

Ensuring the Integrity of Queensland's Cadastre

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SUMMARY

Ensuring the integrity of the Cadastre is critical to sustainable economic development. In Queensland, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, Regional and Rural Development (the department) is responsible for this important function. The department achieves this outcome in several ways, one of which is a targeted auditing program to ensure that the industry is meeting the survey requirements published under the Cadastral Survey Standards. In Queensland, approximately 16,000 cadastral survey plans are submitted by industry each year to the department. These are a mixture of survey plans (SPs) which are used for the creation of Land Titles and identification surveys which are used for identifying existing cadastral boundaries on the ground. The survey audit modernisation (SAM) program was introduced in July 2023, following an 18-month development period. This paper will highlight the features of SAM, the need for the change, the analysis of the results over the first 18 months of audits, as well as highlighting the areas of improvement and where further focus is required. Additionally, conclusions can be drawn about the effectiveness of the department's industry education and engagement plans, and survey advice services. These results will also be used to guide the department's future compliance target areas. Preliminary audit results have shown a significant improvement with identification surveys. The compliance rate improved from 34 percent to 74 percent over an 18-month period. Areas of significant non-compliance have been identified, particularly by surveyors based outside of Queensland with a compliance rate of 33%. Additionally, surveys with natural feature boundaries have had a low compliance with only 43% being compliant. This led to several presentations to the industry aimed at improving the overall compliance rates for these types of surveys. SAM has provided the department with the ability to target areas of non-compliance in a timely fashion based on audit data as well as allowing more effective use of the available resources. Sharing the audit results with industry encourages a high level of self-compliance with the standards. SAM has also provided the body responsible for registration of surveyors, the Surveyors Board of Queensland, with more data to effectively manage the re-registration of surveyors within Queensland.