

Challenges and Relevance?

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SUMMARY

Challenges and Relevance? Paul KENNY, Australia SUMMARY It is a curiosity within the surveying profession in Australia that it is rarely outwardly praised, rewarded or acknowledged for the work that is undertaken and successfully completed. It is considered one of the challenges of the profession and at times the question is asked about the relevance of the profession in modern day society. There is no question that in the past surveyors were the explorers of the world, discovering new lands and providing details far beyond what we might provide today. Technology is changing at such a rapid rate, that our relevance in society may well be challenged and the work it facilitates can be completed by persons not trained as surveyors, but able to understand the processes using this new technology. Is this fair and reasonable to the trained surveyor or the clients they serve? It is a question we must ask and answer thoughtfully if the profession is to remain relevant in today's society and into the future. Ask yourself: Would you have a plumber train an electrician? To answer this question and others that may come out of it, it is important to list what might be considered to be the challenges facing the survey professional today. From this it may then be possible to determine the relevance of the profession into the future. It should be clearly noted that the surveying profession is not the only one scratching its head and crystal gazing about its future. This paper is designed to review what might be considered the challenges facing the profession and determining if these challenges can be overcome in order to make the profession relevant and worthwhile in terms of training new surveyors, offering value to the land property system, offering value to the engineering and construction industry and being a leader in the development of new technologies in 3D measurements and positioning. To some this may be a rehash of that in which surveyors are involved. To others it might be an opportunity to provide a service over and above what is considered normal today; and to others it might be a challenge to deliver newer technologies far above what we have today. Sit back and challenge this discussion and determine if what surveyors do has a future in society and if it needs to change course to maintain relevance! Key Words: Cadastral, Relevance, technology, challenges