



# **THE SURVEYORS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

ANNUAL REPORT  
2024 / 2025

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Photographs of Board Members..... 3

2 Introduction..... 3

3 Functions ..... 4

4 The Board..... 4

5 Staff & Administrative Arrangements..... 5

6 Meetings ..... 5

7 Summary of Projects ..... 5

8 Registered Surveyors..... 5

9 Summary of the Register of Licensed Surveyors..... 6

10 Professional Training Agreements..... 6

11 Finance..... 6

12 Council of the Reciprocating Surveyors’ Boards of Australia and New Zealand 7

13 Disciplinary Matters..... 7



# 1 Photographs of Board Members



**Robert Sarib**  
Chairperson



**Alan Thorpe**  
Deputy Chairperson



**David Sach**  
Board Member



**Brendan Knox**  
Board Member



**Anietie (John) Ekpo**  
Board Member

## 2 Introduction

The Surveyors Board of the Northern Territory of Australia (**the Board**) is constituted under section 8 of the *Licensed Surveyors Act 1983 (the Act)*. In accordance with section 21 of the Act, the Board has prepared the following report for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

### 3 Functions

The Functions of the Board are to:

1. keep and maintain a Register of Licensed Surveyors.
2. conduct examinations for the registration of Licensed Surveyors.
3. enter into reciprocal arrangements with other surveyors' boards for the recognition of a person registered, licensed, or authorised to practice as a surveyor and for registration under the Act.
4. give directions on the practice to be followed by Licensed Surveyors in the making of boundary surveys.
5. conduct such inquiries and initiate appropriate penalties, if any, as are required under the Act, for contravention of the provisions of the Act; and
6. set and collect such fees as are provided for by the Act.

### 4 The Board

The Board consists of the Surveyor-General, who is ex-officio Chairperson, and four surveyors appointed by the Minister. Two members are appointed from three nominees of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (NT Region) \*, and two are direct appointments.

Membership for the year ending 30 June 2025 consisted of:

Chairperson                    **Mr Robert I Sarib** – Appointed as Surveyor-General on 26 September 2018.

Deputy Chairperson        **Mr Alan Thorpe** – First appointed on 19 March 2019 from nominations made by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (NT Region)\*

Other Members                **Mr Brendan W Knox** – First appointed 6 May 2020 from applications received.

**Mr David I Sach** – First appointed 18 April 2017 from applications received.

**Mr Anietie (John) Ekpo** – First appointed on 8 December 2021 from nominations made by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (NT Region)\*. Mr Ekpo has been on a leave of absence from the Board since 4 February 2025.

The process to call for nominations for Board membership will commence shortly as the current appointment terms are due to end in December 2025.

\* Note that in November 2022 the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute merged with the Spatial Industries Business Association to form the Geospatial Council of Australia.



## 5 Staff & Administrative Arrangements

As part of the functions of Occupational and Industry Licensing, the Licensing Team manage the administrative arrangements necessary to support the Board. Administrative support is provided in accordance with the Act.

## 6 Meetings

During the year, the Board held four (4) board meetings in Darwin:

- 22 August 2024
- 28 November 2024
- 20 February 2025
- 29 May 2025

## 7 Summary of Projects

The Board has progressed projects that aligned with its functions, which include:

- Updated professional training guides for Supervisors and Survey Graduates to become Licensed Surveyors.
- Endorsement of a Computer Assisted Drafting Standard for Digital Plans to support the digital lodgement of cadastral survey plan / data.
- Progressing provisional Survey Practice Directions / Plan Drawing Standards to incorporate digital plan standards / guides, and recommendations from the Board's working groups.
- Scoping the outcomes for the legislative review and modernisation of the Act
- Implementation of a new National Competency Standard for Surveying Graduates, and Licensed Surveyors; also includes a pilot project for the accreditation of universities providing surveying degrees in accordance with the new standard.
- Revision and modernising of Board policies to reflect industry and community expectations, as well as support registration through mutual recognition.
- Reviewing and updating all application forms available to the public to streamline processes and ease of use for licensees.

## 8 Registered Surveyors

As required under section 22 of the Act, the names and addresses of each Licensed Surveyor were published in *Gazette G6* on 20 March 2025. The Gazettal notice listed 39 Licensed Surveyors. Since the Gazettal, there have been two (2) more individual granted registration, gained under the Mutual Recognition scheme, increasing the number of Licensed Surveyors in the Northern Territory to 41.

## 9 Summary of the Register of Licensed Surveyors

<u>New Registrations</u>	
Under the <i>Mutual Recognition (Northern Territory) Act 1992</i>	2
Under the Automatic Mutual Recognition scheme	0
<u>Restored to the Register</u>	
Under the <i>Licensed Surveyors Act 1983</i>	0
<u>Removal of Name from Register</u>	
Removal at own request	0
Removal for non-payment of fees or no longer required	5
Removal due to not being fit and proper	0
<b>Surveyors registered on 30 June 2025</b>	<b>41</b>

## 10 Professional Training Agreements

At the commencement of the year, six training agreements were in place for Graduates undertaking training with Licensed Surveyors. The Board is anticipating another 2 Graduates will apply for a Professional Assessment within the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Unfortunately, 1 Graduate cancelled their training agreement due to accepting a new employment role and no longer requiring an agreement. Five training agreements were current as of 30 June 2025.

## 11 Finance

The Surveyors Board Trust Account opening balance as of 1 July 2024 was \$106,835.91.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$13,503.00</b>
<hr/>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Remuneration	\$4,117.84
	Travel Expenses	\$732.16
	Legal Expenses	\$21,000.00
	Hospitality	\$612.73
	Regulatory Charges and Statutory Notices	\$650.00
	CRSBANZ Fee and Consulting Surveyors National fee for administration of Overseas Assessments	\$1,468.00
	Other Charges (advertising, database hosting administrative expenses and regulatory fees)	\$1,139.22
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$29,719.95</b>
	<b>SURPLUS / DEFECIT</b>	<b>-\$16,216.95</b>

The Board operated during the fiscal year at a deficit of \$16,216.95.

The Trust Account balance as of 30 June 2025 was \$90,618.96.

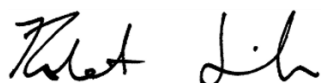
## 12 Council of the Reciprocating Surveyors' Boards of Australia and New Zealand

CRSBANZ held virtual meetings and workshops during the 2024/25 year to address and action the following national key agenda items:

- **University Degree Accreditation and National Competency**
  - CRSBANZ continued its role in the process of accrediting university-surveying degrees.
  - CRSBANZ implemented a new “National Competency Standard for Registered Licensed Cadastral Land Surveyors.” This standard articulates the core competencies required to become a cadastral (land boundary) surveyor, as well as identifying the core and non-core learning outcomes of four-year surveying degrees for both Australia and New Zealand. Work, by Dr David Mitchell and his engagement team, continues with a pilot project to trial the University Degree Program Accreditation process.
- **Bureau for Assessment of Overseas Qualifications (BAOQ)**
  - CRSBANZ through the Bureau continued to assess overseas surveying qualifications.
  - CRSBANZ implemented a new BAOQ Policy, as well as a “Procedures and Advice to Applicants” document.
  - During the 2024 year, 58 formal assessments were made. 69% (40) of the applicants produced evidence of qualifications that were deemed acceptable. Applicants were from various countries, however no applications seeking assessment came through the NT.
- **Review of National Policies and Operations**
  - CRSBANZ as required continued to review and update existing national policies and guides, such as streamlining the training or development of graduate surveyors to be registered or licensed.
  - CRSBANZ have progressed workings on the most appropriate entity for CRSBANZ, and future operations to ensure that it is “fit for purpose” and meeting both industry and community expectations from a national perspective.
- **Automatic Mutual Recognition (AMR)**
  - CRSBANZ continues to exchange information in accordance with policy regarding AMR applications.
  - The NT AMR scheme commenced in the NT on 1 July 2022. The Board’s website was updated to facilitate the commencement and provide local information to surveyors availing of this scheme. Since commencement, the Board has only received one (1) application.

## 13 Disciplinary Matters

During the reporting period, the Board received two formal complaints of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct and the *Licensed Surveyors Act 1983* in respect of one Licensed Surveyor. Additionally, the Board continues to investigate, where necessary, persons, who are not Licensed Surveyors, allegedly undertaking land boundary surveys.



**Robert Sarib**  
Chairperson  
24 September 2025

