

Sustainable Surveying Education in South Australia

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SUMMARY

Due to dwindling numbers, the Bachelor of Surveying and Geoinformatics at the University of South Australia (UniSA) was discontinued in 2006 and the final students from this degree graduated in 2009. However, the Surveyors Board of South Australia (SBSA) foresaw a long term demand for a tertiary educated cadastral surveying workforce and consequently initiated dialog with UniSA to develop a different model to encourage a new generation of cadastral surveyors into the South Australian workforce. This collaborative effort between SBSA and UniSA resulted in the commencement in 2010 of a unique approach for Australia in surveying education, namely a Master of Surveying. A key driver in this project was industry involvement in the development, delivery and direction of the degree, both financially and through in kind support. The overall aim for the project was to create a collaborative and sustainable tertiary level surveying education in South Australia that met the SBSA requirements for application for acceptance as a Registered Surveying Graduate. To date the collaboration has created a reinvigorated, up-to-date and visionary tertiary education model, built upon strong partnerships that have produced quality graduates who have exceeded industry expectations.

This Higher Education and Training collaborative venture created the Master of Surveying, the only type of this degree in Australia. An integral part of the collaboration was a sustainable financial model. This was achieved through an amendment to the Survey Act 1992 that expanded the Survey Plan Levy to include education funding and thus enabled SBSA to provide financial industry support to the UniSA to aid the creation, delivery and promotion of the new two year Master of Surveying education program

The main benefit arising out of the collaboration is the continuation of surveying education in South Australia that produces a local surveying workforce that has a global outlook on surveying and

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geospatial business. Surveyors are classically the first on site, and the last to leave and as such are crucial in the construction industry, for without them, nothing can be built and without them nothing can be assured that it has been built in the correct place.

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