



# Surveyor-General's Direction

No. 11

*Preservation of Survey Infrastructure*



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Preservation of Survey Infrastructure**

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Cover photograph shows upgrade works on Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls.

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# Document Control Sheet

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3.0 (Draft)	January 2017	Complete revision and the addition of provisions for Large-Scale Infrastructure and Development Projects
3.1	July 2017	To address public consultation draft feedback
3.2	September 2017	To address updates to the <i>Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2017</i>
3.3	May 2019	Minor revision - formatting
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### Document Approval:

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Surveyor-General of NSW

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## 1. Preamble

Section 24(1) of the *Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002* states a person must not remove, damage, destroy, displace, obliterate or deface any survey mark unless authorised to do so by the Surveyor-General. In addition to a maximum penalty of 25 penalty units (currently \$110 per penalty unit) a person found guilty by a court may be ordered to pay compensation up to \$10,000 towards the cost of reinstatement and up to \$10,000 towards loss or damage suffered.

In order to obtain authority from the Surveyor-General for the removal of any Permanent Survey Mark or Cadastral Reference Mark, these directions must be followed.

## 2. Introduction

Permanent Survey Marks are fundamental to spatial infrastructure. This includes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and databases that are the primary spatial management tools for all levels of Government. The loss of Permanent Survey Marks can adversely affect future upgrades to physical infrastructure such as road, rail, ports and greenfield developments, as well as the planning and management of other development or resource management projects that require a spatial component, such as urban renewal, mapping and environmental management.

Cadastral Reference Marks are fundamental to the definition and re-establishment of the cadastre. The loss of these marks and Permanent Survey Marks can significantly degrade the integrity and accuracy of the cadastre, and add to the costs of subsequent surveys.

## 3. Authority to remove or replace survey marks

In accordance with the *Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002* (SSI Act) and *Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2017* (and any future Regulation in force at the time of survey) (SSI Reg.), the following definitions apply when interpreting this clause:

**Bench Mark** as defined in [Schedule 1, SSI Reg](#)

**Boundary Mark** as defined in [Schedule 2, SSI Reg](#)

**(Cadastral) Reference Mark** as defined in [Schedule 3, SSI Reg](#) including Alignment Marks

**Permanent Survey Mark** as defined in [Schedule 4, SSI Reg](#)

**Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only** as defined in the [Registrar General's Directions](#)

**Registered Land Surveyor** as defined in [Clause 3, SSI Act](#)

**Public Authority** as defined in [Clause 3, SSI Act](#)

**State Control Survey** and **State Cadastre** as defined in [Clause 3, SSI Act](#)

**Established Survey Mark** as defined in [Clause 5, SSI Reg](#)

**Accurate AHD value** as defined in [Clause 5, SSI Reg](#).

**Control Survey** is a survey performed by making suitably accurate measurements and referring them to identifiable adjacent control marks in the existing control network

Any survey of a *Bench Mark(s)* or *Permanent Survey Mark(s)* affected by the works may only be undertaken by a person authorised by the Surveyor-General, or engaged by a public authority and subject to its quality assurance procedures. The public authority takes full responsibility for the work undertaken by the person(s) so engaged.

Any survey of a *Boundary Mark* or *(Cadastral) Reference Mark* affected by the works shall be surveyed by, or under the supervision of a Registered Land Surveyor.

*Bench Mark(s)* or *Permanent Survey Marks* which are also *(Cadastral) Reference Marks* and affected by the works, shall be surveyed by, or under the supervision of a Registered Land Surveyor.

## 4. Application to remove or replace survey marks

An application for authorisation to remove or replace Survey Mark(s) (Permanent Survey Marks or Cadastral Reference Marks) must be made in accordance with [clause 90](#) of the *Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2017* (SSI Reg).

For an application to:

- Remove, damage or replace Survey Marks affected by Small-Scale projects, an application must be made to: [Application for Surveyor-General Approval - Survey Mark\(s\) Removal](#), and a survey undertaken in accordance with [Section 6](#) of this Direction.
- Remove or replace Survey Marks for Large-Scale infrastructure or development projects, refer to [Section 7](#) of this Direction.
- Remove or replace Survey Marks for mining projects, refer to [Section 8](#) of this Direction.

## 5. General procedures

The following general procedures must be implemented prior to addressing the specific procedures relevant to the scale of the project as detailed in sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Direction.

### 5.1 Permanent Survey Marks

#### Aim

The aim of the proposed survey work is to preserve the integrity of the State Control Network (eg. PMs, SSMs and Trigonometrical Stations) by ensuring that sufficient Permanent Survey Marks are available following completion of the project.

On completion of works the survey must be of sufficient horizontal and vertical Class to allow existing and/or replacement mark(s) to be coordinated to a similar standard as the mark(s) affected by the works.

#### Procedure

- Obtain a current search of the Survey Control Information Management System (SCIMS).
- Conduct a thorough search of plans on public record to determine whether the Permanent Survey Mark(s) to be affected are also Cadastral Reference Mark(s). For a Permanent Survey Mark to qualify as a Reference Mark it must be within 30 metres of the corner it references and

be shown on a Deposited Plan in accordance with the SSI Reg. If the Permanent Survey Mark is also a Reference Mark then the procedure for Cadastral Reference Marks as detailed in section 5.2 must also be implemented.

- Conduct a thorough visual inspection of the site to locate any existing and/or additional survey marks (e.g. marks not recorded in SCIMS) which may be affected by the proposed works.
- Prepare an audit schedule of all marks within the extent of works and report their physical state (found, not found or destroyed) as a result of the field inspection.
- Apply to the Surveyor-General for the removal of survey mark(s) in accordance with clause 90 of the SSI Reg.
- Note: the type of the application required will depend on the scale of the project and the number of survey marks to be affected. For specific details on the application process refer to sections 6, 7 and 8.
- After approval has been granted, replace the Permanent Survey Mark(s) with replacement mark(s) located in safe positions, either outside the zone of influence of the works, or within a completed stage of the works such that the mark(s) is protected from further physical impact for the duration of the project.
- Lodge a Locality Sketch Plan(s) in accordance with Surveyor-General's Direction No. 2.
- Submit all survey data, documents and plans, as required under sections 6, 7 or 8.

## **5.2 Cadastral Reference Marks**

### **Aim**

The aim of the proposed survey work is to preserve sufficient cadastral infrastructure in order to re-establish the cadastre at the accuracies specified in the SSI Reg. following completion of the works.

### **Procedure**

- Conduct a thorough search of plans on public record.
- Determine the survey marks (including Cadastral Reference Marks, Cadastral Boundary Marks, survey monuments, bench marks and Permanent Survey Marks) affected by the proposed works.
- Conduct a thorough visual inspection of the site to locate any existing and/or additional survey marks (e.g. new marks shown on unregistered plans) which may be affected by the proposed works.
- Prepare an audit schedule of all marks within the extent of works and report their physical state (found, not found or destroyed) as a result of the field inspection.
- Apply to the Surveyor-General for the removal of survey mark(s) in accordance with clause 90 of the SSI Reg.

Note: the type of application will depend on the scale of the project, and the number of survey marks to be affected. For specific details on the application process refer to sections 6, 7 and 8.

- Lodge a Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only showing both the preserved and new survey marks with sufficient measurements to be able to re-establish the cadastre.

## 6. Procedure for Small-Scale projects

In addition to the general aims and procedures detailed in section 5, the following specific aims and procedures are applicable to Small-Scale projects.

Small-Scale projects are those that are confined to a small area (nominally a single road intersection or a frontage not exceeding four lots) which may result in the damage or removal of Permanent Survey Marks and/or Cadastral Reference Marks.

Where Small-Scale projects are contiguous (e.g. kerb and gutter or footpath upgrades) the procedures for Large-Scale projects must be followed. This is to prevent the destruction of a large number of marks, which may involve several contracts, over an extended period of time.

The public authority or organisation responsible for the works shall manage and monitor the preservation of survey infrastructure as well as the submission of survey(s) for the entire area affected by the separate, contiguous works.

### 6.1 Permanent Survey Marks

#### Aim

The aim of the proposed survey work is to preserve the integrity of the State Control Network by ensuring that sufficient Permanent Survey Marks are available following completion of the project.

On completion of works the survey must be of sufficient horizontal and vertical Class to allow existing and/or replacement mark(s) to be coordinated to a similar standard as the mark(s) affected by the works.

#### Procedure

- All Permanent Survey Marks affected by the works in Small-Scale projects are to be replaced irrespective of the accuracy or significance of the mark(s). The new marks must be located in safe positions, either outside the zone of influence of the works, or within a completed stage of the works such that the mark(s) is protected from further physical impact for the duration of the project.
- Apply to the Surveyor-General to remove (and replace) Survey Marks affected by the proposed works using: [Application for Surveyor-General Approval - Survey Mark\(s\) Removal](#).
- If it is considered that the replacement of any mark(s) in accordance with these procedures is not justified, then the application to remove the mark without replacement must be substantiated. Each application will be evaluated on its merits.
- If the affected mark is 'Established', has an accurate height, or is shown on a Deposited Plan, then the replacement mark will need to be surveyed to a similar Class as detailed in Surveyor-General's Direction No. 12, which includes sufficient connections and measurements to adjacent marks.
- For specifications relating to the survey work associated with Small-Scale projects the surveyor is referred to the following Surveyor-General's Directions (SGD) available on the [Surveyor-General's Directions](#) webpage:
  - o SGD No. 1 "Approved Permanent Marks"
  - o SGD No. 2 "Preparation of Locality Sketch Plans"



- o SGD No. 12 “Control Surveys and SCIMS”.

The survey must specifically address the following:

- The standard of the survey must also conform to the requirements of [Standards and Practices for Control Surveys - Special Publication No. 1 - Version 1.7](#).
- If the Permanent Survey Mark(s) to be replaced is ‘Established’ (Class D or better) then the replacement mark(s) are to be surveyed to an equivalent Class in accordance with sections 3 and 4 of SGD No. 12.
- If the Permanent Survey Mark(s) to be replaced is not ‘Established’ (less than Class D) then no further survey field work is required to the replacement mark.
- If the Permanent Survey Mark has an AHD accurate height, (Class LD or B or better) then the replacement mark(s) are to be surveyed to an equivalent Class in accordance with sections 3 and 4 of SGD No. 12.
- If the Permanent Survey Mark(s) to be replaced does not have an AHD accurate height (Class LD or B or better) then no further survey field work is required to the replacement mark.
- Lodge a Locality Sketch Plan in accordance with SGD No. 2.
- Submit all survey data, documents and plans in accordance with SGD No. 12.

## 6.2 Cadastral Reference Marks

### Aim

The aim of the proposed survey work is to preserve sufficient cadastral infrastructure, place additional marks, and provide sufficient measurements in order to re-establish the cadastre at the accuracies specified in the SSI Reg. following completion of the works.

### Procedure

- In Small-Scale projects all Cadastral Reference Marks affected by the works are to be connected to survey marks, either existing or placed, as defined in schedules 1, 2, 3 or 4 of the SSI Reg. to maintain the integrity of the cadastre. Sufficient connections must be made to marks which will remain undisturbed following completion of the works.
- Ensure that all survey marks are connected by closed survey. Where possible those connections must be made directly from Permanent Survey Marks or newly placed marks as defined in schedules 1, 3 or 4 of the SSI Reg.
- The above connections must not exceed 30 metres for urban surveys or 150 metres for rural surveys. Two independent radiations (from two different marks) may be sufficient where fully closed connections are not practical.
- Apply to the Surveyor-General to remove Survey Marks affected by the proposed works using: [Application for Surveyor-General Approval - Survey Mark\(s\) Removal](#).
- When Cadastral Reference Mark(s) are to be removed, and connected to a new or existing mark, then a Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only must be lodged in accordance with the Registrar General's Directions and Surveyor-General's Directions. A Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only cannot define or redefine cadastral boundaries.

- If it is considered that the placement of any new mark(s) in accordance with these procedures is not justified, then the application to remove the mark without replacement must be substantiated. Each application will be evaluated on its merits.

## 7. Procedure for Large-Scale infrastructure or development projects

Large-Scale projects are anything other than Small-Scale projects that extend over a significant area, e.g. infrastructure upgrade to road, rail or ports, greenfield development or urban renewal projects. These projects may result in the damage or removal of a significant number of Permanent Survey Marks or Cadastral Reference Marks.

### 7.1 Aim

In Large Scale projects the applicant must submit a well-documented strategy to maintain the integrity of the State Control Network and State Cadastre. The application will be evaluated for approval by the Surveyor-General.

The public authority or organisation responsible for the project shall ensure that all survey marks affected by the works are protected or that on completion of the works:

- The control survey must be of sufficient horizontal and vertical class to allow existing and/ or replacement mark(s) to be coordinated to a similar standard as the mark(s) affected by the works.
- Sufficient cadastral infrastructure is preserved or additional marks are placed with appropriate measurements to re-establish the cadastre at the accuracies specified in the SSI Reg.

To facilitate this process the Surveyor-General has established formal lines of communication and liaison with various public authorities responsible for the maintenance and construction of Large-Scale infrastructure in NSW.

In addition to the general aims and procedures detailed in section 5, the following procedure must be followed for Large-Scale infrastructure or development projects.

### 7.2 Application

The application must include the following:

- Where possible, provide at least 30 business days notification before the proposed removal or replacement of survey marks (Permanent Survey Marks or Cadastral Reference Marks), thereby extending the timeframe of 14 days minimum notice under clause 90, SSI Reg.
- An application to the Surveyor-General to remove Survey Marks affected by the proposed works using: [Application for Surveyor-General Approval - Survey Mark\(s\) Removal](#).
- A field audit of all survey marks (including Permanent Survey Marks, Cadastral Reference Marks and Bench Marks) within the extent of the proposed works. The audit schedule is to include: the mark's physical state (eg. found, disturbed, gone), the mark's status (eg. type, position, height and accuracy) and date of inspection. The schedule must include details of marks which may be affected by the works and those marks which will be protected or replaced. Refer to the Survey Mark Audit Schedule in the [POSI Resource Pack](#) on the Spatial Services website. Note that the status of Cadastral Reference Marks must be verified by a Registered Land Surveyor.

- A Survey Project Plan outlining the strategy and methodology for mark protection and reinstatement of survey infrastructure for the duration of the project, prior to commencement of any construction activity.
- The Plan is to include a diagram or drawing showing the extent of the proposed works, all existing marks, proposed position and accuracy of each new mark, survey technique, and equipment to be used. The Survey Project Plan must be agreed by both the public authority/organisation responsible for the works, and the Surveyor-General, prior to commencement of any works that could affect survey infrastructure on the project.

The application including the above documentation shall be lodged by the public authority or organisation responsible for the infrastructure or development project. It shall not be lodged directly with the Surveyor-General (or their nominee) by a survey contractor undertaking the work on behalf of the public authority or organisation responsible for the project.

### **7.3 Deliverables**

On completion of the works the following must be addressed:

- All conditions of the approval, granted under clause 90 of the SSI Reg. must be met, including all survey data, documents and plans, as detailed in the approval
- Any survey submitted must also comply with the Surveyor-General's Directions, specifically Nos. 1, 2, 11 and 12
- The survey data, documents and plans shall be lodged initially with the Surveyor-General (or their nominee) to check compliance with the conditions of approval
- Any Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only must then be lodged with the appropriate authorities.

The public authority or organisation responsible for the project shall monitor and ensure the management and implementation of the Survey Project Plan and that all work is carried out in accordance with the approval, including the delivery of the final survey plan and associated documentation.

## **8. Procedure for Mining projects**

When using Surveyor-General's Direction No. 11 for the Preservation of Survey Infrastructure (POSI), mining projects are considered specialised types of projects. These projects may result in the disturbance, damage or removal of Permanent Survey Marks and Cadastral Reference Marks over a significant area.

There are two types of mining projects that may impact on survey infrastructure:

- open cut mining projects
- underground mining projects (usually long wall or block caving).

Each type of mining project will require a different approach to the preservation of survey infrastructure.

The procedures outlined in sections 6 and 7 of this Direction are not suitable for use on mining projects. The general procedures detailed in section 5 of this Direction and the following procedures (section 8) should be followed for mining projects.

## 8.1 Aim

The aim of this procedure is to ensure the integrity of the State Control Network and the State Cadastre is maintained if a mining project is carried out.

The organisation responsible for the project shall ensure that all survey infrastructure at risk from the works are protected or if they are to be affected - to ensure that on completion of the works:

- The control survey should be of sufficient horizontal and vertical class to allow existing and/or replacement mark(s) to be coordinated to a similar standard as the mark(s) affected by the works.

Within the mine workings area, no new State Control survey marks are placed if these will also be affected by the project. If any new marks are needed they should be placed in a location that is accessible to the public, unless the mine requires additional survey marks within the mine for its own purposes. Different mining projects will have different implications on survey infrastructure.

- Cadastral Reference Marks affected by the mine workings will impact future users differently, depending on the size and timing of the workings. The standard creation of a Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only may not be practical, as there may not be safe locations to place new survey marks. Different mining projects will have different implications on cadastral infrastructure.
- The construction of a Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) and its inclusion in either the NSW government operated CORSnet-NSW network and/or the Federal Government's Positioning Australia network are alternate solutions that may be considered and would deliver benefits to all users.

### 8.1.1 Open Cut Mining projects

- If the mining project affects the density of the NSW State Survey Control network in the area, the addition of new replacement Permanent Survey Marks should be placed at the extents of the mine workings (preferable on public land) and outside any potential deformation zone surrounding the open cut mine.
- The new, replacement Permanent Survey Marks will be of a similar type and surveyed to a similar standard as the ones that they replace. This will satisfy the requirements of the NSW State Control Network.
- In some cases, Permanent Survey Marks with ACCURATE AHD71 values may require a minimum 6 hour AUSPOS session to be observed prior to any mining activity. This is necessary in order to measure, model and hence preserve orthometric (AHD71) to ellipsoidal height relationships for current and future Australian geoid models.
- If any unplanned disturbance occurs to Permanent Survey Marks (i.e. subsidence from high wall failures, earth works and plant movement), then a new application referencing the original consent should be submitted to the Surveyor-General using [Application for Surveyor-General Approval - Survey Mark\(s\) Removal](#).
- Cadastral Reference Marks along the perimeter of the mining lease must be either protected or shown on a Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only. This will meet the requirements of adjoining land definitions.
- At the end of the mining project, the organisation responsible for the project will carry out an audit survey and any anomalies within the cadastre caused by the mining project will be rectified at this stage.

- For deformation effects occurring or predicted to occur as a result of land movement towards an open cut mine void, the following Underground Mining project section in this Direction should be followed.

### 8.1.2 Underground Mining projects

For any survey infrastructure affected by underground mine projects, the survey infrastructure may seem undisturbed, however their position may change due to the effects of subsidence - usually both in the horizontal and vertical.

- If during the project Permanent Survey Marks are disturbed by subsidence from the movement related to open cut high walls and underground workings, a monitoring survey to a standard as agreed with the Surveyor-General is to be conducted. The monitoring survey density will be at a 500 metre spacing or of the existing Permanent Survey Marks' density (whatever the lesser is).
- A monitoring survey is required at regular intervals as agreed between the Surveyor-General and the applicant to provide survey control for public use during the project's life. Monitoring will continue until both the applicant and the Surveyor-General deem all practical subsidence has ceased.
- To avoid duplication of monitoring surveys when planning a monitoring program under the proposed Extraction Plan, consideration should also be given to the monitoring survey required by the Surveyor-General.
- When the Surveyor-General and the applicant have agreed the practical subsidence has ceased, the final survey of all Permanent Survey Marks is to be conducted to the same standard which existed before being affected by the mine project, or as agreed.
- As the cadastre is determined by relative means there will generally not be large burdens placed upon future definition of the cadastre. However, if there are unforeseen large geological events caused by the subsidence, a Deposited Plan of Redefinition is the only means to rectify the impact to the cadastre. In this situation an amendment to the approval will be required.

## 8.2 Application

Similar to Large-Scale projects, the applicant must submit a well-documented strategy to maintain the integrity of the NSW State Survey Control network and the State Cadastre. The application will be evaluated for approval by the Office of the Surveyor-General.

An application to the Surveyor-General to remove Survey Marks affected by the proposed project must be submitted using [Application for Surveyor-General Approval - Survey Mark\(s\) Removal](#).

Where possible, provide at least 30 business days notification before the proposed disturbance of survey marks (Permanent Survey Marks or Cadastral Reference Marks), thereby extending the timeframe of 14 days minimum notice under clause 90, SSI Reg.

The application must include the following:

- A summary of the type of mining (long wall mining, open cut mining etc), with the likely impact on the survey infrastructure that could be affected.

Marks that will remain in-situ but are to be buried by overburden or tailings are to be considered destroyed for the purposes of this application.

- Planned commencement and completion dates, along with predictions of when full subsidence impacts are expected to be completed.

- A field audit of all survey marks (a desktop audit for Cadastral Reference Marks is allowable). The audit schedule is to include marks;
  - o status (Not Found, Found, Disturbed or Destroyed etc)
  - o details (type, position, height and accuracy etc)
  - o date of inspection.
- The schedule should include details of marks which may be affected by the project and those marks which will be protected or replaced. Refer to the Survey Mark Audit Schedule in [POSI Resource Pack](#).
- Mining Lease Plan depicting the integrity of the State Cadastre.
- A Survey Project Plan including:
  - o strategy and methodology for mark protection and the proposed reinstatement of survey infrastructure at the end of the mining project
  - o diagram or drawing showing all existing marks
  - o proposed position and accuracy of each new mark, survey technique, and equipment to be used
  - o extent of the proposed works including the extraction area
  - o mining infrastructure that will be built (for example haul roads, stockpiles, ore dumps, waste dumps, detention basins, tailings dam)
  - o location of final high walls with predicted limits of effective subsidence if high walls were to fail, and the predicted limits of effective subsidence
  - o predicted magnitude and limit of horizontal and vertical subsidence from the proposed mine project.
- If a monitoring survey network is required, this will need to be shown within the Survey Project Plan as described within the Underground Mining projects section of this Direction.

### 8.3 Deliverables

When completing the work to be carried out as agreed to in the application the following points must be addressed in order for the Office of the Surveyor-General to deem the organisation has met its obligations under the SSI Act:

- All conditions of the approval, granted under clause 90 of the SSI Reg must be met including all survey data, documents and plans, as detailed in the approval.
- Any survey submitted must also comply with the Surveyor-General's Directions, specifically Nos 1, 2, 11 and 12.
- Any Deposited Plan of Survey Information Only or Deposited Plan of Redefinition is to be lodged with the appropriate authorities.
- The survey data and documents shall be lodged initially with the Surveyor-General (or their nominee) to check compliance with the conditions of approval.

The organisation responsible for the project shall monitor and ensure the management and implementation of the Survey Project Plan and that all work is carried out in accordance with the approval.

**End of Direction**

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