

# RapidMap Integrated Systems Help to Streamline Asset Maintenance for Nillumbik

While most Councils now clearly consider asset maintenance tasks such as the elimination of footpath trip hazards to be a high priority, for many, collecting and managing up-to-date and accurate condition data has proven to be a complex and onerous task. Together with the difficulties associated with collecting accurate field data quickly and efficiently, without the right systems in place, the task of collating and maintaining the data so that it can be used to produce 'meaningful' reports and work orders can also be extremely time consuming - making it both impractical and cost-prohibitive.

With that in mind, a growing number of Councils are now turning to a unique suite of computer based asset maintenance solutions from Melbourne-based specialists *RapidMap*.

From the PDA-based *RapidView* in-field asset and condition data collection system, through to the Web-based *RapidAsset* Asset Management & Maintenance System, these state-of-the-art solutions are providing Councils with a fast, efficient and user-friendly method of collecting, managing and utilising asset condition data.

As one of the ever-increasing number of Councils that has made the move to the *RapidMap* systems, Nillumbik Shire Council in Melbourne's outer north-east stands as an ideal example of the benefits of utilising this 'cutting edge' technology. David Fricke, Asset Coordinator with Nillumbik Shire Council, explained:

"As is the case for many Councils throughout Australia, prior to the introduction of the *RapidView* and *RapidAsset* systems, collecting asset condition data in relation to issues such as faults along roads, kerb and channel and footpaths, and then utilising this

information to produce works orders, was time-consuming and extremely labour-intensive."

"What's more, the fact we are in an urban/rural interface area means that along many of our roads, identifying faults and pin-pointing specific locations for our maintenance crews can be extremely difficult."

"Introducing the *RapidView* and *RapidAsset* systems has helped to streamline our entire asset maintenance process. As well as allowing us to seamlessly link our asset inspection and maintenance processes, the fact that it also utilises GPS (Global Positioning System) technology, means that we are able to identify and locate assets and maintenance requirements quickly and accurately - even along our rural roads," David Fricke said.

Nillumbik first introduced the systems to collect and process 'hazard' data from across the Shire's roads, kerb and channel and footpath network in response to the requirements of the Road Management Act.

The Shire employs a full-time Field Inspector who travels through the Shire making scheduled inspections of the road and footpath network, as well as responding

to and checking footpath hazards and maintenance issues that are reported by ratepayers. When hazards are found, the Field Inspector marks the location on the map displayed via the PDA-based *RapidView* system, while also noting the nature of the hazard and seriousness of the hazard using a pre-determined 'severity code'. The on-screen *RapidView* forms can be configured to accept a wide variety of data for the works order and for reporting purposes. When the Field Inspector returns to the office, the hazard data is downloaded to the central *RapidAsset* system, together



**Above:** Hazards are marked on the map displayed via the PDA-based *RapidView* System.

(Photo: Anthony T Schmidt)

continued over page

with the date and time. The system then also synchronises the map and asset data on the PDA with the data on the central *RapidAsset* system, thereby ensuring that both systems are utilising the latest up-to-date information.

Once loaded into the *RapidAsset* system, the hazard information is then analysed and maintenance work prioritised according to the seriousness of the hazard and the category of the footpath (in terms of average number of pedestrians, location, etc). The system then produces prioritised maintenance works orders which also group jobs according to their location.

When the maintenance work has been completed, data relating to the type of repairs made and date/time of repair are entered into the *RapidAsset* system at the works depot. This not only confirms that the problem has been rectified and the hazard removed, it also provides a detailed audit trail as to when the fault was reported, and when & how the fault was rectified - both of which can be critical factors in defending 'non-feasance' actions.

Importantly, the *RapidView* and *RapidAsset* systems have proven to be so successful in managing the data relating to road and footpath hazards and faults, that Nillumbik is now also using the system to track hazards, faults and maintenance

issues for the Shire's reserve-based assets, including park furniture, playing fields, trees and playground equipment, as well as for Council's buildings.

"We're extremely pleased with the performance of the *RapidView* and *RapidAsset* systems. They're reliable, easy-to-use, and perhaps most importantly, they provide us with an extremely fast and efficient method of managing our asset maintenance needs," David Fricke said.

For further information, please visit the Website: [www.rapidmap.com.au](http://www.rapidmap.com.au) or contact RapidMap, Ph: (03) 9455 1699, Fax: (03) 9455 1990, or e-Mail: [info@rapidmap.com.au](mailto:info@rapidmap.com.au) quoting "Municipal Engineering in Australia".



**Above:** The hazard data from the PDA is downloaded to the central *RapidAsset* system.

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- asset maintenance and inspection systems
- field data capture services
- GPS, GIS and mapping solutions

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