

A Contractors experiences in Stormwater Asset Data Collection for Australian Council's

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to share with Council's our experiences as a contractor who collects mass stormwater asset data and condition rating information on Council stormwater networks. It is a requirement of all of our local government bodies to collect this information on an intermittent basis, yet there is no best practice methodology for doing this, nor is there an acceptable level of collaboration occurring in our industry.

3 Detailed Information

Proterra Group have been conducting Survey, QuickView and CCTV inspections of stormwater assets for over five years now as part of asset condition inspections for Local Government across Australia. This paper has been developed to share our experiences, both good and bad in an effort to aid Council's in conducting their stormwater asset inspection programs efficiently and effectively. Although all of our 530 Councils have a need to conduct similar inspections at some point in time, it is rare that Council's utilise the same systems and processes to either deliver these inspections in house or procure the services from the open market. We need to be able to collaborate better, share our experiences and improve the way in which these projects are delivered.

Based in Toowoomba QLD, Proterra Group is a mid-sized consultancy, with our services being adaptive and responsive to regional challenges. Since introducing Asset Data collection to our service offering, we have grown this part of the business and have now completed inspections on over 25,000 assets for a variety of Councils across Australia. This means that we've got extensive experiences to share with Council's who are contemplating the delivery of a condition assessment and validation program. Through this presentation we will provide information on what works, what doesn't and what to look out for when you are developing your specifications and inspection processes.

This paper will deliver our experiences in collecting stormwater asset data and condition rating information for over 30 Council's across Australia. All of this information is available free of charge or obligation to Council's who want to learn from our mistakes and improve their systems and processes.

What we do at Proterra Group:

- Collection of asset data for stormwater drainage systems, culverts and sewer manholes
- Collaboration with Local Councils to ensure data attributes collected are not only as per specification but also relevant to their organisational requirements;

- Accurate asset location services via RTK survey equipment with export and manipulations into GIS MapInfo / Shape files as required for GIS departments with the provision of an excel document for others;
- Condition assessment of assets dependent on the scope of works, options include photos, QuickView or CCTV;
- Development of catchment mapping for your stormwater assets for upload to GIS and use as visual aids for planning purposes

Challenges:

- Unrealistic scopes / data attribute schemas – collaboration to get it right;
- Inaccurate data / number of assets within the area – field survey assists and we map and manipulate the data for them, so it's easy to use.
- Communication on numbers – keep the client informed, council to understand where we are so it doesn't interact with their own internal works program and keeping money in mind.
- Poor tender documentation and pricing models that simply don't provide value for money to our Council's

4 Conclusions

There is much to be learned in Local Government Asset Data collection through collaboration, and sharing our experiences within the industry. It is the intention of this paper to greatly improve our Council's approach to not only developing a suitable program for collection of stormwater asset data in their area, but also to effectively and efficiently deliver this program maximising value for our ratepayers.

4 Speaker Biography

Sean Rice is the Managing Director of Proterra Group, a Civil Engineering consultancy based in Toowoomba, QLD. As a qualified Civil Engineer with 20 years of Local Government experience, he works tirelessly encouraging Council's to collaborate on their projects to ensure we aren't continually reinventing the wheel, repeating mistakes already made. Having worked with over 35 Council's across Regional Australia, Sean has plenty of experience to share and is always happy to provide information and referrals to improve the delivery of your projects.

5 References

IPWEA Practice Note 5, Stormwater Drainage

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