

THE EVOLUTION FROM A SIMPLE PLANNING DOCUMENT TO AN INTEGRATED ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Abstract

Although New Zealand (NZ) local government have been developing asset management plans (AMP) for a number of years, it became a significant part of the asset management philosophy as a result of the Local Government Act of 2002 and Amendments of 2010. The Act mostly focuses on the requirements for councils in terms of how they need to manage the infrastructure in consultation with the community, but it also specify reporting requirements that include a Long-term Plan (10-year planning horizon) and asset management plans, both these are reviewed every three years. Therefore, NZ has been through three iterations of improvements of the plan, yet more importantly, over time has developed from the AMP to be largely a planning document to some of these becoming integrated asset management plans that governs agencies in all activities that aims at achieving the set goals from the asset management processes.

During 2006 a comprehensive review was undertaken of all AMP from the road sector in NZ. An interesting and profound finding from the review was that agencies had to be reviewed in terms of not only the quality of their AMPs but also in terms of how well their processes actually follow and refer back to the AMP. Some agencies had robust AMP but unfortunately it ended up on book shelves around their offices. Other agencies were doing fantastic work in the asset management area, yet they were not able to translate these into a strong and robust AMP.

This presentation will summarize New Zealand's experience of asset management plans over the last decade. A framework of assessing and reporting on the quality of asset management plans will be presented together with some practical advice on how to get the most from the AMP development process. Some of the current limitation in the current practice will be discussed from perspective of how it could be address in the future.