



THE SURVEYORS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2019/2020

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1 Photographs of Board Members



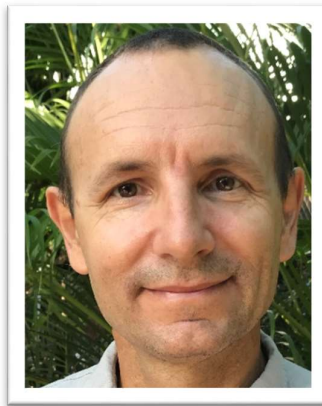
Robert Sarib
Chairperson



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 2019/2020 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 inquires 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 2020 consisted of:

Chairperson	Mr Robert I Sarib - Appointed as Surveyor-General on 26 September 2018.
Deputy Chairperson	Mr Richard D Purnell – 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	Mr Brendan W Knox – Appointed 6 May 2020 from applications received. Mr David I Sach – Appointed 18 April 2017 from applications received. Mr Alan Thorpe – Appointed on 19 March 2019 from nominations made by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (NT Region)

Ms Nanette Helder resigned in December 2019 as Member of the Board in 2019 due to personal reasons, and the Board expressed their thanks for her contributions.

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 four (4) meetings in Darwin:

- 11 July 2019
- 10 October 2019
- 13 February 2020
- 18 May 2020

7 Summary of Projects

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

- Professional training of survey graduates to become Licensed Surveyors; includes a review of training requirements, and Board seminars or workshops.
- 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* G9 on 4 March 2020. The Gazettal notice listed 74 licensed surveyors.

9 Summary of the Register of Surveyors

Surveyors registered at 30 June 2019	82
<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>	2
<u>Removal of Name from Register</u>	
Removal at own request	8
Removal for non-payment of fees	0
Removal due to not being fit and proper	1
Surveyors registered at 30 June 2020	77

10 Professional Training Agreements

At the commencement of the year, five training agreements were in place for graduates undertaking training with licensed surveyors. Three new training agreements commenced during the year and one ceased due to relocating interstate. Eight training agreements were current as at 30 June 2020.

11 Finance

The Board had an operating surplus for the year of \$10,387.47:

INCOME	TOTAL INCOME	14,860.00
EXPENSES	Sitting Fees	1,915.20
	Travel Expenses	1,831.47
	Entertainment	387.72
	Consulting Surveyors National (annual fee for overseas qualifications)	200.00
	Transcript charges	66.33
	Other Charges	71.81
	TOTAL EXPENSES	4,472.53
	SURPLUS	\$10,387.47

The Trust Account balance as at 30 June 2020 was \$73,570.34.

It may be noted that additional expenses in the amount of \$1602.53 were incurred in the reporting period, including \$650.00 in Instrument/Gazette charges, but were not transferred to the Trust Account due to administrative oversight. The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice absorbed these expenses.

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

CRSBANZ held two meetings during the 2019/20 year and the key items of discussion were as follows:

- **University Degree Accreditation**
CRSBANZ has continued its role in the process of accrediting university-surveying degrees, as well as leading the review of the core competencies, topics and attributes of surveying degrees for both Australia and New Zealand.
- **Bureau for Assessment of Overseas Qualifications**
CRSBANZ, in conjunction with stakeholders, are considering recommendations to modernise the organisational structure, the policies and procedures associated with the Bureau.

- **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.

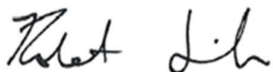
13 Disciplinary Matters

The Board received a complaint against a registered surveyor regarding the alleged misappropriation of company funds in October 2017. This matter was investigated by the NT Police - Major Crime Squad who subsequently laid charges in December 2018. The matter was listed for hearing in May 2019 and was referred to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

On 3 October 2019, the Supreme Court convicted licensed surveyor of three (3) counts of obtaining a benefit by deception, and sentenced to a term of five years imprisonment.

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.

Following the convictions, the Board held an inquiry under section 34(1) of the Act, determined that the licensee was unfit to continue to practice as a licensed surveyor and ordered the removal of the licensed surveyors name from the Register of Licensed Surveyors, effective from 31 October 2019.



Robert Sarib

Chairperson

17 November 2020