ACT Surveyor-General Guideline No. 22: The Definition of Boundaries

William (Billy) Steer
ACT Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information
William.Steer@act.gov.au

ABSTRACT

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has a distinctive cadastral and planning history, shaped by its origins as a purpose-built capital. The city of Canberra is a planned city that has maintained a strong relationship between town planning, subdivision design, control surveys and cadastral surveys throughout its 100-year history. This has resulted in a strong cadastral framework that provides efficiencies in land development and management. This presentation outlines the new Surveyor-General Guideline No. 22: The Definition of Boundaries (available online at https://www.planning.act.gov.au/professionals/resources), which aims to provide advice on the determination and redefinition of boundaries within the ACT by presenting the general principles and providing examples. In the ACT, it is important to consider the difference between defining new or not previously surveyed boundaries (i.e. design boundaries) and the redefinition of existing or established boundaries previously defined. In greenfield subdivisions, design boundaries are defined from the Spatial Cadastral Database (SCDB) or from a combination of the SCDB and nearby registered plans. Blocks previously surveyed and registered on a Deposited Plan (DP) are redefined in accordance with the legal principle known as the 'hierarchy of evidence'. Some surveys, such as new releases of land in developed areas, require the partial redefinition of registered blocks as well as the determination of design boundaries. Thus, the ACT surveyor should be familiar with determining boundaries from the SCDB (design) and the hierarchy of evidence.

KEYWORDS: *ACT, cadastral surveys, boundary definition, hierarchy of evidence.*