

Development of a critical assets database for the Sunshine Coast Council

A Priest¹, A Dreyer¹

¹Sunshine Coast Council, Caloundra, QLD

The Stormwater Services Unit of the Sunshine Coast Council identified the need to develop a Critical Assets database for those stormwater assets which were considered to be vital to the effective operation of the drainage network during times of flooding.

Initially this project was limited to only Council owned stormwater assets, such as stormwater pipes and culverts, open drains and channels, and floodways. The proposal was to identify those assets which were critical to ensure effective functioning of the drainage network during severe weather events such as major storms or cyclones. The critical assets would receive elevated levels of inspections and maintenance, including just prior to any expected major weather event, to ensure that any potential or actual obstruction could be removed or cleared. These types of assets would also be placed in a separate Levels of Service category, to highlight their hierarchical importance in the annual bid for Capital Works funding, and the ever-growing list of competing funding priorities in Council.

During the initial consultation phase with a variety of Stakeholders, it soon became clear that there was a need and desire to expand the database to include other Critical Assets such as roads; buildings; council depots; emergency response facilities; sewerage pump stations; water treatment plants; and others. Ultimately Council's Stormwater Services were requested to broaden the project scope to include other asset classes such as:

- Hospitals, including access roads
- Emergency Centres (Ambulance, SES, Fire and Police stations), including access roads
- Evacuation and Community Centres, including access roads
- Power; Telecommunications; Sewer and Water facilities and plants, including access roads

This paper outlines how the process has been developed by Council's stormwater asset managers; what work has been done to date; and further work which is planned.

Lessons learnt from this example include the significance of adequate and comprehensive consultation with a wide variety of potential Stakeholders; developing meaningful asset Levels of Service; flexibility to modify a project to accommodate changes in scope; and the value of using Risk Analysis as a driver for improvement.