

Effective life cycle management of rural roads using AUS-SPEC

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AUS-SPEC, a joint venture between IPWEA and NATSPEC, has released the new Rural roads specification package, responding to challenges faced by regional, rural and remote councils. AUS-SPEC national documents have been specifically tailored towards local government. Rural and remote councils will benefit from the new AUS-SPEC Rural roads specifications package by:

- Easily documenting the design, construction and maintenance of their road network using SPECbuilder, specification compiler.
- Bridging the gap where there is lack of in-house engineering capability to efficiently deliver road assets.
- Significantly improving the structural integrity, safety and performance of sealed and unsealed roads.

The new AUS-SPEC Rural roads specification package will equip councils to implement improved practices across the asset life cycle. It covers documentation for planning, design, tendering, contract preliminaries, construction, maintenance and operation of regional and rural roads. This paper will highlight the updates to the existing specifications, and present various new specifications and reference documents included in this new package to allow rural councils to effectively manage their large network of road assets.

Sealed and unsealed local roads are dynamic systems whose performance is influenced by traffic, environment, road profile and material characteristics. Materials and placement techniques are especially important as these are the only factors that can be controlled and improved. AUS-SPEC has identified ways councils can extend the life of constructed assets. These life extension methods, include techniques for pavement preservation, which are documented in the appropriate AUS-SPEC specifications as well as other supporting reference documents.