



DISCUSSION PAPER
BOSSI SPATIAL INFORMATION
Role and Functions

INTRODUCTION:

The Board of Surveying and Spatial Information (BOSSI) was established in 2002 to regulate land and mining surveying and to investigate and advise the Government on matters relating to 'the collection, collation and dissemination of spatial information other than surveys.'

In the 2005 Surveying Amendment Act, a 'world first' legal definition for 'spatial information' was introduced. In 2009, the Act was further amended following the 'Section 40' statutory review to determine if the policy objectives remained valid.

As a consequence of the 2009 amendment the objects of the Act included:
'Investigation of, and giving of advice to the Government relating to the collection, collation, and dissemination of spatial information other than surveys.'

BACKGROUND:

To help fulfill its obligations, BOSSI established a Spatial Information Committee comprising the SI members of the Board with additional industry representatives. The Committee's function is to:

- Advise the Board

The SI members and Committee over the past few years have:

- Advised BOSSI of spatial information trends, issues of a strategic nature.
- Raised the awareness of SI with industry at various forums.
- Championed the development of Underground Utility Location Standards through Roadmap and with the assistance of the engineering community the development of an Australian Standard as a strategic goal.

In 2005 BOSSI initiated the development of a Roadmap and Framework for a NSW Spatial Information Strategy. As a related strategic goal BOSSI was 'To identify and recommend Governance Policies and structures for the management of spatial information'.

The 'Roadmap' report, with further extensive consultation, led to the 'Common Spatial Informative (CS2i) – the NSW Spatial Information Strategy. The CS2i Action Plan was endorsed by NSW Cabinet in 2008 as a whole-of-state spatial information initiative and framework to improve access to, and use of spatial information across the whole NSW community. The CS2i Action Plan was designed to move NSW from a fragmented approach to one of an integrated 'Spatial Knowledge Infrastructure'.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The CS2i Action Plan has provided the direction and catalyst for a framework, structure and governance for the strategic management of SI. This would not have been possible without BOSSI's leadership.

NSW Spatial Council:

As part of the new Governance arrangements a NSW Spatial Council; Working Groups; CS2i Program Office and NSW Spatial Centre of Excellence have been established and have gained momentum.

An overview of the current arrangements is attached (Attachment 1).

The NSW Spatial Council has endorsed its first State Policy (Metadata); has a number of strategic initiatives underway and is looking to establish an effective industry engagement model to develop policy and the revision of the CS2i Action Plan into a proposed 'NSW Location Intelligence' strategy.

THE FUTURE:

The NSW Spatial Council is now established as the peak policy body for spatial information. BOSSI has the statutory responsibility to set standards for the collection, collation and management of spatial information and can support the Spatial Council policies by establishing standards, directions, guidelines to ensure adherence to best practice.

Attachment 2 attempts to show in simplified fashion the relationship between BOSSI, the NSW Spatial Council and industry.

A practical example is the standards for the location of underground services, now 'rebadged' sub-surface utility engineering. BOSSI should continue to champion, on behalf of NSW, this process through to promulgation with the assistance of the NSW Spatial Council which may require complimentary policy development. Other areas that may require standards development include:

- Standards to support the accuracy of the 'foundation' SDI.
- Standards for a 3D cadastre.
- Standards that underpin or maintain the integrity of the State cadastre.