



Airborne Geophysical Survey Register & Data Repository

AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORTING POLICY

Policy for the reporting of airborne geophysical surveys
over mining tenements issued under the Mining Act 1978

Version 4.1

Release date: 14 August 2017

This document replaces Version 3.1 issued on 29 June 2012

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CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS VERSION

- Extensive revision and culling of text with no deliberate change to intended meaning of policy.
- To lodge a survey dataset under Mining Act provisions, the survey data must be included in or submitted as a statutory tenement exploration report.

SUMMARY OF THE POLICY PROVISIONS

Optional survey registration under 'Reporting Policy' provisions:

1. Once-only data submission regardless of tenements covered.
2. Transferable registration number.
3. Five-year total confidentiality period regardless of tenement situation.
4. Multi-client conversion option.

REPORTING POLICY REGISTRATION PROCESS

- Submit an online registration form together with the complete digital data set.
- The department will provide a MAGIX survey registration number and confirmation of the data confidentiality and initial confidentiality period.
- The data will be held in a confidential archive until the expiry of the confidentiality period unless earlier release is authorised by the owner of the data.
- The survey location, specifications and data access information will be made public immediately on the MAGIX register.
- No further data submission will be required to comply with Mining Act reporting requirements in respect of this survey. A reference to the survey registration number in any report will suffice.
- At any time up to the expiry of the initial confidentiality period, the owner of the data may exercise the multi-client option by submitting a copy of a sales agreement with an independent sales agent. The data status in the MAGIX register will be changed from 'confidential' to 'multi-client' and the confidentiality period will be extended for five years from the date of expiry of the initial confidentiality period.
- If the department receives no notification of the change of status to multi-client by the expiry of the initial confidentiality period, the data will become eligible for release to open file on that date. The data status in the MAGIX register will be changed from 'confidential' to 'open file'.

MAGIX DATABASE AND REGISTER OF AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

The data from any airborne or remotely sensed survey, including those referred to in section 155A of the Mining Act, must be submitted to the department in their entirety as soon after completion as practicable.

All airborne geophysical data submitted to the department are included in a data repository established and maintained by the department.

The department's MAGIX database contains records of all surveys in the data repository. The information held consists of: survey locations, basic specifications, data access information and thumbnail images of the survey data.

The public survey register is a subset of the MAGIX database in which confidential information has been suppressed. It can be viewed and queried via the department's web site, from which non-confidential survey data can be downloaded free of charge.

AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REGISTRATION PROVISIONS

Surveys in the database and repository are held under one of the following sets of provisions:

- 1 'Reporting Policy'
- 2 'Mining Act'
- 3 'Repository-only'

1 Reporting Policy provisions

This is the department's preferred reporting method for airborne surveys

Under the terms of this policy, companies or persons who are obliged under the Mining Act to submit airborne survey data as part of a statutory exploration report have the **option to register the survey(s) under 'Reporting Policy conditions'** as described below rather than including the data in the report.

The data from a 'Reporting Policy' registered survey i.e. submitted outside a formal statutory exploration report, will be held confidential until their public release is authorised; however, the survey location, specifications, data access information and, perhaps, small-scale images of the data will be made public immediately on the MAGIX register, with exceptions as noted below.

a) Once-only survey registration and data submission

Data from a 'Reporting Policy' registered survey need be submitted only once.

No further data reporting on the survey will be required — whether in annual, partial relinquishment or final surrender reports. Reference to the survey registration number will be sufficient for all data reporting purposes. Even when a tenement is taken out subsequent to the survey — as might be the case in open range surveys — tenement reporting of the airborne survey data need only make reference to the survey registration number.

b) Transferable registration number

As the MAGIX survey registration number is linked to the survey and not to the reporting party or the underlying tenement(s), the registration number is transferable. Thus, if the reporting party changes, as might be the case in a change of tenement ownership, joint

venture agreement or sale of data, the new reporting party can make reference to the survey dataset by quoting the registration number.

c) *Five-year total confidentiality period*

The data from a 'Reporting Policy' registered survey will be held totally confidential for a period of five years from completion of survey flying even in relinquished or surrendered areas and regardless of the status of any tenement report in which the survey is referenced.

Note that the confidentiality does not extend to survey metadata — the survey location, basic specifications and thumbnail images of the data. These will be included in a publicly available survey index. Unless specified to the contrary, departmental officers shall have access to the data for purposes of GSWA mapping programs.

On the expiry of this period all the data will become eligible for release, unless the confidentiality period is extended as described in the section describing the Multi-client Conversion Option.

d) *Multi-client conversion option*

At any time during the nominated initial confidentiality period, the owner of a survey registered under 'Reporting Policy' conditions may have the confidentiality period extended for up to 5 years beyond the initial confidentiality expiry date by declaring the survey 'multi-client'.

To exercise this option, the owner must place the data set with an independent data sales agent for unrestricted commercial sale to the public. The sale price must not be in excess of the normal market prices prevailing for commercial multi-client data.

While the data are so available for commercial sale, they will not be placed on open file during the extended confidentiality period¹. If the data are withdrawn from commercial sale or are not available upon request, they will become immediately eligible for release to open file,

It is the responsibility of the owner of the survey data to advise the department when the data become multi-client. The department requires written notification of the change of status together with a copy of the sales agreement with the sales agent. If these are not received by the agreed release date, the data will be released to open file and the data status in the MAGIX register will be changed from 'confidential' to 'open file'.

There is nothing to prevent the owner of the survey from making private data sales or exchanges outside the ambit of the multi-client sales process, or during the confidentiality period.

2 Mining Act provisions

Data included in a statutory Mining Act report will be automatically registered in the MAGIX database under 'Mining Act' provisions.

¹ Surveys submitted under Reporting Policy conditions before 1 September 2008 were granted an indefinite multi-client confidentiality period. These surveys are recognisable by a registration number in the 60000 series.

Under the Act, information in a report that has been submitted to the department may be released after a maximum period of five years regardless of the tenement situation.

Even if data have been included in an Annual Report, the tenement holder is obliged to submit digital survey data in relinquishment and surrender reports for public release after three months as specified in the Act.

Note that these provisions might be affected by any subsequent changes that may be made to the Act, Regulations or Reporting Guidelines.

There is nothing to prevent owners of survey data that have been registered under the 'Mining Act' conditions to commercialise or otherwise deal with their data. However, 'Mining Act' survey data will be released to open file under the normal process of release of statutory reports.

3 Repository-only provisions

Surveys that are not subject to statutory reporting legislation may be registered for confidential storage in the data repository under confidentiality conditions specified by the owner of the data — in effect a free data archive facility.

Such 'Repository-only' surveys will be released to open file only with the consent of the owner. Until such time they remain 'outside' the formal reporting system.

Owners of data that have been registered under 'Repository-only' conditions are free to commercialize or otherwise deal with their data as they wish.

Companies are encouraged to submit data from past surveys that have not previously been reported; any such non-obligatory submissions will be registered under these 'Repository-only' conditions.

4 General provisions

In all cases, unless specified to the contrary, departmental officers shall have access to the data as required for purposes of GSWA mapping programs; however, the data shall not be released or published while they remain confidential

Although the survey data will be held confidential during the nominated period determined by the reporting provisions, the survey outline and basic specifications will be displayed in the public survey register, unless prohibited under the conditions of submission.

SURVEY CONFIDENTIALITY STATUS IN THE PUBLIC REGISTER

Confidentiality period

In the public register, a survey will have a confidentiality status of 'confidential', 'open file' or 'multi-client'.

The provisions under which a survey has been registered will determine the maximum confidentiality period before the data become eligible for public release (Table 1).

Table 1: Variation of confidentiality period with reporting conditions

Reporting conditions	Reporting Policy	Mining Act	Repository-only
Confidentiality period	Five years after survey completion (with optional 5-year multi-client extension)	Maximum 5 years from submission*	Indefinite (owner-determined)

* Data submissions are required in tenement relinquishment or surrender reports for release after 3 months. Tenement reports and data may be released after all tenements have been surrendered or cancelled as described in the Act.

Data custodianship

For data that are still confidential, the primary custodian will be the owner of the data. This is normally the company that commissioned the survey).

For 'Reporting Policy' registered surveys that have been declared multi-client, the primary custodian will be the appointed agent who is handling sales of those data.

Clearly, GSWA will always be a custodian of all airborne surveys that are submitted to the department, under any condition. However, the GSWA will only be the primary custodian of data that have been placed on open file i.e. are not confidential.

The change of primary custodian with survey status is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Change of primary custodian with survey status

	Confidential survey	Multi-client survey	Open file survey
Primary Custodian	Data owner	Sales agent	GSWA

*** END ***