

# **What does it Mean to be a Surveyor in the 21st century? – Bringing Confidence to the Users of Surveying Related Activities**

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## **SUMMARY**

In a world where there are an increasing number of negative headlines about the alleged poor ethical conduct and competence of professionals: What does it mean to be a surveyor in the 21st century? How is the surveying industry viewed by industry stakeholders? What are seen to be the key risks for unprofessional conduct by surveyors? What does this mean for the reputation of surveyors and the future of the profession?

Ethical conduct and competence cuts across the surveying profession regardless of geography or specialism. If surveyors are not seen to be acting appropriately and/or to the appropriate technical competence, the integrity of the profession and those in it are at stake. However, in a globalised marketplace, what constitutes suitable ethical conduct / technical competence and when should a professional step aside from an instruction? Indeed, what role, if any, should Surveying have in future societal issues?

Robust professional standards facilitate public confidence in those they employ not to mention surveying related professionals and firms to be competitive in their marketplaces. Without public confidence in the professionalism of those providing surveying services, the long-term value of surveyors and those acting within this industry will be jeopardised. At the same time, consumer protection and the confidence in the profession are critical.

The object of the exercise is to give confidence to the users of surveying related services, especially regarding concerns over perceived and actual ethical and / or competence breaches. Without a standardised, high level approach – the chances of public confidence being undermined are high, which ultimately places the future of the profession at risk. A working group has formed to undertake extensive market research, to answer the question – ‘what does it mean to be a surveyor

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in the 21st century?’. This presentation will highlight some of the issues involved, the engagement process and the status of the initiative.

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