# XMLing NATSPEC

Background

- NATSPEC originally published in book form
- Available in electronic form for over 20 years, in various wordprocessing programs
- Consistently updated
- Microsoft Word used internally for editing

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Presently

- Requires regular updating – updated every 6 months

- Technical team track standards, write new documents, research and deal with feedback

- Until recently all editing was done in Microsoft Word

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Why change?

- Need to prepare for future technologies yet still be useful in the current technology climate
- Need to automate many of the updating activities to free up resources
- Make the process more efficient
- Larger team required better tracking of edits

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XML for NATSPEC

- Text based mark up language
- Create NATSPEC specific tags
- Ability to create documents from separate parts
- Link common text
- Generate lists of referenced documents
- Flexibility for future technologies

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Chosen system

- PageSeeder interface – Allette Systems
- "Out of the box" solution with some customisations
- Document management system
- Underlying format is XML
- Database driven

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What we did

- Approached in stages
- Plan the setup of PageSeeder system to suit NATSPEC Worksection classification
- Import Word documents into PageSeeder
- Format documents and check import/export
- Start editing & updating worksections in PageSeeder
- First update April 2009

# XMLing NATSPEC

Benefits

- Easy to use, simple interface
- Browser based, online
- Tracks all changes made to documents and by whom
- Powerful notes/labelling system
- Team communication
- Linked to subscriber system - SPECbuilder

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What's next?

- Merge text

- Import of standards and referenced documents database

- Import other NATSPEC documents
  e.g. TECHreports, TECHnotes

- Import AUS-SPEC

- Give more functionality to subscribers