

SURVEYING & MAPPING INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF NSW 2010/2011 ANNUAL REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW (SMIC) Annual Report for 2010/2011 and I thank the Roads & Traffic Authority, and the Association of Consulting Surveyors for hosting our meetings during the last 12 months.

The Council held five meetings during the year in addition to its Annual General Meeting: 9 July, 15 October, 10 December 2010, 11 March and 13 May 2011.

Highlights for the Council in the past 12 months include the implementation of the SMIC Scholarship in Certificate IV Training & Assessment and the commencement of work, including the collection of funding, which will hopefully lead to the development of an Australian Standard for Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) within the next 2 years.

Other activities of the Council have included the regular publication of 'SMIC NEWS' throughout the year in various industry newsletters and on our website at www.smicnsw.org.au.

During the year, the Chairman represented the Council:

- As Chair of the UNSW School of Surveying & Spatial Information Systems Industry Advisory Board. In this capacity, the Chairman has been liaising with Blanche Hampton to promote the profession to school-leavers.
- On the University of Newcastle Surveying Program Advisory Committee and Industry Liaison Committee;
- At the Spatial Council Workshops in November 2010 and on 9 February 2011;
- At the UNSW 49th Annual Awards Dinner on 8 March 2011, sponsored by the ISNSW Cumberland Group;
- Presenting a paper on SUE at the GITA "Intelligent Infrastructure" Conference on 9 August 2011,
- With Rick Bartholomew at the funeral of our former Executive Officer Chris Jeremy. The Council made a donation to the Motor Neurone Disease Association in memory of Chris.

During the year, the Council sent letters to the TAFE Institutes at Hunter, Sydney and Illawarra, congratulating them on decisions they had made regarding increased staffing levels and equipment purchases and urging them to continue this trend. A letter to the University of Newcastle regarding succession planning received a most positive response from the Pro Vice Chancellor. The Council

also wrote to the NSW Premier objecting to the proposed separation of LPI from the Surveyor-General and Registrar-General, and this also received a positive response.

The Council was most disappointed when the Construction Industry Training Advisory Board closed without notice, resulting in a financial burden for the Council. However, the Council congratulates the Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW for taking on the "ITAB" responsibilities for our sector.

Visitors to Council meetings over the year, advising of important initiatives from Illawarra TAFE, were Bess Moylan, Charlie Higgs and Ian Pearson.

The composition of the Council itself has not changed over the past twelve months.

Hank Staal (MSIA), Doug Kinlyside (S-G), David Job (S-G), Gary Batman (AHS) and Allan Gordon (SMMF) attended Council meetings as alternate delegates and made valuable contributions. I have appreciated the continuing support, counsel, valued input and attendance of these representatives and all our other delegates over the past 12 months: Rick Bartholomew (ISNSW), Veronica Bondarew (ACS NSW), Karl Bretreger (Uni Newcastle), Damien Cole (TAFE), Paul Harcombe (representing the Surveyor-General), Greg Livingstone (SMMF), Roy Lowe (IS NSW), Bill Miller (SMMF), Col Mitford (MSIA), Venessa O'Connell (AHS), Craig Roberts (UNSW), Peter Shoemark (GITA & SSSI), Graeme Smith (TAFE) and Tom Williams (AIMS). Their work on the Council involves decisions made for the benefit of the surveying & spatial information sector as a whole. Constituent organisations should be well pleased with the Council's achievements over the past year and the contribution and commitment that their representatives have made.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank LPI for the provision of the services of our Executive Officer and to once again acknowledge the continuing and dedicated contribution of Kevin Volk in this capacity. Kevin's continuing contribution to the Council is exemplary and I would like to thank him particularly for his friendship and his diligence in the financial affairs of the Council.

The Executive of SMIC has worked well together again this year. Veronica Bondarew has proven to be a most effective and enthusiastic Deputy Chair whose work brings great credit to the Council and enhances its reputation. As Secretary/Treasurer, I have also appreciated the assistance of Paul Harcombe, particularly in view of his other responsibilities as Chief Surveyor of LPI.

The Council's role in the expansion of the 'Surveying Taskforce' into New South Wales has yet to be defined but is proving to be a most exciting proposition. I would like to thank John Minehan, Immediate Past President of ISNSW, for accepting the role as Chair of the SMIC Subcommittee investigating this proposal.

The issue of SMIC's purpose/role was raised at the NSW Spatial Council Workshop held on 9 February 2011. It was noted that SMIC, since its formation in 1987, continues to be the only organisation that brings all sectors of the 'industry' together on a regular basis and provides an independent focal point for 'industry' advocacy; particularly in regard to education and training. It was agreed that SMIC continues to fill a vital role as an independent NSW 'industry' reference group. The work of the Council has been reaffirmed and its 'niche market' activities of bringing together our industry's public, private, business and tertiary education sectors for the mutual benefit of everyone associated with the spatial information sector, is increasing in importance and recognition.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Council for permitting me to serve the Surveying & Spatial Information Sector as Chairman for the past twelve years. As noted in my last Annual Report, the continuing support of the organisations you represent is the cornerstone of industry unity and development both now and in the future. Through your efforts, the Council continues to work quietly, efficiently and, most importantly, effectively for the benefit of the Surveying and Spatial Information sector, providing a constructive, practical and proven forum for debate as well as a valuable & unique channel for consolidated action.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman
Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW
12 August 2010