



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

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018/2019

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## 1 Photographs of Board Members

The Surveyors Board of the Northern Territory 2018/2019



**Robert Sarib**  
Chairperson



**Richard Purnell**  
Deputy Chairperson



**David Sach**  
Board Member



**Nannette Helder**  
Board Member



**Alan Thorpe**  
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 2018/2019 financial 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 qualifications as a licensed surveyor;
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 2019 consisted of:

Chairperson	<b>Mr Robert I Sarib</b> - First appointed 29 February 2000 from nominations made by the Institution of Surveyors, Australia. Re-appointed 1 September 2000, 27 September 2004, 24 October 2008 and 26 February 2013 from applications received. Appointed as Surveyor-General on 26 September 2018.
Deputy Chairperson	<b>Mr Richard D Purnell</b> – First appointed 26 February 2013 from nominations made by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (NT Region) and reappointed on 18 April 2017.
Other Members	<b>Ms Nannette J M Helder</b> – Appointed 18 April 2017 from applications received. <b>Mr David I Sach</b> – Appointed 18 April 2017 from applications received. <b>Mr Alan Thorpe</b> – Appointed on 19 March 2019 from nominations made by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (NT Region)

## 5 Staff & Administrative Arrangements

As part of the functions of Licensing NT the Board and Commission Support 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 4 meetings in Darwin:

- 26 July 2018 – 4 members in attendance
- 25 October 2018 – 4 members in attendance
- 31 January 2019 – 4 members in attendance
- 30 April 2019 – 5 members in attendance

## 7 Summary of Projects

The Board has been working on numerous projects which include:

- Professional Training of Graduates via seminars and workshops
- Introduction of a Code of Practice (Ethics)
- Modernising current Board policies
- Survey Practice Directions review working group
- Modernisation of the Act
- Looking at solutions to the sustainability of the industry in the NT noting the decline in registration figures.

## 8 Registered Surveyors

As required under section 22 of the Act, the names and addresses of surveyors registered to practise in the Northern Territory were published in Gazette S23 on 6 March 2019. This gazette listed 81 surveyors.

It is noted that 1 surveyor payment was missed and a revised register has been published on the Board's website totalling 82 surveyors.

## 9 Summary of the Register of Surveyors

<b>Surveyors registered at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>89</b>
<u>New Registrations</u>	
Under the <i>Mutual Recognition (Northern Territory) Act</i>	2
<u>Restored to the Register</u>	
Under the <i>Licensed Surveyors Act</i>	1
<u>Removal of Name from Register</u>	
Removal at own request	7
Removal for non-payment of fees	3
<b>Surveyors registered at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>82</b>

## 10 Professional Training Agreements

At the commencement of the year nine training agreements were in place for graduates undertaking training with licensed surveyors. No further training agreements commenced during the year and three ceased due to relocating interstate. Six training agreements were current on 30 June 2019.

## 11 Finance

The Board had an operating deficit for the year of \$1,167.10. The Trust Account balance on the 30 June 2019 was \$63,182.87.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>15,603.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Auditing fees	9,100.00
	Travel Expenses	3,504.88
	Sitting Fees	3,018.06
	Consulting Surveyors National (annual fee for overseas qualifications)	200.00
	Catering (Board Meetings & Surveyors Forum)	906.36
	Licensing Charges - Other	40.80
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>16,770.10</b>
	<b>NET (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(\$1,167.10)</b>

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

CRSBANZ held two meetings during the 2018/19 year and the key items of discussion were as follows:

- **Royal Institute of Charters Surveyors (RICS) Trade Mark Hearing**  
On 30 May 2018, IP Australia rejected the application by RICS to trademark the term Chartered Surveyor. Since then RICS have challenged this determination and subsequently lodged an application for Chartered Quantity Surveyor. CRSBANZ will be reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding with RICS.
- **University Degree Accreditation**  
CRSBANZ has continued its role in the process of accrediting university surveying degrees. University of Newcastle was almost complete subject to the final assessor's report, whilst the University of Southern Queensland was still being assessed.
- **Review of National Policies**  
CRSBANZ are reviewing and updating existing national policies and guides on matters relating to - code of ethics, conduct and practice; National Model for Standard Practice in Surveys and Mapping; transfer of Registration by Reciprocity ; Cadastral

Surveys Outcomes and Objectives; National Guidelines for Cadastral Surveys; and Competency Assessment.

## 13 Disciplinary Matters

On 6 October 2017 the Board received a complaint against a registered surveyor regarding the alleged misappropriation of company funds. This matter was investigated by the NT Police - Major Crime Squad who laid charges. The matter was listed for hearing in May 2019 and has been referred to the Supreme Court.

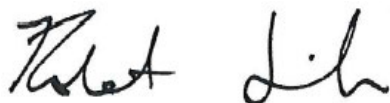
Section 33 of the Act prevents the Board from taking any action to cancel or suspend the surveyors registration until the person has been found guilty under section 33(1) of the Act.

The complaint against the licensed surveyor is continuing and court proceedings are ongoing.

## 14 Legislation

On 12 April 2019, by gazettal notice S21, the revised *Licensed Surveyors Act 1983* was declared assent and included the removal of the financial arrangements around auditing the Board's financials. The new Act was in force on 8 May 2019.

The Board is now only required under section 21 of the Act to prepare a report, at the end of the financial year, on its operations during that financial year and for it to be provided to the Minister within 6 months so it can be tabled with the Legislative Assembly within 6 sitting days.



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**Robert Sarib**  
Chairperson

4 November 2019