

What if? 2.0: A Tool for Exploring Alternative Futures

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This presentation will describe *What if? 2.0*, a fully-operational, easy-to-use GIS-based planning support system (PSS) for exploring alternate land uses, population, and employment futures. In particular, it will focus on the use of *What if? 2.0* to project future land uses and population trends for Mitchell Shire, Victoria.

As its name suggests, *What if? 2.0* is a policy oriented planning tool for determining *what* would happen *if* public policy choices are made and assumptions about the future prove to be true. Policy choices that can be considered in the model include: (1) the extension of sewer or water service and the construction of major roads; (2) the implementation of open space protection policies, and (3) the adoption of land use plans, zoning ordinances, or other growth controls. *What if? 2.0* can be used by non-technical people in public forums, allowing communities to use currently available GIS information to support community-based dialogue and collaborative decision-making.