

Digital WHS: Integrated and Automated Workflow

Stephen Saunders

Transport for NSW

stephen.saunders@transport.nsw.gov.au

ABSTRACT

Inspired by a paper presented at the APAS Webinar Series 2021, where Stewart Folley outlined the development of a new Work Health and Safety (WHS) system for DCS Spatial Services Survey Operations, this presentation discusses a similar journey and process that evolved at Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Survey Services throughout 2021 and 2022. A safety review found our current WHS documentation to be outdated and non-compliant in several areas. The documentation was largely paper-based, interpreted and used differently from unit to unit, poorly engaged with by staff, and not fit for purpose or specific to the work site. The current Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) documentation was a major source of concern, with complex and long-winded paper documents containing any possible hazard that could be thought of and a raft of safety controls that were either not actual controls or could not possibly be implemented on a site. Despite the safety-focused practices of staff, the system and the documentation did not support their efforts. The Survey Practice unit set about overhauling the current system with a focus on compliance, ease of use, accessibility and an ability of the system to generate reporting metrics and collect feedback so management could perform analysis and gain an understanding of where improvements could be made to increase staff safety and engagement. This presentation discusses the development of a Risk Register, site-specific SWMS, Traffic Guidance Schemes (TGS) and how all these procedures and documents were integrated into a digital platform that can be easily accessed in the field on a mobile device. Noting that there are numerous digital systems available on the commercial market, TfNSW adopted the philosophy of developing an in-house system by our surveyors for our surveyors that focused on the safety issues and risks that were important to our team members and managers. Funding for the development of the digital platform was conditional on the system being scalable to a branch level, where other teams who undertake field activities (such as Bridge Inspectors and Geotech) could leverage off the same workflow yet tailor content to their own requirements, so that throughout the branch a consistent approach to safe work procedures could be adopted.

KEYWORDS: *WHS, digital, TfNSW, site-specific SWMS, risk register, traffic guidance scheme.*