

## **RURAL ROAD ADDRESSING**

### **SO WHAT IS RURAL ROAD ADDRESSING (RRA)**

UP UNTILL THE 1990s AUSTRALIA HAD NO STANDARD APPROACH TO RURAL ROAD ADDRESSING. IN MANY CASES IT WAS SIMPLY - THE SECOND HOUSE ON THE LEFT PAST THE BIG GUM TREE. IN THE LATE 1980s A RURAL SHIRE IN VICTORIA “CORIO” DEVELOPED A MODEL FOR RRA. THIS WAS FURTHER DEVELOPED AND REFINED BY AN AUSTRALIAN & N.Z. WORKING GROUP UNDER THE BANNER OF ANZLIC (AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND LAND COUNCIL) WHICH IN 1995 PRODUCED A SET OF GUIDELINES FOR THE SYSTEMATIC ADDRESSING OF RURAL PROPERTIES REFERRED TO AS THE ANZLIC GUIDELINES. A DRAFT AUST/N.Z. STANDARD FOR RRA BASED ON THE MODEL AND THE ANZLIC GUIDELINES WAS ISSUED FOR COMMENT IN 1997. THE STANDARD IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED THIS YEAR. UNTILL THIS STANDARD IS RELEASED THE ANZLIC GUIDELINES WILL REMAIN AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RRA.

THIS MODEL PROVIDES THE MECHANISM TO ACCURATELY IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF ALL RURAL PROPERTIES ON A STATEWIDE BASIS. IT ALSO PROVIDES THE ESSENTIAL LINK IN ESTABLISHING AN IMPROVED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN WHICH QUEENSLAND’S ESSENTIAL SERVICES CAN OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

THIS INITIATIVE IS SUPPORTED BY BOTH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND AND THE QUEENSLAND STATE GOVERNMENT THROUGH IT’S DEPARTMENT’S - QUEENSLAND EMERGENCY SERVICES, MAIN ROADS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THE LATTER THROUGH IT’S ROLE AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR QSIIC (QLD SPATIAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL).

### **USING THE MODEL**

RURAL ADDRESS NUMBERS ARE ALLOCATED IN A LOGICAL MANNER BASED ON THE DISTANCE OF THE PROPERTY ENTRANCE FROM THE NOMINATED START OF THE ACCESS ROAD, BE IT A TOWN CENTRE OR THE INTERSECTION OF TWO ROADS. IT IS A SIMPLE AND PERMANENT MEANS OF IDENTIFYING, LOCATING AND ADDRESSING PROPERTIES IN RURAL AREAS. IT ALSO HAS SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO HANDLE FUTURE SUB-DIVISION.

THE MEASURED DISTANCE IN METRES IS DIVIDED BY 10 AND THE RESULTANT No ROUNDED DOWN TO PROVIDE THE RURAL ROAD ADDRESS NUMBER - EVEN Nos ON THE RIGHT AND ODD Nos ON THE LEFT.

TYPICAL RRAs WOULD BE :-

K.M AND M.P. JONES  
“YARRAWONGA”  
4526 BARRIER HIGHWAY  
KURWONGBAH QLD 4503

JOHNS PASTORAL COMPANY  
353 HEN AND CHICKEN LANE  
KINGAROY QLD 4617

NOTE THE INCLUSION OF THE LOCALITY NAME IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE RRA.

### **PURPOSE**

RURAL RESIDENTS ARE BEING DISADVANTAGED BY NOT HAVING A CLEARLY DEFINED ADDRESS. LOT NUMBERS, ROADSIDE MAILBOX NUMBERS AND FAMILY NAMES HAVE ALL BEEN USED IN THE PAST . THIS MAY HAVE WORKED FOR THOSE WITH LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, BUT IN 1998 IT IS PROVING EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO COORDINATE AND ADMINISTER, ESPECIALLY BY NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCIL STAFF OR ADJOINING REGIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.

IN PARTICULAR ACCOMADATING SUCH A ‘LOCAL’ SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING AN ADDRESS IS CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WISHING TO COMMUNICATE WITH RURAL PEOPLE, FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS INCLUDING HOME DELIVERY SERVICES, AND FOR ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO RELATE A PROPERTY ADDRESS TO A LEGAL

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION. SIGNIFICANT TIME IS LOST AND UNNECESSARY COSTS IMPOSED ON SUCH OPERATIONS .

### **WHO BENEFITS ?**

THE WHOLE RURAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM RRA. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MODEL ALSO PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT EFFICIENCIES TO GOVERNMENT - NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL IN TERMS OF STANDARDISING THIS IMPORTANT SPATIAL DATA FEATURE. THESE EQUATE TO SIGNIFICANT DOLLAR SAVINGS IN OPERATIONAL COSTS, ADMINISTRATION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ADDRESS RELATED INFORMATION DATABASES.

BESIDES THE SIGNIFICANT MEASUREABLE SAVINGS RESULTING FROM HAVING AN ACCURATE AND RELIABLE RA SYSTEM IN PLACE, RECOGNITION MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE AREAS WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO MEASURE IN TERMS OF DOLLARS SUCH AS THE LIVES AND PROPERTIES WHICH WILL BE SAVED BECAUSE OF THE REDUCED RESPONSE TIMES OF EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS SUCH AS AMBULANCE AND FIRE

OTHER BENEFITS WHICH MAY NOT SO READILY COME TO MIND ARE :-

- OTHER VITAL SERVICES - POLICE , DOCTORS, AND THE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE - WILL BE ABLE TO FIND YOUR PROPERTY WITHOUT DELAY OR CONFUSION, POTENTIALLY AVERTING SERIOUS INJURY, PROPERTY LOSS OR DESTRUCTION, DISASTER OR EVEN LOSS OF LIFE
- IT WILL SIMPLIFY THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S TASK OF ENSURING THAT ALL VOTERS ARE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL.
- IT WILL ASSIST THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS TO CONDUCT MORE MEANINGFUL SURVEYS, MANY OF WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY HELP SUPPORT PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND THE RURAL COMMUNITY.
- IT WILL ENABLE COMMERCIAL CARRIERS AND DELIVERY ORGANISATIONS TO LOCATE RURAL PROPERTIES WITH EASE, ENSURING THAT ALL DELIVERIES ARE MADE QUICKLY AND TO THE RIGHT ADDRESS.

- A RA CAN BE EASILY FACTORED INTO A WIDE RANGE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES.
- THE ADDRESS FOR MAIL DELIVERIES WILL BE SIMPLIFIED AND STANDARDISED. THIS COULD LEAD TO AN IMPROVED SERVICE.
- VETS AND LIVESTOCK OFFICERS WILL FIND IT EASIER TO LOCATE ANY PROPERTY THEY ARE CALLED TO, POSSIBLY SAVING VALUABLE LIVESTOCK BY PROVIDING SPEEDIER ASSISTANCE.
- SINCE ALL RURAL TOURIST FEATURES AND ACCOMADATION WILL BE GIVEN NEW, SIMPLE-TO-FIND ADDRESSES, TOURIST CONFUSION WILL BE MINIMISED OR EVEN ELIMINATED BY RA, THUS POTENTIALLY KEEPING THE TOURIST DOLLAR IN YOUR AREA - AND THAT HAS TO BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS!

### **JUSTIFICATION**

ONE OF THE GREATEST BENEFITS OF ACCURATE AND RELIABLE ADDRESSING IS THE ABILITY TO HELP SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY BY REDUCED RESPONSE TIMES OF EMERGENCY SERVICES.

ADDITIONALLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOTH RECOGNISE THE BENEFIT OF LINKING ADDRESS INFORMATION TO THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION. SUCH A “LOT PLAN/ STREET ADDRESS” INDEX REQUIRES UNIQUE AND CONSISTENT ADDRESS INFORMATION.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ADDRESSING INFORMATION FOR RATING PURPOSES AND IN THE PROVISION OF MANY OTHER COUNCIL SERVICES. STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS DNR DEPEND ON ACCURATE ROAD ADDRESSING INFORMATION TO EXPEDITE THE ANNUAL VALUATION PROCESS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS.

QUEENSLAND EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE CONTINUALLY HAMPERED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO RURAL PROPERTY FIRES; TREATMENT OF THE ILL, AGED AND DISABLED; FLOOD RESCUE AND PERSONAL INJURY, BY AN INADEQUATE OR INCORRECT ADDRESSING NETWORK.

### **WHY COMPLY WITH ANZLIC GUIDELINES?**

THE ANZLIC MODEL PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE AND LOGICAL METHOD FOR ADDRESSING RURAL PROPERTIES AND THE ANZLIC GUIDELINES SHOULD BE USED AS THE PRIMARY DOCUMENT (UNTILL THE ISSUE OF THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD LATER THIS YEAR) WHEN UNDERTAKING RRA.

CONSISTENT RURAL ADDRESSING IS THE ONLY SURE WAY TO GUARANTEE THE FULL ADVANTAGES THAT RA CAN PROVIDE. STANDARDISATION ACROSS THE STATE ENSURES THAT MOVEMENT FROM ONE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA TO ANOTHER WILL NOT RESULT IN CONFUSION AND LOSS OF BENEFITS - BE THE BENEFITS MEASURED IN HUMAN TERMS OR IN SERVICE DELIVERY. IF ADJOINING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS ADOPT DIFFERENT SYSTEMS IT WILL MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS IN GENERAL, TO NOT BECOME CONFUSED AND LOOSE DIRECTION.

THE SYSTEMS WE PUT IN PLACE TODAY WILL VERY MUCH DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF LIFE WE AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN EXPERIENCE IN THE FUTURE.

### **HOW COUNCILS CAN ASSIST EMERGENCY SERVICES**

CLAUSE 4.10 IN THE ANZLIC GUIDELINES LISTS THE VARIOUS AGENCIES WHICH MUST BE NOTIFIED UPON THE ALLOCATION OF CHANGED ADDRESSES. ALSO IT RECOMMENDS THE BRIEFING OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMITTEE ON THE FORMAT OF THE RURAL ADDRESSING SYSTEM PUT IN PLACE.

ADDITIONAL TO THIS, THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES HAS REQUESTED THAT COUNCILS PROVIDE THEM WITH A MAP SHOWING :-

- THE CORRECT ROAD NAME.
- WHETHER THE ROAD IS NUMBERED WITH URBAN OR RURAL NUMBERING.
- THE ADDRESS RANGES WHICH APPLY TO EACH SIDE OF THE ROAD BETWEEN INTERSECTIONS.
- CONFIRMATION THAT THE ROAD IS TRAFFICABLE AND IS CONSTRUCTED.

## WHERE IS RRA AT?

<u>AUSTRALIA WIDE</u>	<u>% OF STATE/TERRITORY UNDERTAKING RRA</u>
QUEENSLAND	66%
N.S.W.	55% (30%Complete)
VICTORIA	90%
TASMANIA	100%
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	5% (Could change rapidly)
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	10% (About to proceed rapidly)
A.C.T.	95%
NORTHERN TERRITORY	65%

## CONCLUSION

RRA WILL ELIMINATE ONCE AND FOR ALL, THE CONFUSION INHERENT IN THE OLD, UNSYSTEMATIC RURAL ADDRESSING METHOD, AND REPLACE IT WITH A PROVEN LOGICAL, EASY TO UNDERSTAND SYSTEM THAT IS NOW THE STANDARD FOR RURAL PROPERTIES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA. NO LONGER WILL PEOPLE HAVE TO GRAPPLE WITH COMPLICATED SYSTEMS FOR ADDRESSING, SUCH AS ‘THE LOT ON PLAN’ METHOD. AS AN ADDED BONUS THE ADDRESS HAS BUILT INTO IT A RELATIONSHIP TO KNOWN FEATURES IE. DISTANCE FROM A ROAD INTERSECTION - SIMPLIFICATION IS THE KEY WORD.

THE **BENEFITS** WHICH WILL FLOW TO THE RESIDENTS, EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS, LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS FAR OUTWEIGH THE COSTS AND **PERCEIVED** DISRUPTIONS.

RRA MAY EVEN SAVE YOUR LIFE OR THE LIFE OF A LOVED ONE - IT WILL DEFINITELY IMPROVE THE LIFE OF **YOUR** COMMUNITY.

*This paper is based upon experiences and reports of RRA users and government sources from around Australia and was compiled for the mutual benefit of all Local Government Areas undertaking or considering RRA.*

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