

D-SPEC Consortium announces implementation of the Drainage Digital Data Specification.

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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D-SPEC

D-SPEC is the acronym for the **Consultant/Developer Specifications for the Delivery of Digital Data to Local Government**. A project was initiated by a group of urban fringe Councils – Brimbank City Council, Hume City Council, Whittlesea City Council and Wyndham City Council to streamline the processes undertaken to display Councils' drainage assets within each Council's GIS.

A common specification for the supply of digital drainage data has been identified as a major opportunity for this group of councils to achieve efficiency and cost savings in the process of maintaining their corporate geographic information systems (GIS) and asset management systems (AMS). Moreover, a common specification shared between Councils would also provide savings to the Land Development Industry by removing the need to maintain separate processes, standards and software tools for numerous Councils.

The specification was trialed in a pilot program with a cross section of industry consultants to determine any issues that may arise and was completed on November 1st 2004. Following the successful completion of the trial, the Councils have now finalised the D-Spec specification and will be implementing it commencing on November 23rd 2004.

It will now become a condition of all new subdivision/development applications commenced after this date that consultants/developers submit digital information of drainage and new telecommunications underground assets in accordance with the D-Spec specifications.

A 6-month 'phase-in' period has now begun and consultants/developers are encouraged to submit as-constructed stormwater and telecommunications digital information in accordance with the D-Spec specification.

Workforce Solutions is co-ordinating this initiative on behalf of Wyndham, Brimbank, Whittlesea & Hume Councils.

D-SPEC Consortium

In October 2004 an Expression of Interest was issued to other Victorian councils involved in broad acre developments to join the consortium and benefit from the work already completed, as well as participate in future developments.

The response was excellent, with 8 additional councils and Melbourne Water expressing interest in joining the consortium.

The **D-SPEC** consortium own the intellectual property of the Developed Specifications and Intellectual Property rights are not to be sold, transferred or assigned to any party (other than a new participating member) without the prior written approval of the D-Spec Consortium.

The **D-SPEC** Specifications will be available free of charge to the development industry. More information on how to register is available on the D-SPEC website: <http://dspec.wyndham.vic.gov.au>

Benefits

The consortium members wish to work with consultant/developers in a co-operative and efficient manner, for the delivery of digital information to stake holders within the Land Development Industry, thus delivering benefit to Local Government and the wider community.

The key objectives of the D-Spec consortium is to streamline stake holders' (local government) processes for receiving, handling and storing of subdivision developments in their GIS. This process will increase the efficiency of information access and result in greater customer satisfaction when dealing with inquiries from consultants/developers and prospective residents.

- ❖ **Eliminate duplication of effort.** Significant duplication of effort exists in the digitising of as constructed drainage information. This duplication exists between the private sector and council staff (who may digitise that information from paper plans);
- ❖ **improve process efficiency**, in the process of accepting and processing lodgements, and in checking existing data against design criteria and/or design plans;
- ❖ **improve customer service** to both internal and external customers of asset information;
- ❖ **improve the quality** of drainage information held in council systems for audit and financial requirements, as well as operational and business requirements;
- ❖ and ultimately **manage drainage assets better** to reduce the need for capital works and/or to reduce ongoing maintenance costs.