

Department of Primary Industries and Water

INFORMATION & LAND SERVICES

Geospatial Infrastructure Branch

Office of the Surveyor General



Hobart GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001

Launceston PO Box 46, Kings Meadows, Tasmania, 7249

Devonport PO Box 303, Devonport, Tasmania, 7310

Ph 1300 368 550

Web www.dpiw.tas.gov.au

Circular Memorandum No 4 / 2008

TOPIC: **Reintroduction of Registration Fees for Tasmanian Surveyors**

DATE: **20 October 2008**

Surveyor registration fees will be reintroduced for all renewals for 2009 onwards, with fees based on an evaluation of fees charged in other jurisdictions. Fees collected will fund accreditation activities and support registration work and associated costs. All applications for registration for 2009 and beyond will need to be accompanied by registration fees of \$180.00.

Appropriately skilled and qualified surveyors are crucial for the maintenance of the real property system in Tasmania. Public confidence in that system is fundamental to the Tasmanian economy. The accreditation of land surveyors and continuing registration of these surveyors are the vital components of the survey-based land titles system.

When the *Surveyors Act 2002* was introduced in November 2002, annual registration fees for surveyors (previously \$180.00 per annum) were abandoned. As part of the implementation of the Act, the Tasmanian Land Surveyors Accreditation Board (TLSAB) was established to provide services for the accreditation of land surveyors. The maintenance of the Register of Tasmanian Surveyors became the responsibility of the Surveyor General.

At that time, it seemed feasible that industry bodies would be able to fund the necessary activities for the accreditation of land surveyors by levying fees for the provision of accreditation services to any new applicants, and that administrative activities associated with the registration of surveyors could be absorbed into the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW).

Under the current arrangements, TLSAB can only recover costs from candidates presenting themselves for accreditation. Experience has shown that there are too few applicants for this funding model to work. The small number of candidates means that insufficient revenue can be derived to support the Board's activities. In recent years, TLSAB has expressed its concerns about revenue to the responsible Minister/s. In response, Minister Llewellyn provided short term funding relief to TLSAB in 2007, with a commitment that industry funding through registration fees would be examined during 2008.

Management of the surveyor registration service within DPIW has also proved to be more demanding than anticipated. Since the introduction of the Act, the number of surveyors on the Register has increased by around 25%.

Some of the costs for the registration service will be recovered through the fee, which will primarily support accreditation activities. The annual renewal fee will also be a feature of the fees regime to be proposed for inclusion in an amended Surveyors Act, as a result of the post-implementation review of the Act.

Surveyors wishing to remain on the Register are reminded to provide all relevant documentation with a completed form and payment of \$180.00 prior to 1 January 2009. Payment arrangements will be confirmed when reminders are issued in November.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Murphy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter Murphy
SURVEYOR GENERAL