2015-16 LG Spatial Capability Program

End of Year Report

Contents

1. Context

Spatial (location) information and technologies are increasingly vital to Councils to support making decisions on investments in facilities, asset and services; reporting to government, and responding to customers and emergencies.

In 2013 a strategic vision was developed for the Victorian Local Government spatial sector: *Appropriate and effective spatial capability is established across all Local Councils and is recognised as fundamental to council efficiency and service delivery.*

The strategy was an initiative of the Local Government Spatial Reference Group (LGSRG) supported by the MAV. The council-wide strategy, a first for Australia, identifies a number of objectives to promote broad adoption and utilisation of GIS and spatial capabilities to support Council activities and services to the community.

This report summarises the outcomes from the 2015 – 2016 spatial capability program supported by Spatial Vision for the LGSRG.

2. Good Practice Framework – 2015 Assessment

The GIS Good Practice Framework provides a mechanism to highlight the relative ability of Council to meet core objectives and improve capabilities and awareness. Each year the take-up of the survey has increased. The Good Practice Framework was first implemented in 2013 and was completed by 50 of the 79 or 63% of Councils. In 2014, 75% of Councils took part and 80% in completed the 2015 assessment framework.

In 2015, the assessment framework covered five proficiency focus areas. The State-wide averages for the past three years are presented below.

Proficiency Focus Areas	2013	2014	2015
Spatial Capability	**C**	**C**	**C**
Core Data Maintenance	**C**	**B**	**B**
Property and Rates Integration	**B**	**B**	**B**
Asset Management to GIS Integration	**N/A**	**C**	**C**
Community Engagement & Self Service	**N/A**	**N/A**	**D**

The 2015 assessment introduced a new Proficiency Focus Area for Community Engagement and Self-service. The lower rating for this proficiency is indicative of this being relatively new area for Councils to invest their limited resources.

A	B	C	D	E
(Best grade)				(Lowest grade)

The increase in the number of councils participating highlights an increasing awareness of the significants of spatial capabilities to councils. In addition, detailed analysis of the results for each proficiency area indicated that the spatial capabilities of Councils are steadily improving. These outcomes support the vision of the sector strategy.

Recommendation:

For 2016 the addition of another new proficiency area is not recommended. However, the questions under the existing five areas should be reviewed and potentially an additional question or two included expanding the significance of publishing open data.

3.   2016 Workshop Participation

One of the aims of the Victorian Local Government spatial strategy was to engage with GIS Managers and Coordinators to encourage further capacity development, innovation and cooperation between Councils. To that end, over the past four years a series of workshops have been held around the state for interested council officers. In 2016 the four Spatial Capability workshops were undertaken at Melbourne, Nunawading, Benalla and Ararat.

Agenda for the 2016 workshops

1	Introductions
2	Good Practice Framework outcomes from 2015
3	Community Engagement tools
4	2016 Council Open Data Target
	Break
5	Utilising Open Data for Community Engagement
6	Open Data and Open Council Data Toolkit
	Lunch
7	Update from DELWP on Vicmap and related spatial services
8	MAV Collaborative Road Project
9	Future trends and common challenges in geospatial information management
	Break
10	Role of LGSRG and the committee

The workshops were very well attended and appreciated. In total 46 council officers attended representing 37 councils. The overall (average) feedback assessment from participants was 4.4 on a scale 1 to 5 for *How usefulness of workshop to you.*

The national Locate16 conference was held in Melbourne in April, not long before the workshops. As it transpires, less than a handful of workshop participants attended Locate16 and most that did were there on the free day to talk to vendors. This situation highlights the importance of LGSRG reaching out to councils by provision of region-based workshops. This finding is further emphasized by the following feedback from participants on 'the best thing about the workshops'.

Exchange of ideas and new information

A chance to step outside day to day work and see what is happening outside your LGA. Workshops are small enough that there is plenty of opportunities to interact

Well targeted and current issues. Allows me to get my focus off my day to day tasks.

A number of the findings from the workshops are discussed in other sections of this report.

Recommendation:

The LGSRG is recommended to continue to hold four regional based workshops.

4. Open Data Challenge

The 2016 workshops introduced the 'open data challenge' and facilitated discussion on how and why councils could and should participate.

The challenge: That 50% of all Councils to publish three defined datasets by the end of this calendar year and 75% of all Councils by mid next year.

The defined datasets should be:

- data that most councils would hold;
- least resistance to publishing;
- good benefits to Councils for making them available;
- would service the community,
- there is a defined Open Council standard for the dataset.

The three agreed datasets and their publication status:

Data	1st June 2016	50% (39) gap
Garbage collection	16	23
Playgrounds	5	34
Dog walking zones	3	36

A session in each workshop focussed on identifying User Stories, examples of how people could use the three datasets. The User Story is a simple format that captures: who, what and why.

As <u>who</u>, I want <u>what</u> so that <u>why</u>.
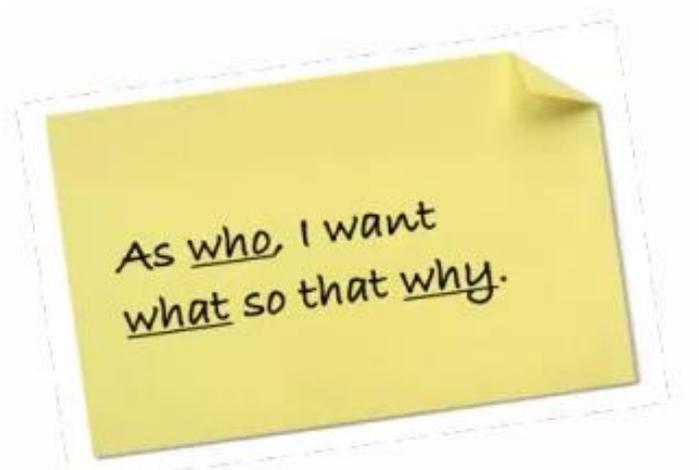
A summary of the User stories gathered in the workshops can be found in Appendix B.

At the workshops most officers indicated there willingness to participate in the open data challenge however, there are potentially a range of constraints that may limit involvement. The major limitation is lack of organisational support to publish open data.

As highlighted in the workshops, CEO's of MAV member councils have endorsed Open Data Policy through the State Council resolution 15 May 2015.

MAV — MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

STATE COUNCIL
15 May 2015
RESOLUTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

Rate Capping

That the Municipal Association of Victoria calls upon the Victorian State Government to immediately review its policy regarding the capping of Municipal rates and, in partnership with Local Government and the Municipal Association of Victoria, develop a range of measures that will assist Councils to better meet structural and economic constraints to

Open data policy

Council across Victoria commit to adopting Open Data/Data Access policies to contribute to the information available on the data.gov.au website.

Wood Encouragement Policy

That the MAV endorse Latrobe City Council's Wood Encouragement Policy and accept it as a policy of the MAV.

Increase in social and affordable housing

That the MAV:
a. Write to the State Minister for Housing, the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Community Services advocating for an increase in social and affordable housing through changes to the Planning Act.
b. Write to the State Minister for Housing, the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Community Services advocating to release surplus and under-utilised State owned land for diverse housing development and through support for innovative approaches to social housing, with a focus on the Eastern Region of Melbourne, which has the lowest rates of social housing and housing affordability across the State.

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Excerpt of State Council Resolution

The Open Data Toolkit website addresses many of the concerns held by council officers.

The second major constraint was how to do it. Councils generally have limited resources so they need guidance on how to do it easily. In the final workshop, a Geelong officer demonstrated how to load data into data.gov.au. The demonstration was very well received.

The workshops have kicked-off the 'challenge, it now rests with the LGSRG committee to build the momentum to encourage Councils to get involved and congratulate those that publish their data.

Recommendations:

The LGSRG committee broadly promote Council involvement in publishing Open Data as a state-wide initiative using the data challenge to demonstrate progress. Sponsorship of a prize at GovHack 2016 would be a good starting point.

The LGSRG committee promote the data challenge and report on progress. MAV Technology approved the use of the Open Data Toolkit website to include a live report on progress. The LGSRG should build a web-based reporting tool.

The User Stories are published via the Open Data Toolkit website to encourage developers to design applications to utilise Local Government data.

The LGSRG arranged online demonstrations and/or short videos to support GIS officers. These may include showing people:

- how to publish data via data.gov.au
- how to set up scripts/ tools to regularly publish
- how to consume web services from data.gov.au.

5. GovHack 2016

The LGSRG can get involved in the next GovHack event by way of sponsorship for the event and a prize. The sponsorship assists to run the various events that are held around Victoria. GovHack is run by volunteers. Last year, the GovHack team only had $9,000 to run the Melbourne GovHack event, the largest in the country, it generated 40 projects. The event was a major success because it is supported by volunteered or time and support-in-kind.

LGSRG is recommended to contribute $1,000; $500 that would go towards sponsorship of the state-wide events and $500 for an LGSRG award goes under the Bounty category that is focused on specific datasets.

The GovHack events will be held over the weekend of July 29- 31.

Prior to the GovHack weekend, there is a 'Meet The Data Owners' event July 11. It is really important that LGSRG represents attend to pitch to the audience why we want them to focus on our data and respond to their questions.

The Victorian award night will be in mid-September. With respect to assessment of the entries, the GovHack organiser have a panel and standard approach to judging entries. The panel can be asked to shortlist entries for LGSRG to make the final selection or do it on behalf of LGSRG.

Recommendations:

The LGSRG sponsor the 2016 GovHack and a prize.

6. Role of LGSRG

The final session of the workshop asked participants to identify the role they considered that the LGSRG could play to assist them in their roles and across the sector. First of all, there was broad support for the LGSRG. In addition, there was a lot of interesting discussion and feedback worth noting. The feedback can be broadly classified as improving communications around existing roles and services and considering new services is summarised as follows.

Summary for Improved Communications

Improve communications on role, actions and successes:
- Recognised as voice for Councils
- Representative of Councils in different forums including Spatial Council
- Assist, support and encourage collaboration across Local Government
- Advocate and conduit to State and Federal Governments
- Advocacy of profession in Councils
- Promote standards and consistency across Councils
- Identify best practice across Local Government, support learning from each other
- Provide opportunities for Council GIS people to get together
- Run workshops to improve spatial capabilities
- Ensure Govt/ MAV projects take Local Government spatial capabilities into account
- Share knowledge and ways of doing things
- Motivate and encourage people to get into Council GIS jobs
- Bring together spatial requirements across LGA's
- Newsletters and snap surveys more widely distributed including to managers of GIS

Summary of Suggested Role / Services

Coordinate and challenge people to do things as a sector:
- Assist planning and implementation of GDA 2020
- Publish open data

Drive 'open data' agenda
- Promote standards for open data
- Set challenge and encourage involvement
- Encourage publishing, provide support, demonstrations, advice

Help connect people, create/foster a geospatial community
- Provide online forum for sharing and solving issues and using new technologies
- Provide ability to get know your neighbouring Council GIS/ Data engines
- Provide hands-on demonstrations, case studies, quick demo's.
  eg. demo of uploading data to data.gov.au - post it as video

Promote importance of spatial/GIS to CEO's:
- Increase awareness of role and significance of 'Data Scientists (GIS officers) in Councils, across Local Government
- Support understanding of the value of GIS outside just maps

Advertise meeting agenda to encourage anyone to listen and watch meetings
- Enable people to join meetings use goto (or similar) webinar tools
- Record and publish meetings

Assist regional GIS groups and support running of meetings and communications:
- calendar of meetings
- contact details for members
- use google group to share documents

The role statements captured at each workshop can be found in Appendix C.

The following table of existing services provided by the LGSRG was put to each of the four workshop groups and was well supported.

Existing Services

Service	Not P	Paid
Victorian Spatial Council (VSC) representation	✔	✔
Representation on various initiatives	✔	✔
Document resources (via webpage)	✘	✔
Spatial capability state-wide survey and reports	✔	✔
Spatial capability Council specific reports	✘	✔
Good Practice Framework workshops	✔	✔
Newsletters and Snap surveys	✔	✔
Regular meetings for planning and issues	✔	✔
Spatial Capability Strategy	✔	✔
Liaison with DELWP	✔	✔
Councils Spatial Capabilities Atlas (via webpage)	✘	✔

Recommendations:

The LGSRG committee treats the replacement of the website as a high priority. The website should be a vehicle to support individual Council officers with information and tools but also inform a wider audience about the LGSRG and address a number of the issues raised about its role. There does not necessarily need to be one website to replace serve both functions.

The LGSRG continues to find opportunities to promote the work that it performs and celebrate achievements. For example, with City of Frankston's permission, the LGSRG publishes a summary of Juan's paper.

The LGSRG seeks the opportunity to present a summary of Juan's paper to a MAV CEO forum.

The LGSRG seeks further opportunities to champion the publishing and consumption of open data.

The LGSRG encourages GIS officers to participate in bi-monthly meetings via GoToMeeting. This will require arranging the agenda to make one section relevant to non-committee members and publishing of the agenda.

The LGSRG establish web-based tools to enable people to get to know their neighbouring Council counterparts and to arrange regional meetings.

7. Recommendations

In summary the following recommendations are made:

Good Practice Framework 2016:

For 2016 the addition of another new proficiency area is not recommended. However, the questions under the existing five areas should be reviewed and potentially an additional question or two included expanding the significance of publishing open data.

2017 Workshops:

The LGSRG is recommended to continue to hold four regional based workshops.

Open Data:

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The LGSRG committee promote the data challenge and report on progress. MAV Technology approved the use of the Open Data Toolkit website to include a live report on progress. The LGSRG should build a web-based reporting tool.

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GovHack 2016:

The LGSRG sponsor the 2016 GovHack and a prize.

Role of LGSRG:

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Appendix A: Workshop participants

First Name	Surname	Organisation	Attending	Attended
Bruce	Eaton	Mildura Rural City Council	Ararat	N
Diane	Daniell	Central Goldfields Shire Council	Ararat	Y
Matthew	Swards	City of Ballarat	Ararat	Y
Nicholas	Hendriks	Southern Grampians Shire Council	Ararat	Y
Paul	Skeen	Northern Grampians Shire Council	Ararat	Y
Peter	Debicki	DELWP (Presenter)	Ararat	Y
Samantha	McDougall	Moyne Shire Council	Ararat	Y
TOTALS	**exc presenters**			**5**
Ashley	Bishop	Benalla Rural City Council	Benalla	Y
Barrett	Higman	Alpine Shire Council	Benalla	Y
Brian	Lugg	Loddon Shire Council	Benalla	Y
Chris	Rootsey	Towong Shire	Benalla	Y
Di	Brock	Strathbogie Shire Council	Benalla	Y
Fiona	Spencer	Strathbogie Shire Council	Benalla	Y
James	Hargreaves	Moira Shire Council	Benalla	N
Jane	Kaye	Rural City of Wangaratta	Benalla	Y
Jenny	Levy	Benalla Rural City Council	Benalla	Y
Robert	Graves	Mansfield Shire Council	Benalla	Y
Steve	Ryan	Melton City Council	Benalla	Y
Tim	Clarke	Indigo Shire Council	Benalla	Y
TOTALS	**exc presenters**			**11**
Ben	Crockett	City of Darebin	Melbourne	N
Bright	Osagiede	Brimbank City Council	Melbourne	N
Cheryl	Morahan	Latrobe City Council	Melbourne	Y
Gerry	Battaglia	City of Stonnington	Melbourne	N
Jane	Forse	City of Melbourne	Melbourne	Y
Jesse	Cardey	City of Greater Geelong	Melbourne	Y
John	Cole	City of Yarra	Melbourne	Y
Kathryn	Hailes	Whittlesea Council	Melbourne	Y
Li	Jiang	City of Stonnington	Melbourne	Y
Matthew	Szymczak	City of Greater Geelong	Melbourne	Y
Michael	Zatorsky	City of Greater Geelong	Melbourne	Y
Neil	Adamson	Mitchell Shire Council	Melbourne	Y
Peta	Moores	City of Greater Geelong	Melbourne	N
Peter	Debicki	DELWP (Presenter)	Melbourne	Y
Senavi	Abeykoon	West Wimmera Shire Council	Melbourne	N
Surag	Kulkami	City of Kingston	Melbourne	Y
Will	McIntosh	City of Melbourne	Melbourne	Y
Tim	Goss	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Melbourne	Y
Tim	Warfe	Colac Otway Shire	Melbourne	Y
Phil	Hughes	Mornington Peninsula Shire	Melbourne	Y
TOTALS	**exc presenters**			**16**

Andrew	Lacey	Yarra Ranges Council	Nunawading	Y
Andrew	Rutherford	Maroondah City Council	Nunawading	Y
Anne	Qiu	City of Monash	Nunawading	Y
Claudia	Michienzi	City of Port Phillip	Nunawading	Y
Emma	James	Frankston City Council	Nunawading	Y
Greg	Dunmill	Moreland City Council	Nunawading	Y
Gregory	Day	Whitehorse City Council	Nunawading	Y
Jeanette	Paoletti	Whitehorse City Council	Nunawading	Y
Juan	Pufleau	Frankston City Council	Melbourne	Y
Leon	Grinszpan	City of Boroondara	Nunawading	N
Mike	Johnston	Melton City Council	Nunawading	Y
Milind	Joshi	City of Greater Dandenong	Nunawading	Y
Nigel	Wells	City of Port Phillip	Nunawading	Y
Peter	Debicki	DELWP (Presenter)	Nunawading	Y
Stuart	McDougall	Maribyrnong City Council	Nunawading	Y
Yingxin	Wu	City of Boroondara	Nunawading	Y
TOTALS	exc presenters			14
STATEWIDE				46

Appendix B: User Stories generated in workshops

Playgrounds

As a tourist I want to know where I can find the hidden gems of playgrounds. Where do the locals go? So that I can prioritise stops as I am passing through town or the region.	As a parent, I want to know the location and facility details of local playgrounds, as well as proximity to services, to make informed decisions for my children	My playgroup are looking for a new place to take our children that has safe play equipment suitable for different ages and needs especially 'special needs' such mobility and sensory.
As a professional tour organiser, I want to plan stops around child-friendly locations	As a tourist, I want to plan stops around locations where my children can play safely and thoroughly	As a member of the community, I want to know where my nearest facility is so I can live a healthy and active lifestyle
As a business owner, I want to make business decisions based on the location of playgrounds		

Rubbish Collection

As a ratepayer I want to know what day my bin is collected; what is being collected; how collections are affected by public holidays	As a tourist, I want to make use of local garbage collection to avoid searching for alternative means of disposal	

Dog Off Leash

As a member of the community, I want to inform my visiting friends where, when and how they can walk their dogs.	As a dog owner, I want to know where off leash areas are so I can exercise my dog freely and not have to rely on signage	As a member of the community who prefers not to be around dogs, I want know where they are allowed off lead so I can avoid unwanted interactions and waste.
As a professional tour organiser, I want to plan stops around dog-friendly locations	As a tourist, I want to plan stops around locations where I know I can exercise my dog, and to not have to rely on signage	

Appendix B: User Stories generated in workshops - Other

Government Projects

As a resident, I want to know when and where my local government is undertaking projects, such as road and capital works	As a rate payer, I want to know where and how council finances are distributed, and what the justification for these decisions is.	

Local events

As a member of the community, I want to know what events – such as markets – are on, where they are on and when, so I can plan my weekends around engaging with the community		

Food and health inspection

As a diner, I want to be aware of the inspection history of restaurants so I can support good businesses and avoid poor ones		

Building and parking accessibility

As a resident, I want to know where I can take my friends with accessibility needs	As a person with accessibility needs, I want to know where I can comfortably go without worrying about whether I will be accommodated	

Animal ownership restrictions

As a resident, I want to know how many of different types of animals I can own		

Parking zones

As a working person, I want to know which areas around my work are zoned so I can find places to park my car for free	As someone who uses disabled parking, I want to know where I can park to plan my life more effectively	

Planning

As a resident I want to know what planning applications have been made near me	As a resident, I want to know what building restrictions apply near me	

Infrastructure

As a cyclist, I want government maintained data about local bike paths so I can select the safest route to ride		

Free camping areas

As a grey nomad, I want to know where I can park my RV for free and still be near facilities and entertainment		

Broadband access

As a resident, I want to know what areas have access to broadband internet so I can make informed decisions about where to live		

Horse-friendly infrastructure

As an avid horse rider, I want to know where I can stop with my horses overnight and what horse-specific trails I can use to get around		

Appendix C: Suggested LGSRG Roles/ Actions from Workshops

Ararat

- Voice for Councils
- Representative of Councils
- Advocate and conduit to State and Federal Govts
- Identify best practice across Govt, learn from each other
- Assist, support and encourage collaboration
- Disseminate information
- Assist the formalising of regional GIS groups and support running of meetings and communications inc:
  - calendar of meetings
  - contact details for members
  - use Google Groups

Benalla

- Advocate for GIS in LG and LG for GIS
- Run workshops to make spatial improvements
- Communicate to LG about what is happening across LG
- Collaborate with other organisations to ensure projects are taking spatial into account
- Increase awareness of role and significance of 'Data Scientists (GIS officers) in Councils, across LG
- Promote data standards including for open data
- Share knowledge and ways of doing things
- Motivate and encourage people to do GIS jobs
- Help connect people, create/foster a geospatial community
- Provide an opportunity to get together
- Coordinate and challenge people to do things as a sector
- Enable people to join meetings use goto (or similar) webinar tools
- Support Council's contribute by 'in kind' as alternative to $1,000

Melbourne

- Collaboration between different Govt Departments
- Advocacy on behalf of LGA's
- Member of Vic Spatial Council
- Link together spatial requirements across LGA's
- Get behind standards eg open data
- Support Councils to achieve common goals eg GDA 94 and GDA 2020
- Advocate to senior levels in LGA's to secure 'buy in' and support understanding of the value of GIS outside just maps eg. could be through CIO forums
- Provide ability to get know your neighbouring Council GIS/ Data engines
- Provide hands-on demonstrations, case studies, quick demo's. eg. demo of uploading data to data.gov.au - post it as video

Nunawading

- Enabling discussion between Councils
- Advocacy of profession in Councils
- Standards and consistency across Councils
- Drive 'open data'
- Promote importance of spatial/GIS to CEO's
- Provide online forum for sharing and solving issues and using new technologies
- Newsletters and snap surveys should be more widely distributed including to managers of GIS
- Documents, tools and resources should be made available to all Councils
- Assist planning for GDA 2020
- Advertise meeting agenda to encourage anyone to listen and watch meetings
- Record and publish meetings