



# Introducing AUS-SPEC

## What is AUS-SPEC?

AUS-SPEC is the national specification system for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of local government assets. It is the only comprehensive Australian national specification system for local government assets that is regularly updated to reflect the latest changes in regulations and standards.

As a joint venture between NATSPEC and IPWEA, AUS-SPEC promotes standardisation and consistency in documentation across Local Government infrastructure works to increase competition, productivity and efficient use of resources.

The AUS-SPEC system provides tools, technical specification templates, a framework and processes to document requirements for various asset life cycle activities for buildings, roadworks, urban and open spaces and public utilities.

## Who is NATSPEC?

NATSPEC is a national not-for-profit organisation owned by the design, build, construct and property industries through professional associations and Government bodies. It aims to improve the quality and productivity of the built environment through leadership of information.

NATSPEC maintains the National Building Specification, a comprehensive specification system for all building structures. It also maintains AUS-SPEC, the National BIM Guide and the National Classification System.

NATSPEC is the preferred specification system for design and building professionals.

## Who is IPWEA?

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) is the peak association for infrastructure asset management and professionals who deliver public works and engineering services.

IPWEA is committed to developing the capacity and capability of the sector and providing comprehensive educational programs, conferences and technical publications.

It offers the chance to network and collaborate with peers both locally and internationally.

## Where does AUS-SPEC fit into the big picture?

IPWEA resources such as the eBook Library, NAMS+ and AUS-SPEC are designed to work together. Each fosters a scalable and consistent approach to the effective lifecycle management of public works infrastructure assets.

The suite of Manuals and Practice Notes in the eBook Library provides focus on 'How' to apply the principles documented in the ISO 55000 and 31000 series of standards, otherwise known as the 'What' is required.

At the strategic and tactical level, NAMS+ is the online Asset Management planning toolkit that assists organisations in writing and keeping up-to-date their Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plans aligned to the Financial Strategy and Plan.

AUS-SPEC on the other hand provides a library of operational civil design, construction and maintenance specification templates for any size engineering project and activity.

AUS-SPEC promotes standardisation and consistency in documentation across all Local Government infrastructure works to increase competition, productivity and efficient use of resources.

Combined, the IPWEA resources help any asset intensive entity realise the best possible value from their investment in infrastructure assets.

The diagram below shows the relationship between the asset management functions, hierarchy of documents in the Asset Management System and the IPWEA eBook Library, NAMS+ and AUS-SPEC resources.



# SSROC Procure Recycled: Paving the Way Using AUS-SPEC

In Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils' initiative *Procure Recycled: Paving the Way*, 16 councils have collaborated to substitute recycled crushed glass for natural sand in asphalt. AUS-SPEC assures safety and performance.

Councils save 20% in costs and create a closed-loop market for one third of domestic glass collections. AUS-SPEC worksection 1144 *Asphalt (Roadways)* provides the maximum percentage allowances, types of glass, nominal size, properties, contamination limits, and testing specifications of granulated glass aggregate. With local government actively promoting sustainability, AUS-SPEC adds value through specifications and stakeholder engagement.



## IPWEA and AUS-SPEC

IPWEA is renowned for its best practice, industry-leading publications and training. Our solutions management approach is highly valued by councils, government and the private sector. AUS-SPEC was developed by IPWEA Australasia to provide nationally consistent civil work specifications for councils. This prevents duplication of effort and reduces costs.

The AUS-SPEC library of civil engineering design, construction and maintenance templates brings a shared professional language and process to engineering projects. In the current environment of increasing pressure on resource allocation, these publications are a tool to streamline asset life cycle planning and maintenance, while maintaining the essential focus on community safety and risk prevention.



David Jenkins, CEO,  
IPWEA Australasia

## New Resources for Rural and Regional Councils

Local government is responsible for approximately 678,000 km (77%) of the total road length in Australia. Rural and regional councils account for 585,000 km (86%) of this road length with around two-thirds being unsealed. These roads are the lifeline for many communities and councils are facing ever increasing challenges to ensure service levels are fit for purpose. Substandard roads can be detrimental to these communities.

In 2021, the *ALGA National State of the Assets Report* found that only 50% of unsealed roads were at an acceptable standard. Effective maintenance plans can slow down deterioration, increase efficiency and performance outcomes.

AUS-SPEC has added new resources to its existing suite of offerings for rural and regional councils including the 'Rural Roads Package'. When councils collaborate at a regional level using AUS-SPEC resources, they create a consistent approach to infrastructure delivery and maintenance.

Check out the Rural Roads package, TECHnote *NTN GEN 027 Maintenance of Unsealed Roads* and TECHreport *TR 08 Management of Gravel Pits in Country Areas* on the [AUS-SPEC website](#).





“AUS-SPEC provides Council with an annually updated, comprehensive specification and contract documentation suite. This was developed in consultation with the wider industry, and is well suited to the urban and rural environment that Council maintains and enhances by means of remediation works and the realisation of capital works projects.”

Alex Burjan, Contract Administrator, Liverpool City Council

**Want to know more? Get in touch today!**



[www.aus-spec.com.au](http://www.aus-spec.com.au)



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