direction and the avoidance of duplication of effort in developing spatial datasets (ie existence of accepted authoritative datasets)

**Known and improving data quality** evidenced by increased customer satisfaction, availability of quality metadata, and systems in place to achieve and demonstrate measurable improvements

**Single complete view** evidenced by a single reliable source of data that meets a diverse range of needs and is easy to use

**Acknowledged Leader** evidenced by clear support for and confidence in the VSC of all sectors of the spatial information industry, the VSC being a model adopted by other States, and an accepted vehicle for policy and coordination

**Key contributor to National Outcomes** evidenced by contribution of Victoria's datasets to national sets, a culture of engagement at the national level, and effective State-Commonwealth partnerships

**Strategic Work Plan – with 2006 Milestones**



## 2006 VSC Work Plan

Project	Major Tasks	Target / Performance			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>VSC Operations</i>					
• Membership	• Seek membership from the natural resources sectors – CMA or other		🔥	✓	
	• Develop a membership roll over policy		✓		
• Relationship with Government	• Publish the VSIS Governance Guideline		🔥	✓	
	• Conduct a joint VSC/VGSC meeting				✓
	• Seek opportunities to brief Departments and agencies on the VSC		Ongoing		
<i>Communications</i>					
• Planning	• Develop a Communications Plan			▼	
• Events	• Conduct two Forums during 2006		🔥	✓	✓
• Web site	• Revamp the VSC web pages		✓		
• Publications	• Publish a VSC Brochure for distribution at forums and other events		✓		
	• Establish an Editorial Committee to manage Landmark		✓		
	• Publish three editions of Landmark	✓		✓	✓
<i>Stakeholder Engagement</i>					
	• Conduct briefings with the major sectoral stakeholders		Ongoing		
	• Include sectoral briefings as an agenda item on VSC meetings		Monthly		
	• Seek opportunities to attend sectoral meetings		Ongoing		
<i>Policy and Strategy</i>					
• Publish VSIS Guidelines	• Governance guideline		🔥	✓	
	• Custodianship		🔥	✓	
	• Pricing and Licensing		🔥	✓	
	• Privacy			▼	
	• Framework Information			🔥	✓
	• Business Information			▼	
	• Quality			🔥	✓
	• Awareness				▼
• Policy	• Regulation 13 (legal traceability) – Positioning Policy			▼	
	• Publish timetable and plan for developing new 2008-2010 spatial information strategy				▼
Discussion Paper	• Publish a discussion paper on the Critical Nature of Spatial Information				▼

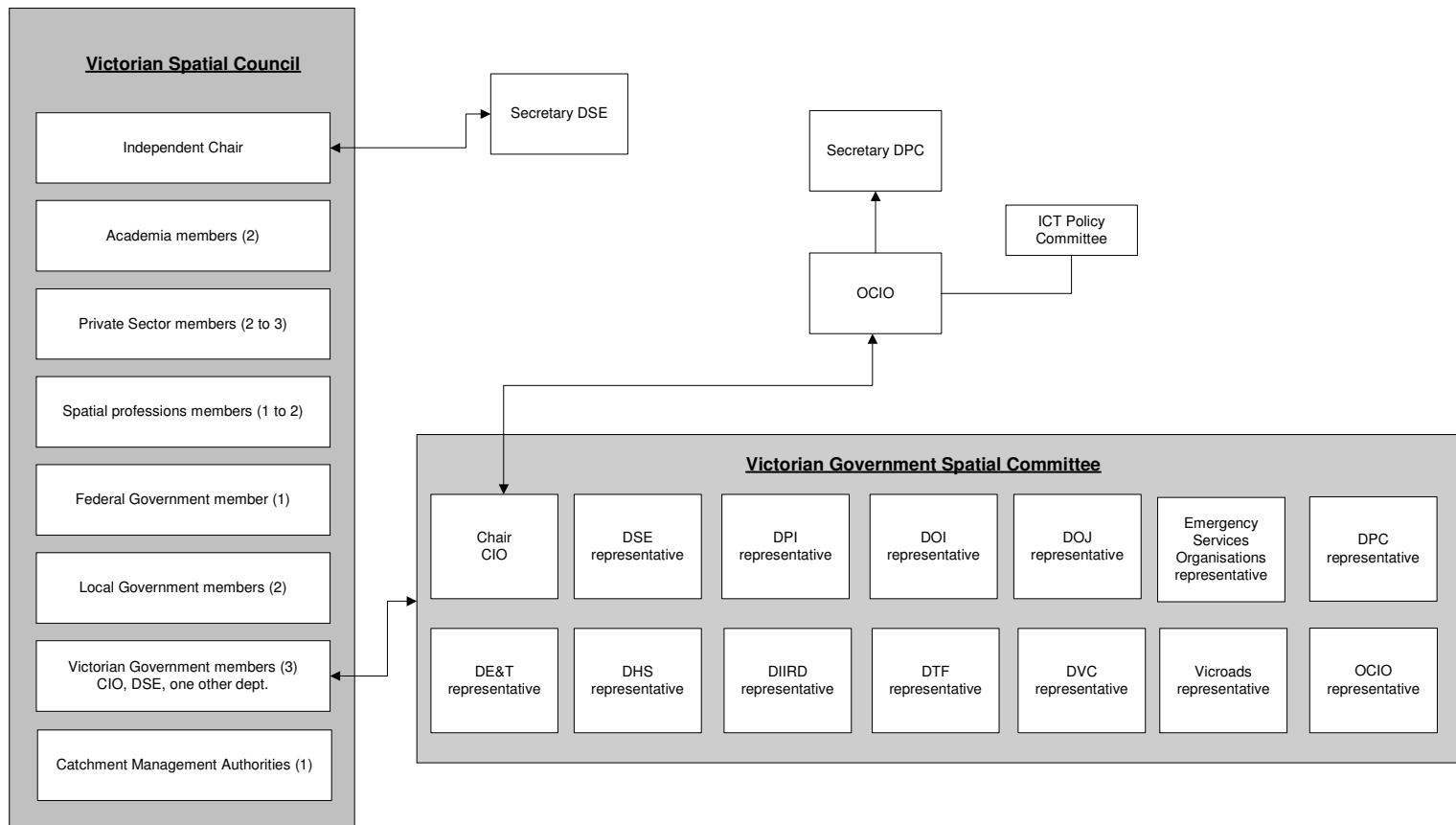
Project	Major Tasks	Target / Performance			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>Policy and Strategy</i>					
• Single View	• Agree on the scope of a 'single view'	✓			
	• Develop project plan for 2006-07 financial year		✓		
	• Implement project plan - commencement			✓	
• Custodianship Program	• Documented custodianship framework and processes				▶
(See note below)	• A register for datasets with custodianship agreements				▶
	• A pilot – including negotiation of agreements – to test all aspects of the custodianship framework with selected custodians				▶
	• Process for compliance				▶
	• Education Program				▶
	• Report outlining recommendations for ongoing custodian support				▶
• Coordinated Imagery Program	• Establish Imagery Assurance Group		✓		
• PIP Evaluation	• Agree on VSC role in implementing recommendations of the PIP Evaluation		✓		
	• Establish PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee		🔥	✓	
<i>New projects arising during the year</i>					
	• Policy position on development of data distribution and access mechanisms				❖

### Performance Legend

- ✓ Task complete
- 🔥 Initial milestone target
- ❖ Task under way but will not meet scheduled milestone
- ▶ Task on track to meet milestone target
- ▼ Task did not meet published milestone and will commence or continue in 2007

Note: The Custodianship Program is a two year initiative due for completion in December 2007. In this report, the Program is showing as being on track overall.

## APPENDIX 7 – VSC AND VGSC RELATIONSHIPS AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS



## APPENDIX 8 – ABBREVIATIONS

ACSV	Association of Consulting Surveyors
ANZLIC	ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council
ASIBA	Australian Spatial Information Business Association
ASIERA	Australasian Spatial Information Education and Research Association
CIP	Coordinated Imagery Program
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
IAG	Imagery Assurance Group
PIP	Property Information Program
SII	Spatial Information Infrastructure
SSI	Spatial Sciences Institute
VGSC	Victorian Government Spatial Committee
VMAS	Victorian Mapping and Address Service
VSC	Victorian Spatial Council
VSIS	Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007