

4 September 2024

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

To the Consultation Team

Surveying, Spatial Information and Mapping Services

Thank you for your consideration of our previous submissions through the consultation process in the review of the ANZSCO codes. We have had lengthy consultation with our members and presented the draft publication across the country with strong support for the changes being recommended.

Surveyors Australia (previously the Association of Consulting Surveyors National) is the peak industry body representing close to 500 surveying businesses across Australia. Our member firms employ thousands of surveyors, registered and licensed surveyors, survey managers, survey technicians, engineers, planners, spatial scientists, draftspeople and many others involved in the role of creating land parcels and accurate placement of land and building as well as other surveying activities across the country. There is a Surveyor in every local city and region ensuring that, boundary definition and therefore land value is accurate and reliable, and these surveyors are held accountable by state and territory governments.

The new classifications proposed will be very helpful to the surveying profession to identify the key areas required for training and development. The classifications will help us reach out to students and encourage a career along this pathway. The classifications help us identify how many surveyors are required to meet the demands of the building and construction sector.

At each census, we review the ABS data to identify the number of surveyors in each jurisdiction to track how our industry is meeting the skills needs. The changes proposed will help us better classify surveyors according to the type of work they are undertaking as in many jurisdictions the training and licensing needs are different based on the type of surveying. This information helps us train and upskill surveyors to meet the demands across the country (and New Zealand)

In relation to the specific changes for Surveying and Geospatial Information we provide the following feedback and recommendations:

Managers

At the Manager Level (1) we are pleased to see the inclusion of **Surveying Manager at 131931** though would **recommend it be named Survey Manager** which is the more commonly used term.

We would also recommend that an additional **specialisation be added as Licensed or Registered Cadastral Surveyor**. These surveyors undertake the tasks described and are quite highly trained and qualified and licensed by each jurisdiction under legislation. As we have mentioned no building or construction works can take place without this specialist survey manager being engaged. The

difference with licensed and registered surveyors is that they are the only ones who can sign a plan determining title of land.

Professionals

Professional level (2) we are pleased to be classified with Design, Engineering and Science Professionals. The classification of 242 with Architects and Planners also suits the work we do and those we often partner with.

However, we are concerned that at 2422 the term “Geospatial Information Professionals” has been included when it does not appear above (242). We believe that **2422 should simply be allocated as Surveyors**. We also pleased with the additional clarity provided on the exclusions from this category, such as Building Surveyors. This will help us better understand our numbers, as it will help Building Surveyors understand theirs.

The Occupations listed under 2422 are correct and we support each of the subcategories, notably the additions and separation of 242232, 242234 and 242235 – engineering, land and mine surveyors. However, we recommend **242299 be renamed Surveyors nec** allowing for the additional Geodetic and Hydrographic Surveyors to be allocated.

We believe that Geospatial Specialists are a subset of the surveying profession and will be better served by being classified as “Surveyors” at 2422.

In relation to the specific subcategories:

- We are pleased you have sustained the Cartographer code – 242231
- The tasks and details for Engineering Surveyors is correct – 242232
- We support the Geospatial Specialist tasks and category – 242233
- We appreciate the specialisation of Land Surveyor at 242234, but would note our comments above about that specialisation being included at 131931. The tasks are accurate and well detailed
- The tasks and details for Mine Surveyors is correct – 242235
- We are pleased that Geodetic Surveyors and Hydrographic Surveyors have been acknowledged at 242299, though we would like this code to be named Surveyors nec. We hope that over the coming census gathering we can show more detailed numbers for these categories and better understand how we can build this side of our profession. Geodetic Surveyors could be included as a specialisation of land surveyors, but Hydrographic Surveyors are unique.

Whilst we are not involved with Building and Quantity Surveying, we would suggest that **2429 be labelled Building and Quantity Surveyors** (removing Other Architects, Planners and Surveyors). We believe this makes it clearer for everyone.

Technicians and Trade Workers:

We had some difficulty locating where Surveying Technicians had been placed in the shuffle, finding them at 312135. We appreciate there are many workers in the construction sector and it is difficult to classify them all. When searching we clicked on all codes that included “Building” or “Engineering”. Those listed under 3121 are mostly in the “pre-build” stage of construction

through to completion. Perhaps 312 could be named **Building Design and Construction Technicians** to be clear about where it fits in the construction stages.

The Surveying Technician code 312135 is correct. However, there are some tasks that cross over with many in the 3121 category notably the tasks relating to BIM. We would recommend amending the fourth dot point task to 312135 as follows:

- Analyses, interprets, and manipulates survey data to create computer-aided design (CAD), 3D modelling and Building Information Models (BIM) supporting architects, civil engineers and others

In relation to constraints, as per our comments above, we remain concerned that Licensed and Registered Cadastral and Mine Surveyors are not identified highly enough within the structure – ie at Manager level 131931. Surveyors can be licensed or registered in their State/Territory under State Legislation. Only a Registered or Licensed Surveyor can sign a survey plan and lodge it with the Titles Office. This is the basis for all land value allocation across the Country.

Currently, for us to identify Licensed and Registered Surveyors we must engage with the State Boards of Surveyors who unfortunately collect and report data at different times of year. We believe there are currently just under 3,500 Registered and Licensed Surveyors in Australia and this is an important number for our industry as it helps us understand how many surveyors can create lots of land or subdivide properties to create housing. We would ask this to be further reviewed as per our comments.

One final comment is around the technical equipment that has been included in the tasks. New technology continues to be developed and the tools used by a surveyor is changing. Today they use theodolites more commonly known as total stations but they also use drones and laser scanners.

We would like to understand how changes and emerging technologies and roles will play in the ongoing development of the categories and subcategories. When and how can we make changes to the classifications?

We appreciate the efforts of the consultation and we certainly feel we have been heard and the changes proposed will be well regarded by our profession.

Please feel free to reach out to me should have any questions regarding what has been included here.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Blicavs".

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