NBN Senate inquiry Q on notice by Senator Kate Lundy

How important is it for accurate geospatial information to be available to you as a council to enable you to innovate in the way that you have described??

As a growth municipality the City of Whittlesea is experiencing a boom in residential and commercial development. The current population of 145,000 is projected to potentially expand up to 500,000 at full build out.

New estates are created from high accuracy GPS surveys which in turn is updated into the State Government Vicmap map base used by Council. Infrastructure such as drainage, roads, conduits etc. must be constructed. Accurate GIS/GPS data is needed for our planners and engineers to plan and identify locations of this infrastructure to ensure these areas are serviced appropriately before approving such developments.

Council is the primary property source for much of the VicMap map base. Council supplements this information on its GIS with high accuracy aerial photography conducted every two years and information captured within its mobile computing program. Councils mobile computing program consists of around 30 different mobile applications covering both asset and service areas.

GIS/GPS data is also provided to council via various external authorities and consultants in various formats and Council requires all submissions to follow survey industry standards to ensure consistency and accuracy of the data being submitted for approval. Council combines all this spatial information on its GIS for use across all areas of Council.

Council collects its own asset data down to 0.5 meter accuracy using real time corrected GPS locations via the State Government's GPSNet framework. Generally the innovation is related to the use of the data rather than the accuracy but improved accuracy can improve the usefulness of the innovation.

Council collected data includes both geospatial Council Asset data such as:
- Parks and Gardens assets including landscaping, grassed areas, bike paths, sports ovals, bbq's, seats, etc
- Facilities such as Sports pavilions and its equipment, etc
- Roads and roadside assets such as footpaths, bus shelters, etc

to manage Council assets over their lifecycle.

It also collects geospatial Community asset data such as:
- Fire hazards areas in rural property boundaries
- Septic tanks
- Weed mapping to monitor and control noxious weeds
- Streetlights in new estates
- Gravestone mapping in historic cemeteries
- Many other areas

to manage many of its legislative responsibilities.

Council also uses property related geospatial data to manage:
- Valuations
- Animal control including dangerous dogs
- Planning enforcement
- Property Valuations including fire affected properties
- Rural land care

- Protection of native roadside vegetation

Work orders created from GIS and corporate data is used by our mobile outdoor staff to efficiently locate problem areas and rectifying them accordingly in the field.

GIS data is used not only for providing and maintaining existing services but is also used as a tool to plan for future services for the community or to identify areas lacking in services. Council also generates maps from its GIS for community requests, predominately for community based organisations such as schools and community groups.

For further details contact: Brad Wynter - Manager Organisation Development
pH: 03 92172090 email: brad.wynter@whittlesea.vic.gov.au