

Myth busters

Myth 1

Asset Acceptance checks and reviews every aspect of the submission including EDP and Detail Design.

- ✦ The developer/consultant is responsible for the overall content of the submission. Asset Acceptance has limited resources to review submissions planned and designed over many months and in some cases years. The way to a successful submission is pre meetings and communications on areas of risk or non compliance.

Myth 2

Asset Acceptance is not interested in looking at new innovative products.

- ✦ We are very interested in new products and innovative design solutions however, we are mindful of the effect on the whole of life costs. It is important proposals for new products include recommendations that clearly identify the costs of the whole of life maintenance compared with current products.
- ✦ The lead time for review of new products is relatively long; however, there are some key hints that will assist in this review. New products should be raised in the quarterly meetings as they become of interest to industry so that we can develop a process for assessing them. The earlier the new product can be raised with us the better. It is difficult to raise it after you have submitted your design and it is unlikely that it will be addressed without delaying this process.

Myth 3

There is no way to resolve issues with Asset Acceptance.

- ✦ There has been an escalation process in place for a couple of years now which has been promoted through our roundtables each quarter. It starts with your project officer, and then there is the Operations Manager, Senior Manager and the Director. We will send further details of this process out through our "Process Change Notices". We encourage you to use this process if you are not able to resolve issues with the project officer and/or his/her manager.

Myth 4

Asset Acceptance as a single point of contact restricts information sharing within other areas of TAMS and Government, especially the maintenance areas.

- ✦ Asset Acceptance works closely with all areas of TAMS and other Government directorates. If you would like a meeting with any area of Government or TAMS associated with your submission, we are very happy to set up these meetings and have been for some time. It is important Asset Acceptance is involved in these meetings as we have found when meetings are held without us it can lead consultants in the wrong direction, slow down the review process even further or, worse, create rework on both sides.

Myth 5

Asset Acceptance will not deviate from standards, codes and guidelines.

- ✦ We regularly deviate and modify our position on standards, codes and guidelines and sometimes this is seen in industry as "inconsistent", however, it is important to have these discussions prior to formal submission and for the consultant to show why we need to deviate. A key area is to ensure that all aspects of safety and good design have been applied. Neither party should just gloss over the standards, codes and guidelines; they are our foundation and baseline from which all good decisions can be created.