

NOTICE TO SURVEYORS T2/98

RESPONSIBILITY FOR LASER PRINTED TLA DIAGRAMS

DOLA was first approached by surveyors to accept laser printed Transfer of Land Act diagrams two years ago. Although there were only limited archival guarantees, DOLA reluctantly agreed and several survey firms are now lodging them. Except for a small pilot exercise, DOLA does not accept laser printed Crown diagrams.

Subsequently, it has been found that some laser printed diagrams lodged by a few survey firms have suffered significant lifting of the toner, occasionally including parts of figures of dimensions. The incidence of lifting seems to continue for months after lodgement, so it is found that restoration is sometimes advisable at the time of physical approval of the original diagram some weeks after the titles have been produced (the last step before permanent archival).

Amongst other specifications, DOLA requires lodged diagrams to be of archival quality. The fact that deterioration is still occurring after dealings indicates that the diagram should be replaced. A replacement diagram requires a comparison check of the replacement against the deteriorated original, its colouring, preparation of a new working diagram and re-scanning by DOLA, and re-signing by WA Planning Commission. The uncertainty about the toner adherence of laser printed diagrams means that there is no guarantee that a replacement will not also deteriorate (unless that replacement is not laser printed).

If a diagram does deteriorate at any time, even after dealings take place on the diagram, then it is the surveyor's responsibility to fix the problem with a replacement diagram and pay the cost of DOLA's validation and processing of the replacement. In future, laser printed diagrams will only be accepted for lodgement on this understanding. Replacement will be required of any laser printed diagram with lifting toner detected (including those lodged months ago).

Because the diagram is the only source of lot dimensions on an Early Issue of Titles subdivision, in future laser printed diagrams will not be accepted for ELOT subdivisions from any firm with a history of toner lifting problems, and until the firm demonstrates that the problem has been overcome.

The toner adherence problem is so serious that in future no laser printed diagrams will be accepted from any source (drafter, surveyor or firm) who has prepared and lodged diagrams which have later had significant lifting toner problems. In the case of failure of several or many diagrams, this veto will be triggered by diagrams lodged in the past.

It should be noted that this is not the first warning of this situation. An item in December 1997 Eyepiece signalled the problem; and individual letters have in the past been sent to the three firms with the identified problem. Fortunately, the deteriorations have so far come from only a few firms but DOLA cannot continue to resource the extra work that rectification entails.

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