

Building Asset Management and GIS capabilities within regional Australia

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Achieving the sustainable management of Local Government assets at a national level, in an era where funding is reduced, budgets are tighter, scrutiny is higher, and assets constructed post war are aging, will require a mature and strategic approach to asset management right across our industry.

However, the size of our nation presents its own unique challenges when it comes to implementing best practice asset management throughout Australia.

Most affected are regional and rural communities due to their remote location and difficulties accessing specialist asset management skills, experience, and knowledge. Those of us based in urban communities have technical sessions and networking opportunities available right on our doorstep. This keeps our knowledge and skills relevant as well as allowing us to share experiences and lesson learnt with fellow asset management and GIS professionals. Whereas our colleagues located in regional and rural councils are hampered by distance and often miss opportunities.

These same communities also face issues of population growth or sometimes decline, community expectation, resources for road construction— just to name a few. Utilising proven best practice methodologies to develop affordable service delivery outcomes and streamline system processes will assist any local government deliver value for money solutions for their communities. The challenge is getting this valuable knowledge into organisations that need it the most.

This presentation will focus on developing asset management and GIS capabilities within rural and remote councils. Outlining a case study of a regional Council in central Queensland to demonstrate how internal capacity can be built within an organisation to deliver robust methods for asset management and GIS. This success story shows that transferring knowledge gathered from education, professional experience and IPWEA technical events to staff, has enabled Council to work independently on their journey toward asset management maturity and take ownership for their community's future.