

Victorian Spatial Council Annual Report 2007

The Victorian Spatial Council was established under the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007 to support the advancement of Victoria's social, economic and environmental goals through the provision and application of spatial information. It does this by providing a coordinated approach to spatial information policy, development and management, and facilitating opportunities for greater partnership building, collaboration, cooperation and education.



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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The year 2007 saw the achievement of two major milestones in the life of the Victorian Spatial Council: the end of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007 and the development of the new Strategy covering the years 2008-2010.

The Council was established in 2004 as the first initiative of the 2004-2007 Strategy. Since then, it has led its implementation through such activities as the Custodianship Program, the development of DataSearch Victoria (the rebadged 'Single View'), and the commencement of a Positioning Policy.

The major task for 2007 was the preparation of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010, the first Strategy to be developed by the Council. I was pleased to see so many stakeholders at the various events throughout the year, in particular the forum that began the process in December 2006 and the workshops conducted during July 2007.

During the year, the Council also continued to undertake a range of other activities, as highlighted in the following pages. Among the most prominent were publication of three editions of Landmark, in hard copy and online formats, publication of a further two Spatial Information Guidelines, and the program of regular briefings from our major stakeholders.

At the end of 2007, two Council members announced their resignations – Professor Ian Williamson and Peter Holland. Both Ian and Peter had been with the Council since its inception, and all members have valued their contributions to the many lively discussions at Council meetings.

We look forward to continuing our association with Ian and Peter in other capacities and to welcoming Abbas Rajabifard and Ben Searle to the Council in 2008.

As in each of the Council's earlier Annual Reports, I pay tribute to my fellow members on the Council and thank them for their continued efforts in so ably representing their sectors.

I have pleasure in commending the Victorian Spatial Council's 2007 Annual Report to you.



Olaf Hedberg, AM
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 focus of policy in Victoria between 2004 and 2007 has been 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.

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, respectively.

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 between the government, private and academic sectors. They cover policy and standard setting, data provision, development of new products and services, 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.

2007 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 – summarised in Appendix 6.

2007 Work Plan

The Council's work plan focuses 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 2007, with specific tasks and a report on performance against milestone targets is provided in Appendix 6.

2007 REPORT

VSC Membership

In 2007, the Council welcomed two new members – Diane Daniell (representing the Local Government Spatial Reference Group) and Chris McRae (Executive Director, Land Victoria).

Ian Williamson (University of Melbourne) and Peter Holland (Australian Government) announced their departures at the end of the year.

Achievements

1. VSC Operations

- Membership

The Council continued with its effort to seek representation from the natural resources sector.

- Relationship with Government

The annual joint meeting of the Council and the Victorian Government Spatial Committee took place on 5 December 2007.

2. Communications

- Events

The Council's Forum program was suspended during 2007 due to the development of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010. It will resume in 2008.

- Web Site

The Council continued to maintain its web pages.

- Publications

Editions 28, 29 and 30 of Landmark were published during 2007, in both hard copy and online formats. More than 1600 subscribers receive Landmark.

3. Stakeholder Engagement

- Sector briefings

The Council continued the program of sector briefings initiated in 2006.

During the year, briefings were given by

- Chris Bellman, representing the SSI – April 2007
- Mark Garvey, representing EMSINA – May 2007
- Ian Romeril and Ed Young, representing the ISV – September 2007
- Stewart Connelly, representing the ACSV – October 2007
- Michael Zammit, of Energy Response on utilities – November 2007

The Council also continued to keep up to date with initiatives occurring in government and elsewhere.

Presentations were given during the year on

- Online Notification and Edit pilot project (DSE) – February, December 2007
- Coordinated Imagery Program (DSE) – February, March, April, June, July, December 2007

- Vicmap Topographic improvements (DSE) – March 2007
- Vicmap Water (DSE) – March 2007
- Spatial Information Management Framework proposal for government (VGSC) – May 2007
- Meeting of the UN Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific in Korea – July 2007
- Environmental Accounts and Market based instruments (DSE) – August 2007
- Virtual Earth Starter Kit (Geomatic Technologies) – November 2007
- Brigade Alert Response Timer (AusSoft Solutions) – December 2007
- Victorian Mapping and Address Service (DSE) – December 2007

4. Policy and Strategy

- Develop VSIS 2008-2010

The major activity for the Council during the year was the development of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010.

This is the first Strategy developed by the Council.

The development of the Strategy began with the VSC Forum on 14 December 2006 entitled '*Where to next for the Spatial Information industry?*'

The major activities undertaken during the year were

- preparation of a background paper summarising influences on Victoria's strategic direction
- engagement of a consultant (Global Foresight Network) to prepare an Emerging Future Scan and run a series of workshops
- 10 workshops involving stakeholders from across the spatial information community (July 2007) to identify the likely future of the industry and the key themes for the Strategy (a total of 80 people participated in the workshops)
- briefing to the Council by the consultant on the workshop outcomes and publication of the workshop outcomes (August 2007)
- drafting of the Strategy (August – November 2007)
- engagement of Global Foresight Network to assist in developing scenarios for a vision of a 'Spatially Enabled' Victoria
- three consultation meetings on the draft Strategy to test the challenges and directions proposed (November 2007)
- release of the draft Strategy for comment (December 2007)

A detailed report on the themes of the Strategy is provided under 'Major Issues' on page 14.

- VSIS Guidelines

Two further Guidelines were published in 2007 – *Spatial Information Business Information Guidelines* (May) and *Spatial Information Access Guidelines* (August). This brought the total to seven (out of 10) completed.

Draft *Spatial Information Privacy Guidelines* were completed in December 2007 and will be endorsed by the Council in early 2008.

The two remaining Guidelines – *Spatial Information Metadata Guidelines* and *Spatial Information Awareness Guidelines* – will be completed in 2008.

- Policy

The draft Positioning Policy was presented to the Council in August 2007.

The CRC-SI was engaged to develop the policy, including conducting consultation with key stakeholders, identifying and documenting issues/case studies; and reviewing similar or related policies across Australia and internationally.

It proposed that the principles in the policy be generic enough to be applicable to all or most users and industry sectors, but that specific-purpose sectoral guidelines be developed within that broad framework.

The principles incorporated in the draft Policy cover two elements:

- ‘Positioning Infrastructure’ – Purpose; Flexibility; Efficiency; Custodianship
- ‘Positioning Purpose’ – Authoritative; Access/Availability; Compatibility; Accuracy; Reliability; Integrity and Privacy.

It was recommended to Council that the document provide a basis for further extensive consultation, with the purpose of raising awareness of the concept of the policy and gaining input into policy content.

The consultation will continue in 2008.

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 2007, the on-line functionality was built as a discovery tool linked to the Spatial Datamart, with a range of features including:

- ability to search by geographic extent and data theme
- preview the dataset selected, which can be scaled to show a sample
- read the metadata
- view the sample over a backdrop orientation layer

Following a demonstration at the September meeting, the Council agreed to the development of a public access version of the tool. This version is scheduled for completion in early 2008.

In October, the Council adopted a new name for Single View – it will be known as ‘*DataSearch Victoria – Location-based information at your fingertips*’.

Council members acknowledge the work undertaken by Barbara Stroud, Tess Donoghue and Tracey Cheeseman of Land Victoria in developing the new name.

In parallel with the DataSearch development, the Council supported SII and ASIBA in commencing discussions on an agreement with Data Service Providers on conditions of Government agencies’ direct access to the Spatial Datamart developed by SII.

The Council accepted an invitation to join the Project Control Board to oversee the development of a competitively neutral pricing model, which will take place in early 2008.

- **Custodianship Program**

The Council established the two-year Custodianship Program in 2005 to put in place a more formal approach to implementing custodianship as the basis for managing spatial data.

One of the most important aspects of the Program has been communicating clear messages to existing and prospective custodians, both to encourage them to participate and in negotiating custodianship agreements. For organisations that have had no previous exposure to custodianship, repeated reinforcement of clear and easy to understand messages over a period of time is necessary.

As a result, the focus of the Program in 2007 was on undertaking a communications project.

During the year, Jose Diacono from Communica Marketing was engaged to prepare a range of materials; she briefed Council members on her activities and findings at the July meeting.

By the end of the year

- a range of fact sheets and FAQs were produced and published on Land Channel
- scenarios to be used in presenting the objectives and benefits of custodianship to prospective custodians were developed
- a web page on Land Channel specifically for custodianship related materials was set up
- a common look and feel for presentations and posters was created
- the Program was launched to a national audience through an article in Position Magazine and in Victoria at the November Newtech conference and in Landmark magazine.

The final report on the Program has been published by the Council, and will be available on the web site in early 2008.

- **Coordinated Imagery Program**

The Imagery Assurance Group met on three occasions during 2007, and considered topics such as intellectual property, a review of imagery acquisition pricing, funding of imagery acquisition by Government, and development of a Business Model for the Coordinated Imagery Program.

- **PIP Evaluation**

The PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee conducted a major project in 2007 to develop a Victorian Property and Address Information Management Framework.

The aim of the project was to develop an efficient and effective framework for ongoing creation and maintenance of property information for Victoria, and to provide the business case to gain the necessary support and resources to implement the framework.

The report of the initiative was presented to the Council at the November meeting.

The results are being used in the scoping of two of the projects in the PIP Migration Work Plan – local government systems and Vicmap maintenance.

Council agreed with the Committee's decision not to proceed with the business case in its current form, and to develop it further during 2008 before a final decision is made on next steps.

Meetings

Council Meetings

The Council met 11 times in 2007. 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 meets with a wide range of stakeholders as part of the Council's ongoing efforts to raise its profile, and increase awareness and recognition of its role and its activities. During 2007, he

- presented the VSC 2006 Annual Report to the Secretary DSE (May 2007)
- was a keynote speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria, on the role of positioning in Victoria's spatial information management framework (June 2007)
- participated in VSIS 2008-2010 development workshops and other consultations.

VSC WORKING GROUPS

Imagery Assurance Group

The Imagery Assurance Group provides 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).

Membership

The Group's membership is drawn from industry and users, as well as the Coordinated Imagery Program Manager. Its terms of reference, objectives and membership are provided in Appendix 3.

Report on activities

During 2007, the IAG

- developed a Purchase Partner Requirements Form (to be used as a guide) for products procured under the Coordinated Imagery Program
- provided Indicative Prices for the Program
- initiated and developed *Guidelines for Access, Pricing, IP and Licensing for Imagery and Elevation Products*; these will be endorsed in early 2008

In 2008, the Group will develop a Communication Plan/Strategy for the Coordinated Imagery Program.

The IAG met 3 times in 2007; 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 to ensure that a sustainable property data transfer environment between State and Local Government is maintained.

Membership

The Committee's membership is drawn from State and Local Government, the Victorian Spatial Council, and Australia Post. Its terms of reference, objectives and membership are provided in Appendix 4.

Report on activities

The Committee met once in 2007 to receive the report of the Victorian Property and Address Information Management Framework project and the accompanying business case.

It was agreed that the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee would no longer meet, but would deal with any subsequent issues out of session.

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

MAJOR ISSUES

Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010

The major activity for the Victorian Spatial Council during 2007 was the development of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010. This Strategy is the fifth for Victoria, and the first to be led by the Council.

The development of the Strategy began in December 2006 with the VSC Forum *'Where to next for the Spatial Information industry?'*

The major theme of VSIS 2008-2010 is that there is a paradigm shift occurring in spatial information, which is characterised by:

- spatial information no longer being confined to specialists and being used in a wider range of contexts – such as social networking
- technologies that are changing the way we communicate with each other
- new ways of thinking about 'location'
- entry of big corporate players into the market, who are starting to drive standards

More broadly, what we are seeing is:

- Communities using technology and information in new ways to create new ways of interacting with each other – eg more and more people are buying houses and day to day items, making investments and finding jobs through the use of information devices.
- The use of robotics, RFIDs, GPS, WiFi and the like to facilitate a level of tracking of people and goods at previously unthinkable levels of precision.
- Information being incorporated into objects that will, with the use of sensors, facilitate identifying who or what the object is, where it is, when it is, and what its circumstances are.
- Technology shifting power from the provider to the user or consumer at a time and place of their choice. People have greater choice in determining how goods and services are delivered to them and how to access many of the specialist services they require.

These developments are creating new possibilities for spatial enablement, or creating a 'spatially enabled Victoria'.

Spatial enablement

By 'spatial enablement', the Strategy means embedding location information into whatever governments, business and people do.

Significant challenges exist in continuing to deliver services in an equitable way and within the capacity of the environment to support the demands being placed on it.

Responses to these issues require multi-disciplinary approaches – drawing on science, economics, politics, history, and technology. Spatial Information can be a unifying medium – linking solutions to location, or 'spatial enablement'.

‘Location’, or ‘place’, is important because people identify with them – where they were born, where they live and work, and the community they share with others.

Spatial information is coming into its own because of three convergences which are creating new uses and markets for spatial data:

- Creation of new products and services based on the increasing connectivity of personal information devices (such as mobile phones, GPS units), digital knowledge management, and electronic commerce.
- The synergistic combination of nanoscience and nanotechnology; biotechnology and biomedicine; information technology; and cognitive science.
- The convergence of GIS, GPS, remote sensing technologies, mapping, and other capabilities to create ‘location-based services’.

These convergences are in turn being driven by five ‘forces’:

- The digitising and instant availability of content.
- The demand for and emerging establishment of dominant global interfaces providing the ability to build interconnection and interoperation between information industry products and systems.
- The race between commercial corporations to dominate standards.
- Delivery of dramatically increased functionality into ever smaller devices.
- The driving down of price arising from new communications technology and rapid deregulation of the global telecommunications industry and the consequent growth of digital bandwidth.

Together these ‘convergences’ and ‘forces’ provide the opportunity to bring ‘spatial’ into the information mainstream.

What are potential barriers to achieving spatial enablement?

One of the features of the changes in the spatial information paradigm is that many of the advances in spatial products and services are coming from non-traditional players.

Until recently, spatial information has traditionally been focused on mapping and the cadastre, and within a specialist community and industry that has valued standards, verification and authenticity.

However bandwidth, computer power and information creation are growing exponentially, with little regard for such traditions, and are becoming pervasive.

And industry is creating its own global standards – or else uses ‘what is good enough’.

But these changes will not be successful without consistent policy frameworks – within and between organisations, levels of government, and between the public and private sectors.

For example, without the tools to properly organize the information explosion, there will be greater information management costs – with systems that don’t talk to each other, the growth could become detrimental to the delivery of services.

The promise of the new technologies will not be realized until integrating frameworks and technologies are put in place.

The critical questions for the Strategy will be:

- Who will invest in creating the necessary frameworks and integrating services?
- Whose world view will be the 'town plan' for our future Victoria?
- Will it be the private sector or will government take a leadership role?

The Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010 is trying to create the framework that enables all sectors to be highly engaged.

When this occurs,

- they will work together to implement frameworks, standards and methods of verification
- they will create clusters to build the critical integrating technologies
- policies, legal and regulatory frameworks can be brought into the 21st century

Challenges

In the last 15 years, Victoria's spatial information strategies have focused on building spatial datasets and setting out the framework for managing them.

This foundation is now largely in place, so VSIS 2008-2010 is turning to considering the strategic and policy requirements for addressing the new drivers of change, and the development and delivery of services based on that data.

The challenges the Strategy will need to address in the next three years are:

1. *Continuing to strive to get the Foundations right*
2. *Continuing to ensure accessible and maintained data*
3. *Being adaptable in the face of rapid change and able to respond to new developments*
4. *Building a culture of sharing*
5. *Addressing the Skills shortage*
6. *Retaining relevant Institutional Arrangements*

Responding to these challenges

VSIS paints the landscape for spatial information in Victoria.

It sets the broad themes for facilitating the whole spatial information industry's participation in the landscape – these themes will be the focus for our engagement in the next three years, to support the Strategy's vision to create an environment that enables the spatial information community to:

- Locate – people, places, services, businesses and points of interest.
- Connect – systems, services, businesses, partnerships and link with other industries.
- Deliver – quality services, standards, framework and what users want.

Four integrated strategic directions are set out.

The first is *'creating a framework in which the use of spatial information can flourish'*.

Under the Strategy, this framework will incorporate *standards*, clearly articulating the *roles* of all sectors, public sector agencies taking a *whole of Victorian Government approach* to sharing of and access to its data – including standard approaches to data management and greater collaboration between agencies; and *legislation* – to modernise the current information management arrangements.

The second is *'adopting an inclusive approach to the management of spatial information'*.

Here the development of ways to enable contributions to the updating and maintaining of data to a range of notifiers will be encouraged – for example Local Councils and CFA volunteers.

These ways may include standard editing environments, on-line tools for metadata creation and management, and tools for notifying changes or modifications to attributes.

The third strategic direction is *'developing the spatial information community through collaboration and partnerships'*.

VSIS will encourage alliances and joint ventures within and between the industry sectors, and outside the traditional spatial industry – such as the games industry.

The aim is to see greater collaboration, capitalising on strengths and sharing expertise.

And, Government should support industry by providing access to its spatial data to enable it to develop new services delivering that data.

Finally, the fourth direction is *'maintaining the foundations for Spatial Information Management'*.

All of the challenges and strategic directions VSIS will set out must be underpinned by a robust approach to the management of that data.

This will require

- ensuring data is fit for purpose
- licensing models that facilitate access
- development of technical solutions that encourage accessibility
- awareness raising
- enabling data to be 'discovered'
- availability of the data

The implementation of VSIS will be based on achieving each of these directions, together and separately, and with the contribution of all members of the spatial community.

VSIS provides key signposts, but will need everyone's participation to make it successful.

The VSC will play its part through communication and education – about what is needed; advocacy – targeting the right ‘influencers’ in government, the private sector and academia; and facilitation.

The full Strategy is due for publication in early 2008. It will be made available via the Council’s web pages at: www.land.vic.gov.au/victorian_spatial_council

2004-07 Review

2007 marks the end of the third year of the Council and the end of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007.

The establishment of the Victorian Spatial Council was the first initiative of the Strategy; its first meeting took place in September 2004. The primary role of the Council has been to lead the implementation of VSIS, as well as provide a vehicle for building partnerships, facilitating opportunities for collaboration and cooperation, and communicating the benefits of spatial information.

The Council’s activities over the past three years have focused on providing an environment for facilitating :

- growth of the spatial information industry
- the bringing together of the resources and capabilities of all sectors
- improvements in the quality of spatial information and increasing its use

During its first three years, the Council has been able to

- Support the advancement of the Coordinated Imagery Program and the Property Information Program by bringing the key sectors together through the Imagery Assurance Group and the PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee, respectively.
- Lead key initiatives that are putting in place a spatial information management framework for Victoria, in particular, the Custodianship Program, the development the map based search tool ‘DataSearch Victoria’, and the commencement of a Positioning Policy.
- Promote discussion of key issues for the Victorian spatial information community through its regular Forums.
- Promote the many ways that spatial information is being used in government, business and the community through the Landmark magazine.
- Set out key underpinnings of the spatial information management framework for Victoria through publication of position papers such as the Spatial Information Business Principles and a Policy Position on Data Sharing Frameworks.

It has also set the foundations for development of the spatial information community in the next three years through the development of the new Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010 (see discussion above).

VSIS 2004-2007 and the Custodianship Program

The Victorian Spatial Council has led the implementation of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007.

The aim of this Strategy has been to put in place a coordinated management environment to support the effective use of spatial information.

The primary vehicle for implementing the Strategy was the Custodianship Program, which had the purpose of putting in place an infrastructure to support custodians in managing the data for which they are responsible.

It has had the added outcome of setting out the enduring arrangements for continuing to further the objectives of VSIS 2004-2007, in the form of the Spatial Information Management Framework (see below).

Custodianship is at the heart of the Framework because it provides accountability for spatial datasets, and identifies authoritative sources so that users have a measure of consistency and certainty in the data they are using.

The Framework is based on a distributed network of custodians acting according to a consistent set of custodianship principles that cover all aspects of managing spatial information.

A number of valuable lessons were learned from the program, which have been documented in a comprehensive report, published by the Council at <http://www.land.vic.gov.au/custodian>.

The next step for the Program is to put in place a governance model to see it into Stage 2 of implementation.

Other key recommendations for progressing Stage 2 include running an education program, publishing more resources on-line, and establishing forums for new and longstanding custodians to share knowledge and experience.

The Spatial Information Management Framework

The Spatial Information Management Framework will provide the basis for an ongoing consistent approach to spatial information management in Victoria, by identifying the core requirements for achieving best practice.

The four elements of the Framework are those first articulated by VSIS 2004-2007:

1. institutional arrangements for developing spatial information – governance, custodianship
2. requirements for creating and maintaining spatial information – framework and business information, data quality
3. mechanisms for making spatial information accessible and available – metadata, awareness, access, pricing and licensing, and privacy
4. strategic development of technology and applications

Together they provide a holistic approach for ensuring that spatial datasets are maintained, accessible and available.

The individual components of the Framework are summarised in Appendix 9, and putting it in place will be a critical part of implementing the forthcoming Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010.

2008 – THE YEAR AHEAD

Major initiatives for 2008

The focus for 2008 will be on implementation of the Victorian Spatial Information Strategy, covering the period 2008-2010.

Other key activities for the year ahead include:

- publishing three editions of Landmark
- completing the draft Positioning Policy, presenting it to key stakeholders and undertaking a range of activities to develop the final policy before publishing it
- recommencing the VSC Forum program
- completing the Spatial Information Management Framework documentation and promoting it to the spatial information community
- implementing Stage 2 of the Custodianship Program

APPENDIX 1 – VICTORIAN SPATIAL COUNCIL

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.

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

2007 Membership

During 2007, the distribution of the VSC's membership was as follows:

Table 2: 2007 membership

Private Sector – 2 members	Academia – 1 member
Professions – 2 members	State Government – 3 members
Local Government – 2 members	Australian Government – 1 member
Emergency Management Sector – 1 member	Catchment Management Authorities – 0 members

Council members in 2007 are listed in Appendix 2.

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.

APPENDIX 2 – VSC 2007 MEMBERSHIP

	Peak Body/sector represented
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
Mrs Diane Daniell Central Goldfields Shire	Local Government
Mr John Hennessy Sector Development Manager Municipal Association of Victoria	Local Government
Mr Peter Holland General Manager, Spatial Information Industry Advice and Facilitation Branch Geospatial & Earth Monitoring Division Geoscience Australia	Australian Government
Mr David Johnson Government Services Group Department of Treasury and Finance	Victorian Government Spatial Committee
Mr Chris McRae Executive Director, Land Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment	Victorian Government (from August 2007)
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	University of Melbourne

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

APPENDIX 3 – IMAGERY ASSURANCE GROUP

Imagery Assurance Group

The Imagery Assurance Group's 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.

2007 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.

Mr Chris Bellman (Chair)	Victorian Spatial Council
Users	
Mr James Hargreaves	Moira Shire Council
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
Industry	
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
Coordinated Imagery Program	
Rod Flynn	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

PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee

The PIP Migration Stakeholder Management Committee's 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.

2007 Membership

The Committee's membership is drawn from State and Local Government, the Victorian Spatial Council, and Australia Post.

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 Committee is supported by a Secretariat provided by the PIP Collaborative Action Plan Working Group.

APPENDIX 5 – LANDMARK EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Olaf Hedberg (Chair)	Victorian Spatial Council
Mr Rex Banks	Editor, Landmark
Mr Michael DeLacy	ASIBA
Mr Gary Hunter	SSI
Ms Diane 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

2007 VSC Work Plan

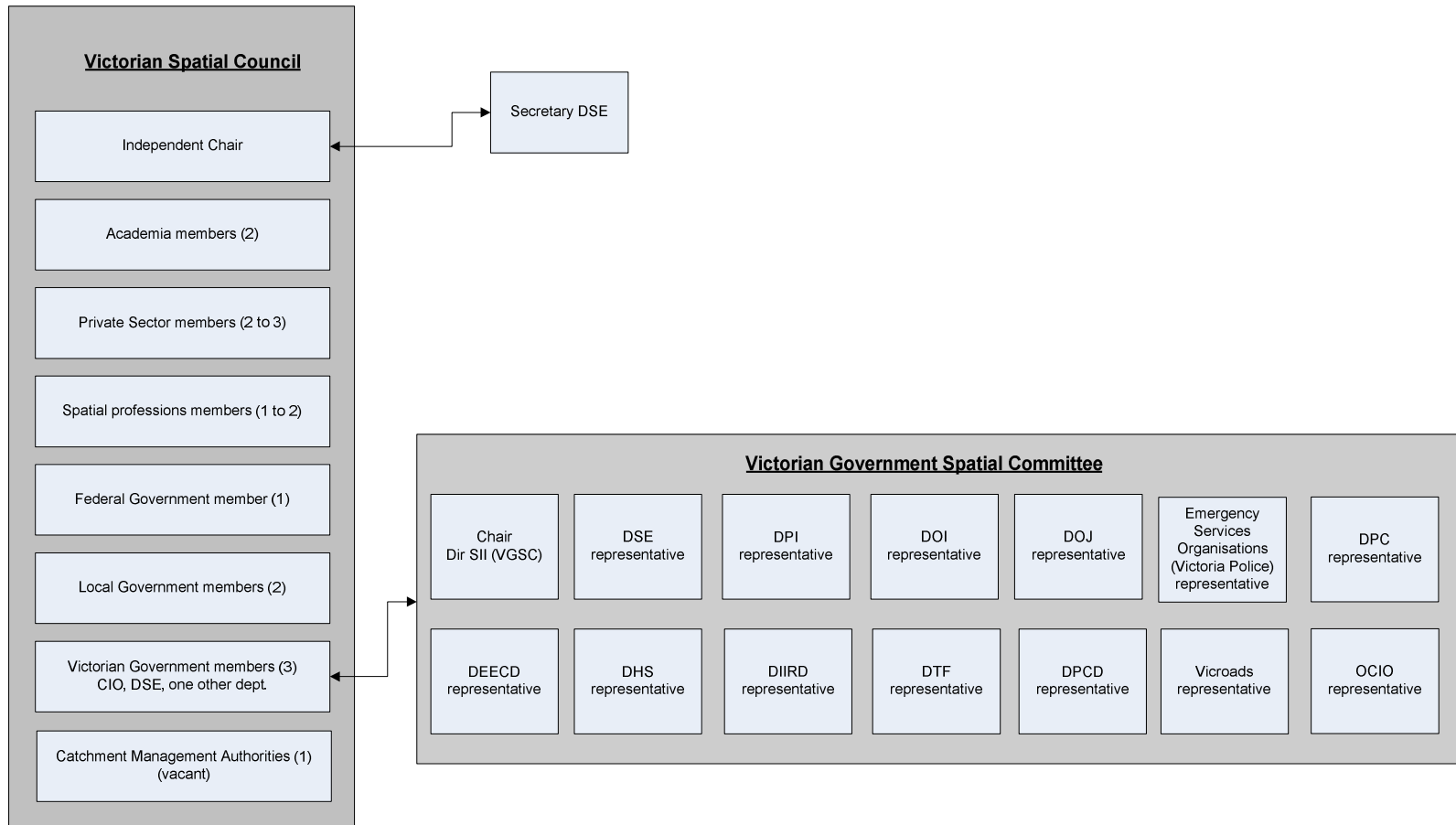
Project	Major Tasks	Target / Performance			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
VSC Operations					
• Membership	• Seek membership from the natural resources sectors – CMA or other		✓		
• Relationship with Government	• Conduct a joint VSC/VGSC meeting				✓
	• Seek opportunities to brief Departments and agencies on the VSC	Ongoing			
Communications					
• Planning	• Develop a Communications Plan				✘
• Events	• Conduct two Forums during 2007				✘
• Web site	• Maintain and enhance VSC web pages	Ongoing			
• Publications	• Publish three editions of Landmark		✓	✓	✓
Stakeholder Engagement					
	• Conduct briefings with the major sectoral stakeholders	Ongoing			
	• Include sectoral briefings as an agenda item on VSC meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓
	• Seek opportunities to attend sectoral meetings	Ongoing			
Policy and Strategy					
• Develop VSIS 2008-2010	• Publish timetable and plan for developing new 2008-2010 spatial information strategy	🔥	✓		
	• Release Discussion Paper to commence strategy development		✓		
	• Conduct stakeholder workshops			✓	
	• Publish draft Strategy and run a consultation process				✓
	• Endorse Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2008-2010				▼
• Publish VSIS Guidelines	• Privacy		🔥		▼
	• Business Information		✓		
	• Awareness		🔥		✘
	• Metadata				▼
• Policy	• Develop a Positioning Policy for Victoria		🔥	✓	
	• Develop specific sector positioning policies based on the overarching Policy				▼
Discussion Paper/s	• As topics are suggested				
Projects					
• Single View	• Single view interface built and deployed in DSE environment		🔥	✓	

Project	Major Tasks	Target / Performance			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
• Custodianship Program	• Complete the Policy Framework for custodianship			🔥	✓
	• Develop a compliance approach for custodianship		🔥		✓
	• Undertake the on-line custodianship project to develop an 'automated' solution for custodians to control access to their data				▼
	• Develop a communications package to support promotion of custodianship		✓		✓
	• Negotiate agreements with custodians				🔄
	• Develop the Information Management Framework in which custodianship takes place				▼
	• Develop recommendations for management of custodianship post the completion of the Custodianship Program				✓
• Coordinated Imagery Program	• Support the Imagery Assurance Group	Ongoing			
• PIP Evaluation	• Receive Victorian Property and Address Information Management Framework and accompanying business case		🔥		✓
	• Present report and business case to Victorian Government				▼
	• Plan and determine implementation approach for PIP Migration Work Plan projects 2, 3 and 4				▼

Performance Legend

- ✓ Task complete
- 🔥 Initial milestone target
- ▼ Task did not meet published milestone and will commence or continue in 2008
- 🔄 Task ongoing and continuing
- ✘ Task did not go ahead

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
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CIP	Coordinated Imagery Program
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CRC-SI	Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
EMSINA	Emergency Management Spatial Information Network Australia
IAG	Imagery Assurance Group
ISV	Institution of Surveyors Victoria
PIP	Property Information Program
SII	Spatial Information Infrastructure
SSI	Spatial Sciences Institute
VGSC	Victorian Government Spatial Committee
VSC	Victorian Spatial Council
VSIS	Victorian Spatial Information Strategy 2004-2007

APPENDIX 9 – THE SPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Information Management Components		Requirements
Institutional arrangements for delivering spatial information	Governance	The VSC is responsible for policies and standards for spatial information across the spatial industry. The VSC develops and implements whole-of-industry spatial information policy and standards.
	Custodianship	Datasets managed by participants in the Framework will have designated custodians who will manage them according to the information management principles established by the Framework. Custodians will make their data available via the Victorian Spatial Data Directory (see Metadata).
Creating and Maintaining Spatial Information	Framework Information	Framework Information will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The authoritative base datasets of Victoria's Spatial Data Infrastructure and underpin the use of all Business Information. ▪ Maintained by custodians according to the Spatial Information Custodianship Guidelines and information management principles, including data quality, metadata, awareness, access, pricing and licensing, and privacy. ▪ Subject to periodic auditing to ensure that the component datasets continue to meet their published specifications.
	Business Information	Business Information will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained by custodians according to the Spatial Information Custodianship Guidelines and information management principles, including data quality, metadata, awareness, access, pricing and licensing, and privacy. ▪ Subject to periodic auditing to ensure that the datasets continue to meet their published specifications.
	Data Quality	Custodians will develop data quality statements in consultation with users, and publish them in the product specifications and metadata for the respective datasets.
Making Spatial Information Accessible and Useable	Metadata	Each custodian will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure metadata is created as an integral part of datasets and associated products. ▪ Collect, as a minimum, core 'Page 0' metadata elements, as defined by ANZLIC. ▪ Include metadata with data distributed to users. ▪ Publish metadata for their dataset(s) in the VSDD repository.
	Awareness	Custodians will publish metadata and product specifications, and make their spatial information available through the VSDD.
	Access	The VSDD will be the central access point for spatial information. Custodians of spatial information will publish metadata for their datasets in the VSDD. Multiple access and distribution mechanisms will be developed to make spatial information available to all types of users. A consistent approach to data licences and other agreements will be adopted.
	Pricing and Licensing	A whole of government pricing policy will be developed and adopted by all Departments. Pricing of spatial information developed and made available by Departments will be based on cost recovery, except where specifically exempted by the Department of Treasury and Finance or where a price is set down in statutes or regulations. Standard licence conditions will be adopted for all spatial information made available by Departments.
	Privacy	Custodians will recognise privacy requirements in the management of their spatial information.
Strategic Development of Technology and Application		Multiple access and distribution mechanisms will be developed for the delivery of spatial information. Distributed mapping resources based on OGC compliant web services will be the preferred approach to deliver spatial information, but where participants do not have the capability to implement this approach, multiple, redundant data stores will be developed.