

ACT
Office of the Surveyor-General
Update

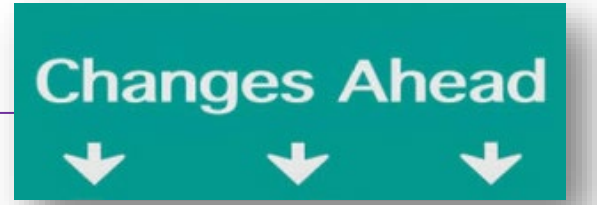
15 October 2026

ACT Government
Office of the Surveyor-General

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OSGLI Survey Team - Update



- As announced in the previous update, William (Billy) Steer has moved on. We understand he is working with Maitland Council. Please note, Billy will not be replaced. We wish him well in his new role.
- Jordic Pellefigue is helping temporarily.
- We are looking to implement some solutions to ensure plan examination is still meeting time requirements. We acknowledge there may be some temporary disruptions to some services, but we are working to minimise them
- We appreciate industry's patience and understanding at this time.

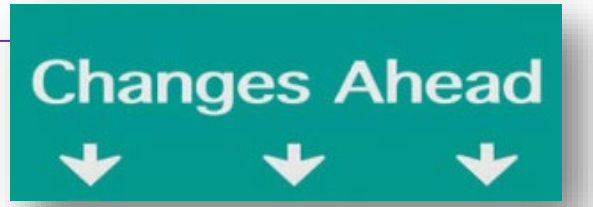


Data

- Again, a reminder to send in easement polygons for all ‘Transfer and Grant of Easements’

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OSGLI Survey Team - Update



The digital Survey Data and Plan Validation service is coming!!

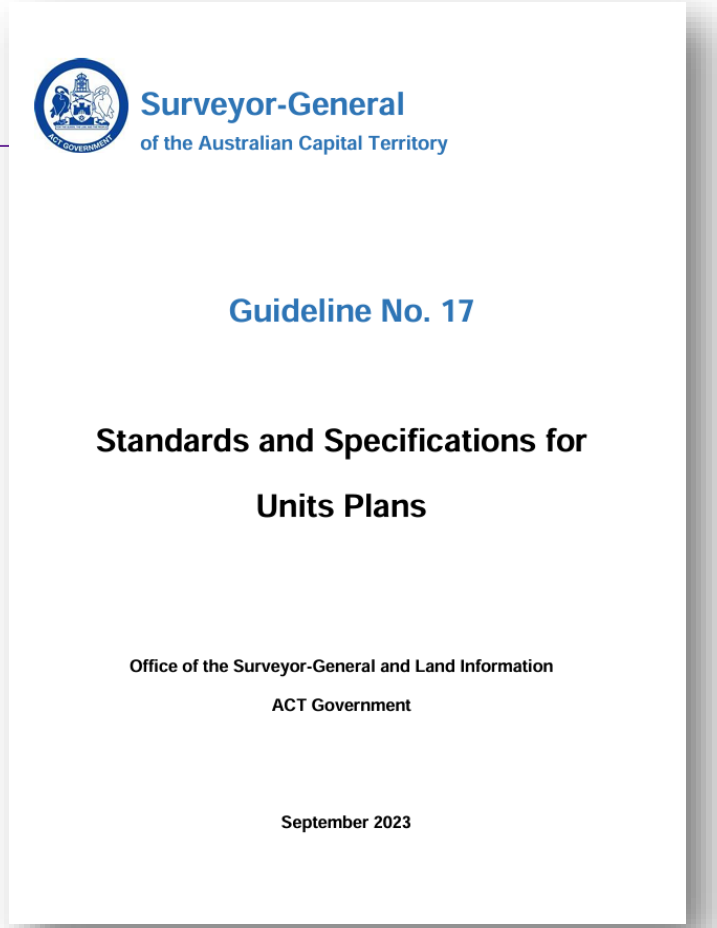
- Checking and validating plans against our digital information in minutes …. not days or weeks!!
- Some human examination work will still be required.
- The goal .. Every surveyor's plan and data set to be included!!
- Appointing a system developer/coordinator to work with surveyors and the OSGLI to build a system that works for everyone.
- We aim to build it incrementally, starting Quarter 2 of 2027, and providing new functionality every few months
- It may be an opportunity to use the One Stop Shop to provide a pre-filled CAD plan template with much linework and text included.



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Legislation

- G17 amendment Process:
  - Thank you to those who have provided feedback.
  - Those suggestions have been incorporated.
  - A final version will be shared at next weeks event
  - Then published soon after



Please provide suggested changes to Guidelines or the SPDs to: actplasurvey@act.gov.au

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Legislation – Clarifying the hierarchy

- **The Parent or (Primary) Legislation is the *Surveyors Act 2007***
  - The Act specifically empowers the Surveyor-General to issue binding operational rules known as Surveyors Practice Directions (SPDs).
- **The SPDs.**
  - Dictate mandatory technical and procedural requirements that registered surveyors, surveys, and plans must legally comply with.
- **Surveyor-General Guidelines (Operational Standards and Procedures):**
  - Complementary documents that provide standards and requirements regarding a range of surveys.
  - Guidelines generally offer the practical framework and processes required to satisfy those rules and achieve the objectives of the Act and SPDs.
    - Guidelines, such as Guideline No. 13, may be specifically referred to in the SPDs 2023. For example, Direction 14 (f) requires supervision to be undertaken in accordance with Guideline No. 13.
    - However, Guideline No 4 was written for different purpose, and is an interpretive aid only.

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Where there any discrepancy between any Guideline and the SPDs, then the SPDs take precedence.

Survey Practice Advisory Committee (SPAC)

- As detailed in August's update, OSGLI received 7 nominations.
- The nominations reflect a more diverse group with an Associate Surveyor, architect and lawyer nominating.
- The final recommendations for appointment will be presented to cabinet in November 2026 for a decision.
- In the interim, the Surveyor-General will meet with nominees soon to get to know each other and layout the committee's work in the coming year.
- The important point to stress is that SPAC is intended to be more a co-design group than advisory. It will be a chance for all members to contribute to the design of legislation and programs that affect the profession.

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Datum Ground Level (DGL) - Update

- A working group has completed it's work on DGL and how to make it function better.
- There is pathway forward which will likely involve 2 solutions. An:
- **Interim Solution**
  - DGL surveys in Greenfields subdivisions being performed pursuant to Guideline 3
  - A framework of 'fit for purpose plans' to use in older infill areas.
  - Amending Guidelines 3 and 15 to provide improved guidance for Registered Surveyors when determining DGL, then a
- **Long-term Solution**.
  - Move, over time, to **one** authoritative DGL digital dataset.

We will discuss this in more detail at the ISNSW Event 21/10/2026

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Education - Let's Locate Canberra

- Surveying and Mapping, a 4-day event, was run from Mon, 28 September to Thu, 1 October 2026 at Evilyn Scott School in Denman prospect.
- The students learnt basic surveying skills such as levelling and traversing and doing a Detail Survey.
- There were students from the ACT, beyond Bungendore and even from Cootamundra in NSW.
- Numerous students are keen to do work experience. Businesses, this is your chance to get involved. Please contact Caitlin at Surveying Careers to find out how you can get a work experience student. You may well find a great young person for your business.
- Thank you to all the presenters, especially Mitch Mackenzie and Caitlin Williams, volunteers and sponsors (Shown to the right).
- We greatly appreciate the financial support from our local sponsors. See right.



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Education - Geospatial Day

- Geospatial day was run on 14 October 2026 at Geoscience Australia.
- High school students were taken through several geospatial and surveying exercises and raise their awareness of all things geospatial.
- Thanks to Geoscience Australia , Ali Carrera (Coordinator) and all the volunteers for making the event happen.



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Introductory surveying course for the ACT and region

- OSGLI is still working with the ACT Master Builders Association, ISNSW, Surveying Careers and an interstate RTO to deliver a introductory surveying course for 2027.
- It has been slow going to get course and assessment materials to work with, but the team is making headway.
- We will provide more updates to the profession and industry soon.



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Alternative pathway to registration

- Representatives of boards from all 8 jurisdictions and New Zealand have agreed to be part of a Working Group to develop a common multi-jurisdictional pathway that:
  - Provides a minimum acceptable competency standard for all Australian Registered Surveyors.
  - Addresses the evolving skill requirements.
  - Is to be delivered in a timeframe of 2 years.
  - Provides effective training and assessment within a Hybrid delivery framework.
  - Allows individual jurisdictions to include their own competency requirements, particularly cadastral.
  - Allows graduates to move around the country and train and complete their competency. assessments.
- The Working group has been formalised under CRSBANZ.
- The working group will meet again next week.

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Events - Recent

- It was great to welcome Consulting Surveyors NSW to hold their first ACT event, held in collaboration with the OSGLI, in Dickson, on Friday, 2 October 2026.
- The event covered
  - ACSIS and insurance issues
  - A Cadastral survey assessment in Oaks Estate
  - UPG's innovation case study
  - LRS and digital plan builder
  - OSGLI
    - The ACT Digital Survey Data and Plan Validation service
    - The Alternate pathway to Surveyor Registration



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Events - Future

ISNSW Surveyors and Associate surveyors – Crossover Twilight Event

- Registered Surveyors will get their time together from mid afternoon
- Crossover – Registered and Associate surveyors together in the late afternoon with refreshments. Then,
- Associate Surveyors only, in the evening
- Location – OSGLI office in Dickson ACT
- When – Wednesday, 21 October 2026
- Program to the right



Registered Surveyors			
Time	**Title**	**Person**	**CPD points**
14.30 – 14.45	Registration		
14.45 – 15.00	ISNSW & Surveying Update	Damian Darmody	0.25 SP
	Surveying Careers Update	Caitlin Williams	
15.00– 15.30	The ACT - Digital Data and Plan Validation System	Damian Heffernan	0.50 SP
15.30 – 16.00	Datum Ground Level – Working Group discussion	Greg Ledwidge,	0.5 SP
16.00 – 16.30	All things leasing in the ACT	Shannon Mould	0.25 CAD
16.30 – 17.00	Guideline 17 – Units Plans	Joanne Hawkes	0.50 CAD
Cross- over – Registered and Associate Surveyors			
17.00- 17.30	OSGLI Update	Greg Ledwidge	0.50 SP
17.30 – 18.00	Refreshments		
Associate Surveyors			
18.00 - 18.30	Presentation and media skills	Chris Wagner	NA
18.30 – 18.45	Surveyors Australia – Engineering Surveyors Certification	Michelle Blicavs	NA
18.45 – 19.00	Terrestrial Laser Scanning in Cadastral Surveys - Uni project	Emmanuel Wong Student	NA
19.00 - 19.30	ACT Survey Control Awareness training	Greg Ledwidge	NA
19.30	More refreshments		

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RIP Col Fuller AM

- It is with considerable sadness that we farewell Col Fuller who died recently.
- Col had a distinguished career which included highlights such as:
  - Joining the Survey Branch of the Commonwealth Dept of the Interior in 1953
  - NSW Surveyor Registration in 1957 then registration in the ACT
  - Rising to level of Deputy Commonwealth Surveyor-General, Planning and Technical Services which he held until his retirement in 1988.
  - Joining the Institution of Surveyors Australia, to become the President of Canberra Division, then Fellow in 1992 and Honorary fellow in 1995
  - Being awarded an AM for services to Surveying and the Community.
- On a personal note, I always found Col positive and supportive and I appreciate the advice he gave me so willingly. Greg Ledwidge



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Feedback

Please provide feedback on any of the topics included in this update to:

Surveyors.Registrar@act.gov.au

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The End