

Circular Memorandum No. 1 / 2015

TOPIC: **Audit Program 2015/16**

DATE: 19 June 2015

The objective of the Survey Audit Program has been to provide information that raises surveyors' knowledge of the standards set by the Survey Directions and to monitor and promote compliance with those standards. 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.

In Circular Memorandum 3 of 2012 the profession was advised that outcomes from the Survey Audit Program had plateaued, the overall level of satisfactory surveys improving only marginally over the previous three years and into 2012, 25% to 30% of surveys audited being unsatisfactory. Consequently, the program was deferred for a period to enable changes to the Surveyors Act 2002 to be implemented, in part to better target government resources to improving compliance with statutory requirements.

Audit results show that unsatisfactory surveys are generally produced by registered land surveyors who have a history of similar findings in the past, who have not made the necessary changes in practice to improve the standard of their work such that they can consistently produce surveys compliant with minimum statutory requirements. As announced at the SSSI Tasmanian Regional Cadastral Seminar in March 2015, a targeted program of audits focused primarily on those surveyors is to be commenced in July 2015, together with the continuance of a limited random audit program to reinforce awareness of standards and monitor compliance across the profession. Detailed policy and procedures may be found on the DPIPWE website at <http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/geospatial-infrastructure-surveying/cadastral-standards-maintenance/current-survey-policy-and-practice>.

Participants in the targeted audit program will be selected on the basis of past performance, as detailed in the Land Survey Audit Procedures, and potential impact as measured by number of surveys lodged annually. All surveyors will be advised of their audit and examination requisition status regularly and surveyors targeted for audit will be notified in advance and advised of the reasons.

The preference is to identify and have the lodging surveyor correct non-complying surveys prior to registration. As a consequence the OSG will have access to the surveys of targeted surveyors at lodgment with the LTO.

The objective of the Audit Program remains unchanged. Where this input to a surveyor's practice fails to stem continuing non-compliant survey practice, measures to ensure competency are now augmented by recently introduced changes to the Act. Those measures now provide for a surveyor with three consecutive non-complying audits at registration renewal to require re-accreditation with the TLSAB as a prerequisite to renewing registration as a land surveyor in the following year.

There also remains the option for the Surveyor General to initiate complaints to the Director of Consumer Affairs based on audit and investigation outcomes. The Director now has a range of disciplinary measures available, also introduced in the recent changes to the Act.

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

Michael Giudici
SURVEYOR GENERAL