

OSGLI Update

18 August 2025



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Survey Practice Advisory Committee – SPAC

Action Item 25-01 from the April SPAC meeting, ‘requested clarification on the status of industry/professional entity representatives and committee membership when no longer registered or a member of a professional entity’.

OSGLI provided a response pursuant to sections 64, 65, 66, and 74 of the *Surveyors Act 2007*. In summary:

- Where a ‘surveyor’ appointed to represent the views of a Professional Entity (GCA), it is unlikely the SPAC member can represent the views of the professional entity when they are no longer a member of that entity and would not be considered qualified to be member of SPAC.
 - The affected SPAC member resigned after the July, SPAC meeting.
- A ‘surveyor’ member must be a Registered Surveyor. If no longer registered, the person would no longer qualify to be a member of SPAC.
 - The affected SPAC member resigned from SPAC prior to the July meeting.

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Survey Practice Advisory Committee – SPAC

Thanks to all members who have given up their time to serve on SPAC, provide advice and to assist with advancing the surveying profession.

As a result, there are only four remaining members on SPAC. These are the Chair – Greg Ledwidge (OSGLI), Joanne Hawkes (OSGLI), Sean Quin (Land Titles) and Jason Steger (Surveyor). It is requirement of the *Surveyors Act 2007* that SPAC have a minimum of five (5) members.

Therefore, a recruitment process will commence soon. This is an opportunity to broaden the diversity of the committee and bring different perspectives to deliberations and discussions.

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Associate Surveyors

The term '**Associate Surveyor**' replaced the term Qualified Surveyor in July.

Updated letters of recognition have been sent to all Associate Surveyors.

There are now 41 Associate Surveyors in the ACT and growing.

Guideline 12 has been amended accordingly and to better align with NSW Determination for Surveyors Assistants including requirements for:

- Qualifications and approved practical experience
- Knowledge of equipment use and calibration, field notes, searching for plans and data
- Awareness of Legislation, ACTmapi, and plan presentation



ACT ASSOCIATE SURVEYOR

Dear

Thank you for your application to be recognised as an Associate Surveyor.

Your documentary evidence has been assessed. Pursuant to Surveyor-General Guideline No. 12, you have been recognised as an Associate Surveyor in the ACT.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Ledwidge
ACT Surveyor-General

Dated this 3rd day of July 2025

Associate Surveyors – Co-signing plans

The ACT Surveyor-General has provided an exemption for an Associate Surveyor to use the revised Form 4, shown to the right when co-signing a survey plan.

- The Surveyors Practice Directions will be updated to reflect the change in due course.

Please note co-signing is optional.

Form 4 (Direction 14)

Surveyors Practice Directions
Surveyors Act 2007

I of.....

An Associate Surveyor in the ACT performed the survey represented on this plan under general supervision.

(Signature).....
(Date).....

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Associate Surveyors - Events

The OSGLI hosted a meeting of Associate Surveyors in May 2025. Some issues discussed were:

- Legal concerns of Associate Surveyors when co-signing plans
- Defensible decision making for Associate Surveyors
- Future training for Associate Surveyors

The OSGLI will host another evening meeting of Associate Surveyors soon. See the [ACT happenings](#) page in this update. Possible topics for the event may include:

- Guideline 12 and the NSW Determination for Surveyors Assistants.
- Training including the proposed Cadastral and Survey Control Awareness packages.
- Detail and Datum Ground Level surveys.
- Please let the Registrar know what you would like included in the event program.

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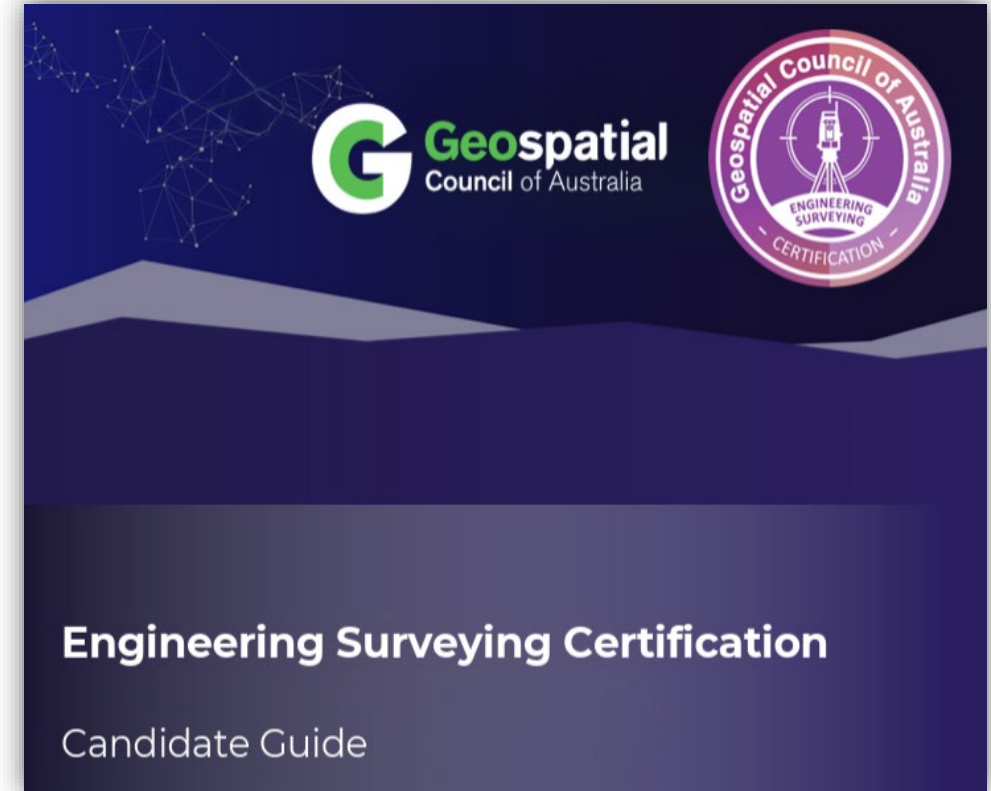
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Engineering Surveyors - Certification

ESP-AP certification, is now being delivered by GCA and Surveyors Australia.

ISNSW is developing it's own Engineering Surveyor Certification. More information soon.

There will be no regulation of Engineering Surveyors at this time.



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Training – Engineering Surveyors and Associate Surveyors

OSGLI is working with ISNSW to develop online training as part of the ISNSW Engineering Surveyor Certification.

The training aims to improve the skills of Engineering and Associate Surveyors to achieve consistent minimum levels of competency.

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Training – Engineering Surveyors and Associate Surveyors

Some of the initial online training will be available for everyone to improve their knowledge, in ACT specific areas, including:

- Cadastral awareness – An overview of the ACT's cadastral system
- Survey Control awareness – An overview of the ACT's control survey system
- Detail and Datum Ground Level surveys – SG Guidelines 3 and 15
- Control Survey requirements – SG Guideline No. 2
- Equipment calibration and verification
- Using UAV LiDAR and photogrammetric methods for surveys

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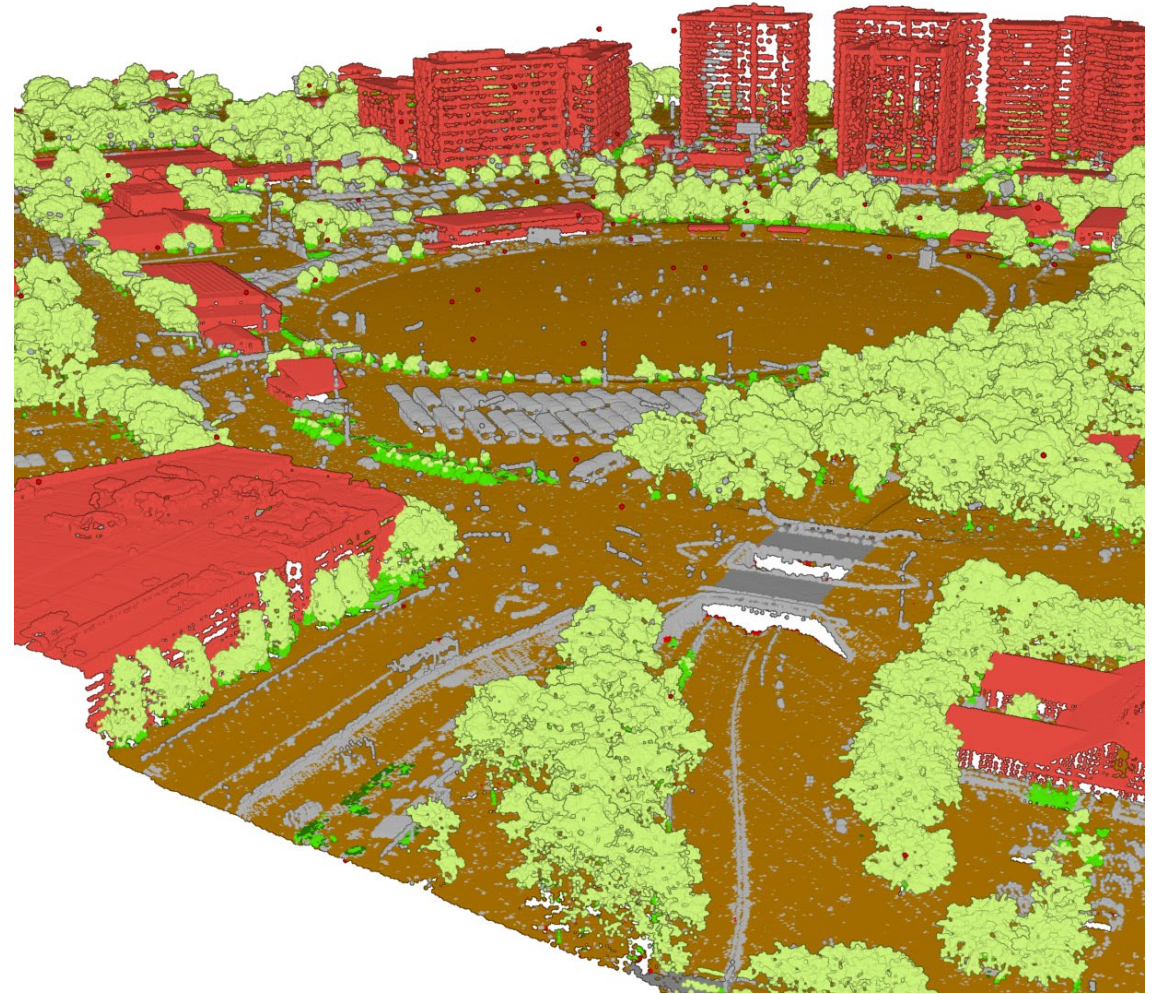
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ACTmapi - LiDAR

LiDAR delivered at minimum of 16 points per square meter.

Currently undergoing Quality Assurance to confirm conformance to specification.

Publication of data and derived products will require approval to publish publicly and takes time.



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One Stop Shop for Surveyors – Minimum viable product



Will be reaching out for a volunteer test group in late September.

This will possibly lead to an in-person workshop to aid us in understanding needs of users.

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Examination Update

Pleased to report that examination timeframes are currently being met.

Reminder for Units Plans:

- **Addressing Check:** Before lodging, review the addressing table. ACTmapi displays all addresses assigned to a block. Verifying addresses beforehand is good practice and helps avoid this common requisition.

Digital Data Lodgement:

- When submitting digital data for **Class B Unit Plans**, please cc ACTPLASurvey@act.gov.au to help prevent delays in the examination process.

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Guideline No. 2 - Control Surveys – Mark Types and Horizontal Surveys

The Guideline delivers substantial improvements to deliver a more cost-effective, fit for purpose survey control network. The guideline:

- Provides for an inground deep driven star picket with a smaller and lighter NSW PM cover box
 - The previous large and heavy cover boxes have been replaced for WHS reasons.
- Differentiates between cadastral and non-cadastral vertical control surveys
 - Cadastral being Stratum Surveys
 - Non-Cadastral being Datum Ground Level, Detail Surveys and Engineering surveys
- Continues the use of the current Horizontal Class C standard in Greenfields.
- Includes the provision for using 3D EDM Traversing which is:
 - Horizontal traversing combined with Non-simultaneous Reciprocal height Traversing, and
 - The horizontal component is at Class C and the vertical component at Class B

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Guideline No. 2 - Control Surveys - Levelling

- Adoption of differential levelling class of LD for cadastral control surveys which aligns with NSW requirements.
- Development of Class LF for non-cadastral levelling.
- Adoption and adaption of Class B and Class C for 3D EDM Traversing.

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		Cadastral				Non-Cadastral			
Levelling Technique	Instrument	Accuracy Standard	1 or 2 Way	No. of Angle Rounds	Loop or Run Misclose	Accuracy Standard	1 or 2 way	No. of Angle Rounds	Loop or Run Misclose
Differential	Analogue or Digital Level	Class LD	2 way	NA	$18\sqrt{K}$ mm	Class LF	1 Way	NA	$25\sqrt{K}$ mm
	Total Station	Class LD	2 way	NA	$18\sqrt{K}$ mm	Class LF	1 Way	NA	$25\sqrt{K}$ mm
3D Traversing	Total Station	Class B	1 Way*	2	$18\sqrt{K}$ mm	Class C	1 Way*	1	$25\sqrt{K}$ mm

* The levelling is effectively 2 way because each traverse line is observed from each end



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Guideline No. 2 - Control Surveys – Adjustment and Documentation

The Registered Surveyor must:

- Adjust the horizontal control surveys using Least Squares.
- Lodge a Control Survey Plan and Survey Report
 - Certified by a Registered Surveyor and Associate Surveyor (Optional)
 - On the prescribed templates. These will be supplied to surveyors.
- Lodge the survey Adjustment Reports which must include the following critical information:
 - Minimally constrained and fully constrained adjustments, including
 - Original deduced height differences between marks, weight matrix, residuals, variance, adjusted horizontal and/or vertical results
- Lodge mark Coordinates and/or Reduced Levels in the standard Excel template
- Reduce the raw field data to human readable form and lodge them.

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Published Guidelines

Guideline No. 2 – Control Surveys (Published soon)

Guideline No 13 – Supervision by registered Surveyors (Published)

Guideline No. 22 – The Determination of Boundaries in the ACT (Published)

Guideline No. 24 – Occupational Discipline: Compliance and Investigations (Published)

The documents can be downloaded from the website under Surveyor resources:

[Resources - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#)

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ACT Happenings

ISNSW Day Seminar - Friday, 27 June 2025

- It was a great location at the Mercure Belconnen with expansive views.
- The event united surveyors from the ISNSW Southern and Murray groups, along with colleagues from the ACT.
- Content included some notable NSW and ACT topics such as.
 - Mitch Hanlon talked about the changes within ISNSW and professionalism within the industry.
 - Martin Wingett, from OSGLI, outlining the initial release of the 'Surveyors One Stop Shop'. He is looking for surveyors to test drive the release.
 - William (Billy) Steer, from OSGLI, presenting on Surveyor-General Guideline No. 22 – The Definition of Boundaries.
 - Greg Ledwidge presenting the OSGLI update covering the GCA situation, Supervision by Registered Surveyors, Associate Surveyors, Control Surveys, Datum Ground Level and Education.

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ACT Happenings – Associate Surveyors

Associate Surveyors event

- This is your chance to discuss the issues that affect you in the profession
- Date Tuesday, 15 September 2025
- Time 4.45 pm for a 5pm start – Duration about 2 hours
- Location OSGLI Office in Dickson ACT.
- Cost – Free. Soft drinks provided.
- Mitch Hanlon will, hopefully, join us online to talk about ISNSW and professionalism in the surveying industry.
- Invites to go out soon. Program to follow.

ISNSW Twilight CPD Event – Save the date

- Wednesday, 15 October 2025 from 5.15 pm for a 5.30 start.
- Save the date and time.
- Location will be the OSGLI offices at Dickson ACT.
- See the ISNSW events calendar.



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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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A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a serene scene at dawn or dusk. The sky is a soft gradient of blue and orange, with a bright sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, a paved road lined with young trees leads towards a modern building with a distinctive triangular roof. The middle ground features rolling green hills and a valley filled with mist. In the distance, a tall tower stands on a hill, and two hot air balloons are visible in the sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and picturesque.

The End