

Special points of interest:

- Formation of the Local Government Infrastructure Design Association
- Referencing the IDM in Planning Schemes
- Revision of Streetworks Code of Practice
- Demonstration Projects using draft Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines
- Next version of IDM

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Formation of Local Government Infrastructure Design Association

The IDM Group consists of 40 Councils from across regional Victoria, which have worked together to produce and maintain the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM). The manual is being used to provide consultants, developers and Council staff with a clear statement of the requirements applicable to the provision of Council infrastructure. The IDM Group has operated under a Memorandum of Understanding since its inception. The rapid increase in the number of member Councils has increased the workload involved in maintaining the IDM, and highlighted the need for a more formal governance system. The IDM Group realised that a new structure was required to address these challenges. A planning day held on

Friday 29th July 2011 discussed these issues and set up a working party to propose a way forward for the IDM Group.

The IDM Interim Board has prepared draft rules for the establishment of an incorporated association to be known as the Local Government Infrastructure Design Association. The rules have been circulated to all members and have been adopted.

The next step in the process is to vote on the formation of the association.

A letter was sent to the CEO of each member Council advising them that a special meeting of members has been called for 1.00pm on the 18th October 2013 to consider the following matters:

- Vote on the for-

formation of the Local Government Infrastructure Design Association

- Adopt the “Rules – Local Government Infrastructure Design Association”
- Appoint an Honorary Secretary.

Each member Council has been asked to appoint one person to represent their Council and to participate in the voting.

The special meeting will coincide with a meeting of the Technical Committee. due to be held on the same day at Whitehaven Reception Centre, Whittlesea commencing at 10am.

Make sure your Council is represented at this historic meeting.

Who Would Have Thought

Did you know that 9 years ago representatives from Greater Shepparton City Council, Greater Bendigo Council and Campaspe met together in Rushworth, to consider working together to formulate a common design and development manual.

No-one who attended that meeting would have thought that their commitment to the production of what is now known as the Infrastructure Design

Manual would have resulted in it being adopted by 40 Councils across regional and rural Victoria.

Those original members would not have envisaged that their manual would have had such an impact across Victoria and the development industry.

Who would have thought that it would lead to us voting on the formation of the Local Government Infra-

structure Design Association.

What will the next nine years hold for us?

The challenge before us is to keep looking for opportunities to improve our manual and to provide benefits to the Council’s that we work for and for our members.

Hopefully with the advances that take place in the future we will be able to look back and say “Who would have thought!”

“This would then form the basis of other Councils referencing the IDM in their planning schemes.”

IDM - Reference Document Planning Schemes

At the August meeting of the IDM Board John Keaney, planning consultant appointed by the IDM Board, gave an overview of meetings with DTPLI and the funding Greater Shepparton Council received to review the wording of the IDM with the view the IDM will become a reference document in their planning scheme. John advised that DTPLI has agreed that the best option for recognising the IDM in planning schemes was for it to be included as a reference document within planning schemes.

John indicated that Greater Shepparton Council has decided to run a standalone amendment to reference the IDM in their planning scheme. It is likely that an independent panel or advisory committee would be appointed by the Minister for Planning to hear submissions and would make recommendations to Council as to whether the amendment should be adopted. This would then form the basis of other Councils referencing the IDM in their planning schemes.



From the left: IDM Board members Mark Simpson and John Webster, Richard Whiting, Senior Regional Planner, Colin Kalms, Manager Planning, Greater Shepparton City Council, Jane Macey Senior Associate (Planning) Spiire, engaged to prepare the amendment for Greater Shepparton City Council, John Keaney, Planning Consultant

As a result of the meeting, consultation for the amendment to the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme will be across all municipalities in Victoria and all developers and consultants from member Councils. Jane Macey from Spiire will also write to all planning managers highlighting the proposal to ensure that they are fully aware of the proposal and how this project will hopefully result in a Ministerial amendment of all planning schemes to reference the IDM.

For further information on this project contact Jane Macy on 58314448.

Version 4.1 and V4.2 of IDM

Since the adoption of version 4 of the IDM on the 30 November 2012 there have been a number of changes proposed by the Technical Committee.

The IDM Board at its last meeting considered the issue of major and minor releases of the IDM.

The Board resolved that minor issues would be released as

required. The proposed changes would be exhibited and the Board would consider any submissions and either adopt or modify the IDM and release a minor amendment to the IDM.

This is the process that is being followed for the soon to be released v4.1.

This release will incorporate all the changes recommended

to the Board by the IDM Technical Committee.

This version along with changes recommended by the review of the IDM undertaken as part of the Greater Shepparton Council planning scheme amendment will then be released as version 4.2.

This will be the version that goes on public exhibition as part of the above planning amendment.

Revision of Streetworks Code of Practice

The Streetworks Code of Practice, was last revised and re-printed in 1995.

Many of its provisions are now covered by the provisions of the Road Management Act 2004 and the Code of Practice for the Management of Infrastructure in Road Reserves. However these documents do not cover standard offsets and depths for the placement of services in roads.

A review of utility services in streets has been initiated by the Civil Standards Coordination Group ('CSC Group') established under the Victorian Civil Construction Industry Alliance). The CSC Group com-

prises representatives of local government, VicRoads, utility providers, public transport, Growth Areas Authority, EnergySafe, the land development industry, and the civil construction and maintenance sector.

The CSC Group is currently preparing common standards for the allocation of utility space in road reserves.

Six clear objectives have been the focus in considering the standard allocation of space for utility services in the road reserve:

A communiqué is being prepared by VicRoads highlighting the history of the project and

calling for submissions on the proposed allocation of utility space in road reserves.

It is proposed that the space allocations for utility services, will provide input into the current review of the Code of Practice for the Management of Infrastructure in Road Reserves (the Utilities Code) as made under the Road Management Act 2004.

Details of how to make a submission will be included in the communiqué.

The IDM's involvement has been beneficial to us in identifying a number of areas that we need to address

"The CSC Group is currently preparing common standards for the allocation of utility space in road reserves."

IDM Awareness and Update Training

As part of the value adding to the fees by the members of the IDM Group is a one off awareness and updating training.

Some Council's have received this training and others have not.

Given the length of time since the IDM was originally adopted and the number of changes to the IDM and staff within municipalities the Board has de-

cidated to provide awareness and update training to those Council's who have requested it.

The Board has resolved to provide this training "in-house".

Each member municipality has been allocated to two Board members to provide the training.

Board members will be in con-

tact with those municipalities who indicated that they would like to participate in this training.

This is expected to be rolled out over the next 6 months or so depending on the individual workloads of the Board members.

This will be discussed in further detail at the next Board meeting.

"The Board has decided to provide awareness and update training to those Council's who have requested it.."

Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines—Demonstration Projects

The IDM Group via the City of Greater Geelong and the Otway Shire have been successful in obtaining a grant of \$250,000 to develop a greener standards section for the IDM.

Stage 2 of the Greener Standards Project has commenced with four projects being designed and constructed in accordance with the draft Infrastructure Design Guidelines.

These projects are being carried out to determine the effectiveness of the proposed guidelines in designing and constructing more sustainable infrastructure.

Greater Geelong City Council has two projects being the redevelopment of Steampacket Place and one asphalt project.

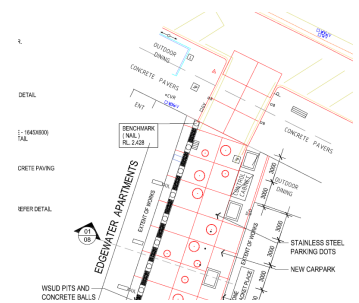
The Colac Otway Shire also have two projects being a footpath construction in Forrest

and the Wye River Slip.

These project will utilize materials that will reduce the carbon footprint of these projects. The cost of the projects will be assessed against traditional designs and materials.

Once these projects are completed a report will be prepared on the projects.

This will enable the IDM to determine whether to adopt or modify the proposed guidelines



Part of the plans for the Steampacket Place Redevelopment

IDM GROUP

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The IDM group is a group of 40 Councils who have adopted a single infrastructure design manual (IDM) that applies to their municipality. They have agreed to work together to maintain and promote the IDM. The group have identified the following benefits of the IDM:

- sharing financial and human resources to produce an IDM that will satisfy the requirements of the councils involved in the project;
- developing more consistency amongst design requirements for council officers, consultants and developers working in the municipalities;
- providing a stronger basis for the IDM at the Victorian Civil Appeals Tribunal as the design requirements have been developed and adopted by a number of municipalities rather than one;
- sharing of ideas and practices helps councils to adopt the best practice of each; and
- providing greater certainty for developers and reducing assessment timeframes which ultimately leads to reduced costs for developers.

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Bits and Pieces

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome two new members to the IDM Group. The Rural City of Swan Hill and the Pyrenees Shire Council have become members and we look forward to their contribution in our meetings.

This brings our official membership up to 40 Councils. Membership of the group is also being considered by the Rural City of Mildura.

WE SAY GOODBYE TO

Rob Leeson City of Ballarat who has taken up a position outside Local Government.

Shannon Galea, Shire of Glenelg who has taken up position with the Shire of Campaspe.

We wish them well in their new positions and look forward to working with their replacements.

CURRENT ISSUES

The IDM Technical Committee will be considering the following issues:

- Memorandum of Understanding for Construction Supervision
- Having a requirement for CCTV of underground drainage assets
- New landscaping clause
- Reviewing GAA IDM to see what we use to improve our IDM.



Is this what we want our streets to look like?

The challenge is to get the right width of street and nature strips so that street trees can be accommodated into the streetscape without damaging utility services and Council infrastructure.

Calendar Dates:

Next Technical Committee Meeting 10am 18 October 2013 at Whitehaven Receptions Whittlesea. Note that at 1 pm there will be a special meeting to vote on whether to form the Local Government Infrastructure Design Association

Next IDM Board Meeting 10 am 1 November Whitehaven Receptions Whittlesea.