

Circular Memorandum No. 1 / 2016

TOPIC: **Modernisation of Australia's National Datum**

DATE: 2 May 2016

To All Registered Surveyors

I am writing to you about an important national digital infrastructure project that will have an effect on all Australians, and one to which the surveying sector has an important contribution to make.

Australia is increasingly reliant on fit for purpose and dependable position and navigation data in the digital age where it is anticipated that within several years all Australians will be able to access devices that measure locations with decimetre accuracies in a global reference framework.

It is recognised that the current national datum, the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA1994), is not capable of satisfying the requirements of many Australians under this new positioning paradigm. A modernised geodetic reference framework is required to ensure Australians continue to have access to the most accurate location-based information achievable and meet the requirements of the digital age.

The Australia and New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC), and its permanent standing committee the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) have endorsed a roadmap to a modernised datum, and ICSM is charged with responsibility for implementing the datum modernisation project.

From a technical perspective work is well advanced, with the necessary transformation parameters and technical tools almost ready for issue via Geoscience Australia and the ICSM Permanent Committee on Geodesy (PCG).

In support of the practical implementation of a modernised national datum ICSM have formed the GDA Modernisation Implementation Working Group (GMIWG). The working group has representatives from each Australian jurisdiction and will work with stakeholders to assist with the transition to the new reference framework.

The latest information about datum modernisation in Tasmania is available at <http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/datum-modernisation>. This site will be regularly updated and links to national information available at <http://www.icsm.gov.au/gda2020/index.html>.

GMIWG has commenced consultation with stakeholders. **One way that individuals can get involved at this stage and directly inform project execution is by participating in an online survey which can be accessed via the following link until 27 May 2016:**

<http://goo.gl/forms/t1tt017PxI>

ICSM will utilise this questionnaire to determine stakeholder understanding of the project and to identify potential obstacles to a successful outcome.

I encourage Registered Surveyors to complete the questionnaire.

For further information contact Scott Strong on 03 6165 4175 or scott.strong@dpipwe.tas.gov.au.

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

Michael Giudici
SURVEYOR GENERAL