

Rural Roads Specification Package

AUS-SPEC, a joint venture between IPWEA and NATSPEC, released the Rural Roads Specification Package, in response to challenges faced by regional, rural and remote councils. The national local government specification system, AUS-SPEC has been used by local councils since 1997. This package is part of an ongoing investment by AUS-SPEC to support rural councils manage their large network of road assets.

The AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package will equip councils to implement improved practices across the asset lifecycle. The package covers documentation for planning, design, tendering, contract preliminaries, construction, maintenance and operation of regional and rural roads. Several new specifications and reference documents included in the package will assist rural Councils to effectively manage their sealed and unsealed road network.

- // National specifications updated annually**
- // Quick and easy compilation with SPECbuilder**
- // Follows the National classification system**
- // Better practices for design, construction, maintenance and operations of local rural roads**

Local councils manage approximately 80% of Australia's total road network, comprising a mix of sealed and unsealed roads. Roads in regional and rural areas provide a vital link between local communities and the major road networks. The design, construction and maintenance of these roads are generally implemented using traditional materials and practices, without sufficient scientific methodology. To improve service delivery and meet local community needs, rural councils need better ways to design, construct and proactively maintain their road assets.



Unsealed road



Sealed road

Enhanced technical skills are required to understand that sealed and unsealed local roads are dynamic systems with traffic, environment, road profile and material characteristics influencing their performance. Material blending can be used to reduce defects on the weather exposed unsealed wearing courses. Material and techniques for the placement of material are the only elements that can be controlled and improved.

AUS-SPEC has identified ways Councils can extend the life of constructed assets. These life extension methods are documented in the AUS-SPEC worksections and other new additional reference documents including *TECHguides*, *TECHnotes*, *TECHreports*, *Design reference and checklists*, *Construction reference and schedules*.

AUS-SPEC national documents have been specifically tailored towards local government. Rural and remote councils will benefit from the AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package by:

- ✓ Easily documenting the design, construction and maintenance of road network using SPECbuilder, the outlined specification compiler.
- ✓ Assist councils in bridging the gap where there is a lack of in-house engineering capability to efficiently deliver road assets.
- ✓ Significantly improving the structural integrity, safety and performance of sealed and unsealed roads.

Full details of the list of worksections included and their abstracts are available on www.aus-spec.com.au

Rural Roads Package

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.

Why a national specification?

As a national system, AUS-SPEC promotes national uniformity and good practice in specifications for local governments, whilst allowing for inclusion of local requirements.

About NATSPEC

NATSPEC is a national not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve the construction quality and productivity of the sustainable built environment through leadership of information. It is impartial and not involved in advocacy and policy.

IPWEA is recognised for its best-practice, industry-leading publications and training programs, with a solutions-focused approach that is highly valued by local Councils, Government agencies, and the private sector.

AUS SPEC was developed in partnership with IPWEA Australasia, AUS-SPEC delivers nationally consistent civil specifications that help Councils reduce duplication, lower costs, and improve efficiency.

The AUS-SPEC library provides comprehensive templates for the design, construction, and maintenance of civil infrastructure. In an environment of increasing pressure on resources, these tools support streamlined asset lifecycle planning and maintenance—while keeping community safety and risk management at the forefront.



David Jenkins
CEO, IPWEA Australasia



“We definitely refer to AUS-SPEC specifications heavily throughout the design phase and use them to help formulate a practical design that is going to be workable, efficient and effective.”

*Mark Johnston, Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Design,
Dubbo Regional Council*

“We set a high benchmark for the civil works, and the AUS-SPEC documents provided very clear details so there was no ambiguity and they knew exactly what was expected from them.”

Stuart Small, Team Leader Project Delivery, Midcoast Council



AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package**Annual**☐ Rural roads

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