



# Department of Lands

Land Administration & Management  
Property & Spatial Information

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Dear Mr Rose

As you may be aware there have been reports in the media recently about a fraud scheme involving mortgage fraud, the theft of the identity of property owners and the counterfeiting of certificates of title relating to land that they own.

As the Registrar General of New South Wales I have a keen interest in the operation of the property market as a whole, and in particular the processes associated with financial transactions involving land which subsequently result in the registration of newly acquired interests on the NSW land title register.

Identity fraud is an increasingly significant criminal activity. I consider that the verification of the identity of parties to any financial transaction is an essential practice, not only to ensure the security of the transaction but also to protect the interests of innocent parties.

As your organisation represents key participants in the property conveyancing and financing industry, I am sure that you share my concerns. I am writing to seek your cooperation in urging your members to apply the highest standards of due diligence to the process of establishing the true identity of clients who wish to convey or raise funds against land.

I would be pleased to discuss pertinent issues with you and invite you to contact me on 02 9236 7600 should you wish to do so.

Yours faithfully

Warwick Watkins  
Director General and  
Registrar General

9/1-2-07

