



## LANDS surveying alert

Survey auditing, Titles Queensland, CSR, Christmas closure

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Issue 61

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### **Survey auditing**

#### *Results to date*

Since 3 July 2023 approximately 7,800 plans have been submitted to the department or lodged with Titles Queensland. This consists of identification survey plans (IS's), deposited plans (DP's), and survey plans (SP's) and a small number of other plan types.

The department has carried out audits of a selection of surveys from around the state, including surveys at Coolangatta, Brisbane, Thursday Island, Mount Isa, Augathella and many places in between.

Survey audit compliance rates are very low at about 50%, which includes both desk audits and field audits. Most of the errors found by desk audits fall in the categories of accuracy (such as incorrect or missing dimensions on a subject lot), plan presentation, marking, and reinstatement. Field audits have revealed that most errors are in marking, encroachments & improvements, and reinstatement.

All plans are validated prior to entry into the state dataset, and some surveys are then selected for audit. There have been about 100 plans that failed validation and required amendment before being processed. The errors in these plans were very serious in nature and included incorrect plan descriptions, wrong or missing signature dates, incorrect local government details, and wrong or missing barcodes.

All audit results and errors are recorded for future reference and reported to the Surveyors Board of Queensland.

#### *Future focus*

The survey audit selection process allows the department to focus on aspects important to the quality of surveys and includes a random component. The department, in consultation with the Surveyors Board of Queensland, determines the specific areas of focus for survey audits periodically. Since July 2023 the aspects selected for focus were:

- Past performance,
- Identification surveys, and
- Surveyors who operate from locations outside Queensland.

Given compliance rates are very low for the selected aspects, no change to this focus is proposed for 2024.

### **Titles Queensland**

### *Registrar of Titles Directions for the Preparation of Plans update*

The Registrar of Titles Directions for the Preparation of Plans (RTDPP) has been updated, effective from 20 November 2023. Please refer to [Titles Queensland Alert Issue 205](#) or the [Plans & Sketches](#) page of the Titles Queensland website, for more information about the changes.

### *Titles Queensland Alerts*

Surveyors are encouraged to subscribe to [Titles Queensland Alerts](#) to keep informed about changes to policy, fees and legislation, or other important business matters. These alerts include notifications about updates to the RTDPP, or updates to the Land Title Practice Manual that may relate to survey plans, sketches and associated dealings, that are lodged for registration.

You can [subscribe](#) or [update](#) your subscription details on the Titles Queensland website.

### **CSR annual review**

Following the release of CSR version 8.01 which was implemented on 3 July 2023, the next annual review of the CSR has commenced. We are interested in your views on any aspect of the CSR that is difficult to understand or implement. Feedback can be provided by email to [surveying@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:surveying@resources.qld.gov.au).

A surveying reference group was established in 2021 to explore significant issues currently impacting surveying and to provide input into the CSR review. Involvement in this group is open to all surveyors across Queensland, and the best outcomes are only possible with a diversity of experience, location and business sizes involved. Existing members of the group are to continue, and new members are being sought. New nominations can be made by providing your contact details by email to [surveying@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:surveying@resources.qld.gov.au).

### **Christmas closure**

Department of Resources business centres will be closed from 1pm, 22 December 2023 and regular operating hours will resume from 2 January 2024. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.