

WALIS Spatial Management Group

Response to

“A Review of the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP)” prepared by Research Solutions

May 2009

Introduction

The Western Australian Land Information System (WALIS) engaged Research Solutions to undertake a post-implementation review (PIR) of SLIP. SLIP was funded by the WA Government in 2004, with implementation of the project beginning in 2005 through four lead agencies, Landgate (Department of Land Information), Department of Agriculture and Food, Department for Planning and Infrastructure and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority. SLIP was launched to the WA Government in 2007 and to industry in 2008.

A review of the SLIP program against the targets outlined in the original implementation plan had already been undertaken. This had found that all the targets had been met, with several having been exceeded. For example, the implementation plan called for an enabling platform to be built (“SLIP Enabler”) and for four prototype or pilot business applications to be developed. Three of these prototype/pilots have now become fully functioning systems.

The primary objective of this PIR was to gauge the perceived value of SLIP to WALIS member agencies and the extent to which it has enhanced the delivery of services or improved efficiencies for them.

The report contains a range of recommendations that have been considered by the WALIS Spatial Management Group. The response of WALIS SMG to these recommendations and the actions that WALIS will undertake to address the recommendations are outlined in this report. This report should be read in conjunction with the PIR report.

Recommendations

- 1. Strategic direction, leadership and governance. The review highlighted the need for WALIS to reassess the governance model for SLIP, with a view to installing a Board that has the passion and skills to drive its future development and communication.***

WALIS SMG fully supports this recommendation and has initiated a full review of the governance structure of WALIS (and SLIP). At the time the PIR report was being finalised, the WALIS Advisory Committee was disbanded and this fact has also highlighted the need to develop a new governance structure to meet the requirements of the 21st Century. It is likely that the new governance model will include a Board comprising representatives from both government and industry. The new model will be completed for implementation following WALIS International Forum 2009.

- 2. Engagement of agencies in terms of project funding. SLIP must more effectively coordinate existing and potential government agencies to harness their involvement, secure funding and actively develop SLIP into the future.***

SMG supports this recommendation, including the need to develop an effective communication strategy. Such a strategy is on the work program for WALIS Office and will be developed during 2009. Consideration will also be given to having an economic analysis of the benefits of SLIP undertaken.

The recommendation also touches on the problem of funding further expansion of SLIP. New focus areas of SLIP, for example Marine, are considered high priorities across government but are not rated as the "highest" priority for any one agency. Government funding allocations tend to be directed to single agencies rather than for programs spanning several agencies.

3. *Improved marketing and education procedures. SLIP needs to be treated like a brand and a dedicated marketing and education program should be established.*

SMG supports this recommendation. A communication and marketing plan for SLIP is on the work program for WALIS Office and will be developed during latter part of 2009 with a launch of the plan scheduled for WALIS Forum in November 2009.

4. *Improved communication, including internal communication between project teams, between WALIS and member agencies/organisations and utilising WAC's experience.*

SMG considers that the Operations Coordination Group under the WALIS Council has not been functioning effectively and this will need to be re-established with appropriate terms of reference for this period of consolidation of the SLIP program into the normal operations of WALIS member agencies.

A restructure of the OCG will be undertaken as part of the review of the governance structure of WALIS. Means by which appropriate input from the various projects teams for SLIP can be achieved will be considered through consultation with members of the project teams.

5. *A commercialisation plan; in particular the ways in which better engagement of the private sector can be achieved.*

Significant work is being done in this area already, however only by Landgate rather than by the whole WALIS community involved in SLIP. SMG accepts the work being undertaken by Landgate is largely opportunistic rather than being done in a planned way. This will require a strategic direction through the new governance model, which will also need to take into consideration the fact that commercialisation of SLIP will largely occur through Landgate and that it will not be able to be fully planned. However, principles for commercialisation have not yet been developed and will be a priority.

6. *Improved implementation procedures amongst the private sector*

This recommendation is closely linked to (5) above. SMG agrees that principles and procedures need to be developed.

7. *Take a coordinated approach to local government agencies*

WALIS will engage WALGA and the local government GIS focus group to consider ways in which to better engage local government.