Auckland Council

Combining eight spatial environments into one

"e-Spatial made a very complex problem appear easy."

THE SITUATION

Auckland Council's vision is to create the world's most liveable city. Ensuring clients have timely access to quality information and the appropriate tools are essential towards achieving this objective.

Auckland is New Zealand's first Super City. It has transpired as a result of the amalgamation of eight separate councils.

Spatial services are considered a core function for enabling Auckland Council to meet its vision and objectives. However, the eight disparate geospatial environments could not deliver to internal and external client's expectations and needed to be brought together as one entity.

THE ISSUE

The challenge for Auckland Council was to define, quantify and plan the transition to a single spatial platform. Their undertaking was to develop a Business Case to support the objectives they had set for the Geospatial Future Mode of Operations (GFMO), by providing an estimate for the effort and cost required to transition the eight geospatial environments to a single platform.

Auckland Council was looking for a spatial team of experts with the breadth of skills, capability and talent required, to partner with to achieve this goal.

New Zealand's leading independent spatial consulting firm.

THE SOLUTION

e-Spatial's consultants were engaged to provide an assessment of the following with regard to Auckland Council's spatial services:

- Snapshot of the Current State – a business analysis exercise was conducted which documented each of the eight legacy councils spatial applications, processes, interfaces and key data sets;
- Recommendations for the Transitional State – e-Spatial's consultants focused on the spatial applications, processes and interfaces that would be affected as part of the consolidation phase. A four-stage business transformation model was produced which consisted of; Stabilisation; Consolidation; Transformation; Optimisation.
- Recommendations for the Future State – all identified requirements were evaluated against the GFMO. A solution description was developed, detailing the high-level features of the GFMO geospatial infrastructure (enterprise services, data management, applications, mobility, components). The architecture was based on Esri software with additional software components in the specialist areas of data manipulation, transformation services and 3-D capabilities.

"e-Spatial made a very complex problem appear easy and the results of this project have gone a long way in obtaining commitment to our programme objectives. Their approach was professional and thought provoking. I would welcome the opportunity to work with e-Spatial again."

– Ian Smith, Auckland Council

THE RESULT

High-level cost estimates for each legacy council's effort were produced which were then used to prioritise the programmes of work within the project plan. The information gathered and presented by e-Spatial supported Auckland Council's GFMO Business Case, allowing them to invest further in the project. The many benefits that the GFMO will create include:

- Generating operational stability;
- Enabling internal efficiencies;
- Adding tangible value to the organisation;
- Allowing Auckland Council to provide a spatial platform to support a strong, dynamic culture throughout the enterprise.

A five year spatial transition project commenced in 2011, aimed at bringing the eight legacy spatial environments into one consolidated environment.

A shared spatial service is a key future development to improve overall levels of service, reduce costs, improve efficiencies and increase the value of spatial to the whole region.