

# Department of Primary Industries and Water

INFORMATION & LAND SERVICES

Geospatial Infrastructure Branch

Office of the Surveyor General



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## Circular Memorandum No 2 / 2008

TOPIC: **Revised Survey Audit Program**

DATE: **1<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

The Survey Audit Program has been in operation since 1999, providing a routine annual audit for each practising registered land surveyor. During this period its primary role has been as an educational tool, advising surveyors of aspects of their surveys that did not comply with the survey standards of the day. The accumulated results of the audit program demonstrate that this blanket approach to audit has assisted a significant number of surveyors in improving the compliance of their surveys with the standards.

The audit program has identified those surveyors who consistently gain satisfactory audit results as well as those for whom there has been no improvement in the compliance of their surveys with the standards. The approximate proportions for surveyors who have contributed to the program for most or all of its history are as follows:

Substantially satisfactory results over the total duration of the program:	30%
Substantially satisfactory results over the last 3 rounds (incl. those above):	60%
Substantially unsatisfactory results over the last 3 rounds:	40%

These results have invoked the requirements of OSG Circular Memorandum 2/2004 for 'Consequences of Audit Findings'. These consequences have now been incorporated into the document 'Procedures for the Audit of Surveys of Land' (refer <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/PBAS-5AE3S9?open>). I encourage all surveyors to familiarise themselves with the procedures.

It is my intention to institute a performance-based audit program requiring audits in any particular year only for those surveyors who fall into the following criteria:

- have had an unsatisfactory outcome in at least one of their previous two audits, or
- have not been audited in the previous two years.

Surveyors first entering the audit system or re-entering the audit system following an absence of three years or more will undergo an initial two audits over consecutive years.

As can be seen from the statistics above, this will result in many surveyors receiving the minimum recurrence of one audit every three years, maintaining the focus of the program on those surveyors whose surveys in the immediate past have been the subject of unsatisfactory audit results and those with limited current experience due to recent registration in Tasmania or a low number of surveys registered.

The 'Procedures for the Audit of Surveys of Land' have been updated to reflect both these changes and changes to audit criteria consequent on the recent changes to the Survey Directions. As always, surveys will be audited in accordance with the statutory requirements in force at the date shown on the survey certificate attached to the survey notes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Murphy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Murphy  
SURVEYOR GENERAL