

### What is AUS-SPEC?

AUS-SPEC is the national specification system for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of local government assets. It is developed by industry, for industry, and is managed by NATSPEC, a national not-for-profit organisation in partnership with IPWEA. AUS-SPEC comprises various specification packages designed to promote uniformity and best practice in local government asset management. To learn how your local council can save money, improve quality and reduce risk, visit [www.natspec.com.au](http://www.natspec.com.au) today.

### Why a national specification?

As a national system, AUS-SPEC promotes national uniformity and good practice in specifications for local governments, whilst allowing for inclusion of local requirements.

### About NATSPEC

NATSPEC is a national not-for-profit organisation whose objective is to improve the construction quality and productivity of the built environment through leadership of information. It is impartial and not involved in advocacy and policy.



*IPWEA is renowned for promoting best practice, producing industry leading publications and providing support training. It's our practical approach that is valued so highly by Councils, Government and the private sector. AUS-SPEC was developed by IPWEA Australasia to provide nationally consistent civil specifications for councils – instead of them reinventing the wheel.*

*AUS-SPEC provides a library of civil design, construction and maintenance templates and allows the flexibility to edit and add Council specific and project specific information. It means that everyone involved in design, construction and maintenance of Council assets are using the same language.*

*If you're not using AUS-SPEC – you're digging yourself into a bigger hole.*

**Murray Erbs, Chair NAMS.AU, IPWEA**

### Rural Roads Specification Package

- // National, comprehensive and updated annually
- // Quick and easy with SPECbuilder Live
- // Uses the National classification system



AUS-SPEC, a joint venture between IPWEA and NATSPEC, recently released the new Rural Roads Specification Package, responding to challenges faced by regional, rural and remote councils. The national local government specification system, AUS-SPEC has been used by local councils since 1997. This new package is part of an ongoing investment by AUS-SPEC to support rural councils manage their large network of road assets.

The new AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package will equip councils to implement improved practices across the asset lifecycle. The package covers documentation for planning, design, tendering, contract preliminaries, construction, maintenance and operation of regional and rural roads. Several new specifications and reference documents included in the package will assist rural Councils to effectively manage their sealed and unsealed road network.



**IPWEA**

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ENGINEERING AUSTRALASIA

## Better practices for design, construction, maintenance and operations of local rural roads

**“We set a high benchmark for the civil works, and the AUS-SPEC documents provided very clear details so there was no ambiguity and they knew exactly what was expected from them.”**

*- Stuart Small, Team Leader Project Delivery, Midcoast Council*

Local councils manage approximately 80% of Australia's total road network, comprising a mix of sealed and unsealed roads. Roads in regional and rural areas provide a vital link between local communities and the major road networks. The design, construction and maintenance of these roads are generally implemented using traditional materials and practices, without sufficient scientific methodology. To improve service delivery and meet local community needs, rural councils need better ways to design, construct and proactively maintain their road assets.



*Unsealed road*

*Sealed road*

Enhanced technical skills are required to understand that sealed and unsealed local roads are dynamic systems with traffic, environment, road profile and material characteristics influencing their performance. Material blending can be used to reduce defects on the weather exposed unsealed wearing courses. Material and techniques for the placement of material are the only elements that can be controlled and improved.

AUS-SPEC has identified ways Councils can extend the life of constructed assets. These life extension methods are documented in the AUS-SPEC worksections and other new additional reference documents including *TECHguides*, *TECHnotes*, *TECHreports*, *Design reference and checklists*, *Construction reference and schedules*.

AUS-SPEC national documents have been specifically tailored towards local government. Rural and remote councils will benefit from the new AUS-SPEC Rural Roads Package by:

- ✓ Easily documenting the design, construction and maintenance of their road network using SPECbuilder, specification compiler.
- ✓ Bridging the gap where there is a lack of in-house engineering capability to efficiently deliver road assets.
- ✓ Significantly improving the structural integrity, safety and performance of sealed and unsealed roads.

**“The AUS-SPEC documents help the Council achieve consistency in documentation and with our levels of service.”**

*- Mathew Naylor, Section Leader, Asset Project Delivery,  
Coffs Harbour City Council*

Full details of the list of worksections included and their abstracts are available on [www.natspec.com.au](http://www.natspec.com.au)

**AUS-SPEC Packages**☒ Rural roads**Annual**  
\$1380 + \$138 GST**Ongoing payment system**☐ Annually on receipt of an invoice  
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Job Title \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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## Subscription Conditions

### Terms of subscription

AUS-SPEC subscriptions run for a minimum of two years. After the first year of subscription a renewal invoice will be issued for the part-calendar-year to bring the subscription to the common renewal date of 1 July.

### Termination

After the initial period, a subscription to an AUS-SPEC package will continue until either party cancels it in writing. Payment will be required to the end of the fiscal year. Once the subscription is terminated all copies of our material must be destroyed and no new specifications may be developed using all or part of AUS-SPEC or NATSPEC material.

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As part of the licence agreement, Councils may distribute, in non-editable formats, amended relevant worksections to consultants or contractors involved in a particular project, who do works for Council or do works which Council later accepts (e.g. residential subdivision).

NATSPEC requests that any pdf versions of project specifications uploaded to a Council's website are placed in a secure location and require registration before downloading or viewing.

Consultants or contractors engaged to produce and be responsible for a specification based on AUS-SPEC also require a relevant NATSPEC subscription. (State, territory and federal government bodies can check that consultants are subscribers by viewing the subscriber list on [www.natspec.com.au](http://www.natspec.com.au))

If an organisation has more than one office, each office using NATSPEC material must have a subscription.

NATSPEC material may not be placed on an organisation's national server unless all Australian offices listed on the organisation's website are subscribers to AUS-SPEC/NATSPEC.

### Subscription rates

Subscriptions are increased annually each June by the national CPI rounded down to the nearest ten dollars.

### Changes to fees and conditions

We will give you at least 14 days' notice in writing when changes to the initial terms of the arrangement are made. This notice will state any changes to the initial terms. If you wish to discuss any changes to the initial terms, please contact NATSPEC.

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## Direct Debit Arrangements

### Our commitment to you

This document outlines the Direct Debit Request (DDR) arrangements made between Construction Information Systems Limited (NATSPEC) (DDR ID #184871) and you.

### Initial terms of the arrangement

In terms of the Direct Debit Request arrangements made between us and signed by you, we undertake to periodically debit your nominated account for the agreed amount for NATSPEC and AUS-SPEC subscriptions.

### Drawing arrangements

The first drawing under this Direct Debit arrangement will occur immediately. If any drawing falls due on a non-business day, it will be debited to your account on the next business day following the scheduled drawing date.

### Changes to the arrangement

If you want to make changes to the drawing arrangements, please contact NATSPEC. However, please note that you have agreed to make payments for your AUS-SPEC subscription for a minimum two year period from the date of the first quarterly payment.

### Enquiries

Direct all enquiries to NATSPEC, rather than to your financial institution, and these should be made at least 14 working days before the next scheduled drawing date. All communication addressed to us should include your Subscriber ID #.

All personal customer information held by us will be kept confidential except information provided to our financial institution to initiate the drawing to your nominated account.

### Disputes

If you believe that a drawing has been initiated incorrectly, we encourage you to contact us directly.

### Your commitment to us

It is your responsibility to ensure that:

- your nominated account can accept direct debits (your financial institution can confirm this); and
- that on the drawing date there are enough cleared funds in the nominated account; and
- that you advise us if the nominated account is transferred or closed.

If your drawing is returned or dishonoured by your financial institution we will phone/email you and then re-draw after 3 working days. Any transaction fees payable by us in respect of the above will be added to your account.

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