



***The staff of the Registrar-General's Office would like to take this opportunity to wish all their valued clients a safe and very happy Christmas and New Year.***

#### **PANEL FORMS ON CD**

The new replacement CD with amended panel forms is available from the Land Titles Office. Please see staff at the front counter in Darwin or Alice Springs to purchase your copy. The cost is \$11.00 over the counter or \$16.50 posted.

#### **REMINDER: OLD FORMS EXPIRING 31/12/2004**

Instruments lawfully executed by all parties prior to 31/12/2004 will still be able to be registered. There is no time limit provided the execution is prior to 31/12/2004. All forms executed after that date are to be in the new format. Forms in the old format will not be accepted without prior approval by the Registrar-General.

#### **LTO INDUCTION COURSE**

The Land Titles Office Darwin will be conducting a course in late February on LTO Office procedures. Training will encompass:

- How to complete a lodgement slip correctly and order of documents lodged.
- Examining and checking documents
- How to conduct a complete title search.
- A look at "behind the scenes" processing of documents.
- A tour of the strongroom which holds material from the 1800's.

Please contact Glynis Abbott on 89 997211 after January for the date and to make a booking.

#### **RELOCATION OF THE DRAFTING OFFICE**

Shortly after Christmas the remaining staff member of the Drafting Office will be transferring to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Environment. If you are presenting unit plans in Darwin for *examination* they will be lodged upstairs in the Map Shop and fees paid there. *Registration* of the unit plans will remain a function of the Land Titles Office and will still be lodged downstairs.

#### **RG'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Consultative committee met in Darwin on 7 December 2004. Some of the issues discussed were:

- *Lake Bennett Bill* – The Lake Bennett (Land Title) Bill was introduced in Parliament on 1 December 2004 and is expected to be passed in February. A new planning rule will also be introduced in the Bill.
- *Survey Plans in place of diagrams*. No problems identified so far. When searching on ILIS the time allowed has been extended from half an hour to two hours. This means that if you search the same item within that time frame you are not charged twice.

- *Proposed amendments to legislation*
  - (a) The proposal that an agent be allowed to withdraw a caveat will not proceed. However, an agent be permitted to lodge a notice of commencement of proceedings under Section 142(6) & (7) is proposed.
  - (b) An agent being permitted to request a certificate of title was considered to be an aid to possible fraud. No change will be made to the legislation.
  - (c) An authorised agent be permitted to sign on behalf of a mortgagee on a mortgage document is proposed.
  - (d) Sections 99, 113 & 123 (easements, covenants & profits a prendre) a change to provide that a mortgagee must consent to an amendment is proposed.
- *Electronic Conveyancing* – Is being developed under the Land Exchange program, a division of Land Victoria. This was discussed and committee members were advised to familiarise themselves with electronic conveyancing and bring feedback to the next meeting. The web-site address for information is [www.landexchange.vic.gov.au/ec/](http://www.landexchange.vic.gov.au/ec/)
- *Easy Forms WA format*. Western Australia has introduced a product that allows for the purchase of forms which are self populated from the Land Titles database. This means that the volume, folio, lot description and seller's details or banks details can be self populated. The customer of the easy form only needs to insert new owner details, print the form and lodge with the LTO. LTO will investigate the possible introduction of a similar program in the NT if sufficient interest is shown.
- *Internet searching and licensing*. All new licensing agreements should now have been received by clients. If you have not received your new agreement please contact Wendy Endenburg.
- The new security Certificate as to Title paper has been introduced.
- *Quality of documents lodged*. Land Titles staff would like documents checked for correct addresses, Volume/folio, sole director description and tenancy to allow the settlement of documents to run smoothly as these minor discrepancies are delaying settlement times.
- *Air-conditioning of Darwin settlement room*. A request for a separate air conditioner for the settlement room has been placed on the Department of Justice Minor New Works program for 2005.

Copies of the minutes will be available soon on request. Please contact Wendy Endenburg on 08 89995318 for details. If you wish to raise matters with the Committee please contact Wendy or your industry representative.

*MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*