



APRIL 2001

A news update for Land Information New Zealand clients

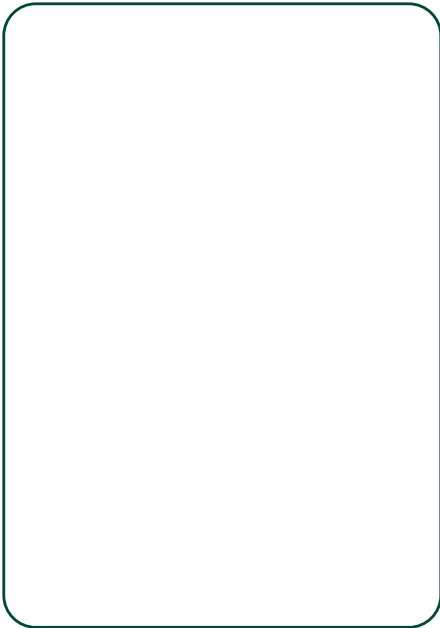
In this issue

Ice and water dominate this issue of *Landscan*. We feature a successful hydrographic survey expedition to the Ross Sea area of Antarctica and the implementation of a new geodetic datum for the area. We also track the progress of the continental shelf project and look at a survey being carried out in the busy shipping lanes of Foveaux Strait.

And, yes, there is some dry-land action, including the latest news on **Landonline** and paper records, LINZ's E-government strategy, and a report on the Public Works Act review. We also revisit the Crown Property Clearances group, look at changes to the Survey Board, and check on reaction to plans to change the New Zealand map projection.

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TRAIL-BLAZING HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY TO CHART ROSS SEA

Close encounters with whales, dolphins, seals, penguins and a 185 kilometre-wide iceberg were some of the highlights of a successful hydrographic survey completed in the Ross Sea this month.

Commissioned by LINZ, the multi-purpose Antarctic expedition took place over 42 days from early February to mid March, the only window of opportunity during the year for this type of work.

At a glance

- A LINZ-commissioned hydrographic survey in the Ross Sea has just been successfully completed.
- The survey was the first step in providing reliable maritime charts for the area.
- There is a growing volume of sea-borne tourist traffic in the Ross Sea.
- Research on biodiversity for the Ministry of Fisheries was also carried out during the expedition.

The NIWA deepwater research vessel *Tangaroa* was contracted for the task and was extensively fitted out for the voyage.

There is a growing volume of seaborne tourist traffic around Antarctica, with cruise liners mainly visiting Cape Adare, Cape Hallett and

Possession Island for the stunning scenery and wildlife. But in navigation terms, they are largely ‘flying blind’. Hydrographic information for the area is sketchy to say the least, and charts are needed to determine safe passages and anchorages. This survey was the first step in charting the previously uncharted waters and updating existing information.

As well as taking extensive soundings using a multi-beam echo sounder, the survey team installed, checked and then repaired (due to icebergs) the tidal station at Possession Island and established survey marks at various points on shore. Tide gauges were deployed to help calibrate the thousands of depth soundings taken.

The high tech equipment has revealed a detailed picture of the seabed, including some 2-metre deep scours left by icebergs at depths of around 650 metres. Seabed samples were collected to help corroborate the picture built up by the echo sounders.

LINZ Contract Manager Russell Turner says the expedition has yielded ‘swags’ of excellent data, helped by ideal weather and ice conditions during the voyage.

In addition to the hydrographic surveying work, the main purpose of the trip, other work was done on behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries to collect data on marine mammals for a biodiversity study. Work was also undertaken to support a genetic study into the two species of toothfish in the area.

The expedition has been a very successful collaboration between many agencies, says Russell. In addition to LINZ and NIWA there has been input from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Royal New Zealand Navy, Ministry of Fisheries and Antarctica New Zealand. There was also specialist

Mount Hershel made a stunning backdrop for the hydrographic survey team in Antarctica.

international support, including satellite positioning, operation of the echo sounder, data processing, navigation and weather forecasting.

With the convenience of modern communications technology there was a rich stream of data, photographs and reports sent back to New Zealand from the *Tangaroa* via email but the Antarctic is nonetheless a hostile environment. Perhaps with Captain Scott in mind, the expedition took the time to establish an emergency food and fuel store at Cape Hallett.

Working around icebergs became part of the daily routine during the survey work.

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ICE LINES: GD2000 MOVES SOUTH

Tracking the behaviour of the giant icebergs that periodically calve off mainland Antarctica will be more accurate thanks to the implementation by LINZ of a new geodetic datum in the Ross Sea Dependency (Ross Sea Geodetic Datum 2000).

That's just a small part of the increasing volume of science work that will now be hooked securely into an international reference system for geodetic positioning.

NZGD2000, the new geodetic datum featured in the September 2000 issue of *Landscan*, is linked to the 1996

The new datum will support many activities in Antarctica, including mapping, scientific research and search and rescue. "We are now re-surveying primary marks and will readjust older observations in terms of the new datum. It's a big, ongoing project," says Graeme.

Two subsidiary projects are happening at the same time:

At a glance

- A new geodetic datum in Antarctica, the Ross Sea Geodetic Datum 2000, has been implemented.
- The new datum will support activities such as mapping, scientific research and search and rescue.
- Two subsidiary projects are being carried out at the same time: a permanent GPS tracking receiver at Cape Roberts and a tide gauge at Cape Roberts.

International Terrestrial Reference Framework, a worldwide network of control marks that is updated annually to account for plate tectonic movements.

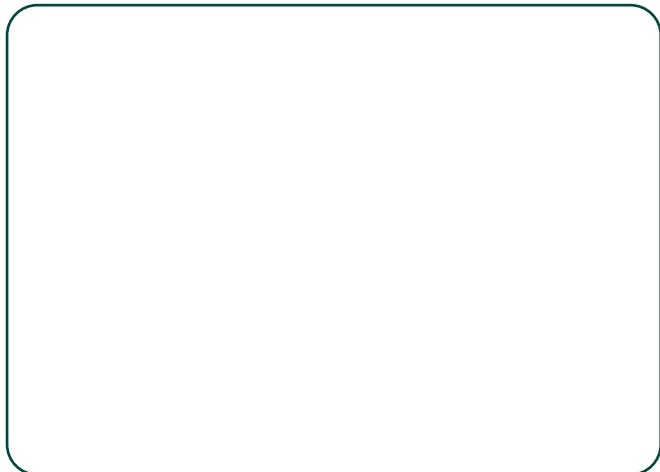
Now the RSGD2000 is linked to it through a common system.

- A permanent GPS tracking receiver is being established at Cape Roberts in conjunction with the Americans.
- A tide gauge is being set up at Cape Roberts by Victoria University, and LINZ will ensure it keeps running. The sea level readings are required for LINZ's geodetic and hydrographic work.

The implementation of GD2000 in the Ross Sea Dependency is part of a total effort to upgrade the spatial reference framework and use GPS efficiently. It dovetails neatly with the recent hydrographic survey expedition to Antarctica (also featured in this issue of *Landscan*).

LINZ Geodetic Survey Adviser Graeme Blick says that until now, survey work in the Ross Sea area depended on a number of disconnected datums. "Now with GPS available we need a broader survey infrastructure in terms of WGS84 (a global reference system)," Graeme says.

"Now all mapping in the area will be linked through the new datum. It's especially important for scientists working in Antarctica. Because most of Antarctica is covered by ice there are few land-based reference marks, eg, trig stations. Antarctica is ideally suited to using GPS and our new datum is well suited to this technology."

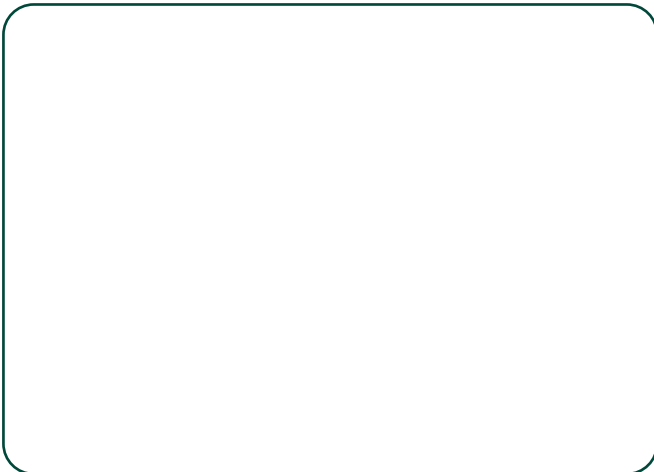


Larry Hothem (USGS) using a GPS receiver on the sea ice at Cape Roberts to calibrate the Cape Roberts Tide Gauge.

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An old survey mark receives the GPS treatment at Cape Hallett. The survey is part of the hydrographic survey being carried out this year and the mark is being resurveyed in terms of Ross Sea Geodetic Datum 2000. In the background is the NIWA research vessel *Tangaroa*.

SHARK BITE, SEASICKNESS NO BARRIER TO CONTINENTAL SHELF SURVEY

New Zealand's continental shelf project attracted praise at an international forum in Buenos Aires late last year. Scientists and technical experts from 25 countries attended the gathering to discuss issues around UN Article 76, the criteria used for countries defining the limits of their continental shelves.

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At a glance

- New Zealand and Australia are leading the way in work to define their continental shelf boundaries.
- Despite rough seas and a shark bite to some equipment, the first deep seismic survey went well.
- The second of the three scheduled deep seismic survey voyages was completed in mid March.
- Once the three deep seismic voyages are completed, a contract will be tendered to process the data.

Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) marine geophysicist Dr Brian Davy represented New Zealand's continental shelf project team at the meeting. He says it became clear that New Zealand and Australia were leading the way in both the quality of work produced and progress made. "A number of other countries

were seeking advice from us, which we're happy to give," he says.

The meeting yielded some useful guidelines on how New Zealand should prepare its submission to the UN on our definition of the outer limits of the country's continental shelf. It is due to be presented in 2006.

From attending the Continental Shelf Workshop in Buenos Aires, Brian has since moved to the sharp end of the project as client representative aboard the *Geco-Resolution*. The six-week deep seismic survey is the second of three such voyages. Focusing on the Chatham Rise and Hikurangi Plateau to the east of New Zealand, the survey was due to be completed in mid March.

The first of the *Geco-Resolution's* deep seismic survey voyages took four weeks from late November last year, covering the Tasman Sea from the Campbell Plateau to Resolution Ridge and the southern end of the Campbell Plateau.

The typically lumpy seas in the area were challenging for the crew, who are accustomed to the calmer waters of the Asian region. Apart from the occasional spilt meal, the only other mishap on the voyage was a shark bite to the six-kilometre streamer which tows the receivers behind the survey ship. Fortunately this was quickly repaired and work was not delayed. Despite the rough conditions, little surveying time was lost.

A third survey of six weeks should complete the *Geco-Resolution's* deep seismic work around New Zealand. The specialist vessel's work has been the largest single expense in the \$44 million continental shelf project, but this essential part of the work has been commissioned at a favourable price.

Project leader Jerome Sheppard says the ship was obtained at a good price because it was done at a quiet time for oil exploration – the bread and butter work of the deepwater surveyor. A prudent forward exchange contract protected the project from the effects of the falling New Zealand dollar, and further savings were made by Fletcher Challenge Energy using the vessel for a survey during the Christmas-New Year period. This enabled the sharing of some fixed costs.

Once the deep seismic voyages are completed, a contract will be tendered to process the data. This will be carried out overseas, as the facilities are not available in New Zealand for such specialised work. Jerome says the work will be put out to tender via the LINZ website.

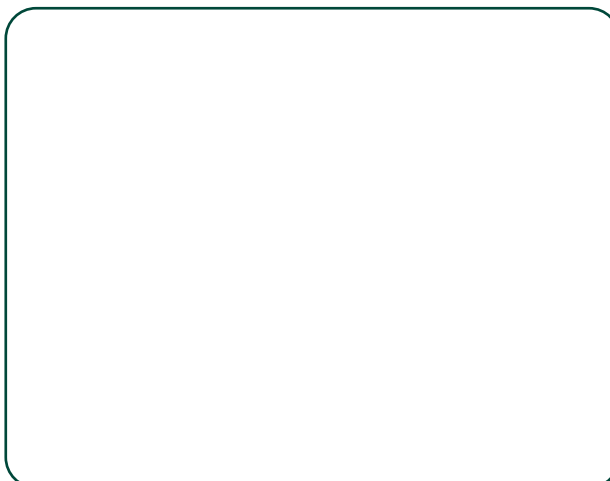
While the *Geco-Resolution* plied the deep waters over our continental shelf, the NIWA vessel *Tangaroa* has also carried out useful survey work in the southern and western regions. Results of the survey indicate that the continental shelf may be more expansive than was first thought.

Rock samples collected from the survey are hoped to reveal more clearly the relationship between the New Zealand land mass and the continental shelf, thus strengthening the eventual case for New Zealand's under-sea territorial claim.

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The *Geco-Resolution* struck some lumpy seas during the deep seismic work around New Zealand.

DEPTHS OF FOVEAUX STRAIT TO BE PROBED

The former fisheries research vessel *Kaharoa* will be plying the waters of Foveaux Strait from the end of March – not for fish or oysters – but to help record the shape of the sea floor.

The scheduled 60-day hydrographic survey (up to 100 days has been allowed to cater for the area's notoriously fickle weather) will generate the necessary data to update charts NZ68, 69 and 681.

The three charts, one at a scale of 1:100,000 and two at 1:200,000, cover the heavily used shipping lane 3.

The survey area runs between Nugget Point and Puysegur Point, in depths of up to 150 metres. Commissioned by LINZ, the tender for the survey was won by a joint venture between NIWA and Thales (previously Racal Survey Australia).

While the *Kaharoa* will survey the seabed in the deeper waters, the shallower areas will be covered by the *Pelorus*. This 10.5 metre ex-navy vessel has recently returned from duty in the Ross Sea area of Antarctica, where it piggy-backed aboard NIWA's deepwater vessel *Tangaroa* on a similar assignment.

Part of the contract includes confirming the location of two recent shipwrecks on the sea floor, so they can be accurately recorded on charts. The multi-beam echo sounders 'paint' an accurate 3D rendition of the seabed, so features such as wrecks usually stand out well.

As well as mapping the seabed, the surveyors will take samples from the sea floor, to provide more detailed information on conditions for anchoring.

Data from the survey will be processed by the contractors, with the data due for delivery to LINZ by 30 September.

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Survey Area and Route Overview

New rule affects nautical charts

A new rule from the NZ Maritime Safety Authority, Maritime Rules Part 25: Nautical Charts and Publications, has made new requirements for retailers selling nautical charts for use on commercial and SOLAS class vessels. The rule change has been made to prevent the sale of out-of-date charts.

As from 1 February 2001, mariners on commercial and SOLAS class vessels must purchase their charts from a chart retailer approved by LINZ to update charts for Notices to Mariners corrections. This correcting is done, using a mapmaker's pen and the amendment is endorsed on the back of the chart.

Three agents have so far been given interim approval by LINZ to update charts in compliance with Rule 25:

- The Navy's Hydrographic Business Unit
- Transpacific Marine
- Boat Books

This list is expected to grow as other agents apply for approval.

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HISTORY MEETING THE FUTURE IN OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND

The **Landonline** Regional Roadshow kicked off with a launch in Otago in December followed by Southland in late January.

The Otago **Landonline** 'Remote User' saw more than 80 customers and staff assemble at Carrisbrook for a multi-media presentation and live demonstration of **Landonline**.

Minister for Land Information, Matt Robson, attended the event. In his opening speech he said that the programme has been quite rightly described as a 'world leader'. He applauded LINZ's embrace of new technology, commenting "At the rate at which business is adopting information technology, there would have come a time when Land Information New Zealand would be the limiting factor in speeding up property transactions."

Customers watched a 20 minute multi-media presentation by LINZ's Russ Ballard (CEO) and Phil Keene (Regional Manager – Dunedin). The presentation "Where History Meets the Future" outlined the reasons why LINZ has moved to this new technology, and highlighted the benefits of the new digital network - which allows customers to access the emerging national database of survey and title records from their own office not LINZ.

Interest was high judging by the crowd around Jeff Needham (Stakeholder NZIS) and Duncan Terris (Stakeholder NZLS) during their live demonstrations of **Landonline**, and the fact that many people headed straight for the tables where the information packs were displayed after the presentation. LINZ staff, trial customers and stakeholders were on hand to answer questions.

The Southland launch, held at the Ascot Park Hotel in Invercargill, also attracted a large audience, comprising local survey and legal firms as well as representatives from local government. Customers joined the staff from the Invercargill LINZ office to view the multi-media presentation given by Russ Ballard and Phil Keene.

During the presentations Phil Keene thanked local customers for their support and patience during the trial and implementation of **Landonline**.

Again staff were kept busy at the sign-up information desk. Issues of particular interest to those attending were ease of access, license queries, and of course, fees.

The Invercargill LINZ office is expected to close within the month. The actual shutting of the doors will obviously change the way land professionals' access and use the information LINZ supplies. LINZ's Southland clients will need to either work online as remote access registered users, have someone who is online search for them or travel to the LINZ office in Dunedin.

The launches mark the beginning of a new era for land dealings in Otago and Southland. The launches for remote users will be rolled out throughout the country - next stop Christchurch.

Prefixes

One of the major changes that **Landonline** introduces is a single register for the entire country. Previously LINZ presided over 12 Land Districts, each having its own register. All the registers used similar conventions for numbering of Certificates of Title and for Survey Plans.

A new single register has been created and is now being populated as the **Landonline** project rolls out around the country. Otago and Southland CT's have all been scanned by EDS Ltd through the conversion project and EDS Ltd are now working on the Canterbury Land District.

To differentiate between the same references for different registries, each title converted has a two-letter prefix appended to the reference.

An example of this is OT18B/359, SL18B/359 and CB18B/359.

Here is a full list of the twelve prefix codes:

| District | Prefix |
|----------------|--------|
| North Auckland | NA |
| South Auckland | SA |
| Gisborne | GS |
| Hawkes Bay | HB |
| Taranaki | TN |
| Wellington | WN |
| Marlborough | MB |
| Nelson | NL |
| Westland | WS |
| Canterbury | CB |
| Otago | OT |
| Southland | SL |

For all new titles held in the new national register maintained by **Landonline** a new identifier system exists. All new titles are given a number, the numbers started at 1000 in Dunedin when **Landonline** rolled out and are issued sequentially thereafter.

The system is slightly different for Survey Plans. The system stores all the plans for the 12 Land Districts and when a request for one is made **Landonline** requires that a Land District is specified.

New plan numbers are much like the new CT references. All new plans are issued a number from the new national series. These numbers started at 300000 in Dunedin and numbers are issued sequentially as each new plan is lodged irrespective of plan type. Examples of this are: DP 300025, SO 300026, ML 3000027. Each one of these plans could have been lodged in a different Land District.

Landonline - Access From Your Office, not Ours

As of Friday 2 March, 50 applications had been received from customers wishing to join **Landonline**. Half of these were from solicitors, followed by surveyors search agents and an array of other customers from local government to real estate firms.

The majority of customers were from Invercargill, followed by Dunedin, Central Otago, Winton and Oamaru. Seven customers signed up from outside the Otago Region.

Landonline is available for remote access from customer's offices. **Landonline** is now accessible via a web browser over the internet. This means that the Virtual Private Network (VPN) as originally envisaged is no longer required. Using a web browser for access means no longer being restricted to one computer.

There are two separate versions of the **Landonline** remote searching service available. Both packages are only available by the customer signing a contract with **Landonline** (there is no access to the general public to **Landonline** through the internet).

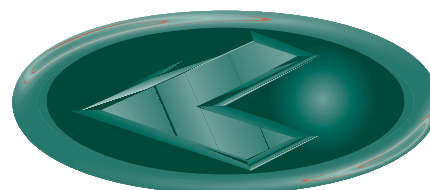
Landonline 'Standard' is the standard service for most users, especially conveyancers. It provides access to the titles register, digital survey data (excluding spatial data) and supporting documents. It includes the ability to request that images of titles, survey plans and supporting documents be delivered by fax or e-mail.

Landonline 'Plus' is an enhanced service designed for use by surveyors and search agents. As well as providing all the features of the Standard package, Plus allows viewing of spatial survey data.

Citrix is the technology used to allow remote access to the **Landonline** application via the Internet.

The technical requirements for using the **Landonline** application to search survey and title data, are on our website www.landonline.govt.nz.

www.landonline.govt.nz



Landonline
survey and title service

PUTTING THE 'E' INTO GOVERNMENT

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There's no getting away from it. Information technology is seeping into every recess of our lives. Whether it's seeking information through the internet, booking tickets for a Super 12 match or doing some banking, the transaction is more than likely possible through a PC.

In the rush to provide products and services via electronic means, some systems work better than others. E-commerce has had its glorious successes and abject failures.

The Government's E-Government strategy aims to ensure information technology gives the best possible outcomes for its own agencies and also – more importantly – the people who interact with them. In brief, the strategy focuses on:

- better service
- cost effectiveness and efficiency
- leadership through innovation
- improving New Zealand's reputation as an information age society
- greater participation by citizens in government.

The department has been quick to pick up the challenge of the E-Government strategy and has formed a steering committee to ensure its objectives are followed through within the organisation. The Committee also aims to ensure that LINZ makes the most effective contribution to wider E-Government initiatives. Chaired by General Manager Contracts, Geoff Howard, the LINZ E-Government Steering Committee is a high-powered team comprising:

Chief Executive, Russ Ballard
General Manager Policy, Sharon Cottrell
General Manager Business Support, Brian Usherwood
General Manager Operations, Carolina Gartner
Chief Information Adviser, Kevin Barnes
Chief Topographer/Hydrographer, John Spittal
Senior Policy Analyst, Stephen Walsh (secretary)

The group has been set up to ensure that LINZ's E-Government strategies are consistent with, and support the wider government strategy, while also ensuring that LINZ carries out its core responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

Stephen Walsh says the committee has an important overview role, as the department already has a number of E-Government initiatives well under way. One over-arching initiative is really a strategy within a strategy. The department's 'Virtual Agency' strategy draws together various strands of E-Government.

“It recognises that communication channels are rapidly changing,” Stephen explains. “Over-the-counter transactions that used to depend heavily on location of offices are now re-forming around information systems and electronic transactions.”

While **Landonline** has gained a high profile it is not the only venture by LINZ into the realm of E-Government. The lifting of copyright fees from topographic and hydrographic information has created a demand for bulk copies of electronic versions of these by customers operating GIS systems. Stephen says information like on paper maps, that has been provided to clients through third parties, is becoming available directly from the LINZ source, thanks to information technology.

Other types of information, such as standards and guidelines are now routinely delivered through the LINZ website to specialised groups such as accredited agents.

Another project well underway and being overseen by the LINZ E-Government Steering Committee is the emergency services spatial information project. This initiative aims to facilitate the acquisition of the spatial information critical to the operation of the Police and Fire Service Communication and Resource Deployment (CARD) system.

The department is also hosting the GUIDE framework project. This project is setting pan Government standards for discovery level metadata, which is the internet equivalent of the library card index system.

Closer to home, the steering committee is overseeing a review of the LINZ website. Stephen says that currently this is structured according to LINZ's internal business units. It now needs to be restructured according to our customer's perspectives and to take advantage of new ways of providing dynamically tailored responses. “As an information leader, we are keen to set high standards through the website. It's very much our shop window and we want to make sure it can deliver on its promises.”

The next stage in the information revolution will see information being tailored far more effectively for customers, Stephen says. “At the moment, they often receive large blocks of unrefined information. We want to make sure it answers their needs far more effectively.”

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CLEARANCES...THE LAST 18 MONTHS

When *Landscan* last spoke to Crown Property Clearances' Trevor Knowles in August 1999 the group had been up and running for little more than a year. Eighteen months on there have been inevitable refinements as procedures are bedded in and the people involved become more familiar with the way transactions are done.

One of the biggest changes has been an internal one. The Crown Property Clearances group was early last year transferred to the Office of the Chief Crown Property Officer (OCCPO). "It's a more logical place to be", Trevor says, "because Clearances' role is essentially a regulatory one". There are

At a glance

- The Crown Property Clearances group of LINZ has been transferred to the Office of the Chief Crown Property Officer.
- Volumes of transactions are down, but they tend to be more complex than those done during the group's first 18 months.
- Performance goals of 95 percent of decisions turned around in less than five days have been maintained.
- Improvements in efficiency have been passed on to the clients in the form of reduced fees. Fees will be reviewed annually.

good synergies within the OCCPO's group. For example, Trevor has also taken up the role of Business Services Manager for the OCCPO since the move was made.

The patterns of work have changed in response to changes in the trends of acquisition and disposal of property across the whole Crown property sector. Trevor says volumes of

transactions are down – there were about 4,600 in the year to 30 June 2000, but after just over eight months of the current year, only 2,500 decisions had been completed.

"Although total numbers are down, the transactions we now process tend to be much more complex," Trevor says. "That may be because the initial burst of work involved fairly straightforward acquisitions and disposals within a short time frame. The more complex transactions usually take longer to develop and come forward to Clearances." (When the group was first established there was a large volume of routine work associated with the Ngai Tahu Claim Settlement and Waikato Raupatu Claim Settlement Acts.)

Trevor is proud of the fact that his group's performance goal of turning around 95 percent of work in less than five working days has been consistently maintained. "Some of the proposals we handle now involve some very innovative solutions to concluding property negotiations," he says. Purchase by Transit New Zealand for roading, and the Ministry of Education for schools, figure largely among these.

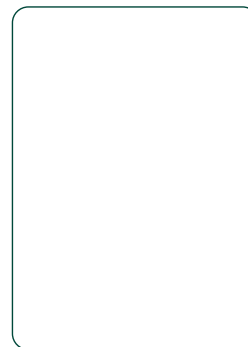
"In the nearly three years we've been operating, our relationships with our suppliers have grown and flourished," he says. "We've learned more about the way they operate and they've developed a greater appreciation of our role. It's meant an atmosphere of mutual trust has developed – we've all got a stake in ensuring that transactions are done properly.

"Because of this, we're more efficient. Savings are passed on to end users, and that led to a drop in our fees from January this year." Trevor says fees will be reviewed annually to ensure clients benefit quickly from any further efficiency gains.

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Trevor Knowles.

Sign-off function

Members of the Crown Property Clearances group are warranted to make decisions under a range of legislation, such as the Public Works Act, about the sale and purchase of Crown assets. Their role is to ensure that all statutory requirements have been met.

Alexandra property purchases on track

LINZ management of the contract for property purchases is paving the way for flood remediation work in Alexandra.

Purchase of properties required for the remediation works is being carried out by The Property Group Ltd, under contract to the LINZ Crown Property Management Group.

Brian Usherwood General Manager LINZ, is chairman of the Alexandra Flood Remediation Oversight Committee. He says the purchases are proceeding well.

"The committee has approved 13 purchases negotiated by the LINZ contractor," he says. "We are expecting another eight property purchases this month, which are in advanced stages of negotiation, and 10 later in March. We are confident that the rest of the purchase programme will be completed on schedule."

The Otago Regional Council will carry out the construction services of a stopbank in a project jointly funded by the Crown and Contact Energy.

A resource consent has been granted for the first stage of the earthworks in the Linger and Die area of Alexandra, and the resource consent hearing for the central business district and the Clutha river left bank is currently being heard.

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ACCESSING THE FOLDING STUFF

As the **Landonline** rollout gains momentum in its first region – Dunedin – land information users are learning about the new methods for accessing paper records from LINZ.

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At a glance

- LINZ branch offices are closing as **Landonline** is implemented in their regions.
- Some records will be moved to regional offices or to off-site storage.
- All records will remain available to clients and fees for access will not change.
- There will be a move towards more remote ordering of records, using fax, email, the internet or the services of an agent.
- Searches are easier and quicker to complete if clients provide the right information.
- There is a toll free help line available on **0800 ONLINE (665463)**.

To recap, the main changes to flow from **Landonline** are:

- Nationwide, about seven million 'high use' survey plans, land titles and related documents are being converted to electronic form for access via **Landonline**. Subscribers to **Landonline** will be able to access these records via their own PCs.
- LINZ branch offices will close in each region once **Landonline** has been implemented there. The first of these, Invercargill, closes on 30 March 2001. The Nelson, Hokitika, Blenheim, Napier, Gisborne and New Plymouth will be progressively closed after this, the last of these by the end of 2002.
- Paper records that have been scanned for **Landonline**, and paper records that are rarely or never accessed (e.g. discharged mortgages), will be stored off site. However, the unscanned records will still be accessible.
- Paper records from branch and regional offices needed for LINZ business will be stored at the appropriate LINZ regional office.

Whether or not a record has been scanned for **Landonline**, all LINZ records will still be accessible to clients. The fees for accessing the information will not change.

What will change is the way the information is provided.

As a general rule, **Landonline** means access will be opened up to records throughout New Zealand, rather than just the local land district. The other main shift will be towards more 'remote' access, using channels such as fax, the internet and email to order copies of records.

At present, all customers can get a copy of the record they want:

- over the counter at a LINZ office, submitting payment with the request
- by mailing a request with the appropriate fee enclosed
- by using the services of a search agent.

As **Landonline** rolls out across the country, these access methods will be enhanced by being able to order records through the LINZ web site or sending a request by fax or email to the appropriate regional office. Alternatively, land records will be accessible through a registered **Landonline** user offering a public search service.

Once a request has been received (with all relevant information included) and payment made, LINZ will make the requested information ready for delivery within 36 hours. Copies of the records requested will be sent by post or fax.

Where it's necessary to view an original document, clients will need to visit the LINZ regional office where the document is stored. The only people permitted to uplift original documents from LINZ are suppliers accredited by LINZ to carry out certain transactions. Originals of documents scanned for **Landonline** will not be available except in the rare cases when detail has not been captured in the scanning process.

To make sure a search is done smoothly and successfully, knowing exactly what you're looking for is a big help. The key information includes the land district that a search relates to, and the appropriate reference number, such as a title reference.

As the implementation of **Landonline** continues, LINZ staff are closely monitoring requests for land information to help clients manage the transition to the new systems for accessing records. A regionally based 0800 help desk has been established to deal with enquiries. The number is **0800 ONLINE (665463)**.

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FORWARD PROJECTION

The projection used for New Zealand mapping is unique to this country. The New Zealand Map Grid (NZMG) was implemented in 1973 when the new NZMS 260 metric 1:50 000 scale national map series began replacing the old imperial 1:63 360 scale NZMS 1 map series.

The New Zealand Map Grid has served this country well, and in many cases still does. However there is a growing list of reasons why the use of this projection must be reviewed. These include:

- The 50-year-old geodetic datum (NZGD 1949) used for NZMG has been superseded by a new datum, NZGD2000. A new projection is required to take advantage of the new geocentric datum.
- Software/hardware developers and suppliers of imported systems such as inbuilt global positioning systems may not support NZMG. These range from ‘smart’ watches and mobile phones to vehicle tracking systems in imported cars. They are becoming increasingly common.
- Our unique projection creates inoperability difficulties for our international obligations such as defence.

LINZ is in the process of major consultation with users who could be affected by a change in the mapping projection. Dave Mole, Manager with the National Topo/Hydro Authority at LINZ, and Graeme Blick, from the Office of the Surveyor General, are in the midst of a series of roadshow presentations and meetings around the country.

Dave says the meetings to date have been well attended by a good range of users, including software and hardware developers, GIS users, map users and producers, search and rescue personnel, police and many others.

He says the cost of change clearly worries many users, although there is a general acceptance the change is necessary. The debate now clearly revolves around whether we move to another version of NZMG or to a universal projection.

“There will definitely be costs, but these will occur anyway as a consequence of the new datum. If a migration is managed carefully over a number of years, the impact will be less severe.

“In a GIS environment it is a relatively simple procedure to change coordinate systems.”

It is also important to note that New Zealand does not have to be totally re-mapped as it was in 1973 when NZMG was introduced. Digital conversion of the 1:50 000 scale map series was completed in 1999 and the National digital Topographic Database (NZTopo) now provides the source data for LINZ 1:50 000 scale mapping.

Dave says it will be more complex to transform data that is based on imagery and relies on existing sheetlines.

Submissions on the new map projection will be accepted by LINZ up to 30 April 2001. Final recommendations will be made by LINZ by 30 June, and a decision made during July 2001.

Report recommends Transverse Mercator Projection

As part of the consultation process, LINZ commissioned an independent report from former Surveyor-General Dr Bill Robertson on the social and economic impacts of a change to a new map projection. This flowed from an earlier technical workshop in Wellington which brought together private and government sector representatives.

Among the report highlights are:

- Small-scale map users favour retaining NZMG; GIS users' views range from support for NZMG to strong support for a new standard projection.
- New Zealand is the only country that uses a specialist projection.
- The new International Terrestrial Reference Frame has led to a new national geodetic frame in many countries in place of a national traditional datum. Consequent changes in mapping have been introduced incrementally.
- No single projection can serve all needs. Because digital systems make it easier to switch between projections in a digital environment, the need to have a single national projection is not so compelling as it once was.
- The Topomap 260 1:50 000 mapping series will not be greatly affected by the change to NZGD2000; therefore it is feasible to continue using this series until it needs to be replaced, while introducing a new standard projection for other purposes.
- A national Transverse Mercator projection would be advantageous for aligning urban mapping and GIS databases. Delaying this could cause greater costs later. The report recommended the introduction of a new national Transverse Mercator projection, supported by a targeted communication strategy and programme.

The full text of the Projections Report and Power Point Roadshow Presentation is available on www.linz.govt.nz/services/topomapping/topoprojections/index.html

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REGIONAL HUI DRAW MAORI INTO PWA CONSULTATION PROCESS

A series of regional hui have been held to canvass Maori views on the review of the Public Works Act. This is the response of some of those who attended:

“

“It would have been useful to have had more time to prepare for the hui. It’s not so bad if there are people like us (legal professionals) available to read and interpret the consultation document. On the other hand, I can understand the pressure to move the process forward.”

“A major issue is representation. The Crown claims to be consulting through iwi. Iwi were not however invited to input into the discussion paper that was circulated prior to the hui. The reason for this, we were told, is that The Public Works Act affects individual Maori land owners, not iwi in that iwi do not own and therefore have no authority over Maori freehold land. This is ironic. The Crown removed iwi authority over land by extinguishing customary title and replacing it with individual Maori freehold title. This led to fragmentation of Maori land. More tragically, it led to fragmentation of Maori polity. Thus not consulting through iwi on the PWA review discussion document is to add insult to injury.”

“However, some redress may be afforded by Parliament adding a Treaty clause in the new legislation that places a Treaty obligation on anyone using the Act – not just the Crown. The orthodox view is that the Treaty is a partnership between iwi and the Crown. In practice that means the descendants of the Maori who signed and the various government agencies. In effect this will give iwi some say in Public Works Act takings and thus force decision makers under the Act to recognise the lawful authority of iwi over what was once their sovereign territory. The disposal of surplus land is really a key issue, and it is thus vital that any decision maker under the Act is bound by Treaty obligations as if it were the Crown.”

Andy Belcher, Ngai Tahu Maori Law Centre

“The consultation on this legislation is very timely. The hui went very well, and people like Sir Henare Ngata and Atareta Poananga were able to give an overview from a tangata whenua perspective.”

“We’ve seen that rohe around New Zealand have had problems with the Public Works Act. We have, too, although it’s not our style to get so agitated about it! Consultation and dialogue must take place.”

“Maori land in our area has been taken under the PWA in the past for roads, schools, railway land, development of our wharf and so on. Some of this has been sold, but unfortunately it wasn’t offered back to the descendants of the original owners.”

“There’s one big case up here now, involving 25,000 acres of beautiful farmland – the Tauwhareparae block. The Port of Gisborne wants to sell it for future development. Because of a technicality in the Public Works Act, it doesn’t have to be offered back to the former owners. That’s not the Port’s fault – it’s happened because the land changed hands more than once – but it shows that the law need to be tidied up. That case is subject to legal challenge at the moment.”

“Another related issue that came up was the closure of the local LINZ office, and the removal of land records to Wellington. A local historian has given us a ‘tour’ of some of the records such as early surveyors’ diaries. These contain first-hand accounts of information given to the early surveyors by our elders. It gave us a real insight into our past, and we don’t want to lose access to that.”

Toko Te Kani, Community Affairs, Te Puni Kokiri, Gisborne

Note from the editor

The above comments are of hui participants and do not necessarily reflect LINZ or Government policy.

PUBLIC WORKS ACT REVIEW ON THE ROAD

An intensive round of public consultation on the review of the Public Works Act (PWA) has just been wrapped up with a series of hui and public meetings carried out from late January through to early this month. One clear message that came through was a call for an extension of time for submissions - to give the public more time to digest the issues and have their say on the future of the Act. In response to this, the Minister for Land Information, Matt Robson, has agreed to extend the submission deadline by two months, to 31st May 2001.

While attendance at public meetings has been variable, the hui have been well supported with strong themes emerging in the discussion. The PWA consultation document has been a cornerstone for the process, and the LINZ web site has been used as an effective ‘multiplier’. Effectively a website within a site, www.pwareview.linz.govt.nz delivers the consultation document and invites on-line submissions. Parts of the site explaining the hui programme have been translated into Maori.

Chief Crown Property Officer, Sam Brown has been presenting

At a glance

- A round of consultation through public meetings and hui has been completed.
- The deadline for submissions on the Public Works Act review has been extended to 31st May.
- There has been a call from Maori for a Treaty clause in new public works legislation.
- Disposal of surplus land acquired under the PWA has been raised as a concern.
- A draft Bill should be introduced early next year.

the hui. He says attendance has varied up to 40 people. “Although the hui have represented a wide range of people and places, the same themes have been coming through at all of them,” Sam says.

In terms of process, there was a call for an extension of time for submissions on the PWA review, and Maori involvement in policy development expressed at the hui. One of the strongest messages

to come through, Sam says, was an overwhelming desire for the Treaty of Waitangi to be recognised within new public works legislation. “Furthermore, people want this to be binding on all who use the legislation – not just the Crown.”

Other Treaty-related issues raised at the hui included an emphasis on consultation, partnership and participation and a preference, if Maori land is to be taken, that the acquiring authority takes only a leasehold interest. There was also expressed a preference for notices about land acquisition and disposal to be bilingual. Inconsistencies between the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act and the current PWA were raised, and there was a call for the Maori Land Court to be strengthened, to enable it to undertake parallel functions to the Land valuation Tribunal and Environment Court in respect to takings of maori Land.

Acquisition and compensation issues were also canvassed at the hui. There was concern about the number of agencies (currently over 300) that can use the PWA. These include the Crown and its agencies as well as local authorities and private organisations.

The concept of compulsory acquisition did not sit comfortably with those attending the hui. However, most Maori land owners said that provided the acquiring authority consulted and could convince them of the need, and offered fair compensation for a leasehold interest, they would oblige in recognition that they were part of the community.

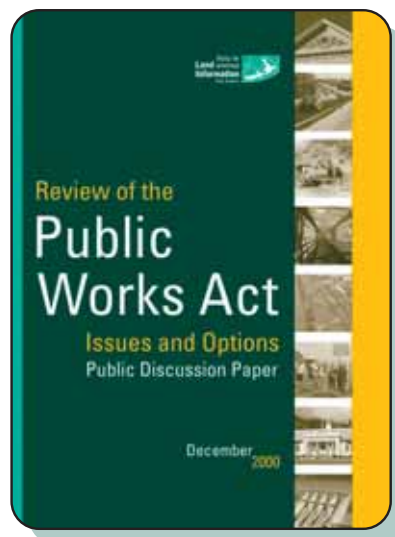
Disposal of land that had been acquired under the PWA but was no longer required for the public work raised many concerns with Maori, which were aired at the hui. Among these was a suggestion that offerback provisions be retained, but that this should happen as soon as the land was no longer required for the public work for which the land was originally taken – without the land being transferred for other government or local authority use. Treaty settlements were seen as having priority over disposal of public works land.

The public meetings were not so well attended apart from the ones held in Wellington and Auckland, where there was a mix of legal professionals, Accredited Suppliers, Treaty researchers and members of the public. The call at hui for more consultation during policy development was echoed at the public meetings. Expert input into the detail of legislation was strongly advised at the Wellington meeting – this is to avoid the fishhooks that have bedevilled earlier public works legislation.

Sam Brown says that the round of meetings and hui, although demanding, have reinforced the important role of face-to-face contact when laying the groundwork for such an important legislative review.

“We are now receiving a good flow of submissions, which will provide valuable input into the next phase, which is to analyse what people are saying and translate this into policy options.

“Cabinet will decide on final policy and the legislative changes that are needed during the latter half of this year. The next stage will be to draft a Bill, which should be introduced early next year. There will be further opportunity for public input at the select committee stage.”



The Public Works Act public discussion paper is also available via the LINZ website.

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SURVEY BOARD TO BE RESHAPED

The Survey Board is to celebrate its centenary by disbanding and reforming under the changes to be made in the new Survey Act. It was originally set up under legislation passed in 1900.

Board Secretary Ian Fargher explains that the changes reflect a move towards greater self-regulation, a trend that's been occurring across many land-related professions.

The new board (working title the Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board) will still be appointed by the minister, but will have its membership decided by recommendation from across a wider survey profession.

“The new board will not be that different from its predecessor, but it will focus on governing competency rather than regulating the profession,” Ian says. “Under the new Act membership of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors will no longer be compulsory, and it will be possible for surveyors to set up alternative professional groupings if they want to.”

He says the new legislation and reconstituted board is an important prerequisite for the implementation of **Landonline** Phase 2. At this stage surveyors will begin submitting their plans electronically through the **Landonline** system.

The new legislation is due to take effect on 1 July 2002.

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