

# **REFORM OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION - A NECESSARY PREREQUISITE FOR CADASTRAL REFORM**

*Keith C. BELL and Elizabeth O'KEEFFE, Australia*

## **ABSTRACT**

All Australian states and territories are reviewing their regulatory frameworks for surveying under the auspices of the National Competition Policy. The State of Victoria is at the forefront of land administration reform, pursuing an innovative agenda of technological, institutional, legislative and regulatory change to improve its cadastre. Victoria broadened the scope of its review far beyond competition policy outcomes to enhance the performance of the land surveying industry, improve the quality of the cadastre and deliver better services to the community.

Land Victoria, the agency with overall responsibility for land administration, has established a very comprehensive program of reform that will amongst other things result in the implementation of a modern spatial data infrastructure, that best serves the needs of government, industry and the broader community. This reform program is called Property Online.

Reform of Land Surveying in Victoria is a major project being undertaken by Land Victoria through the Surveyor General, to improve the regulatory framework for professional surveyors. Victoria is also driving the national reform agenda for land surveying which will see governments focus on the setting of standards and monitoring of the inputs to the cadastre, whilst industry takes on accountability for the regulation of competency and providing enhanced services to consumers.

The Victorian Government has been the reform pacesetter in rewriting laws little changed from the 1880s. It is nearing the end of an extensive consultative process involving the surveying industry, the public sector, academia and stakeholders from the broader land development and property-related industries to re-scope the surveying regulatory framework for the State.

This paper discusses the reform of land surveying in Victoria and the vision for the cadastre.

## **CONTACT**

Keith C. Bell, *RFD*  
Surveyor General of Victoria  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
2/456 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne, VIC 3000  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel. + 61 3 9603 5182  
Fax + 61 3 9603 5216  
Email: keith.bell@nre.vic.gov.au

Elizabeth O'Keeffe  
Executive Director, Land Victoria  
11/8 Nicholson Street  
Melbourne, VIC 3000  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel. + 61 3 9637 8244  
Fax: + 61 3 9637 8110  
Email: elizabeth.o'keeffe@nre.vic.gov.au