

Circular Memorandum No. 3 / 2012

TOPIC: **Survey Audit Program – Review of Surveyors Act 2002**

DATE: 21 June 2012

Background

Results for the Survey Audit Program show that the overall level of satisfactory surveys has improved only marginally over the last three years. That is, the percentage of audited surveys complying with standards has been 72%, 77% and 76% for 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Interim results indicate that the figure for 2012 will also be of that order.

The results also show that unsatisfactory surveys are generally produced by registered land surveyors who have a history of similar findings in the past. This suggests that these surveyors have not made the necessary changes in practices to improve the standard of their work such that they can consistently produce satisfactory surveys. It also raises the question about the continuing competency of these surveyors.

Survey Audit Program

The objective of this Program is to provide information that raises surveyors' knowledge of the standards set by the Survey Directions and to provide related advice about opportunities for improvement in their practices. The principal benefits to the surveying industry and the community are in the reduction in complexity of subsequent surveys, associated cost savings and improved certainty and confidence in Tasmania's property boundary system.

The realisation of these benefits relies on the actual improvement of survey practices to deliver satisfactory surveys that comply with the Survey Directions. As it appears that these improvements are not being made in some cases, alternative means need to be considered to ensure that the level of competency of registered land surveyors is adequate and that almost all of the surveys lodged with the Land Titles Office reach the satisfactory standard.

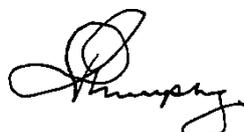
Review of Surveyors Act 2002

These key issues of competency and standard of survey practice will be considered in the context of a review of the *Surveyors Act 2002*.

Resources associated with the Survey Audit Program will be used for a comprehensive review of the Act in 2012–2013. During this period, the Survey Audit Program will be deferred.

In addition to these issues, the review will examine the requirements for registration, the assessment of competency and disciplinary provisions.

The participation of registered land surveyors in this review will be vital. Arrangements for that participation will be advised once the review has commenced.



Peter Murphy
SURVEYOR GENERAL