



THE SURVEYORS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2023/2024

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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 2023/2024 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 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 2024 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)*

A call for nominations for Board membership is expected to occur prior to 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 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) meetings in Darwin:

- 22 August 2023
- 28 November 2023
- 23 February 2024
- 25 May 2024

7 Summary of Projects

The Board has endeavoured to progress numerous projects that aligned with its functions, which include:

- Professional training of survey graduates to become Licensed Surveyors through Board advice and / or mentoring.
- Participating in National forums and meetings to implement a new standard and framework for the core competencies required for a Surveying Graduate, and a Licensed Surveyor.
- Supporting the digital lodgement of cadastral survey plan / data, through the adoption of associated standards (provisional) and guides.
- Finalising provisional Survey Practice Directions / Plan Drawing Standards to incorporate digital plan standards and guides.
- Scoping the outcomes for the legislative review and modernisation of the Act.
- Developing new Board policies to accommodate industry and community expectations, evaluating the relevance of existing Board policies, and where applicable updating the subject policies.
- Reviewing and updating all application forms available to the public to streamline processes and ease of use for licensees.
- Sustainability of the NT survey industry by examining pathways to diversify membership and elevating the profile of land surveying.

8 Registered Surveyors

As required under section 22 of the Act, the names and addresses of each Licensed Surveyor were published in *Gazette G21* on 04 July 2024. The Gazettal notice listed 51 Licensed Surveyors.

9 Summary of the Register of Licensed Surveyors

New / Renewal Registrations

Under the <i>Mutual Recognition (Northern Territory) Act 1992</i>	0
Under the Automatic Mutual Recognition scheme	1
Completion of training and assessment under the <i>Licensed Surveyors Act 1983</i>	2
Renewal of registration as at 30 June 2024	47

<u>Restored to the Register</u>	
Under the <i>Licensed Surveyors Act 1983</i>	1
<u>Removal of Name from Register</u>	
Removal at own request	0
Removal for non-payment of fees	6
Removal due to not being fit and proper	0
Surveyors registered at 30 June 2024	51

10 Professional Training Agreements

At the commencement of the year, seven training agreements were in place for Graduates undertaking training with Licensed Surveyors. Two Graduates completed the training and successfully passed their Professional Assessment and are now Licensed Surveyors. Two Graduates cancelled their training agreements due to moving interstate. Five training agreements were current as at 30 June 2024.

11 Finance

The Board had an operating surplus for the year of \$3,080.72.

INCOME	TOTAL INCOME	\$16,592.28
EXPENSES	Sitting Fees	5,084.40
	Travel Expenses	1,937.52
	Entertainment	218.18
	Hospitality	436.36
	CRSBANZ Fee	1268.00
	Consulting Surveyors National fee for administration of Overseas Assessments	-
	Other Charges (advertising, database hosting administrative expenses and regulatory fees)	4567.10
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,511.56
	SURPLUS	\$3,080.72

The Trust Account balance as at 30 June 2024 was \$106,835.91.

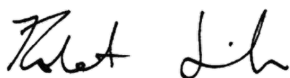
12 Council of the Reciprocating Surveyors' Boards of Australia and New Zealand

CRSBANZ held several meetings and virtual workshops during the 2023/24 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, has continued, with a focus on the University Degree Program Accreditation process. A final report with recommendations is expected in the new year.
- **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 2023 year, 61 formal assessments were made. This was a record number post the years of COVID restrictions. 90% (55) 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 are in the process of producing a “white paper” on the most appropriate entity for CSBANZ, and future operations to ensure that it is “fit for purpose” and meeting both industry and community expectations. The review will also examine the organisation’s vision, mission, terms of reference, membership, financial structure, and work program.
- **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 received one (1) application.

13 Disciplinary Matters

There were no formal complaints or disciplinary matters during this period in relation to Licensed Surveyors. The Board continue to investigate, where necessary, persons, who are not Licensed Surveyors, allegedly undertaking land boundary surveys.



Robert Sarib

Chairperson

28 November 2024