What’s new?

1. Around the World

and

2. Here at home
What’s new around the world?

- America is waking up
- A world wide pattern emerging for AM to be seen as a subset of accounting
- Accountants and Engineers are not the only players in the game
Theme 1: America is Waking Up

- May 5-6 Water Industry AM Washington workshop to look at:
  - Training initiatives
  - Tools and Techniques
  - Open Source AM software for small communities
  - Security initiatives
  - Environmental Management Systems
The Program

- Utility presentations on lessons learnt in implementing AM
- Lessons from experience overseas
- Educational and Professional Development Initiatives
- Future challenges
- Breakout sessions (4 of these, 60% of agenda)
  - Utility co-ordination and collaboration, Education and Training; Research; Institutional relationships (including regulatory)
Co-ordinated Effort

- When Americans get serious, they can be impressive.
- Much to watch over the next several years
- Good website: www.bcwater
- What’s a sewer spill worth?
- Watch out for SAM 165 May 13th!
Theme 2: AM a finance subset

- South Africa – AM guidelines make the CFO responsible for AM
- UK – Recent report to the UK Treasury claimed that the level of asset sales achieved was a measure of AM effectiveness
- USA – GASB 34
- Australia – NSW Treasury takes over the TAM process
Should AM be a finance subset?

- **Pro:**
  - Sound accountability processes
  - Responsible for resource allocation

- **Con:**
  - Short term, budget year tends to dominate
  - Apt to see performance not in service outcome terms but in terms of financial performance
But…

- Theme 3: Engineers and Accountants are not the only players.

- Who else should be considered?
Theme 3: The “Other Players”

- Regulators
- The missing pieces of the puzzle
  - Client services
  - Community
    - Decision Makers
    - Opinion Formers
    - The Community itself
We ignore these at our peril!

- Client services should have the best ‘feel’ of all about how service needs are likely to change in future years
- Regulators need to understand the link between cost and service
- Communities need to learn to avoid political blandishments
Community and Opinion
Formers

- “Canberra warns of threat to bush rail”
- “Work for migrants but nowhere to live”
- “Private hospitals to help cut waiting time”
- “Park to be sold to developer” and “Ranks in Revolt”

1 ½ pages out of the first 7 news pages in ‘The Australian’, 18th April - infrastructure stories.
If we

- Want to create a world that we will be proud to have our kids inherit
- We need to *take AM into the community*
- We need to *bridge the gap between Community Decision Makers and Asset Specialists*
Objectives
Encourage decisions on infrastructure that are “long term” and “community” oriented (not “me” and “right now”)
Develop skills in “Thinking forward” – imaging possible futures
Suggestions to date

- **A competitive Sim City Game** to increase awareness of the trade-offs necessary for long term community health and vitality, but also to develop possible community options.

- **Hypotheticals.** Similar to the Geoffrey Robertson hypotheticals televised some years ago, these would concentrate on community futures themes and the impact on and influence of infrastructure decisions.
More ACORN Activities

- **Be a Tourist in Your Own Town.** Tours to see and understand the infrastructure and what it contributes to community wellbeing.

- **ACORN Community Leadership Awards.** Ways of recognising and disseminating good community practice by way of bridging the gap between decision makers and asset specialists.
More ACORN activities

- **Conversation Cafes.** Asset management, like democracy, requires a community that is knowledgeable and conscious of its options.

- “What if” Organisational Workshops

- Scenario Development
ACORN Live!

- Every **Sunday evening, 8-9 pm, your local time**, meet virtually with others to help design the program of activities.
- **www.acorninc.org**
- Or add your comments any time during the week.
Thank You!

Hope to see you online soon

www.acorninc.org