



‘A PLATFORM OF RESPECT AND HONESTY’

The Queensland Spatial & Surveying Association (QSSA) congratulates the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) on its current path of rebuilding the SSSI Queensland Regional Committee (QRC) and the Queensland region on a ‘platform respect and honesty’.

The QSSA Board, many of whom were members of the former SSSI QRC, believe that both the SSSI QRC members and the Queensland region has always acted with ‘respect and honesty’. To suggest otherwise would be to infer that not only did the previous SSSI QRC not act with ‘respect and honesty’ but that the Queensland regional members also without ‘respect and honesty’.

The QSSA has been very careful to avoid hanging out any ‘dirty laundry’ and unfortunately it seems that the SSSI has forced the hand of the QSSA. The QSSA was established to provide Queensland spatial professionals with a transparent, open, collaborative and dynamic membership organisation. In the short period of time that the QSSA has been operation it has already held successful and cost effective events and is being embraced by other national and international spatial organisations on a daily basis.

And so, with absolute transparency the QSSA has penned the following open letter;

*Open letter to Mr John Trinder
President
Surveying and Spatial Science Institute*

Dear Mr Trinder

OH REJOICE - ‘SSSI COMMIT TO A PLATFORM OF RESPECT AND HONESTY’

The QSSA was established to provide Queensland spatial professionals with a transparent, open, collaborative and dynamic membership organisation. In the short period of time that the QSSA has been in operation it has already held successful and cost effective events and is being embraced by Queensland Surveying and Spatial Professionals as well as other national and international spatial organisations on a daily basis.

It has been brought to the attention of the QSSA Board that this organisation has been specifically disendorsed during a recent communique circulated to members of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute in Queensland. Fellow professionals who are also QSSA members.

Given our specific naming to our co-members, The QSSA Board take this opportunity to openly contradict your report that the QSSA is in competition to the SSSI - and instead welcome and congratulate the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) on its current path of rebuilding the SSSI Queensland Regional Committee (QRC) and the Queensland region on a ‘platform of respect and honesty’.



With all due professional respect however, the current QSSA Board, many of whom were members of the former SSSI QRC, believe that both they and the SSSI Queensland Region members have always acted with 'respect and honesty'.

To suggest otherwise infers that not only did the previous SSSI QRC fail to act with said 'respect and honesty' but also that the SSSI has previously treated Queensland SSSI members without 'respect and honesty'. Both of these inferences we are confident yourself and the current SSSI executive can repudiate in an open forum with both honesty and respect.

The QSSA would like to assist the SSSI in its new aspirations by suggesting it begin by attending to the following unresolved issues in order to appropriately pay respect to the honest and professional paying members of your institute in Queensland;

1. Publish an explanation and the legal advice received that necessitated the letter from SSSI threatening legal action to be taken against the former members of the SSSI QRC ([please click here to view](#))
2. Publish a report of the relevance of the national SSSI budget passed during QCON in Cairns. Particularly including forensic details of the revenue columns relating to the QCON event. SSSI members can obtain a copy of this budget from the current Queensland Regional Committee chair, Mr Bernie O'Sullivan at chair.qld@sssi.org.au
3. Commit and publish a timeframe as to when the monies previously borrowed from the Northern, Central and South East Queensland regions to fund the National Office activities will be made available to these regions to reinvest in their member services.
4. Publish further explanation of your statement at the final session of QCON regarding collaboration between surveyors and spatial scientists. QSSA holds a contrary belief in that our vision affirms that both Surveyors and Spatial Scientists can work together. In fact the skills required for both Professions are converging.

A continued avoidance of an open and honest dialogue to resolve even the above four points was only a small proportion of the unresolved issues which resulted in the mass SSSI QRC resignations and establishment of the QSSA.

Given our unique knowledge therefore, and your published sentiment, once you have worked your way through the above list to the satisfaction of SSSI members in Queensland, we look forward to QSSA being able to continue to suggest activities that the SSSI Board must engage in to successfully rebuild a platform of Honesty and Respect in this state. Collaboration is a core value of the QSSA.

The QSSA wishes the SSSI well with its platform and confirms we are a phone call away if you wish to engage in open, honest and respectful dialogue.

Given however that we're very busy acting out our member's ideas and visions, you may have to leave a voice message.

The QSSA Board