

Board of Surveying and Spatial Information REPORT



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Ensuring public confidence in the provision of survey and spatial information services



BOARD OF SURVEYING AND SPATIAL INFORMATION

Report

The Board of Surveying and Spatial Information (the Board), constituted under the *Surveying Act 2002*, to provide for the registration of land and mining surveyors, is the statutory body responsible for standards in surveying and spatial information in NSW and advises the Minister for Lands on spatial information. The Board, on 25 June 2003, took over the functions previously managed by the Board of Surveyors of NSW which was constituted under the *Surveyors Act 1929*, which has been repealed.

Mission

The Board in all its dealings strives for excellence and has an ongoing quest for quality. The Board accepts that the community is entitled to expect reliable and professional service at reasonable cost. The Board's philosophy is to ensure that public confidence is maintained in the provision of survey and spatial information services.

Aims and objectives

Qualifications

- To maintain the register of registered land and mining surveyors.
- To grant registration to surveyors under the provisions of the *Surveying Act 2002*.
- To establish minimum competency standards.
- To maintain the credibility of the register by ensuring surveyors with overseas and interstate academic qualifications meet the standards required under the *Surveying Act 2002*.

Education

- To work with education and professional institutions to develop educational and training programs to ensure quality standards in education and professional development are maintained.

- To encourage spatial information practitioners and registered surveyors to undertake appropriate education and relevant continuing professional development to maintain competency.
- To assist surveyor's assistants, survey drafters and students of surveying gain qualifications by determining, recording and accepting accrued practical experience.

Spatial information

- To define the scope of spatial information, identify key spatial industry stakeholders, develop communication and promotion strategies and benefits for the Board, the public and private sectors.
- To identify a vision for spatial information.
- To develop policies, assess and recommend quality standards for collection, collation, management and dissemination of all identified types of spatial information relevant to the NSW Spatial Data Information (SDI).

Governance

Functions of the Board

The principal functions of the Board are:

- registration of land and mining surveyors and ongoing administration of the register
- investigation of complaints against registered land and mining surveyors

and the taking of disciplinary action which may arise as a result of the investigation

- investigation of surveyor licensing schemes in other states and territories, the practice of surveying, the collection, collation and dissemination of any other kinds of spatial information, and any matters referred to it by the Minister in relation to surveying or the spatial information industry
- provision of advice to the Minister with respect to matters outlined above and all other matters in connection with the administration of the Act.

Board members

The Board consists of 10-12 board members representing the areas of land and mining surveying and spatial information, an academic from an educational facility and the Department of Fair Trading. The Board calls for nominations of a selected number of candidates from each relevant organisation. The nominations are then placed before the Minister for approval. Upon approval, the Board members are appointed for a term of up to two years. A Board member may be elected for consecutive terms.

During the reporting year nominations were called for the spatial industry representatives and the representatives of the Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Fair Trading. Two spatial industry representatives, Mr Ron Lister and Mr Vinayan PK, did not seek re-nomination. They were replaced on the

“The Board’s philosophy is to ensure that public confidence is maintained in the provision of survey and spatial information services”

Board by new members: Ms Heidi Brown and Mr Craig Hersant.

Three other members, Ms Margaret Hole, Mr Robert Regan and Mr David Bruce were re-nominated and appointed for a further term to 31 December 2009.

Board meetings

During the 2007/08 reporting period there were 13 members on the Board. The Registrar, two advisers and one observer also attended the meetings. The Board met formally on five occasions.

To ensure the Board is accessible to the wider surveying community, meetings were held in Sydney and Kurri Kurri.

Board committees established or abolished

To maximise the use of the time available at board meetings, the Board has a number of subcommittees which operate within the Board’s structure: Training Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Spatial Information Committee, Professional Audit and Investigation Committee, Discipline Committee, Land and Mining Surveyor Committee and Legislation Committee.

During 2007/08, no new committees were established and no committees were abolished.

Administration

Administrative support to the Board is undertaken by a small secretariat which includes the Registrar, one full time statutory officer, one part time statutory officer and one full time statutory assistant. Employees of the Department of Lands provide further support.

Registrar

Stephen Glencorse.

Board members and attendance	
Members of the Board	Board meetings (5 meetings)
Mr Warwick Watkins AMP:ISMP (Harv), MNatRes, DipScAgr, HDA (Hons), FAPI, FISA, JP Surveyor General of NSW Appointed Jan 2007 term expires Dec 2010.	5 (Chair)
Mr Paul Harcombe BSurv (UNSW), MGeom (Melb) Chief Surveyor, Department of Lands Appointed Jan 2007 term expires Dec 2008.	5
Mr Mark Gordon BSurv (Hons) Institute of Surveyors NSW Inc Appointed Jan 2007 term expires Dec 2008.	5
Mr Andrew Campbell MSurvSc (UNSW), MPlanning (UTS) Institute of Surveyors NSW Inc Appointed Jan 2007 term expires Dec 2008.	5
Dr Michael Elfick DSurv (Newcastle) DipSurvSc (Sydney), DipTownPlanning (Sydney) Institute of Surveyors NSW Inc Appointed Jan 2007 term expires Dec 2008.	5
Mr Phillip Orr BSurv (Hons) Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors Ltd Appointed Jan 2007 term expires Dec 2008.	2
Mr Robert Regan BMining Engineering (Hons 1) Minister for Mineral Resources Appointed Oct 2006 term expired Oct 2007. Reappointed Jan 2008 term expires Dec 2009.	3
Mr David Bruce BSurv (Hons) (UNSW) Spatial Sciences Institute of Australia Appointed Jan 2008 term expired Dec 2009. Reappointed Jan 2008 term expires Dec 2009.	5
Mr Ronald Lister BSurv (Hons) (UNSW), GradDipAdmin (UTS) Geospatial Information and Technology Association – Australia and New Zealand Division Appointed Oct 2006 term expired Oct 2007.	3
Mr Vinayan PK DipBusMgt (DET, NSW) MAppGeo, PhD (Remote Sensing) IIT Spatial Science Institute of Australia Appointed Oct 2006 term expired Oct 2007.	2
Ms Margaret Hole AM, DipLaw, Barristers Admission Board Representing Minister for Fair Trading Appointed Oct 2006 term expired Oct 2007. Reappointed Jan 2008 term expires Dec 2009.	4
Mr Bruce Harvey BSurv (Hons) (UNSW), Ph D Phil (UNSW), GradDipHighEdu (UNSW), Universities of Newcastle and New South Wales Appointed Jan 2007 term expires Dec 2008.	4
Ms Heidi Brown BSc (UNSW), MInfoSys (UW) Spatial Science Institute of Australia Appointed Jan 2008 term expires Dec 2009	2
Mr Craig Hersant BSc(Hons)(UNSW), GradDip LDM (RMIT), MDefStud (UC), MBusAdmin (USQ) Geospatial Information and Technology Association Appointed Jan 2008 term expires Dec 2009.	3
Advisors and observers	
Stephen Glencorse Registrar	5
Professor John Fryer FISA, BSurv (UNSW), PhD (UNSW) University of Newcastle – advisor to the Board.	5
Grahame Wallis BSurv (UNSW) Advisor to the Board.	5
William Hirst ACT Chief Surveyor – Observer.	4

BOARD OF SURVEYING AND SPATIAL INFORMATION

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Revenue			
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Registration fees	\$384,980 (76%)	\$404,786 (71%)	\$394,788 (70%)
Candidate enrolment and workshop fees	\$37,220 (7.5%)	\$28,622 (5%)	\$22,181 (4%)
Examination fees	\$24,750 (5%)	\$19,291 (3%)	\$18,441 (3%)
Conference and seminars	-	\$2,195 (0.4%)	\$69 (0%)
Investment revenue	\$32,939 (6.5%)	\$37,884 (6.6%)	\$42,746 (8%)
Other revenue and contributions	\$24,556 (5%)	\$78,069 (14%)	\$84,549 (15%)
Total	\$504,445 (100%)	\$570,847 (100%)	\$562,744 (100%)
Expenditure			
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Personnel services (provided by Lands)	\$206,822 (36%)	\$221,429 (41%)	\$276,945 (49%)
Board member fees	\$27,810 (5%)	\$25,565 (5%)	\$28,978 (5%)
Depreciation	\$15,332 (3%)	\$12,061 (2%)	\$8,529 (1%)
Other expenditure	\$325,765 (56%)	\$284,886 (52%)	\$254,350 (45%)
Total	\$575,729 (100%)	\$543,941 (100%)	\$568,802 (100%)

Note: The figures provided in the revenue and expenditure tables have been audited.

Funding

The Board is primarily funded by fees levied on surveyors and also some contributions from spatial information stakeholders.

Report on performance

Stakeholder engagement

The Board continued its practice of meeting and consulting with surveyor board representatives from interstate and overseas jurisdictions. The Board also met with the Commissioner for Surveys ACT to further advance cooperative arrangements implemented six years ago. The Registrar of the Board also met with representatives of the Queensland Surveyors Board.

During the reporting year, meetings were held with representative members from

NSW professional associations to ensure that both land and mining surveyors fulfil their responsibilities to consumers and for these associations to be more involved in the training of candidates.

The Board continued to explore additional pathways to registration involving assistance from the Institution of Surveyors NSW (ISNSW) and the Association of Consulting Surveyors (ACS). Both these agencies have instituted training programs to assist candidate surveyors achieve registration as land surveyors.

Qualifications

The Board was active in its continuing role of promoting professional development and standards, and has played a significant role in legislative reform following the enactment of the *Surveying Bill* on 25 June 2003.

The Board maintained the Register of Surveyors. The register contains the

names of 1,061 registered surveyors who are considered competent by the Board to perform land and mining surveys in NSW.

Arrangements with surveyor's boards or other competent authorities from other countries, and states and territories of Australia and New Zealand enable land surveyors with appropriate qualifications and experience to be registered in this state. A similar arrangement exists for mining surveyors between this jurisdiction and Queensland. During the 2007/08 financial year, the Board reviewed ten overseas academic qualifications and issued 20 letters of accreditation to interstate boards. These reciprocal arrangements are in accordance with National Competition Policy (NCP) Principles and the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (NSW) Act 1996*.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

On 1 July 2005 the Board implemented a revised CPD determination. Compliance with CPD requirements is a condition of annual renewal of registration each financial year. The Board's CPD determination is located on the BOSSI website, www.bossi.nsw.gov.au. Compliance with the Board's CPD requirements is mandatory for surveyors renewing their registration.

The Board has ratified the following five organisations for CPD purposes which include the conduct and assessment of CPD activities and issue of CPD compliance certificates.

- Institution of Surveyors NSW Inc.
- Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW.
- Australian Institution of Mine Surveyors Limited NSW Division.
- University of Newcastle.
- Spatial Sciences Institute ACT.

A CPD Committee has been formed by the Board and is comprised of Board members and representatives from the five organisations ratified by the Board. The Board secretariat undertakes an audit of CPD compliance involving 20% of surveyors renewing their annual registration in accordance with the policy. 210 surveyors were audited this year and thirteen of these were deemed not to have complied with the policy by the Audit Panel.

Education

Examination

The Board met for a total of eight working days during September 2007 and March 2008 for the purpose of assessing the professional competence of graduate surveyors through examinations. The Board also assessed candidate surveyors undertaking Professional Training Agreements (PTA). A total of 37 applicants successfully completed the examinations or PTAs and were issued with Certificates of Competency.

Professional training agreements

The Board introduced Performance Training Agreements (PTAs) as an alternative method of assessment of the competency of candidate surveyors. There were three candidate land surveyors undertaking training under PTAs to ascertain competency as a land surveyor during the year of which one candidate successfully completed competency requirements.

Candidate training

To assist candidate surveyors attempting assessment the Board conducts a candidate training workshop at Kurri Kurri TAFE. This year 26 candidate surveyors and six supervising surveyors attended. The workshop presenters included various Board members and

nine Institution of Surveyors NSW (ISNSW) members. Board members, invited guests, local surveyors and candidate surveyors attending the workshop were able to discuss matters of mutual interest including proposed changes to Board operations affecting both land and mining surveying industries.

The Board continued to improve and expand the information available at the workshop and improve standards of presentation using the latest technology. For the first time, all the presentation material for Urban, Rural and Strata Boundary Definition, Town Planning and Engineering Design were provided to candidates on CD. These resources and the information sessions provided by guest presenters have proved to be valuable to candidates. The face-to-face interview component again proved both popular and productive.

Candidate workshops have been successfully conducted by the Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW to assist in the training of land surveyor candidates in Town Planning and Engineering Design.

These have proven to be a very useful tool in advancing candidates toward registration and involving current members of the industry in the training of new surveyors.

During the second half of 2007 the Association of Consulting Surveyors (ACS) conducted one candidate training courses for both Civil Engineering and Town Planning. Each set of courses involve 12 candidates in each topic. During the first half of 2008 ACS has conducted a further two sets of courses.

These courses have tapped a significant number of candidates who were having difficulty in obtaining appropriate training in Civil Engineering and Town Planning and were also having difficulty finding acceptable projects for completion and assessment by the Board. Board members

continue to be involved in the assessment of candidates completing these courses. The result of conducting these courses has been to significantly increase the number of candidates being registered by the Board and going some way to arresting the decline in the number of registered land surveyors in NSW.

The ISNSW has been running training workshops in Boundary Surveys for candidate surveyors in an endeavour to lift the standard of training in this area of practice. Again, this has been of great assistance to the Board.

The Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS) have also carried out two training sessions for candidate mining surveyors during the reporting year in November at Singleton and February at Mudgee. Representatives from AIMS also participate in the Kurri Kurri Candidates Workshop and as guest assessors for the BOSSI mine surveying examinations.

The ISNSW, ACS and AIMS courses are in accordance with the Board's strategy of involving the professional bodies in training candidate surveyors.

Awards granted

The Board awards a number of prizes each year; the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information Medals for the most successful students in the final year of tertiary study, four prizes to recipients of Certificates of Competency and the Surveyor General's prize for performance in a Professional Training Agreement.

The following awards were granted during 2007/08.

The Board of Surveying and Spatial Information Medals

Presented to Adrian White from the University of New South Wales.

Presented to Samuel Nicoll from the University of Newcastle.

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Barr Prize

Presented to Ben Belfield for the best cadastral survey project.

Harvey Prize

Presented to Brian Corrigan and Greg Ledwidge for the best town planning project.

Augustus Alt Prize

Presented to Gavin Drennan for the best engineering project.

Neil Ryan Memorial Award

Presented to Scott Allison for the best urban cadastral project.

Surveyor General's Prize

No prize was awarded.

Mining Prize

No prize was awarded.

Strategic development

Following the development and adoption of the *Road Map and Framework for the NSW Spatial Information Strategy* in 2005, the Board in May 2007 adopted and published the *Common Spatial Information Initiative, NSW Spatial Information Strategy: Executive Briefing of CS2i*. This strategy proposed a unified whole of government vision for spatial information to facilitate the delivery of an enabling framework that will:

- improve efficiency of government's business processes involving spatial information, particularly those which span several agencies
- simplify access to government spatial information
- build a strong whole-of-government engagement model

- facilitate improved data quality, currency and consistency
- build the capacity of the spatial information production environment.

Ultimately the Common Spatial Information Initiative (CS2i) is an opportunity for agencies to improve their service delivery capabilities and access to their spatial information and related data sets in a more cost effective manner by leveraging off the proposed infrastructure and services.

In March 2008, the CS2i was approved by Cabinet.

During 2008/09 the Board will focus on the establishment of the CS2i program office.

The CS2i initiative has been nominated for the Surveying in Excellence Awards held in September 2008.

Performance indicators			
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Registered Surveyors in NSW	1,044	1,066	1,061
New registrations			
By way of Certificate of Competency	28	33	32
By way of Letters of Accreditation from reciprocating boards	5	4	3
Removal of name from register¹			
Non-payment of annual roll fees	126	98	18
At own request	22	6	19
Deceased	1	2	1
Restoration of name to register	109	91	14
Letter of accreditation issued to reciprocating boards	9	16	20
Candidate enrolments	46	60	23
Total financial candidates	177	184	143
Assessment of overseas academic qualifications	8	5	10
Assessment of interstate academic qualifications	6	-	0
Emeritus certificates awarded	12	17 ²	27

1. Reasons for people being removed from the register include retirement, relocation interstate or no longer practicing surveyors.

2. One Emeritus certificate was awarded posthumously.

Statutory reporting

Action plan for women

During the reporting, the Board appointed Ms Heidi Brown, as a representative of Spatial Sciences Institute of Australia.

Consumer response

During the reporting year the Registrar received more than ten complaints related to the performance of surveyors. All telephone enquiries were responded to within 24 hours. Written applications received a reply within six to eight weeks due to the frequency of Board meetings but any urgent matters were dealt with out of session.

In accordance with the Board's Complaints Policy, the Professional Audit and Investigation Committee investigates complaints against surveyors. The policy is located on the BOSSI website, www.bossi.nsw.gov.au

Four complaints against surveyors made in the reporting year have been either fully investigated or are the subject of ongoing investigation by the Professional Audit and Investigation Committee.

No complaints were referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

The Professional Audit and Investigation Committee continues to use the standard 'complaints form' template to facilitate the making of complaints by members of the public and other government agencies.

The successful use of complaint resolution methods by the Board has resulted in few formal complaints.

Grants to non-government organisations

During the reporting year the Board granted \$5,000 to the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) Australia & New Zealand. This was to assist GITA in providing three \$5,000 grants to encourage students to study geospatial technologies. Through this grant to GITA, the Board can contribute to increasing the supply of geospatial professionals by encouraging more students into this exciting discipline.

Legislation

The *Surveying Bill* was enacted on 25 June 2003, and the statutory body with the corporate name Board of Surveying and Spatial Information (BOSSI) was constituted. The *Surveying Regulation 2001* has been reviewed and replaced by the *Surveying Regulation 2006* on 1 September 2006, as required by the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989*.

During the reporting year a consultant has been engaged to carry out a Section 40 review of the *Surveying Act 2002*.

The review has included extensive consultation with all major industry stakeholders.

For information on consultants, payment performance, risk management and insurance, and all other administrative procedures, policies and processes for this report please refer to the Department of Lands Annual Report Appendices.