Information Sources

Documents
The first source of information was in the form of textual documentation. The documents collected were in many forms and both electronic and hard-copy. Some of these are listed below;

- Legislation
- Government Guidelines (Such as the Registrar Generals Directions)
- Letters
- Minutes from Meetings
- Journals
- Newspapers
- Books
- Journals
- Websites

Collecting documents for research is advantageous for several reasons, namely because they can be sourced at the ‘convenience of the researcher’ and because documents often reflect ‘data that is thoughtful and has taken time to compile’ (Kervin, et. al. 2006 p. 92). Though a limitation of documentation is that it may be ‘subjective or created for a biased purpose’ (Kervin, et. al. 2006 p. 92). Further to this, certain aspects of this thesis are not well researched areas. For these reasons it was necessary to source data in additional forms as are outlined below.

Meetings & Interviews
The second source of information came from meetings with industry members. These members were purposively selected for interviews due to their ‘unique ability to explain, understand and provide information about the research focus’ (Kervin, et. al. 2006 p. 106). In this way it attempts were made to discuss the research questions with industry stakeholders from various backgrounds; these included;

- Surveyors
- Strata Managers
- Strata Certifiers
- LPI Officers.

These interviews were generally conducted in an unstructured manner whereby the main focus was not around predetermined questions but rather formed a ‘professional conversation around a particular theme or issue’ (Kervin, et. al. 2006 p. 88). One main limitation of interviews is that the a participant may be intimidated by the ‘researchers’ presence which can lead to biased responses’ (Kervin, et. al. 2006 p. 90). For this reason no recording instrument was employed but rather key points were noted throughout the interview.

Attending the SWIG Meetings in May, August and September (2008) also proved to be a valuable source of information and in fact, several of the individual interviews discussed above were able to be arranged through SWIG meetings.

Example Plans
Examples of plans for NSW and also the 3D Property Systems being investigated were another essential resource for the completion of this study. Often the plan requirements prescribed by legislation or government guidelines are difficult to understand solely on a textual basis. By simply viewing several examples of the plans for a system, many queries could be quickly resolved.