

Integration of WALIS and SLIP

- WALIS Executive Policy Committee supports full integration of the WALIS Office and the SLIP project.
- WALIS Office will retain its coordinating and strategic policy role.
- SLIP will move from a development project into operation as the Western Australian spatial data infrastructure, known as WALIS.

The Western Australian Land Information System (WALIS) has been in operation for 25 years with a primary goal of creating and maintaining a spatial data infrastructure for Western Australia.¹ The WALIS Program covers all activities that the WALIS member agencies (state government departments) undertake in relation to the development and maintenance of land information. The primary role of the WALIS Office is to support the overall WALIS program.

In 2004, the Department of Land Information proposed to the WALIS community the development of some business applications in order to make better use of an enabling framework infrastructure that the department was building. This proposal was in line with both the WALIS strategy and the State Government's e-government strategy aimed at improving government connectivity. The project, which was fully endorsed by the WALIS community and funded by government, became known as the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP).

At present, the SLIP project is addressing the primary requirements of three of the six focus areas of the WALIS Strategy 2004-07. Two other business applications are currently being conceptualised under the banner of the SLIP project and these will largely address two further WALIS strategy focus areas.

The WALIS Executive Policy Committee (EPC), the main governing body of WALIS, supports the closer alignment of the roles of WALIS Office and the SLIP project. SLIP, initially, was a specific project, funded from a variety of sources, to implement the core platform of sharing spatial data, as well as pursue some business opportunities using that shared data. Once implemented, SLIP continues in operation as the platform providing a WA SDI.

The EPC supports WALIS Office, from 1 May 2006, being incorporated into the Information Access Division of DLI so that WALIS Office staff and the SLIP team work together as a unit. As a project, SLIP will continue to operate during the current agreed implementation phase and then will become the WA SDI, known as WALIS.

The current governing structure of the WALIS Program will not change. The EPC will be responsible for the governance of WALIS, with the Core Management Group (CMG) overseeing the strategic and policy components of the WALIS Program. WALIS Council will remain the central coordinating body of WALIS.

¹ Spatial Data Infrastructure is described as the technologies, policies and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. SDI is considered by ANZLIC as the relevant base collection of technologies, policies and institutional arrangements that facilitate the availability of and access to spatial data.