

Making *Spatially Enabled Victoria* a reality

The Victorian Spatial Council 2009-2010 Forum Program

In the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010, the Victorian Spatial Council has comprehensively described the spatial information environment in Victoria, or what it calls 'painting the landscape' for a Spatially Enabled Victoria. Successful implementation of the Strategy will depend on the participation of the whole spatial information community.

Through its Forums, the Council aims to stimulate conversations among members on key issues of the day. In 2009-10, it will provide opportunities for discussion and debate on key themes set out in the Strategy to facilitate the development of robust responses to the challenges it describes.

Defining the vision for 'Spatially Enabled Victoria'

VSIS describes 'spatial enablement' in terms of defining our relationships by place and seeking to add spatial capacity to ordinary information. It sets out the levels of engagement that will be needed to create it, and describes what's required as modern frameworks, standards, clusters, a focus on delivery, and systems based designs. But what does 'spatial enablement' really mean and what might it look like in 2010?

This forum will present a range of views on the definition of spatial enablement, and discuss what will be needed to develop the vision and architecture for a spatially enabled Victoria that is one of the priorities of the Strategy.

When: 3 December 2009, Treasury Theatre, 1 Macarthur Place, Melbourne, 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Developing a whole of Victorian Government capability

Government will be a key actor in implementing the framework set out by VSIS – leading the setting of standards, opening access to its data for wider use, using the potential of Web 2.0 to engage more collaboratively with citizens in maintaining the quality of data and to develop innovative products, and acting as a single entity. Similar challenges are coming from a range of other sources, such as the 2008 Victorian Parliament's *Inquiry into Public Sector Information and Data*, and the Australian Government's Government 2.0 Taskforce. At the same time, improvements to basic capability and capacity mean that a Whole of Victorian Government technology platform to deliver and share spatial information is now a possibility.

At this forum, participants will hear about how Government is dealing with these drivers and be able to contribute to discussion that will consider what more needs to be done.

When: February 2010

The private sector's contribution

Victoria has a thriving spatial industry, but at the same time it faces a range of challenges from a range of sources. VSIS asserts that the next three years should be a time of greater collaboration among industry members, capitalising on each other's strengths and sharing expertise. It recommends that the private sector should create clusters and networks, and enter into alliances outside the traditional spatial industry to bring in new skills and expand opportunities for the use of spatial information in new ways.

This forum will present examples of collaboration occurring in Victoria, discuss what makes successful collaboration possible, and suggest what more is needed to make it happen.

When: April 2010

Modernising the legislative framework

Requirements for creating, notifying and managing information are set out in a range of separate pieces of legislation, many of which were established long before the widespread use of digital technology. VSIS argues that there is now a need to address the coordination and integration of the whole spatial information environment, to simplify and streamline the provision and management of spatial information and ensure it is accessible and useable. To that end, VSIS proposes that legislation should be developed to modernise the management regime for spatial information, including assigning roles and responsibilities for the creation and notification of data, data exchange and supply.

'Modernising the legislative framework' will present case studies of how agencies are working in the current legislative environment and the challenges in doing so, propose legislative requirements for dealing with those challenges, and seek contributions about what new legislation should incorporate.

When: June 2010

Scoping VSIS 2011-13

2010 will be the final year of the current Victorian Spatial Information Strategy. How much will the landscape painted by VSIS have changed? What will still be the same? How successfully will it have addressed the challenges it identified? How close will we be to achieving a spatially enabled Victoria? What will be needed to address the calls for open access to public sector information that are increasingly being made? Will we have taken advantage of developments such as Web 2.0?

At the final forum in this series, participants will be invited to review our progress in implementing VSIS 2008-10 and what still needs to be done, and contribute to a discussion on how these might be tackled in VSIS 2011-13.

When: August 2010

Venue details for the 2010 Forums will be announced closer to the dates

