



SURVEYING & MAPPING INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF NSW 2007/2008 ANNUAL REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW (SMIC) Annual Report for 2007/2008 and I thank the Road & Traffic Authority for continuing to make this venue available for our meetings.

The Council held five meetings during the year, in addition to its Annual General Meeting: 19 July, 6 September, 5 December 2007, 14 March and 16 May 2008.

Highlights for the Council in the past 12 months include progress on the mapping of underground utility services and contribution to the installation of a national cadetship scheme for students at TAFE Diploma level.

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. The updating of our popular Careers brochure is also well underway.

In August, the Council sent two representatives, Greg Livingstone and Brett Madsen, to a GITA workshop involving public utility authorities to investigate improved methods for the detection and location of underground public utilities. Greg Livingstone and Chairman Mark Gordon represent the Council on the intergovernmental steering committee for a consequential pilot project involving the mapping of underground utility services in the Sydney CBD.

The September meeting of Council welcomed Douglas Greening, Executive Officer of the Construction Industry Training Advisory Board, and Ron Lister, GITA Australasian President, to discuss an industry funded training scheme similar to operations in other States. SMIC provided "in principle" support for the scheme.

The Council has continued its interest in TAFE Training Packages, TAFE self study guides and succession planning for our tertiary education lecturers and teachers. We are also continuing to pursue recognition for TAFE On-Line training in OHS.

SMIC members Paul Harcombe, Mark Gordon and Venessa O'Connell are keeping the Council fully informed of progress towards the FIG World Surveying Congress for Sydney in 2010. I am sure that Council delegates and their organisations will become more involved in the preparations for this Congress as time progresses.

During the year, the Chairman represented the Council:

- On a national steering committee for the introduction of cadetships at TAFE Diploma level;
- On the UNSW School of Surveying & Spatial Information Systems Industry Advisory Board;
- On the University of Newcastle Surveying Program Advisory Committee and Industry Liaison Committee;
- At the UNSW 45th Annual Awards Dinner on 7 April 2008.

During the year, Chairman Mark Gordon was elected Chair of the UNSW School of Surveying & Spatial Information Systems Industry Advisory Board.

The composition of the Council itself has changed somewhat over the past twelve months. Paul Barnett was welcomed to the Council as SSI representative, replacing Brett Madsen. Vishal Behl has replaced the hardworking Bruce Douglas as our GITA representative. Kate Moore returned to the Council as TAFE NSW representative, replacing Paul Brady who made a valuable contribution during his time on Council. Grant Kilpatrick from TAFE NSW also left the Council after securing a position with the RTA, and has been replaced by Michael London. Bill Miller

joined the Council as a SMMF representative following the retirement of Col Mitford, who nevertheless retained his other position on SMIC as the MSIA representative. Venessa O'Connell (AHS) became the first SMIC delegate to request maternity leave. Laura Honeysett (ACS), Bruce Harvey (UNSW), Hank Staal (MSIA), Tony Nusco (AHS), Grahame Wallis (S-G) and Chris Zvirblis (TAFE) attended Council meetings as alternate delegates and made valuable contributions. I have appreciated the continuing support, counsel, valued input and attendance of the individuals, past and present, that I have just noted and indeed all our other delegates over the past 12 months: Rick Bartholomew (IEMS), Karl Bretreger (Uni Newcastle), Paul Harcombe (representing the Surveyor-General), Greg Livingstone (SMMF), Roy Lowe (IS NSW), Callum McNaughton (AIMS), Diane North (ACS NSW), Venessa O'Connell (AHS), and Craig Roberts (UNSW). Your unselfish and often unheralded contribution and commitment to the spatial information sector as demonstrated through your activities on this Council is admirable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lands Department 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 work makes the task of Chairman a lot easier and provides excellent support particularly in financial matters.

I have also greatly appreciated the assistance of Diane North in her capacity as Deputy Chair and Paul Harcombe as Secretary/Treasurer. Diane has fulfilled her duties most diligently and I am personally disappointed that circumstances have dictated her inability to stand as Deputy Chair. Diane's dedication to the spatial information sector is legendary and her quiet (and on occasions, not so quiet) contribution to this organisation is very much appreciated. I take this opportunity to wish her well in her retirement later this year. Paul's contribution has been especially noticeable in bringing together the broader profession through his FIG2010 activities and the development of the "spatial information" component of the industry.

There have been a number of changes in the spatial information sector lately. The Surveyor General's CS2i has mooted the formation of a "Spatial Council". NSW IEMS members have agreed to merge with ISNSW. ISNSW and SSI are having discussions on the merging of their national bodies. The effect of such changes on the viability of our Council to continue to exist is unknown. Are they a threat, or are they recognition that the reasons for the Council's existence are well founded and valid? If these current changes do not result in an all encompassing organisation such as SMIC, I predict that this Council, firmly entrenched in its 'niche market position' of bringing together our industry's public, private, business and tertiary education sectors for the mutual benefit of all associated with the spatial information sector, will continue.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Council for permitting me to serve the industry as Chairman for the past nine years. Through the admirable efforts of everyone on the Council, "SMIC" is an acronym that continues to be more widely known and respected in our industry. The Council works quietly and efficiently for the benefit of the surveying and spatial information sector, providing an effective forum for debate and a valuable & unique channel for consolidated action.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman
Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW
18 July 2008