

## Self Assessing Risk Ratings

In 2000 Penrith Council, in conjunction with 14 other local councils, developed a risk profile survey that would form the basis of operational risk assessments. RiskChase was used as the software development tool to cover a wide range of activities. The profile is used to highlight best practice and benchmark risk management systems between sections, departments, business units and councils. It is also used to develop risk management improvement plans and monitor progress.

The style of the profile survey was affected by the various structural configurations of councils and some participants were initially discouraged by the bulk of the profile survey. To improve acceptance two abridged versions were developed as an introduction to the self assessment process. One version relates to compliance systems and the other to asset management.

The risk management ratings are protected spreadsheets intended to be used as simple tools to identify gaps in management systems. Participants complete a series of questions on a spreadsheet and are immediately scored against best practice. Advantages of this introductory method are that there is no monitoring of results and the self assessment can be performed on most PC's using standard software. The participants can see how they rate in the specific areas and respond accordingly. (An "Asset Managers heal yourself" approach)

To download the spreadsheet, got to [www.ipwea.org.au/nams/kmuir.xls](http://www.ipwea.org.au/nams/kmuir.xls)

Completing both best practice risk management ratings and responding to improve scores is a step towards improved risk management.

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