



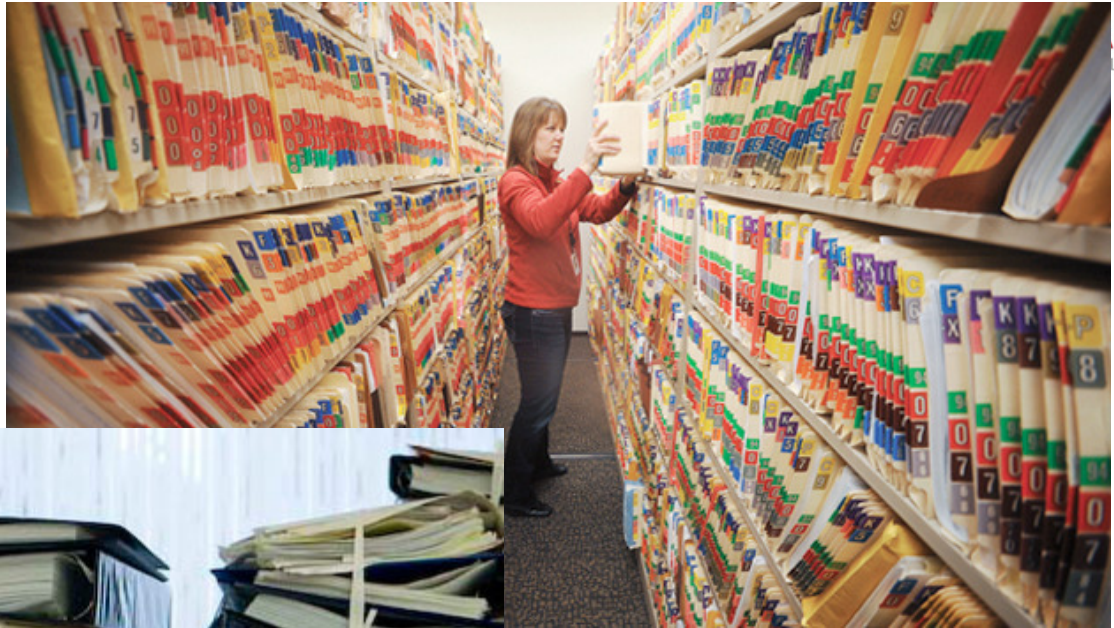
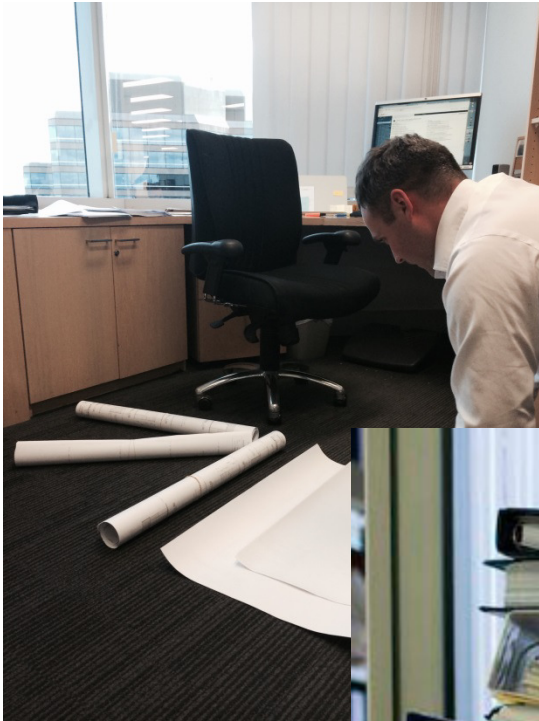
**Use of technology in the planning process**  
*LGPA Hot Topics – The Future for WA Planning*

Craig Wallace  
Partner – Planning and Environment  
24 July 2014

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## Why is this relevant to me?

- Huge advances in technology
- Don't get left behind
- Significant opportunity for efficiency and costs saving in planning environment
  - E-lodgement
  - 3D Perspectives
  - Virtual reality models
  - Record keeping/reporting/consultation



## Context

- Concept of urban planning is not new
- Planning frameworks are continually developing
- Use of technology in planning is more common place
- Planning profession is more specialised than ever

## The real reason...

- The planning process has its problems
- Principle issue arises from a dispute/difference of opinion in assessment
- Discretion
  - Defined as ‘the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation’
  - Based in statutory power to make judgements
- Issue
  - How that power is used and controlled

## Discretion

- ‘Successful’ exercise of discretion is balance of:
  - aligning planning decisions; with
  - particular planning objectives; and
  - considering multiple related interests
- Good judgement is:
  - diversity and quality of inputs made *deliberatively*
  - as opposed to individual intuition

(State of Australian Cities National Conference 2013 -  
<http://www.soacconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Omar-Governance.pdf?wb48617274=3C67609B>)

## **Result - current planning context**

- Exercise of discretion is subjective
- If the point of view/idea/proposal is not conveyed effectively...



<http://www.newskarnataka.com/bangalore/Rai-caught-sleeping-in-Legislative-Council/>



## Opportunity

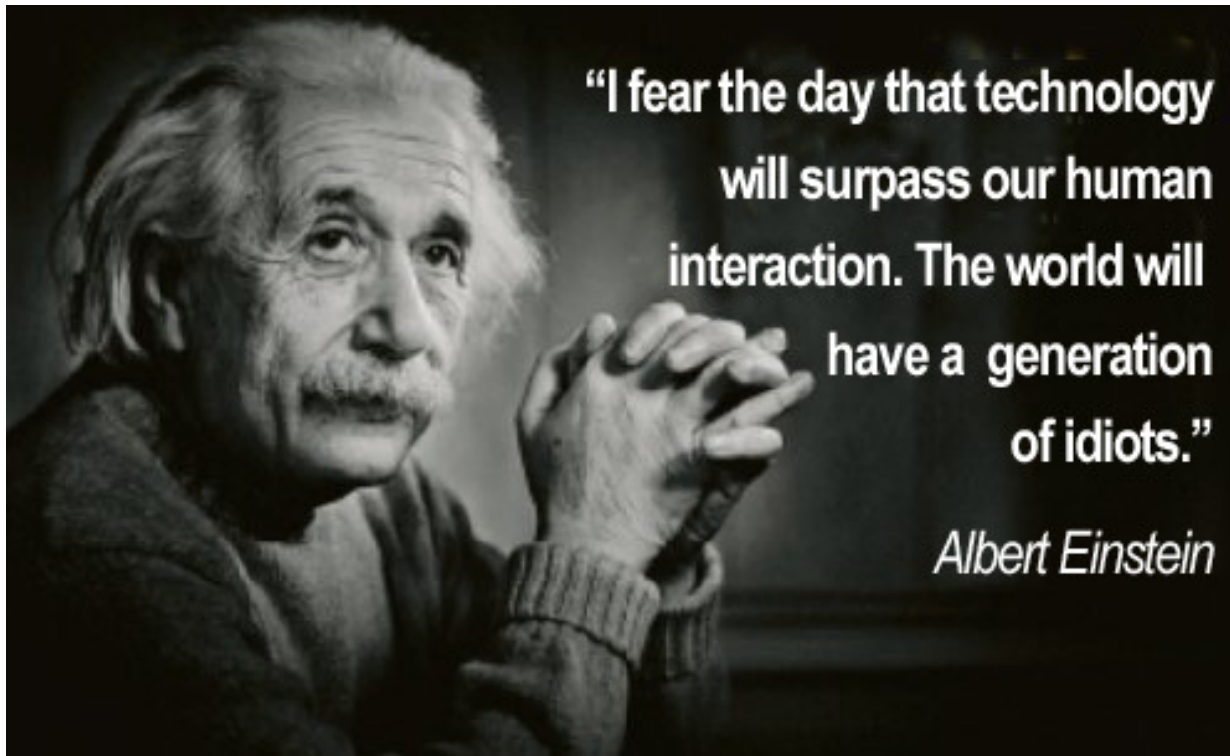
- Technology provides the opportunity to:
  - convey the proposal objectives effectively
  - deal with concerns in real time
  - provide definitive answers
  - be flexible and adapt to the decision making context
  - remove the individual intuition/subjectivity

## Issues

- Technical capacity
  - System requirements
  - Software requirements
- Procedural requirements
  - *Courts and Tribunals (Electronic Processes Facilitation) Act 2013 (WA)*
- Contractual arrangements
- Privacy
  - *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*
  - *Surveillance Devices Act 2004 (Cth)*
  - A tort of Privacy (ALRC Report, March 2014)
- Cost

## Moving forward

- Significant opportunity
- Consider electronic tools to convey message
- Keep decision makers informed about need and requirements



# *Questions?*

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