



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

ANNUAL REPORT  
2020/2021

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## 1 Photographs of Board Members



**Robert Sarib**  
Chairperson



**Richard Purnell**  
Deputy Chairperson



**David Sach**  
Board Member



**Brendan Knox**  
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 2020/2021 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 2021 consisted of:

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

Deputy Chairperson        **Mr Richard D Purnell** – Reappointed on 18 April 2017 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 Alan Thorpe** – First appointed on 19 March 2019 from nominations made by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (NT Region)

Ms Nanette Helder, a former Board Member, passed away in Alice Springs on 11 April 2021. The Department, on behalf of the Board and industry, placed a tribute in the NT News on 1 May 2021 recognising Ms Helder's service to land surveying.

## 5 Staff & Administrative Arrangements

As part of the functions of Licensing NT, 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:

- 18 August 2020
- 17 November 2020
- 02 February 2021
- 13 May 2021

## 7 Summary of Projects

The Board has been working on numerous projects, which include:

- Professional training of survey graduates to become Licensed Surveyors; includes modernising guidelines for supervision of graduate surveyors, training requirements and assessment of graduate surveyors, and Board seminars or workshops regarding unit titling and roads.
- Implementation of a Code of Practice (Ethics)
- Evaluating the relevance and updating current Board policies
- Review of Survey Practice Directions
- Modernisation of the Act
- Examining pathways for the sustainability of the industry in the NT; noting the decline in registration figures and the need for diversity in membership.

## 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 26 May 2021. The Gazettal notice listed 66 Licensed Surveyors.

## 9 Summary of the Register of Licensed Surveyors

<b>Surveyors registered at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>76</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>	0
<u>Removal of Name from Register</u>	
Removal at own request	8
Removal for non-payment of fees	3
Removal due to not being fit and proper	0

## 10 Professional Training Agreements

At the commencement of the year, eight training agreements were in place for Graduates undertaking training with Licensed Surveyors. Eight training agreements were current as at 30 June 2021.

## 11 Finance

The Board had an operating surplus for the year of \$15,071.82 .

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$16,184.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Sitting Fees	2,188.80
	Travel Expenses	-
	Entertainment	593.00
	Consulting Surveyors National (annual fee for overseas qualifications)	200.00
	Transcript charges	-
	Other Charges	37.4
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,019.20</b>
	<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$13,164.80</b>

The Trust Account balance as at 30 June 2021 was \$88,642.16.

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

CRSBANZ held two meetings and several workshops during the 2020/21 year to address and action the following key agenda items:

- University Degree Accreditation**  
 CRSBANZ continued its role in the process of accrediting university-surveying degrees.  
 CRSBANZ after considering the "Fryer Mitchell Report" and the future challenges pertinent to the industry, developed project documentation to deliver a matrix of the key competencies for surveying, with an emphasis on cadastral (land boundary) surveyors, as well as identifying the core and non-core topics and attributes of surveying degrees for both Australia and New Zealand.
- Bureau for Assessment of Overseas Qualifications**  
 CRSBANZ through the Bureau continued to assess overseas surveying qualifications.

CRSBANZ adopted and implemented the recommendations from the “Jon Osborn Report” regarding the modernisation of the Bureau’s structure, and the associated the policies and procedures.

- **Review of National Policies**

CRSBANZ as required continued to review and update 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; Competency Assessment; and sustainability of the land surveying profession.

- **Automatic Mutual Recognition (AMR)**


CRSBANZ convened discussions with individual Boards on engagement with their State or Territory governments in context of a national approach to AMR. CRSBANZ agreed that AMR legislation will need to be monitored, and appropriate action taken (if necessary) at the jurisdiction level as the legislation progresses. Considering the future (in 5 years) the Board and members of CRSBANZ recognised the need to (a) modernise the core competencies required for Graduate Surveyors who wish to become Licenced Surveyors and (b) to develop a model to enable surveying practice and land titling to be more consistent across jurisdictions. Ideally, national approaches and frameworks for both initiatives is the preferred outcome, as well as legislative support through the *Mutual Recognition Act*.

## 13 Disciplinary Matters

The Board addressed several queries regarding non-registered and unlicensed surveyors allegedly undertaking cadastral surveys. The Board spoke to the relevant persons involved and advised of the relevant section in the Act, and the associated penalties if found guilty of performing an unauthorised survey and /or impersonating as a registered Licensed Surveyor.

The Board also received a complaint against a registered Licensed Surveyor and a Graduate Surveyor, regarding the reliability of a land boundary survey. The Board commenced investigations into this matter in May 2020 and issued a notice of it’s findings in May 2021. Please note, expediting this matter in a timely manner was hindered by the various Government COVID 19 restrictions, rules, and related challenges.

The Board’s findings ordered the registered Licensed Surveyor to re-survey (at their own expense) the subject property boundaries and occupations to verify the integrity of the original survey. The Board determined that the lack of adequate supervision by the registered Licensed Surveyor contributed to integrity of the survey being compromised and questioned. The Board issued a reprimand to the registered Licensed Surveyor in relation to inadequate supervision of a person to ensure the survey is in accordance with Survey Practice Directions.



**Robert Sarib**  
Chairperson

17 May 2022