



LANDS surveying alert

Update on the Survey Audit Modernisation Project, Cadastral Survey Requirements - Industry Consultation, Road Width Directive

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Update on the Survey Audit Modernisation Project

The proposal to modernise the way cadastral surveys and plans are processed and audited by the Department of Resources (Resources) was recently approved by the Director General. The new process will commence on **3 July 2023** and the main features are:

- Copies of plans of surveys are to continue to be submitted as Deposited Plans (DPs) if lodgement of the Survey Plan (SP) for registration in Titles Queensland (TQ) is not expected within 40 business days of placing survey marks as part of the survey. Identification Surveys (Idents) and Redundant Catalogue (Red Cats) plans will continue to be submitted to Resources as currently occurs.
- Information about all surveys and plans will continue to be processed and recorded in databases as currently occurs.
- TQ will examine all lodged SPs but only for a prescribed number of items that satisfy TQ business requirements for the valid registration of a survey plan. Any corrections to plans after lodgement but prior to registration will be undertaken by TQ's current requisition processes. A fee may apply.
- Survey audits performed by Resources will almost always occur after a plan has been lodged and registered in TQ.
- Only a sample of plans will be audited by Resources, but this will involve a comprehensive check of the plan and a field inspection to an appropriate level. An automated tool has been developed to objectively and equitably select surveys for audit. The department will also reserve the right to examine any deposited or lodged survey, if any major non-compliance becomes evident or if requested by the Surveyors Board of Queensland (the SBQ).
- DPs which are not lodged for registration with TQ as well as Idents and Red Cat plans will also be eligible for audit.
- Reports on audits by Resources will be provided to the surveyor and any amendment of SP's are to be done by post registration correction (PRC) and a fee may apply. A PRC may also be initiated by TQ, if TQ identifies an issue of compliance after registration of the survey plan.
- The department will continue to provide statistics to the SBQ on the level of performance of surveyors whose plans are audited. Surveys with many deficiencies may be referred to the SBQ, but only after approval by the Director of Surveys.
- Accreditation of surveyors will no longer apply, and endorsement of survey plans at item five on sheet two is no longer required but is allowable.

We would like to sincerely thank those industry bodies, surveyors and other stakeholders who provided extensive feedback to earlier proposals. More detail will be provided in early June 2023. While there will be major changes for Resources and TQ, the new processes have been designed to minimise changes for surveyors who lodge and deposit cadastral survey plans. If you have any queries about the new process, please email surveying@resources.qld.gov.au.

Cadastral Survey Requirements - Industry Consultation

After extensive consultation with industry bodies and the Surveying Reference Group, the amendments to the CSR are now complete for this version of the review. The department is now seeking feedback from the surveying industry on the new version of the CSR. The document is available here: [Cadastral Survey Requirements \(draft version 8.1\)](#).

Some of the more significant changes are in sections 3.28.1 Connection to datum, 3.37 Survey reports, 4.3 Compiling tidal and non-tidal water boundaries, and 4.7 Preparation of a reserved plan of survey. Numerous other minor amendments have been made and are reflected in the amendment history table which starts on page ii.

Please send your comments regarding the new version of the CSR to surveying@resources.qld.gov.au before **June 6, 2023**.

Please continue to send your comments or feedback when it is convenient, because any issues or concerns brought up after this date will be considered for subsequent revisions of the CSR.

The new version of the CSR is proposed to commence on **3 July 2023**.

Road Width Directive (CSR 9.43)

When dealing with unsurveyed roads, surveyors are advised to thoroughly research road dedication dates in order to determine the correct road width, as opposed to relying on a previous plan. It is noted that some relatively recent survey plans do not show the correct road width in accordance with the declaration date.

Roads declared prior to the commencement of the *Metric Conversion Act 1972* on 1 October 1973 are generally to be three chains (60.35 metres) wide and roads declared after that date are to be 60 metres wide (CSR section 9.43).

To determine the declaration date, it may be necessary to research government gazettes, road case files, and other relevant information. Government gazettes can be obtained from <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au>.

If information is required from road case files, please email surveyadvice@resources.qld.gov.au in the first instance.