

To support the adoption of the [Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 \(GDA2020\)](#), legislation governing surveying and spatial information in NSW has been updated. The Office of the Surveyor-General is also advising NSW Government on the modernisation and rationalisation of the relevant legislation under the control of several NSW Ministries.

Amendments to the Surveying and Spatial Information Act and Regulation

The [Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002 \(NSW\)](#) and [Regulation 2017 \(NSW\)](#) (S&SI Act and Regulation) define the prescribed datum in NSW for the state control survey, state cadastre and surveys carried out for or on behalf of the Surveyor-General or a public authority. They also provide a mechanism to advise Government on activities relating to the capture and dissemination of other spatial information.

The S&SI Act and Regulation have been amended by the following which came commenced 1 January 2020:

- Relocating the technical definitions of the Australian Height Datum and the Geocentric Datum of Australia from the Act to the Regulation
- Defining the Geocentric Datum of Australia by reference to the current [National Measurement \(Recognised-Value Standard of Measurement of Position\) Determination 2017](#). This determination defines the Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) at the Reference Epoch of 2020.0.

Land survey plans: GDA2020 from 1 January 2020 with 6-month GDA94 general exemption

Amendments to the S&SI Act and Regulation now make GDA2020 the prescribed datum for land surveys and plans including Deposited Plans and Strata Plans. Land survey plans with a date of survey after 1 January 2020 require:

- Coordinate Schedule to provide MGA2020 coordinates and Positional Uncertainty (replaces 'Order')
- Height Schedule to provide Positional Uncertainty (replaces 'Order')
- Note: MGA2020 is the [UTM projection](#) of GDA2020; MGA94 is the UTM projection of GDA94

[Surveyor-General's Direction No. 7 and associated approved schedules and templates](#) have been updated to support the submission of land survey plans in MGA2020. A general exemption policy permitting the use of MGA94 coordinates is available for land survey plans with a date of survey between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2020 inclusive.

NSW LandXML has been similarly updated. Contact your software vendor and/or obtain the updated Recipe and Schema from <https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Digital-Plans/LandXML>.

The timeline for submission of Land Survey Plans with reference to GDA2020 is summarised in the following table:

Plans with Date of Survey...	Survey plans referencing MGA94	Survey plans referencing MGA2020
before 1 January 2020	As per S&SI Act (2002) and Regulation (2017)	By plan-specific exemption only
1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020	By general exemption policy	As per updated S&SI Act and Regulation to support GDA2020
after 30 June 2020	By plan-specific exemption only	As per updated S&SI Act and Regulation to support GDA2020

Mine survey plans and related legislation

The [Survey and Drafting Directions for Mining Surveyors 2020 \(NSW Mines\)](#) commenced 15 May 2020 and these provide for a two-year transition period for compliance with the requirements to survey and submit information in MGA2020.

An exemption has also been granted by the Regulator to allow the use of GDA2020 instead of GDA94 in preparing mine survey plans (NSW Government Gazette No 39 of 28 February 2020) until amendments to the Regulation are made. A two-year transition, to align with the transition provisions in the new Directions, will be considered as part of proposed amendments to the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014 (NSW).

More information can be found in this [fact sheet](#) from the NSW Resources Regulator.

Note: Mining Tenure Surveys are referred to in the above legislation but are a form of land survey and are therefore governed by the S&SI Act. Refer to the previous section and to [Surveyor-General's Direction No. 8](#) for more information.

Other NSW legislation

In NSW legislation governing spatial information there currently exists a variety of prescribed spatial reference systems, including but not limited to GDA94, AGD66, WGS84 and 'GPS coordinates'. The Office of the Surveyor-General continues to work with custodians of other legislation in NSW to rationalise these spatial reference systems. The preferred solution is to refer to datum, as defined in the updated S&SI Act and Regulation.

Where can I obtain MGA2020/GDA2020 coordinates for Survey Marks?

The Survey Control Information Management System (SCIMS) has provided MGA94/GDA94 and MGA2020/GDA2020 coordinates since July 2019. Refer to [SCIMS Online](#) and the [SCIMS Online Support Guide](#) for more information.

From July 2020 the updated [NSW Survey Marks Mobile App](#) also provides SCIMS information in both MGA94/GDA94 and MGA2020/GDA2020 on both IOS and Android devices.

Where can I find out more about GDA2020?

Keep informed via Fact-sheets, FAQ and a discussion forum on GDA2020: www.icsm.gov.au/gda2020

For more information, please email the GDA2020 Team at DCS Spatial Services: GDA2020@customerservice.nsw.gov.au