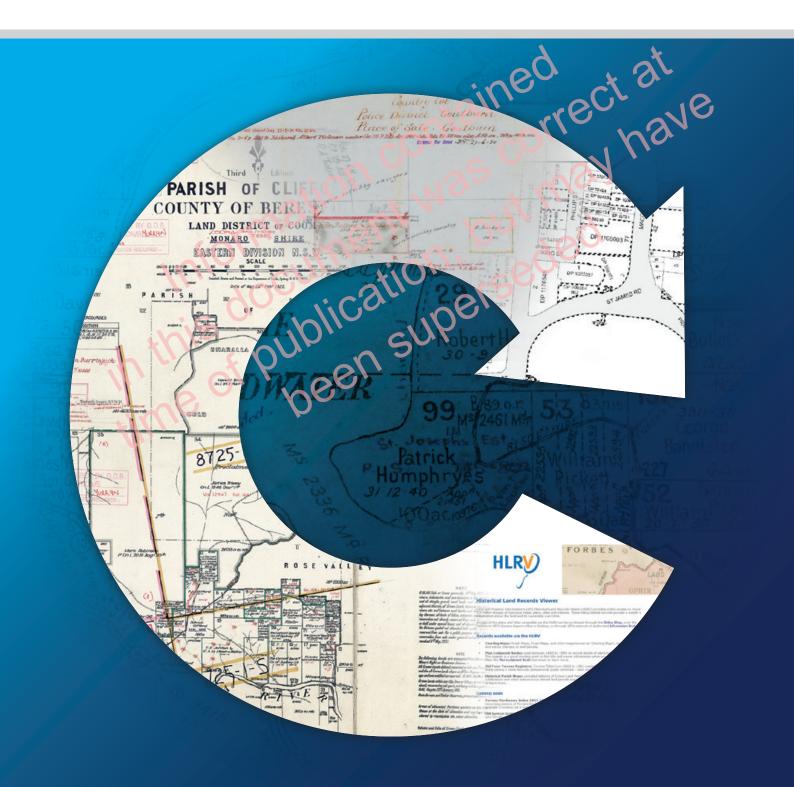


Searching the Registrar General's Maps and Plans

March 2013



Searching the Registrar General's Maps and Plans

Date of Publication March 2013

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This is one of five publications detailing searching and access to land titling records. The other titles in this series include:

- First Stop Guide to the Records of the Registrar General
- A Brief History of the Records of the Registrar General
- Old System Information and Search Guide
- Torrens Title Information and Search Guide

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Introduction

The maps and plans held by the Office of the Registrar General are used to locate land for the purpose of establishing title, defining boundaries and making survey particulars available to those that need them. They have been a work in progress since the beginning of the colony itself – as the population increased the need to provide accurate survey data to measure the landscape, topography and individual parcels of land became essential.

Today, surveying data is known as 'spatial information' and huge amounts of time and resources are invested in gathering and recording this information as well as making it available to the public.

The Registrar General's maps and plans also provide a valuable glimpse into the past. Looking between the layers can reveal many secrets, especially in terms of family history research.

As well as providing surveying information, the maps and plans often depict original grantee names, dates and descriptions that can provide a starting point for a genealogical study.

The information on any one particular map may not be an end in itself, but it can provide information and open up previously unknown avenues of inquiry. As much of the terminology is unique, you may find the Glossary of Terms and the LPI Acronym list in the *First Stop Guide* useful. For additional information, the Registrar General's Directions website provides a comprehensive glossary see http://rgdirections.lpi.nsw.gov.au.

This guide has been prepared to provide:

- a reference guide to Land and Property Information's (LPI) mapping and plan resources
- a research tool for historical inquiry.



Land title systems in New South Wales

A land title system can be defined as the means by which ownership of land is recorded, registered and transferred. In New South Wales (NSW) there are three different land titling systems:

- 1. Crown land
- 2. Old System title (or common law)
- 3. Torrens title (or *Real Property Act*).

Approximately 50 per cent of land in NSW is Crown land leasehold (Western and Central Divisions) and 99 per cent of the remainder is Torrens title (mainly Eastern Division). Only a small residue of Old System land remains, and efforts are underway to convert this to Torrens title.

Crown land

According to English Law the land of an acquired colony belongs to the reigning monarch. This land is known as Crown land and this presumption was applied to NSW when Captain Arthur Philip proclaimed the new colony on 7 February 1788. On this day all land was claimed as the possession of the reigning monarch King George III.

The legal basis of the Crown's proprietary interests in the new colony was the doctrine of *terra nullius* and there were no rights recognised of the indigenous population.

An attempt by John Batman in 1835 to negotiate with tribal leaders for the purchase of land at what is now Melbourne was quickly voided by the administration. A proclamation by Governor Bourke declared that the British Crown owned the entire land mass of Australia and that only the Crown could sell or distribute land.

Phillip was given the power and authority (among other things) to grant Crown land to convicts whose time had expired or to members of the military wishing to stay on in the colony. The land grants were to be evidenced by a document bearing a seal of the Territory and, having been officially recorded by an officer appointed by Phillip, were to be good and effectual in law against the Crown.

Since 1788 the Crown has managed the land in various ways ranging from free grant and freehold alienation, to short term leases and licences. It is important to note that all land remains Crown land unless alienated by grant, sale or resumption.

Old System

Since the registration of the first grant of Crown land in February 1792 until the introduction of the Torrens Title System in 1863, land ownership in NSW was based on the English common law system of title known as 'Old System'.

To offer land holders some degree of confidence in their transactions, a system of registration was introduced in 1802. While registration was not compulsory, the advantages were soon recognised and so began the system of registration and indexing of registered dealings still in use today.

Unlike Torrens title (which is guaranteed by the State) Old System land title is a matter of quality: the title is good, but only if a better one cannot be established. In its perfect form, Old System title is a chain of evidence (known as a chain of title or chain of deeds).

In order to establish land ownership a searcher must collect and examine an unbroken chain of documents from the original Crown grant up to the present day. This includes all dealings and legal happenings that could affect the estate or interest of the land in question.

In Old System, a separate deed (legal document) is prepared every time land is dealt with, whether subdivided, sold, leased or mortgaged. This means, as time passes, the number of documents requiring safe storage increases and the more chance there is of documents being lost, damaged or destroyed.

In theory, determining proof of title (and therefore ownership) is established by possessing and presenting all the deeds relating to the land from the time of its first granting from the Crown. In practice, this is often difficult to achieve as it requires the time consuming task of finding, collecting and examining numerous deeds.

The *Conveyancing Act 1919* recognises the difficulties inherent in proving ancient title and introduced (with certain exceptions) a cut off period of 30 years 'good root of title' to prove ownership.

Old System also presents considerable problems for land owners when land is subdivided (it was not mandatory to register plans of subdivision of Old System land prior to 1961), or when deeds have been lost.

Problems can further be compounded if all the deeds to the subject land have not been registered. There has never been a statutory requirement to register deeds and distance, time and government fees dissuaded many people from doing so. This was despite the fact that registered deeds hold more weight in the civil court over a disputed land claim. Various attempts to void unregistered deeds over the years have all failed.

In short, Old System land title is complicated, expensive, uncertain and the title is not guaranteed by the State.

For more information on Old System title please refer to the Old System Information and Search Guide.

Torrens title

The Torrens Title System was introduced in NSW on 1 January 1863 to combat the problems of uncertainty, complexity and cost associated with Old System title. It's named after its originator, Sir Robert Torrens, who adapted the merchant shipping registration system into a simple method for land conveyancing.

Sir Robert Torrens was a landing waiter in the Port of London before migrating to South Australia (SA) in 1839 where he became Collector of Customs, member of the Legislative and Executive Council, Treasurer, Registrar General and the third Premier of SA. He championed land reform in 1857 and helped develop the titling system that bears his name.

The system was so effective it quickly spread to all the Australian states as well as New Zealand and has now been adopted in many countries around the world. Following its introduction, all land granted by the Crown has been subject to the provisions of the *Real Property Act 1862* which regulates the Torrens Title System.

Under the Torrens Title System the State maintains and, most importantly, guarantees the Torrens Title Register. Individual land transactions are mandatorily lodged with LPI using standardised forms (known as dealings) and the new owner is issued with a single document called a Certificate of Title (CT) which supports their ownership. The Torrens Title Register is maintained in the Integrated Titling System (ITS) by LPI.

A current Certificate of Title tells us the current state of the title. It contains:

- a description of the land parcel(s) in the certificate
- a first schedule listing the owner(s) or registered proprietor(s) and the tenancy in which the land is held, the name in this schedule is guaranteed by the State
- a second schedule of all the registered interests affecting or benefitting the land e.g. mortgages, leases, rights of way.

Unlike an Old System deed, a Torrens title tells us the current ownership and lists any encumbrances affecting the land, moreover all the recordings shown on these titles are guaranteed by the State of NSW.

For more information on the Torrens Title System please refer to the Torrens Title Information and Search Guide.

Information contained at Information contained have in this document was correct at in this document superseded in the of publication, but may have time of publication, but may have the of publication superseded.



Maps and plans of the Office of the Registrar General

What is the difference between a map and a plan?

There is very little difference between a map and a plan. They are both flat diagrams made to scale showing physical features such as the land parcel boundaries of towns, roads and various topographical information e.g. mountains etc. The main differences are that a plan shows dimensions and occasionally structures and the information on plans also tends to remain static whereas updated information may be added to a map to make it more current. A map can also be an index to plans.

For further information on the types of plans (including definitions, dates and number series used) see page 33.

Crown grants, licenses and leases

On behalf of the British Government, Governor Arthur Phillip took possession of the colony of NSW in 1788 and all land was automatically vested in the Crown. As governor of the new colony Phillip had the power and authority to grant Crown land to convicts whose time had expired or to members of the military wishing to stay on in the colony; but first the land needed to be surveyed.

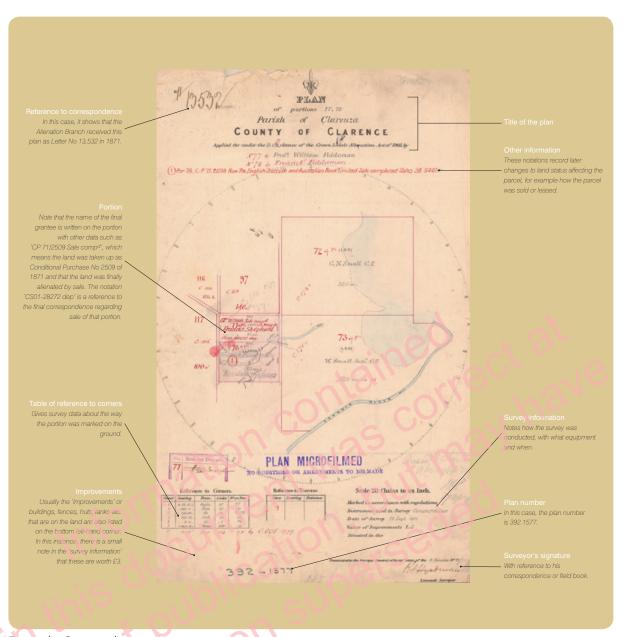
The first Surveyor General, Baron Augustus Alt, was appointed in May 1787 while still in England. As soon as the colony was established he was responsible for surveying and marking out Crown grants lots, licenses and leases. In doing so he developed the first diagrammatic representations of land in Australia which are known as Crown plans. The Surveyor General and his successors have been responsible for surveying and land data collection ever since.

Crown plans

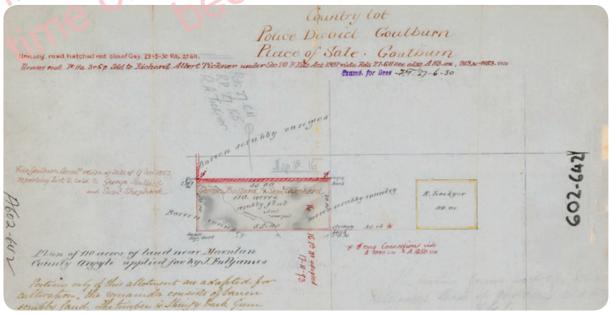
The first Crown plans were isolated surveys often made to run on cardinal bearings i.e. north, south, east and west, without any survey control. There are many different types of Crown plan but the most common are called portion surveys which define the sections of land (portions) granted or alienated by the Crown. Portion surveys can also show reserves, roads that adjoined or separated them and (if applicable) exploration routes, rivers, bays and harbours. As well as showing distances, bearings and other survey data, these plans usually contained a condensed history of the parcel of land including: soil type, vegetation, improvements, and administrative detail (albeit usually in a somewhat cryptic format).

In the early days, surveying was far from being an easy task. It was done on foot and horseback and the surveyors would set off on expeditions for weeks at a time. The Blue Mountains, for example, were considered an impenetrable barrier against further westward exploration and a number of expeditions failed until a route was finally found across in 1813 by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth.

As time went on, circulars (or instructions) were issued by subsequent Surveyors General to the surveyors. These circulars dictated how surveyors should draw the plans i.e. what scale to use; how to depict topography; how to mark roads and trees; what colours to use; and how to describe the surrounding land, soil type and vegetation. Gradually the content of Crown plans became more standardised and easier to read.



Example Crown plan



Copy of 1853 Crown plan

Types of Crown plan include:

- Crown subdivisions of land offered for sale
- surveys of topographical features such as ranges, coasts and rivers
- plans of exploration
- roads and railways
- location and nature of Crown reserves and mining leases.

Crown plans also provided the basis for the development of county, parish and town maps.

Dividing New South Wales

In 1825 the Secretary of State instructed that the colony be divided into counties and parishes and the practice of selling Crown land was introduced.

By 1848, NSW was divided into the 141 counties that still exist today. The counties were subsequently divided into 7,515 parishes and together they formed the basis of land administration in NSW.

Today, any glance at a cadastral map shows NSW to be a jigsaw puzzle of counties, parishes, portions, towns, sections, and allotments.

The county map

The largest territorial divisions of land were called counties and the first county in NSW was named Cumberland by Governor Phillip on the birthday of King George III in June 1788. Over the next 60 years NSW was further subdivided into a total of 141 counties.

County maps show:

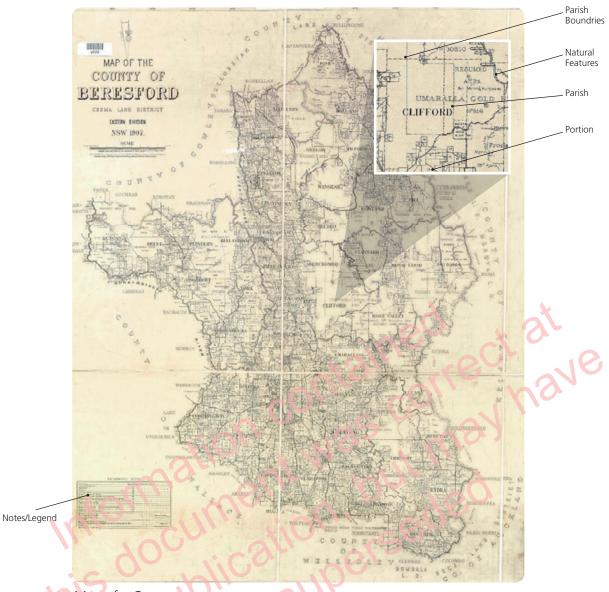
- county boundaries
- parish boundaries
- portion boundaries (some of which include the original grantee's name and the area of the section in imperial measurements i.e. acres)
- roads
- topographical features.

No county map has been updated since 1991. All subdivisional change is now recorded in the Digital Cadastral Data Base (DCDB) – an electronic map of NSW.

The DCDB contains the cadastral information transferred from historical charting maps and current subdivision and status information.

The historical charting maps can be searched through the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) application available in the Spatial Information Exchange (SIX) www.six.nsw.gov.au.

Current subdivision information and status is available through the Property Location Map also known as the Cadastral Records Enquiry (CRE). This free inquiry gives a snapshot of the state's cadastre around a stated property and includes surrounding lot and plan numbers, street names, and local council boundaries. Property Location Map is available through the Online Shop http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au under Specialised Searches.



Map of a County

The parish map

The counties were subsequently divided into 7,515 parishes. Parish maps were prepared by the Crown Lands Office using original plans of portions.

Portions are sequentially numbered parcels of surveyed land in each parish and parish maps show the relationship of portion boundaries to roads, rivers, railways and seashores etc. The portion's unique number and area are recorded on a parish map, but not the dimensions. These can be obtained from the Crown plan.

Parish maps also reference original land grants issued between the commencement of the *Real Property Act 1862* on 1 January 1863 and 1 October 1981 and a reference to first titles issued since 1863.

Grantees' names and dates of grants made prior to 1863 may be shown on the face of the map (marked in the relevant portion) or recorded within a tabulated statement (or schedule) with the portion's number.

Grants and landholders

The term *grantee* is used to include the beneficiaries of free grants, grants upon purchase, grants upon completion of conditions, and leasehold grants. The term *first holder* refers to the person who had the first lease of a portion of land or was holding it during a current purchase. Early editions of parish maps

often show the name of either the grantee or the first holder (as applicable) marked inside the relevant portion of land. Later editions show the information in a **Schedule**.

The parish map was notated with any changes which were incorporated into the next edition of the parish map. Subdivisions occurring after the grant were recorded as notes of deposited plans (DPs).

Torrens title references

In most cases of land granted after 1863, the schedule on the parish map records a reference to the first Torrens title volume and folio number. (*Volume* and *folio* refer to the Torrens title Crown grant reference number.) If this information is missing you can search the name of the grantee in the Torrens Title Purchasers Index to find the date and the Torrens title reference.

To search behind a grant, you may find reference to a tenure number or Crown lands file number on the first title or the original Crown plan.

For more information please refer to the Torrens Title Information and Search Guide.

Crown title references

Tenures (leases and incomplete purchases) can be easily identified from the parish map, and may be searched:

- from Tenure Cards held at regional Crown Lands Offices
- from the Crown Lands Information Database (CLID)
- from the Torrens title issued after conversion to the tenure of the Torrens Title System.

The conversion of all live tenures in the Central and Eastern Division of NSW to Torrens title was completed in January 1986 and in the Western Division by January 1987. You need to know the legal land description (e.g. lot, deposited plan or portion number in a parish or county) to obtain a title search.

For more information please refer to the Old System Information and Search Guide and the Torrens Title Information and Search Guide.

All tenure cards formerly held at the Queens Square office have now been transferred as state archives to State Records at Kingswood.

Problems for researchers

The parish map was originally designed to meet the continuing day-to-day needs of a land recording system and, as such, trying to use it as a comprehensive research tool may prove frustrating. Be aware of the following peculiarities of parish maps when undertaking research.

- Only the original grantee's name and title particulars are noted on parish maps.
- Portions that were subject to a mortgage when granted will show the name of the bank or lending institution. This accounts for the high incidence of bank names on every map.
- In areas of low subdivisional activity separate parish maps may not have been prepared. In these cases the county map remains as the base plan (this is the case in the vast majority of the Western Division of NSW, which is mainly under Crown lease).
- The Crown has not produced maps for 'private' towns i.e. towns subdivided out of privately owned land.
- There have been parish name duplications so it is essential to identify a parish map by both its parish and county name.

• The majority of parish maps use imperial measurements. Areas are normally expressed in acres, roods and perches.

Common expressions

- -1 rood (rd) = 40 perches (p)
- -1 acre = 4 roods
- -1 hectare (ha) = 10,000 sq. metres (m2)

Conversion factors for imperial to metric

- -1 sq. foot (ft2) = 0.0929m2
- -1 perch = 25.2929m2
- $-1 \text{ acre} = 4046.86\text{m}^2$
- -1 acre = 0.404686ha.

To convert hectares to acres multiply by 2.4711.

- The land could have changed hands many times between selection and grant so the grantee may not necessarily have been the original selector.
- The original selection may have been under lease. Conversion in recent years to a purchase could
 result in the first lease holder's name being deleted and replaced by the first holder of the new
 purchase tenure.

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19	3194747	02	1600	19		25.19		Thomas mayory	And P	214	10 1494 R	1	803	50		
20	319 8 787	007	931	23		35.41		See note (22)		715 216	10 1489 R	7	803	51		
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.24	305 2747	DI		2-1859		19.27		J.M. Murphy	100	220	1159	El	1894	101	32.37	William Woods
25	309a7a7	DI		7-1859	100	20.23		James Jamieson	100	221	1159	£3.	2092	152	16.19	William Woods
25	245 (1)	DI		9-1856	100	15.11-		Robert Gardner		222	1159	[]	971	174	16.19	James Pollock
27	245 167	DI		9-1856		15.38		Robert Gardner	24 1	223	1159	13	921	174	26.31	James Pollock William Woods
28	265 797	DI		11-1857	13	14.57		Alexander Gallaway		224	1219 R	£3	1927	172	16.39	William Woods William Woods
79	245 787	10		172		16.19		John Macaillan		225	1219.8	£7	1927	172	16.19	D.R. Turner
30	245 /6/	01		11-1857		16,19		Thomas Goddarf	-	726	1709	E2 E2	2273	111	80.94	Richard Turner
31	285 787	05		1 192		30.68 -	16,08.	Humphrey Henry	100	227	1216	02	1769	127	16.19	Isabella Stewart
32	3094.787	02		1-1859		15.78 25.09		Michael Hyan Michael Hyan		228 229	1211	05	1737	142	16.19	Thomas Harvey
11	3094.147	02	673	1-1859		22.57		Joseph Solway		230	1211	12	1737	142	16.19	Thomas Harvey
H	319a /a/ 319a /a/	02	279	110		14.37		Joseph Solway		231	1212	02	1645	179	48.56	Henry Goodsell
35	245 787	01	213	110		15.38		Isabella Goddari	10 5	232	1213	.02	805	213	16.19	Richard Solway
35	245 787	01	22.	12-1857	100	15.38		A.J. Williamson		-233	1213	02	835	213	16.19	Richard Solway
38	245 787	01	20	1		13.84		William Reynolds		238	1213	07	2273	138	16.19	John McGrath
19	245 787	01	41	18	1	15.38		Michael Hyan		235	1213	05	1700	134	16.19	Thomas Spain J.I. & J. McG. Morrson
40	745.202	01	27			16.52		Josuah Born		236	1383	03	1891	104	259.0 se.es. 16.19	Thomas Spain
41	745 717	01		9-1856		10.02		William Pordie		237	(2)3	E2	1662	47	49.68	William Harvey
42	245 767	DI	120	1 4	1 .	16.75		Michael Hyam		738 739	1218	C3	1574	250	121.A + s - 6	Humphrey Henry
43	245.717	01	30	9-1856		15,38		William Purdin	200	240	1214	CZ	3109	87	Pt. 23.98	George Sinclair & Robert Jamieton
44	245 797	01	12	11-1856		16.19		William Pordie	100	241	1764 R	13	1663	110	8.094	A.C. Lamond
45	285 797	01	25	11-1857	+	16.19		Thomas Goddwrl		242	1215	CS	2187	239	24.28	A.J. Colley
46	245 787	02		1 7	1	15.78		David & Johanna Gallaway		243	1215	CZ	2168	232	27.82	A.J. Colley
47	245 7117	02	1			15.78		Michael Hyan		266	1285	C3	1015	36	25.34	Humphrey Henry
48	245 797	02	1	1		1437	and.	George Legg		245	78.3074	02	The same	100	76.81	See face of map
49	245 767	02		9-1856		15.78		Henry Moss		246	1268	C2	1469	241	40.47	See note (16)
50	245 787	01		11-1856		16.19		Henry Moss		247	1278	CI	2631	222	20.23	See note (16)
51	245 787	. 01		11-1856		16.19		William Purdie		248	1265	81	2516	218	22.66	See note (16)
52	245 787	01		9-1856	1	14.37		William Purdie		249	1222	C2	1656	225	20.23	The Commi. Bk. Co. of Sy. Ltd.
53	275 787	CI	19	12-1856	1	14.57		Michael Hyan		750	1256	CZ	1663	65	16.19	See note (16)
54	275 787	CI	-13	7-1857		15.38		Michael Hyan		251	1256	CZ	1663	- 66	70.23	See note (16)

Earlier style tabulated statement of the Parish Nowra, County St Vincent as shown in HLRV

- Any reference to grants or first holders is removed if land has been resumed or otherwise returned to the Crown e.g. resumptions for national parks, dams or State forests.
- In the 1940/1950s extensive acquisitions took place for war service land settlement. 'First holders' under war service land settlement schemes replaced the grantees of earlier years on the map face.
- In recent years the original surveying terms (portion, allotment and section) have been superseded by the Real Property classification of lots within deposited plans.
- In the more recent editions of parish maps the face is left relatively clean, with the data included in the tabulated statement or schedule, which is common to all parish sheets:

			Areas in hectares u	e to portions inless otherwise shown unless otherwise shown	
Por. etc.	Plan	Loc.	Vol. Fol. or Date	Area	Purchaser
			1		
1	V 96 787	B2	17-2-1841	518.0	Prosper de Mestre
2	97 787	B3	23-4-1841	129.5	Richard Glanville
3	1 2 672	A4I	11-12-1839	129.5	Richard Glanville
4	V 65 787	A4	51-1841	40.47	Meredith Ferguson
5	1 3 619	E5	50.500607	Pt 259.0	William & James Graham
6	V 4787	T			
7	192 787	E4	1-3-1852	43.71	James Graham
8	238 707	A3	20-1-1857	Pt18.21	John Pollock
9	319a 787	EI	1290 37	23.07. ex	J.I. Tyrrell Jun.
10	309a 787	DI	14171	32.37	Alexander McInnes Jun,
11	3090 707	DI	18-12-1859	23.07	1.14. Murphy
12	309a 787	DI	9-8-1859	24.28	Andre de Mestre
13	3164 787	02	1290 37	24.28	J.I. Tyrrell Jun.
14	319a 757	El	1290 37	12.85	J.I. Tyrrell Jun.
15	319a 787	E2	1290 37	21.75	J.I. Tyrrell Jun
16	319a 787	E2	931 23	19.53	See note (22)
17	319a 787	D2	1680 40	21.85	Thomas Harvey
18	319a 787	D2	1737 142	21.85	Thomas Harvey
19	3183 787	D2	1680 39	25.19	Thomas Harvey
20	319a 787	D2	931 23	35.41	See note (22)
21	319a 787	D2	931 23	33.59	See note (22)
22	309a 787	DI	9-8-1859	20.23	Andre de Mestre
23	309a 787	D1	20-4-1859	20.23	Connor Cleary
24	309a 787	DI	18-2-1859	19.22	J.M. Murphy
25	309a 787	DI	6-7-1859	70.23	Janes Jamieson
26	245 787	D1	30-9-1856	15.11	Robert Gardner
27	245 787	D1	30-9-1856	15.38	Robert Gardner
28	245 787	DI	25-11-1857	14.57	Alexander Gallaway
29	245 787	DI	175 172	16.19	John Macallan
30	245 787	- 01	25-11-1857	16.19	Thomas Goddart
31	245 787	D2	4696 192	30.68 ex rd rd.	Humphrey Henry
31	309a 787	D2	31-1-1859	15.78	Michael Hyam
33	309a 787	D2	31-1-1859	25.09	Michael Hyam
34	319a 787	D2	673 219	22.97	Joseph Solway
35	319a 787	DZ	279 110	14.97	Joseph Solway
36	245 787	DI		15.38	Isabella Goddart
37	245 787	DI	23-12-1857	15.38	A.J. Williamson
38	245 787	D1		13.84	William Reynolds
39	245 787	DI	41 18	15.38	Michael Hyam
40	245 787	DI	27 6	16.52	Josuah Born
41	245 787	DI	30- 9-1856	10.02	William Purdie
42	245 707	DI	30 3 1030	16.75	Michael Hyam
13	245 787	DI	30- 9-1856	15.38	William Purdie
44	245 787	DI	12-11-1856	16.19	William Purdie
45	245 787	DI	25-11-1857	16.19	Thomas Goddart
46	245 787	D2	23-11-1037	15.78	David & Johanna Gallaway
47	245 787	D2		15.78	Michael Hyam
48	245 787	D2		14.97 ex rd.	
48	245 /8/	UZ.		14.97 ex 10.	George Legg

Later style tabulated statement of the Parish of Nowra, St Vincent County

Most parish maps show:

- place names
- gazettal details, including date of when a parcel of land was set aside for a specific purpose e.g. reserve, cemetery or road
- name of an estate located in a portion(s) of land

- municipal and town boundaries and dates of proclamation
- name and outline of Crown planned towns and villages
- portion boundary, portion number and area
- volume and folio numbers (reference to title)
- original grantee name (and occasionally the date)
- roads
- topographical features.

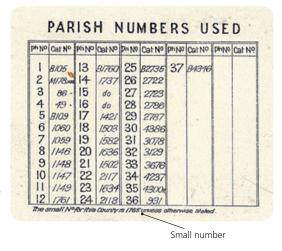


The Volume and Folio shown in red for Portion 34 (in this instance) Vol 12947 Fol 146 was the title reference issued when the portion was alienated from the Crown.

The title reference for Portion 34 is 34/750532 (see the red stamp in the top left corner of the map for the administrative number for each parish, county and town map). The DP series numbered 750000, 758000 and 765000 series are administrative numbers not physical plans.

To order a copy of the subdivision plan you need to use the Crown plan number. For Portion 34 the Crown plan number is B4237–1765. The small number 1765 is shown under the parish numbers used schedule shown.

No parish map has been updated since 1991. Historical charting maps can be searched through Historical Land Records Viewer in SIX www.six.nsw.gov.au.



Current subdivision information and status is available through Property Location Map also known as the Cadastral Records Enquiry (CRE). This free search is available through the Online Shop http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au under Specialised Searches.

If a town or village lies within a parish its location is indicated on the parish map but relevant information is shown on a more detailed town or village map.

Town and village maps

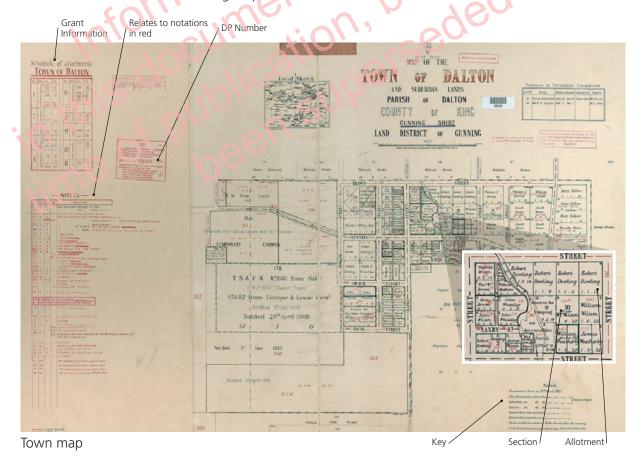
Larger scale maps of towns, villages and their environs, as well as sections of the City of Sydney known as *City Sections* and *New Grants*, were also published by the Crown Lands Office. These maps show land subdivided into sections and allotments. Grantee particulars of each allotment in a section are shown on town maps in separate schedules or within the allotments. There are 1,140 Government proclaimed towns and villages in NSW.

Town maps show:

- similar details to parish maps but are drawn on a larger scale
- reference to smaller portions (as in parish maps), but generally refer to allotments of land within a section
- if allotments/sections are subdivided the parcel's deposited plan number should be charted on the face of the town map.

When it became difficult to record further information on the town maps they were cancelled and new editions, free of erasures, were issued to replace them or local government map sheets prepared at a larger scale to show more detail.

No town or village map has been updated since 1991. The DCDB contains the cadastral information transferred from historical charting maps and current subdivision and status information.



The historical charting maps can be searched through Historical Land Records Viewer in SIX www.six.nsw.gov.au.

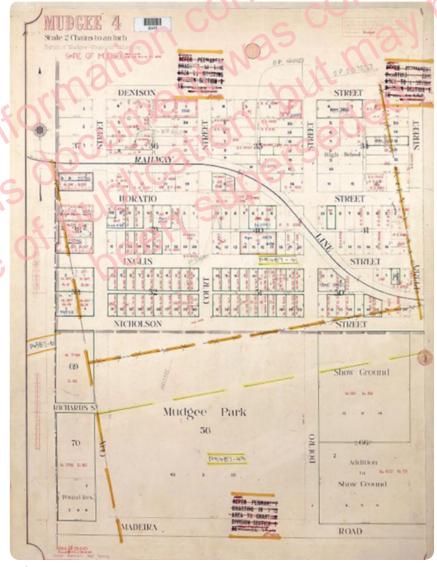
Current subdivision information and status is available through Property Location Map. This free search is available through the Online Shop http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au under Specialised Searches.

Reference sheets

Cadastral maps are generally referred to as reference sheets. Until the introduction of Central Mapping Authority Sheets (CMA), reference sheets covered most of the Sydney metropolitan area, as well as other more densely populated areas. They were drawn on a larger scale to parish maps and are held by the Registrar General as charting and reference maps (even though many were originally developed by the former Valuer General's Department and other public authorities).

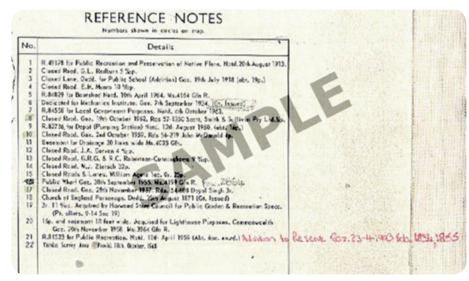
Other prominent reference sheets of similar scale were prepared by the old Cumberland County Council (CCC) and various local government authorities such as the Water Board and local councils.

Reference sheets are charted on parish and town maps indicating they should be referred to as the next step in a search of land within their boundaries. This is known as pyramidal searching. See the Pyramidal Mapping Section for more information.



Reference Sheet MUDGEE 4





Notes schedule for Reference Sheet Mudgee 4

Sample of Crown reference notes from a parish map

Central Mapping Authority maps

Prior to the implementation of the DCDB, Central Mapping Authority (CMA) maps showed the most up to date subdivisional pattern. This was accomplished through a system of constant updating i.e. by noting each new deposited plan as it was lodged and, after registration, superseding the existing subdivisional pattern in the area of the plan it replaced. The superseded plans of survey are recorded on the face of the CMA map and by a notation in the schedule.

CMA maps were introduced in two series:

- 1. Urban Cadastral Series based on the Integrated Survey Grid:
- developed at a scale of 1:4000, 1:2000 etc.
- comprehensively compiled
- used to replace the existing pyramidal charting map system (county, parish or town map and reference sheets)
- provided a comprehensive index to survey definition records (including DPs, Crown and road plans)
- provided a reference to superseded plans.
- 2. Rural Cadastral Series based on the Australian National Grid:
- compiled at a scale between 1:10000 and 1:25000
- were not as comprehensively charted and contained no grant particulars
- for search purposes they must be used in conjunction with existing parish and county maps.

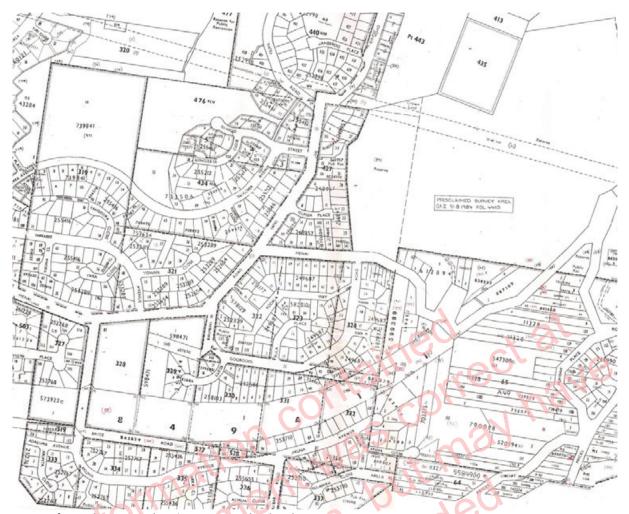
Most County, Parish and Town maps in urban areas have become index maps to the CMA reference map system.

The Cadastral Records
Enquiry (CRE) replaced
the paper maps in 2002
and shows the most recent
subdivisional changes.

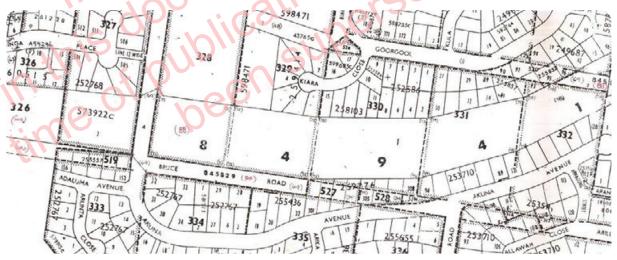
sede(

Current subdivision information and status is available through the Cadastral Records Enquiry (CRE) also known as

through the Cadastral Records Enquiry (CRE) also known as the Property Location Map. This free search is available through the Online Shop under Specialised Searches.



Extract from the CMA charting map Sutherland U0030-51

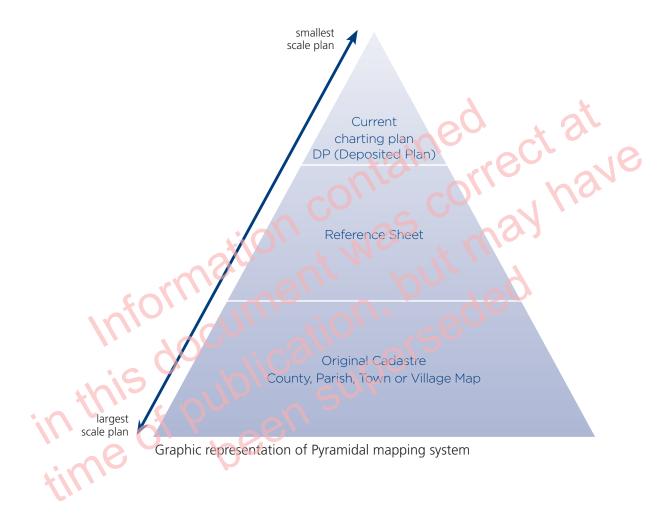


Extract from the CMA charting map Sutherland U0030-51

Pyramidal mapping system

The Pyramidal mapping system was the original charting or mapping plan system. Charting maps were the most current maps used by the Registrar General for charting purposes. Successive plans, registered with the Registrar General, in turn, superseded the earlier map or plan and became the charting map for the area they subdivided.

When information on the county, parish, village or town map became too congested new editions were prepared or maps were drawn on a larger scale and known as reference sheets. A DP became the current charting map if it contained five or more lots in every newly subdivided area on a reference sheet, county, parish, town or village map.



Current charting practice

In September 2002 the manual updating of all LPI paper maps was discontinued. All notations, status and subdivisional changes are made in ITS and the DCDB. All charting information regarding subdivision and status changes since September 2002 is provided to the public through the CRE also known as the Property Location Map. This free search available through the Online shop under Specialised Searches and at the public terminals LPI, Queens Square, Sydney.

Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB)

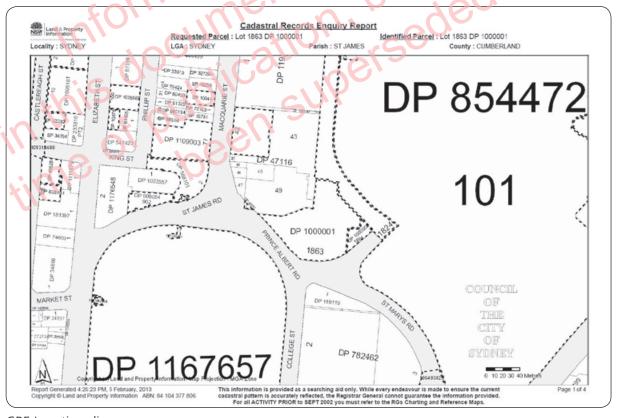
The DCDB is an electronic index map of NSW developed by the Central Mapping Authority of the then Surveyor Generals Office, now part of LPI. The DCDB commenced in 1985 and is constantly upgraded to show the legal parcel fabric of the State and to improve survey accuracy.

Cadastral Records Enquiry (CRE)

The CRE (also known as the Property Location Map) replaced the hard copy charting reference maps to which notations were made up to September 2002. The application enables remote searches of the DCDB.

The search output from the CRE displays a graphical location diagram and a list of electronic notations affecting the primary lot and surrounding parcels collected since July 2002. It also includes a list of plans including their purpose and survey/compilation status.

Detail on the CRE includes lot and plan numbers, street names and notes related to proposed plans, dealings and government gazette actions affecting the search area. Administrative details such as local government area, parish and county information are also displayed.



CRE Location diagram

A CRE search report is available:

- over the counter from Property Information Delivery Services, LPI, Queens Square, Sydney
- from LPI's Online Shop go to Specialised Searches and select Property Location Map http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au
- from authorised information brokers www.lpi.nsw.gov.au.

The CRE records all subdivisional changes and electronic notes made since 6 September 2002. For current, but earlier, recorded information, you must view the images of the Land Titles Office Charting Maps which are available through the Historical Land Records Viewer. For more information see the Historical Land Records Viewer section see page 23.



Cadastral Records Enquiry Report

Requested Encel : Lot 1863 DP 1000001 | Mentified Parcel : Lot 1863 DP 1000001 |

Locality : SYDNEY | Los : SYDNEY | Parish : STAMES | County : CUMBERLAND |

DP32720 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34989 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34989 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP3498137 | COMPILATION | DEPARTMENTAL |

DP34118 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34118 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34118 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34123 | COMPILATION | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34123 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34123 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34123 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34124 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34125 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34126 | SURVEY | UNINESCARCHED |

DP34126

CRE report

CRE enquiry report listing surrounding plans in location diagram

Spatial Information Exchange (SIX)

The Spatial Information Exchange (SIX) www.six.nsw.gov.au allows users to query a wide range of location based (spatial) information across NSW it also provides access to:

- SIX Maps a spatial viewing tool that allows you to zoom into any portion of the state and see aerial imagery, property boundaries and streets, and other free online features.
- Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) LPI's online application to view historical maps, plans, titles and indexes which includes indexes, Old Form titles (1863-1961), historical parish maps and plans. Today, more than 2.5 million historical land records are available on the viewer.
- The Online Shop which delivers a range of searches, some free, related to land and property ownership and boundaries and valuation in NSW http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au.



How can I access historical maps and plans?

Historical maps and plans offer a link to the past and can provide a wealth of information about local history, family genealogy and your own land and property. Historical maps and plans (which include county, parish, town and village maps, reference sheets, CMA maps and Crown plans) are of enormous archival value, and to protect them from damage from handling they are no longer available to view in their original format.

Microfilm

Staff at the Office of the Registrar General started microfilming Crown plans in 1977. The majority of these are now available for purchase (as black and white copies) from the Property Information Delivery Service, Queens Square, Sydney.

Digital

The State Records Act 1998 placed responsibility for the conservation and preservation of Crown plans on LPI and a project to convert them to coloured digital images began in April 2007.

Some of the early Crown plans, as captured on microfilm, may be difficult to read due to the incorporation of coloured elements. However the records are being gradually superseded by superior quality colour images.

Over 91 per cent of Crown plans have been converted to digital colour images and the scanning project will continue until the project is complete. Once scanned, the original documents are transferred permanently to State Records as State Archives. The images that have been scanned are freely available to view at State Records.

Copies of Crown plans can be ordered through the Online Shop, over the counter at LPI Queens Square or through one of LPI's approved information brokers.

The Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV)

The Historical Land Records Viewer provides easy access to a vast resource of scanned maps and plans across NSW.

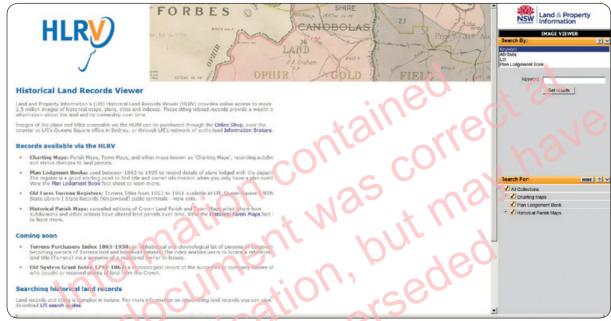
The images available in the HLRV comprise these historical reference map sets:

- Land Titles Office (Registrar General's) Charting Map collection – charting ceased 6th Sept 2002
- Crown Lands Regional Charting Maps charting ceased at various stages up to December 2007
- Crown Lands Status Branch Charting Maps charting ceased 31 December 1990.

The HLRV can be accessed through public terminals at LPI, Queens Square, Sydney or click on the HLRV icon on SIX www.six.nsw.gov.au.

The information contained in these maps may be still be current but must be viewed as a historical snapshot as at September 2002. Information displayed on these maps includes: The priority scanning of copies of a Crown plan that is only available as a black and white microfilm print; is of bad quality; or is not yet converted to a coloured digital image can be arranged by contacting the Property Information Delivery Service, Queens Square, Sydney.

- Official Search information an Official Search is a legal document prepared by LPI which may be used as evidence in a court of law
- land descriptions
- street names and localities
- title system i.e. Torrens title, Old System or Crown tenure
- reference to original Crown survey plans
- details of conversion to Torrens title i.e. Primary Application or Official Search
- original Crown holding number, if applicable, at the date of issue of the map edition
- previous and subsequent plans of subdivision notation regarding gazettal action.



Historical Land Records Viewer



In response to the need to simplify the procedures applying to plans lodged prior to 1961 the majority were renumbered and classified as 'filed plans' (with the exception of deposited plans and strata plans).

The objective of this operation was to provide a unique number for all filed plans/deposited plans in a set running from 1 to 999,999. Many plans forming a series were able to be refiled generally by the addition of a constant.

- Miscellaneous Plans of Subdivision Real Property (MPS RP) add 300,000 to the original number.
- Miscellaneous Plans of Subdivision Old System (MPS OS) add 150,000 to the original number.
- Registered Plans add 36,000 to the original number.
- Primary Application Plans add 50,000 to the original number.
- Housing Commission Plans add 35,000 to the original number.

You should consult the Deposited Plan Cross Reference Index to avoid any anomalies with recatalogued numbers.

The Deposited Plan Cross Reference Index

As most pre-1961 plans could be identified through several numbers (including the dealing lodgment number, a registration number and a litho number) an electronic cross-reference index was prepared to enable a searcher to directly obtain the filed plan number. This was called the Deposited Plan Cross Reference Index.

The index is available to the public through the public search terminals in LPI, Queens Square, Sydney.

The term 'deposited plan' has a wider connotation than it did previously as all 'filed plans' are now referred to as deposited plans.

Place names

Ernest C. Gleeson's book of place names

If you are trying to identify a particular landholding or looking for a map of a particular locality it is essential to carefully record every fragment of geographical information; however insignificant it might appear. If you get stuck in your search, you may be able to locate it in Ernest C. Gleeson's *Alphabetical List of Place Names NSW*.

This book was compiled and meticulously handwritten in 1954 by a Lands Officer, the late Ernest C. Gleeson, and it alphabetically lists all the place names in the NSW Eastern and Central Division Parish Maps at that time. There are an estimated 22,500 name entries in this list (some of which no longer exist) and one of the entries might just hold the missing link in your search.

This book is available on the Geographical Names Board website under Publications www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/publications.



What if I only have a place name, locality or geographical feature as a starting point for a search?

Place names are often starting points for a genealogical search as they appear in birth, marriage and death certificates; family bibles, and numerous other documents discovered in family archives.

Unfortunately, there was a tendency last century to use property names as birth-places and many of these have not survived as recorded place names. However, with the aid of various cross reference indexes held by Crown Lands Division of Department of Primary Industries sometimes a place name can be identified if there is a supplementary clue. Make a note of creek or gully names, the name of a hill or any geographical feature in land descriptions when examining the map.

Geographical Names Board

Locality and place names recorded on parish maps can also be searched on the Geographical Names Board website. To search the Geographical Names Register (GNR) of NSW, enter as much or as little information as you require in the name search option at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au.

In the place name field it is suggested that you enter only the simple name component and not any descriptive elements associated with the place name. For example, if you are searching for 'Mount Kosciuszko', you should simply enter the word 'Kosciuszko'.

You may notice that there are references to 'old' Local Government Authority (LGA) names, topographic maps and parishes in the database. This is because the geographical features were originally gazetted against these old names.

Also worth noting is the fact that larger features such as rivers, national parks, etc, may span multiple LGAs, maps and parishes. The values of these attributes stored against a feature are those considered most significant to the feature at the time of gazettal.

If you are unsure which LGA, map or parish you are looking for, it may be beneficial to perform a simple place name search for a known feature in the area and use the LGA, map or parish name shown on the resulting extract as the basis for your search.

Symbols and notations

There are various symbols and notations shown on reference maps and charting plans which are used in the office.

The symbols used on CMA sheets are self explanatory and are always shown in the map key area on the right hand side (urban CMA sheets) or the bottom (rural CMA sheets) of these reference maps.

No colour was used on CMA reference sheets although red pen was used to transcribe new notes updating subdivision or status.

On other reference maps coloured edgings are used to easily distinguish boundaries as follows:

RP Act land boundaries green line

Portion boundaries red line (new portion number in red)

Primary Application boundaries blue line (PA number in blue) sometimes in purple

Other uses of colour

an have Charting reference maps brown line above and below the number

Defence areas yellow shading Surrenders yellow shading Closed road blue shading New road pink shading brown shading Dedicated road

blue shading with red hatching Severed land

Extent of new charting deposited plans

As shown on charting maps pink shading Boundaries of a DP blue shading Shire names blue bar below Municipality and city names pink bar below



Abt	About	Est	Estate
Ad	Addition	Exd	Examined
Admor	Administrator	Ex Co	Executive Council
Ag	Agricultural	Exors	Executors
Alt	Altitude	Excl	Exclusive
Арр	Applicant	Exten	Extension
Appd	Approved	F B	Field Book
Approx	Approximate	Fol	Folio
Assoc	Association	Ft	Foot
Astro	Astronomical	Fo	Forest
Aust	Australian	Gaz	Gazette
Az	Azimuth	Gen	General
Bk	Bank	Geo	Geographical
Вар	Baptist	Gov	Governor
Вd	Board	Govt	Government
		Gt	Grant
Bdy	Boundary		
Br	Bridge	Helio	Heliograph
Bus	Business	Hort	Horticultural
NSEW	Cardinal Points	Hosp	Hospital
Cat	Catalogue	Ho	House
Cemy	Cemetery	Impt	Improvement
Cent	Central	Incl	Inclusive
Centen	Centennial	Indep	Independent
Cert	Certificate	Indiv	Individual
Ch	Chain	Inst	Institute
Ch	Church	Irr	Irrigation
C of E	Church of England	Isl	Island
Commrs	Commissioners	Jun	Junior
Com	Common	LBD	Land Board District
Co	Company	Lat	Latitude
Confd	Confirmed	Lhold	Leasehold
Con	Condition	Lic	License
Conserv	Conservation	Lk	Link
Co-op	Co-operative	Lith	Lithograph
Corp	Corporation	Long	Longitude
Со	Council	Ltd	Limited
Co	County	Mag	Magnetic
Ck	Creek	M N Ry	Main Northern Railway
C L C Act	Crown Lands Consolidation Act	M S Ry	Main Southern Railway
Dec	Declaration	M W Ry	Main Western Railway
Ded	Dedicated	Max	Maximum
Dept	Department	Meast	Measurement
Dist	Distance	Mech	Mechanic
Dist	District	Memo	Memorandum
Div	Division	Mer	Meridian
(star) Elong	Electorate Elect Elongation	Meth	Methodist
Envs	Environs	Metrop	Metropolitan
5			

Mil Military Ref Reference Min Minimum Regr Register Ministerial Regulation Minl Reg Miscellaneous Misc Res Reserve Res Residence Mt Mount Mu Municipal Riv River Nav Navigable Rd Road Roll (plan) Number No r Occ Occupation R Roll (Plan) RC Roman Catholic Occ Occupier St Saint Or Original Old Roll Sch School o r O R Old Roll Sec Section Senior Pad Paddock Sen Ph Parish Set Settlement Pt Part Sh Sheet Past Pastoral Soc Society PPD Pastures Protection District Stn Station ane Permissive Occupancy SS Steam Ship Per Occ Permanent St 🗎 Street Permt Subd Subdivided Ы Place Plt Platform Subdn Subdivision Pt **Point** Sub Suburban Sw Pop Population Swamp Tel Por Portion Telegraph Temp РΟ Post Office Temporary Pre Pre-emptive Tn Town Presbyt Presbyterian Trav Traverse Priv Private T M Co-ords Transverse Mercator Co-ordinates Proclamation Procl Trig Trigonometrical Proposed Trust Pro Trustees Pty **Proprietary** Unnec Unnecessary Public Pub Var Variation Pur Purchase Vill Village Vol Volume Purp Purpose ро Per Original Wes Wesleyan Railway Whf Wharf Rly Ra Yds Yards Range

Recreation

Rec

Crown holdings and reserves abbreviations

1801 al

Crown holdings

AA N I B After Auction Non-Irrigable Block

A A P After Auction Purchase

AA T L B After Auction Town Lands Block

AA T T LL After Auction Tender Town Lands Lease

ACr L Additional Crown-lease

A C P Additional Conditional Purchase
A H F Additional Homestead Lease Farm
A H L Additional Homestead Lease
A H S Additional Homestead Selection

A L Annual Lease

A N R C P Additional Non-Residential Conditional Purchase

A R L Additional Residential Lease
A S H Additional Suburban Holding
A S L Additional Settlement Lease

A T P After Tender Purchase (Closer Settlement)
A W L Artesian Well Lease B L Business License
C L Conditional Lease C P Conditional Purchase

C P L Conditional Purchase Lease

C S Conditional Sale
Cn L Crown Lease

C S L Closer Settlement Lease
D P Deferred Payments

F L Farm Lease (Church and School Land)

G L Gold Lease

GPL Group Purchase Lease ΗF Homestead Farm Homestead Lease ΗL H S Homestead Selection JF L Irrigation Farm Lease I F P Irrigation Farm Purchase Improvement Lease ΙL ΙP Improvement Purchase Inf L L Inferior Land Lease LA Leasehold Area

M C P Mining Conditional Purchase

M L
M Ining Permit
M R
M Ining Permit
M Ining Tenement
M Ining Tenem

N R C P Non-Residential Conditional Purchase

O L Occupational License
P G L Private Gold Lease
P H Pastoral Holding

PL Pastoral Lease (Church and School Land)

P M L Private Mineral Lease Private Mining Tenement PMT POLPreferential Occupation License

PPA Prickly Pear Agreement PPL Prickly Pear Lease PS **Public School**

P W P Public Watering Place

RAResumed Area

RLP Residential Lease Purchase

RSSH Returned Soldiers Special Holding

Returned Soldiers Special Holding Purchase RSSHP

SA Special Area

Special Conditional Purchase Lease SCPL

SGP Soldiers Group Purchase SGPA Soldiers Group Purchase Area

SΗ Suburban Holding

Suburban Holding Purchase SHP

SL Settlement Lease Scrub Lease Sc L Sn L **Snow Lease** Special Lease Sp L

SP Settlement Purchase SPL Settlement Purchase Lease SPA Settlement Purchase Area SPGL Special Private Gold Lease

Sp Pur Special Purchase

SPML Special Private Mineral Lease

ΤL Tenant's Lease ΤB Town Block TLL Town Lands Lease TLP Town Lands Purchase

ΤP Town Purchase (Closer Settlement)

VLO Volunteer Land Order WEL Week-end Lease

WELP Week-end Lease Purchase WLL Western Land Lease 18TH Sec Lse 18th Section Lease

Reserves

ΑR Aboriginal Reserve Acc R Access Reserve CRCamping Reserve FR Forest Reserve

Old Government Reserve G R

QR Quarry Reserve

RPBPublic Buildings Reserve Recreation Reserve Rec R

Refuge from Flood Reserve RRF

RRRailway Reserve S F State Forest

T C Temporary Common
T R Trigonometrical Reserve

T S & C R Travelling Stock & Cattle Reserve

T S R Travelling Stock Reserve

V R Village Reserve W R Water Reserve

R from S or L Reserve from Sale or Lease (excluding Annual Lease)

Tim R Timber Reserve
R from Lse Reserve from Lease
R from Lce Reserve from License

R. from Lce or Lse Reserve from Licence or Lease

Many of these abbreviations are intended to apply to various changes of a word e.g. 'App' for applicant, application, applied; 'Occ.' for occupier and occupation; and 'Co' for county, company and council. The context should enable the sense to be perceived.

Definitions of the different types of plan

ł			
	General information	Approved plans were submitted for investigation and approval by the Registrar General prior to gazettal of the resumption. A print of the plan was filed with the papers and for later 'M-file' plans, an extra print was also recatalogued as a litho. The existence of these plans is indicated on the relevant manual charting map. The originals of these plans were forwarded to the Trustees of the forwarded to the Trustees of the papers.	to be kept for historical Library) to be kept for historical purposes in 1967. These plans were not used by the Registrar General's department as a charting medium. Private Parish Maps in the County of Gloucester prepared for the Australian Agricultural Company were also made available.
	Title system	The series comprises both Old System and Torrens title land.	ined at at
	Dates accepted	Prior to 1961	ntall correct have
	Series used	These were plans lodged for the purpose of depicting and proposed to be resumed mainly by the Railways Department, the Main Roads Soard and the Housing The Australian Agricultural Company's grant (dated Company's grant (dated Orcrespondence Branch, in numerical Correspondence Branch, in numerical order according to the year of So M 2691. So M 2691. General series: AA 1-664 inclusive Ompany's grant (dated Orcrespondence Branch, in numerical order according to the year of So M 2691. So M 2450, So M	inclusive • Platt series: Platt 1-39(A) inclusive • Gloucester series: GL 1-38 inclusive • The above plans were recatalogued in the series DP95001 to DP96076
	Definition	These were plans lodged for the purpose of depicting land proposed to be resumed mainly by the Railways Department, the Main Roads Board and the Housing Commission. The Australian Agricultural Company's grant (dated	20 November 1847, Serial 197 Page 359) comprised 464,460 acres and extended northerly from Newcastle to the Manning River. Few Government records were held for this area, which consisted mainly of Old System land. In 1950, the Registrar General's Office was able to obtain a total 1,078 private survey plans held by the Australian Agricultural Company.
	Type of plan	Approved plans Australian Agricultural	Estate Plans

Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Schemes Community plans	Community titles fill the gap between a conventional lot land subdivision and strata subdivision. The title enables the creation of a subdivision of land consisting of private lots and common property, where the proposed future uses of the lots can be specified.	There are three types of Community plans namely 'Community', 'Precinct' and 'Neighbourhood' Plans. They allow straged development of land and allow strata titled property. The management structure is different to strata title. For more information see the Registrar General's Directions http://rgdirections.lpi.nsw.gov.au.	1990 onwards Cours	Torrens title	Within a community development, common areas are owned and managed by an 'Association'. To distinguish it from strata, common areas are referred to as association property. There are up to three tiers of management called, 'Community,' 'Precinct' and 'Neighbourhood' Associations. The management structure applying will depend on whether or not the development is staged. A Community Association has control over common property matters affecting the community as a whole in a staged development. A Precinct and Neighbourhood Association, when formed, has responsibility for managing the parts of the overall scheme, which come within their area. For more information see the Registrar General's Directions http://rgdirections.lpi.nsw.gov.au

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General information		This series was provided for plans of subdivision not requiring Council's approval.	As these plans were not Council approved, they were not registered in the plan series provided by the <i>Conveyancing</i> Act 1930.	The existence of these plans is indicated on the relevant manual charting map.	
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		Crown Authority plans, originally numbered as CAP1 to CAP46, were re-catalogued.	The new plan numbers are available from the Deposited Plan Cross Reference Index.	71, 1	ation, rsecie
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Definition		Plans prepared for Government authorities including the Rural Bank	and not requiring Council approval.		
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Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Deposited plans (DP)	Originally a plan of land deposited with the Registrar General which was neither attached to a dealing or deed nor lodged for the purposes of a strata scheme. From 1961, all plans lodged for registration (irrespective of title system, purpose, number of lots or whether they are council approved), have been lodged as DPs commencing initially at series number 200001 (if five or more lots) or DP500001 (if less than five lots). 'Deposited plan' took on a wider definition when 'filed plans' and re-catalogued plans were later referred to as deposited plans.	• DP1 to DP32399 • DP40000 – general charting purposes • DP100000 • DP200001 to DP254000 – general charting purposes • DP250001 to DP256000 • DP258001 to DP256000 • DP258001 to DP259955 • DP259058 onwards • DP259958 onwards • DP200000 MPS (RP) • DP400000 Examination surveys and re-catalogued plans with dealings • DP500001 onwards – for plans comprising less than 5 lots • DP700000 to DP749999 – introduction of ALTS (computer based system) • DP771000 to DP778800 • DP785001 to DP796720 • DP800000 Examination surveys and re-catalogued plans • DP1000000 onwards - introduction of ITS (which superseded ALTS) • DP900000 series are administrative numbers and do not have a physical plan. They allow a particular parcel of Crown land to be recorded in LP1 databases.	onto the sale	The series comprises both Old System and Torrens title land.	From 1 July 1920 (from the commencement of Part 12 of the <i>Local Government Act 1919</i>) all plans of private subdivisions, having lots of less than 20 acres, were caught by the provisions of Section 327 of that Act and were required to bear evidence of Council's approval. On 5 April 1945 this requirement was extended to include all private subdivisions irrespective of the area of the parcels. Since January 1961 plans not approved by Council were also lodged in this series. The electronic lodgment of plans (by an approved person) was facilitated by the <i>Conveyancing Legislation Amendment (ePlan) Act 2002</i> . The converting of manually lodged DPs (by scanning at lodgment) began in August 2008.

Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Detail sheets	Detail sheets were compiled from surveys made in connection with water and sewerage work and cover parts of the Sydney Metropolitan, Maitland and Newcastle areas.	Sheets may show some dimensions, boundaries, occupations and monuments useful in determining the shape and age of buildings and boundary fences for PAs, Old System conversions, surveys and boundary disputes.	1890s to 1920s The series comprises both Old System an Torrens tit land.	The series comprises both Old System and Torrens title land.	Detail sheets are often helpful in the investigation of plans of survey as the position of all improvements existing at the date of the survey are accurately shown. Many original plans and field books have been retained by the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board now known as Sydney Water. The index, sheets and associated surveyors field books covering the Maitland/Newcastle area are held by Survey Services LPI, Queens Square, Sydney. A copy of detail sheets for Sydney Metropolitan are available in printed form from 35mm microfilm held in Property Information Delivery Service.
Examination Survey plans	These plans are prepared as a result of check surveys carried out by LPI surveyors.	Initially these plans were catalogued numerically according to the year in which they were prepared. For example: Ex. Sur. 50/1, Ex. Sur 50/2. Most have been re-catalogued in either the DP400000 or DP900000 series as deposited plans. Since 1999 all new plans are have been catalogued in the DP1000000 series	1902 onwards	The series comprises both Old System and Torrens title land.	The existence of these plans is indicated on the relevant manual charting map. Permission to view these plans by the public must be obtained from a surveyor in Survey Services.

Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Housing Commission plans (HCP)	A plan prepared by or under instruction of a registered surveyor for the Housing Commission of NSW and deposited with the Registrar General.	Housing Commission plans were originally numbered HCP1 to HCP1874. They were re-catalogued by the addition of 35000 to each number becoming DP35001 to DP36874.	tion course way have	The series comprises both Old System and Torrens title land.	This series was provided for plans of subdivision not requiring council's approval. As these plans were not council approved, they were not registered in the plan series provided by the Conveyancing Amendment Act 1930. New roads provided in HCP's did not vest in council until such time as they were dedicated, with council concurrence, under Section 81 of the Public Works Act. The existence of these plans is indicated on the relevant manual charting map. These plans have been used as a general charting base.

Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Miscellaneous Plans of Subdivision (MPS) Real Property (RP) and Old System (OS)	Miscellaneous Plans showing details of small subdivision (no more than four lots) and proposed roads. Property (RP) and Old System (OS) under the provisions of Section 196 of the Conveyancing Act.	Torrens title plans were originally numbered as MPS (RP) 1 to MPS (RP) 121,742. They were re-catalogued by the addition of 300,000 to become DP300001 to DP421742. Old System plans were originally numbered as MPS (OS) 1 to MPS (OS) 15018. They were re-catalogued by the addition of 150000, to become DP's 150001 to 165018.	1920 to 1965	comprises both Old System and Torrens title land.	Council approval (as a requirement for plans caught by the provisions of Section 327 of the <i>Local Government Act 1919</i>) was required for most plans of subdivision and those creating a public road. Council approval was not required for those plans of a proposed road or easement. Plans showing a road of greater than 6.095 metres (20 feet) were required to be a survey plan. Torrens title subdivisions required council approval. Compiled plans of easements annexed to dealings acceptable in this series. For more information see Section 327 of the <i>Local Government Act 1919</i> .
Pipeline plans	A pipeline plan is a plan defining land or the site of an easement vested or to be vested in an applicant for license, under the <i>Pipeline Act 1967</i> . The existence of these plans is indicated on the relevant charting map.	499001 to 499110 Since 2001 pipeline plans have been registered in the 1,000,000 deposited plans series and do not have a reserved sequence.	1967 onwards	The series comprises both Old System and Forrens title land.	The <i>Pipeline Act 1967</i> allowed for plans defining the site of an easement, proposed or vested in an applicant for licence, under the Pipeline Act.

Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Application plans	A plan defining land which is the subject of a Primary Application i.e. to bring Old System (common law) land under the provisions of the Real Property Act 1863 (Torrens title). These plans have been re-catalogued as filed plans (now called deposited plans). The Primary Application number is re-catalogued to the deposited plan number by the addition of 50,000 to the application number.	The Deposited Plan Cross Reference Index should be consulted for any anomalies with re-catalogued numbers. Plans lodged for the purpose of a Primary Application since 1961 have been numbered in the 200000, 500000, and now 1000000 deposited plan series.	1863 onwards Course Course Course	Old System prior to conversion to Torrens title land.	Council approval is not required for a plan of a subdivision dated prior 1 July 1920 (the commencement date of Part 12 of the Local Government Act 1919). Council approval is required for all later lodgments. It should be noted that some early applications were lodged without plans of survey. In some cases a plan was later compiled using available adjoining information. From its inception to 1961, plans in this series acquired the same number as the Primary Application they accompanied to lodgment. Since 1961, Primary Application plans have not been numbered in a separate series and are numbered in the current deposited plan series. Plans in the series lodged prior to 1961 were not used for general charting purposes. The existence of these plans is indicated on the relevant manual charting map.

Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Registered	A plan of subdivision containing five or more lots of land held under Old System (common law) title and registered with the Registrar General.	 Registered plan 1 to registered plan 2454. Registered plans numbered 239 onwards were re-catalogued by the addition of 37000 to each number. They are available as DP37239 to DP39454. The existence of these plans is indicated by charting on the relevant manual charting map. The Deposited Plan Cross Reference index should be consulted for any anomalies with re-catalogued numbers. 	1920 to 1961	Old System land.	Registered plans comprising five or more lots formed the Old System counterpart to deposited plans prior to 1961 and all basic conditions applying were the same. However, although these plans were investigated and registered, no guarantee as to title was implied. The Registrar General merely carried out the function of 'keeping the register of plans' as required by the Conveyancing Act 1919. Many plans in this series were used for general charting purposes.
Search	Search sketches are a diagrammatic record of the extent of documents forming the chain of title for Old System land. They illustrate the land description in each successive deed.	Catalogued under the Primary Application number over a whole or part of land granted as Old System title now subject to a PA to create a Torrens title. Useful for searching forward from an accepted deed.	1863 onwards	Old System	For internal use to assist examiners of title and survey draftsmen in determining title particulars and extent of deeds in PAs. Lists deeds in a chain of title and diagrammatically plots the extent of known deeds.
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Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Strata plans (SP)	A strata plan is a plan lodged with and approved by LPI that defines a lot by cubic space (for example a lot inside a building). Strata plans also have the facility to define common areas, subdivision and consolidation etc.	• SP1 to SP23186 • SP30001 to SP59118 (BOS) • SP60000 onwards	1961 - 1985 1985 - 1999 1999 onwards	The series is comprised of non qualified Torrens titles.	The <i>Strata Titles Act 1973</i> requires the applicant strata subdivider to obtain a certificate under section 317A, <i>Local Government Act.</i> A strata plan differs from conventional plans of subdivision in that it is not a plan of survey but, in effect, a series of floor plans illustrating the various units in relation to the whole building. Strata plans are not charting maps. The converting of manually lodged SPs (by scanning at lodgment) began in September 2007.
Survey Drafting Branch (SDB) files	This group of miscellaneous files and plan prints is comprised mainly of proposed acquisitions, resumptions and gazettals and office investigations into various matters. Most plans were prepared by other government authorities.	SDB files are catalogued numerically and by reference to the year in which they were prepared. For example SDB 49/1, SDB 49/2.	1939 to 1976	The series comprises both Old System and Torrens title land.	The existence of these files is indicated on the relevant manual charting map.
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Type of plan	Definition	Series used	Dates accepted	Title system	General information
Roll plans	These were usually large plans of survey of Old System subdivisions and were originally filed in roll form, hence their name.	RP1 to RP942	1863 to 1965	Mainly Old System. Some Torrens title land as regards some	The Deposited Plan Cross Reference Index should be consulted for any anomalies with re-catalogued numbers. The Deposited Plan Cross Reference Index is now searchable in ITS.
Litho plans	These were smaller Old System plans, having a low value in regard to title information and boundary definition. Initially these plans were comprised mainly of sale lithographs put out by auctioneers and upon lodgment at the Registrar	1(L) to 80665(L) OCO (1) OCO	co'	lithos plans lodged after 1947	Prior to 1 July 1929 there was no provision for public recording of plans comprising land under Old System title other than as a plan annexed to a registered deed. However, many Old System plans have been acquired by the office since 1863 to be used as a basis for surveying, searching and investigating of matters related particularly to Old System land.
	General's Office were filed in manila envelopes of about a quarter of the size of a deposited plan.	iber.	nta"	. ivC	The Catalogue of Historical Replicas contains an alphabetical list of plans of sale and subdivision acquired for charting and other purposes by the Registrar General
Wells plans Norton plans	These plans were named after the surveyors who	1(W) to 440 (W) 1(N) to 160(N)	COL	'eq	since 1856. Many are of Old System land. Approximately two hundred Crown sale lithos are included in the collection.
Armstrong plans	their retirement, they donated their stock of nineteenth century plans to the Registrar General's Office	1(A) to 445(A)	reu	ct	Plans of subdivision of Old System land were not required to be lodged as deposited plans prior to 1961.
	The name of these plans is the only feature distinguishing them from the original lithos and roll plans.		vane	at	Many of the plans in these series have been used for charting purposes and these are usually distinguished on the relevant reference map by a brown line appearing above and below the plan number.

Useful links

LPI website

www.lpi.nsw.gov.au

Online Shop

http://shop.lpi.nsw.gov.au

Authorised Information Brokers

www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/land_titles/online_information/information_brokers

SIX Maps

www.six.nsw.gov.au

Historical Land Records Viewer

http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm

Registrar General's Directions

An online guide to land title practice and procedures and requirements relating to the preparation of plans and documents intended for lodgment and registration with LPI. http://rgdirections.lpi.nsw.gov.au

Baseline

This portal incorporates LPI's historical collections, cultural heritage sites and archival projects. The site has a number of FAQs relating to searching the records and archives of the Registrar General. www.baseline.nsw.gov.au

Further reading

Kass, T., Jewels in the Crown – A History of the Bridge Street Plan Room and Crown Plans, Department of Lands, 2008

Kass, T., Sails to Satellites – The Surveyors General of NSW (1786-2007), Bathurst, Department of Lands, 2008

Information contained have in this document superseded time of publication, but may have been superseded

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