

## Purchasing Printed NSW Topographical Maps

Hopefully there will come a time when our bushfire-ravaged bushland becomes “walkable” again and you will be able to again use your *NSW LPI (NSW Land and Property Information)* 1:25 000 (particularly), 1:50 000 and 1:100 000 maps. If you then (or now) need to purchase replacements for these printed maps, the following will be helpful.

As you might know, *Geoscience Australia* intended to stop printing (and selling) maps as from last December, and so the stock of such maps held by various vendors will eventually run out. Check out the situation at:

[www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-03/geoscience-australia-stop-printing-and-selling-topographic-maps/11566698](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-03/geoscience-australia-stop-printing-and-selling-topographic-maps/11566698)

[www.smh.com.au/national/the-edge-of-the-map-the-steady-decline-of-topographical-cartography-20191010-p52zb8.html](http://www.smh.com.au/national/the-edge-of-the-map-the-steady-decline-of-topographical-cartography-20191010-p52zb8.html)

In the No. 264 November 2016 edition of the magazine I described (*Purchasing NSW Topographical Maps*, page 7) a rather involved procedure for purchasing printed maps from the *NSW Government Dept of Finance, Services and Innovation (DFSI) Spatial Information Exchange (SIX)* at <https://six.nsw.gov.au>. A check indicates that printed topographical maps from here are variously still available for purchase or not.

The above notice was helpfully followed up by Alan Dixon in the No. 265 February 2017 edition of the magazine (page 25) reporting that he purchased his NSW Topographical maps at the *Map Centre Parramatta (MCP)*, located at 440 Church St (Cnr. Grose Street) North Parramatta ([www.mapcentre.com.au](http://www.mapcentre.com.au) and [info@mapcentre.com.au](mailto:info@mapcentre.com.au)).

Apropos [*Editor's 'Fancy Word of the Day' for 21st January*] to the above, Club member Ray Robinson has informed me that these maps can now be printed to order at the MCP. He said (quote):

*They are discontinuing the printing of paper maps. The Parramatta Map Shop [Map Centre Parramatta – Editor] has recently installed a large printer, and they will be printing any map you need. It will only be single sided [i.e. no orthophoto map]. I have seen a 1:25 000 contour map and it is as good as the originals.*

Check the MCP by clicking the link above, then searching for ‘POD’ (meaning ‘Print On Demand’) in the Search area. At the time of publication there were not that many (35) such maps displayed.

These maps will be shown for purchase at \$18.50 (an increase of \$2.00 above that for pre-printed maps) with the note ‘Printed In House’ (PIH) shown when you access individual maps.

Dianne from the MCP (‘free plug’ follows) replied to a query by saying:

*Hi David and thank you for your enquiry. It is certainly good to hear that this message is getting out there.*

*Our intention is to sell the government printed map where it is available as that also has the aerial photo on the back and is \$2.00 cheaper for the consumer.*

*Our list of PODs on our website is where we are absolutely sure that we can't get a government printed map from our known areas of supply. The government will keep supplying from current stocks until they run out.*

*We think our paper is good and preferable to that used by the government but it is early days and I'm sure we will hear back from customers what they think sometime in the future.*

*We also have a light laminating service which works really well with the topos as it is non-reflective on the map side, you can re-fold it and it feels like paper. Lasts a lot longer too.*

Access the NSW LPI maps at the MCP by using the drop-down Menu items *Maps & Atlases / New South Wales 1:25k 1:50k 1:100k LPI* or going directly to [www.mapcentre.com.au/shop/category/new-south-wales-lpi](http://www.mapcentre.com.au/shop/category/new-south-wales-lpi).

At the top of the first page, a PDF of the useful *New South Wales Topographic Map Catalogue* can also be viewed or downloaded. Continuing on to the alphabetically map name grouped *Shop by Category* links will display the relevant maps available. This will show also which maps are currently available either pre-printed (for \$16.50) or not (for \$18.50 and marked ‘POD’).

Whether you can order a MCP-printed map even if the pre-printed version is still available is something you will need to enquire about yourself.

The Editor has not checked the status of supply of printed NSW LPI maps at other store-front or online outlets.

### Free Digital Maps

Finally, you can download (for free) digital (PDF) maps from <https://six.nsw.gov.au>. They claim there is a limit of 5 downloads per day, but the Editor hasn't on any occasion experienced any such limit downloading these maps.

The maps are identified by name as, e.g. ‘8930-3S KANANGRA’, and vary greatly in size (kb) according to how much information is shown on each (i.e. detailed maps including heavily settled suburban areas are much larger than those showing just “bush”).

Check it out by selecting *SIX Maps* to find a Location, or more usefully, *Map Store* to search for a particular Map (which you can then download). You will only require to set-up an account (the password needs to be updated every 90 days) if you were purchasing printed maps (again, according to availability).