

The
**LAND SURVEYORS
LICENSING BOARD**
of WESTERN AUSTRALIA



ABN: 69 642 478 499

23 February 2015

Mutual Recognition Schemes
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins St East
Melbourne Vic 8003

RE: Productivity Commission: study- review of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) and the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TIMRA)

The Land Surveyors Licensing Board of Western Australia (the Board) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Productivity Commission study into mutual recognition Schemes.

The Board is constituted under section 4 of the *Licensed Surveyors Act 1909* relating to the registration, licensing and practice of land surveyors.

The Board's role includes:

- Registering surveyors who have proven their competency through a process of projects and examinations or through **reciprocal arrangements with other jurisdictions**
- Investigating complaints against surveyors and, if need be, referring cases to State Administrative Tribunal
- Issuing Practising Certificates and managing continuous education requirements for their renewal

One question is considered.

Question 38 How often do occupation-registration bodies impose conditions on people registering under mutual recognition? In which occupations or jurisdictions does this most often occur, and what conditions are imposed?

The Board along with all other boards in Australia and New Zealand are members of a joint committee known as the Council of Reciprocating Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand (CRSBANZ).

Reciprocal arrangements between States and Territories of Australia and with New Zealand for the registration of surveyors were established in 1892 at the inaugural CRSBANZ meeting.

The historic commitment made by the inaugural Council Reciprocating Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand in 1892 to the principles of reciprocal recognition of registration has long been embodied in survey legislation of the States and Territories of

Australia and New Zealand. It was reaffirmed at the 1992 conference by recognising the consequences of the Mutual Recognition Bill. At the time the Conference applauded the initiative of the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers in adopting the principle of mutual recognition of professional registration across the nation.

The 1992 Conference in recognising the provisions of the Mutual Recognition Act

- Reaffirmed full reciprocity for surveyors
- **Agreed that reasonable conditions to ensure compliance with local laws may be imposed after registration provided such conditions are applied equitably to all surveyors**

Letters of Accreditation are issued by Boards on the clear understanding that licensed surveyors acquaint themselves with the appropriate legislation and practices of the other jurisdiction, and comply with all the requirements of the reciprocating Board.

The condition placed on surveyors registered under mutual recognition in WA is to apply a condition to their Practising Certificate for local knowledge requirements. This condition requires Plans lodged at the statutory authority responsible for property and land information in Western Australia Landgate, to be counter-signed by a surveyor with an unrestricted Practising Certificate. This restriction to the Practising Certificate is removed once the surveyor passes the Board's Application of Survey Law exam. This condition also applies to surveyors registered in WA who re-apply for a practising certificate after not practising for a number of years and is therefore applied equitably to all surveyors.

Yours faithfully

Graeme Holloway
Secretary