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A news update for Land Information New Zealand clients

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PUTTING A NAME ON THE MAP

If you've got your heart set on having that river or headland named after you, don't hold your breath. The New Zealand Geographic Board Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, has a convention of only adopting people's surnames for geographic features or places if they are, well, no longer alive.

At a glance

- ⊕ Anyone can propose a new or altered place name in New Zealand.
- ⊕ Places cannot be named after living persons.
- ⊕ The New Zealand Geographic Board Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, reports to the Minister for Land Information and is serviced by LINZ.
- ⊕ It makes decisions on place names.
- ⊕ The Board encourages the use of original Maori names where appropriate; local community and historical usage of a name, also have a strong influence on naming decisions.
- ⊕ The Board is also involved in naming of geographic features in the Ross Sea Region of Antarctica.

That's not to say there aren't some new place names with a familiar ring to them. Take the 1556 metre (5100 feet) peak near the tiny South Island settlement of Springs Junction, which now officially bears the name Mount Blackadder.

The new name is not, as many may think, a sentimental reference to the Canterbury and former All Black forward man-mountain. But there is a family

connection – Mount Blackadder is in fact named after Todd's pioneering relative.

William Blackadder snr was a settler in the area and his family are still strongly connected with Springs Junction. William's home was built in view of the mountain and seeing it gave him great pleasure, even more so as his eyesight began to fail in later life.

It is this kind of strong connection with an area or land feature which the New Zealand Geographic Board takes into account when it considers applications to propose a new or altered place name.

The Board is responsible to the Minister for Land Information, and is serviced by LINZ. The Board operates under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946. Secretary to the Board is Wendy Shaw. She says the Board encourages the use of original Maori names where appropriate. Local community and historical usage of a name, also have a strong influence on the Board's consideration. In some cases, where there are names of equal significance to Maori and non-Maori, dual names are approved. A couple of the more recent of these are Matiu/Somes Island and Makaro/Ward Island in Wellington Harbour.

The Maori names had been given by the famed Polynesian explorer, Kupe, and were shown on early sailing charts made by the British of Wellington Harbour. The islands had also been occupied by Maori for many centuries before and at the time of British settlement. The public submission process clearly identified two distinct histories associated with these islands, mainly the larger one, Somes.

This island had until recently been used as a quarantine station. During the two world wars, residents of German origin, and in World War II also of Italian origin, had been interned there, some being born and some dying on the island. Accordingly some local families had a strong association (not necessarily a happy one) with Somes Island. The Board therefore recommended to the Minister joint naming of these islands in recognition of the two significant yet distinct histories associated with them.

The Board's authority covers place names for small urban settlements, localities and natural features such as mountains, rivers and harbours; even features as small as outcrops can attract official naming. Names of roads, streets and local reserves come under the jurisdiction of local authorities, while the Department of Conservation looks after National parks and reserves.

The Board sorts out doubtful spellings and where necessary investigates and determines priority of discovery.

It collects original Maori place names for recording on maps. A valuable source of original place names are the early cadastral plans and surveys. In fact a report on the State of the Surveys in New Zealand to Parliament in 1875 referred to place naming and stated “Special attention should be given to the subject of nomenclature, and care be taken to adhere in all possible cases to accurate Native names: this is a matter of great philological and antiquarian importance”. This principle was carried on in subsequent Survey Regulations.



The Board also determines what foreign names should be replaced by Maori or British names, and investigates all applications for new or altered names.

Wendy says people have strong feelings about place names, usually because names are linked to their sense of identity.

The Board itself has eight members as follows:

- Tony Bevin, Surveyor-General and Chairman (ex-officio)
- Dame Evelyn Stokes, nominated by the New Zealand Geographical Society
- Ms Sylvia Allan, nominated by the Minister for Land Information
- Mr Brian McLay, nominated by the Minister for Land Information
- Dr Sir Tipene O’Regan, Ngai Tahu nomination
- Professor Wharehuia Milroy, nominated by the Minister of Maori Affairs
- one vacant position to be filled on the nomination of the Minister of Maori Affairs
- Mr John Wheeler, nominated by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc.

Wendy says an increasing percentage of the Board’s work has resulted from cultural redress in Treaty of Waitangi settlements. Naming issues are negotiated directly between the claimants and the Crown, with views of the Board being taken account of.

In addition to specific Treaty related place naming, a consultation protocol between the Board and Maori has been established, with assistance from Te Puni Kokiri. Decisions of the Board will be notified directly to appropriate Maori.

The Board’s deliberations involve some interesting terminology. There’s orthography (correct spelling) and toponymy (naming of features). The Board considers exonyms (imported names), and accepts tautologies, or redundant repetition (particularly for Maori names e.g. Lake Rotoiti, where Roto means “Lake”). Nomenclature is the science of assigning names.

While the rules about naming places in New Zealand and its offshore islands are fairly well defined, there is a broader brush applied to the Ross Sea Region, where the Geographic Board also has naming responsibilities. Wendy says the increased use of large-scale satellite image mapping in the area by the United States has generated a strong demand for names for features that are now clearly visible.

Many features right down to rocky outcrops are being named, and the Board has recently assessed in excess of 80 names for Ross Island alone. It’s an eclectic collection: everything from Lofty Promenade to Millennium Peak, to Robot Gully and “The Fang”. Many of these names are given by the scientists and surveyors working in the area, to physically describe or identify key features. Also appearing among the names are a few New Zealand native mountain birds: Kakapo Nunatak, for example. (For the uninitiated, a Nunatak is an isolated peak projecting out of ice or snow.) One of the more significant features named was ‘Te Puna Roimata Peak’, meaning spring of tears. This name commemorates the scenic flight that crashed nearby in 1979, tragically losing all 257 lives on board. Wendy says the Maori names, bird names and other translocated names from New Zealand, are a way of helping establish New Zealand’s unique identity in the Ross Sea Region.

So who gets to propose new or changed place names? Actually, anyone can. But to ensure an application has a chance of serious consideration, applicants need to do their homework to build up a case – geographical, cultural and historical information, and evidence of consultation with Maori or key organisations, for example.

When the Board accepts a proposed name, it is published in the New Zealand Gazette and advertised in newspapers. If objections are received, a final decision is made by the Minister for Land Information. Where there are no objections, the Board makes the final decision.

Contact for further information:

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THROWING LIGHT ON PAPER RECORDS

It's business as usual for the rollout of **Landonline**, and for the transition to a new system for accessing land records. Land Information Minister Matt Robson confirmed late last month that the Government has decided to continue with the implementation of **Landonline** after reviewing the Cabinet decision to move LINZ records to storage archives in regional centres as branch offices close.

At a glance

- ⊕ The Government has confirmed that implementation of **Landonline** will continue, along with the removal of paper records to storage archives in regional centres.
- ⊕ The Nelson and Invercargill branch offices of LINZ have closed in line with the rollout of **Landonline** in the South Island.
- ⊕ The Blenheim and Hokitika offices are due to close during the third quarter of 2001.
- ⊕ A new internet-based system, **Skylight** is available through the LINZ website, to request copies of paper records.
- ⊕ A special portal is being developed on the LINZ web site to help quickly find records of special interest to Maori. Many of these records are actually held by other organisations.

“The review included an assessment of whether the relocation of records from branch office locations to LINZ regional offices and to storage and retrieval archives nearby was appropriate. We found that it was,” Mr Robson said.

Landonline is now well underway in the South Island. The Dunedin region is now running in the new **Landonline** environment and the region's branch office in Invercargill was closed in March. The Nelson branch office has also closed to the public as

electronic capture of high-use land records gets underway. The remaining South Island branch offices of LINZ, in Blenheim and Hokitika, are due to close during the third quarter of 2001.

Conversion of records in the North Island begins in early July with the Wellington regional office. The two branch offices in the region, Napier and Gisborne, begin the transition to a **Landonline** environment during the last quarter of 2001.

As **Landonline** becomes established in each region, LINZ clients are becoming familiar with the new ways of accessing land records. These can still be ordered via fax or post, or by visiting the appropriate regional office.

In districts where **Landonline** is running – at this stage, the whole of the South Island – a new internet-based system, **Skylight** is also available to request copies of paper records. (Title and survey records converted for **Landonline** can be accessed either through a **Landonline** subscriber or through a LINZ regional office.)

Skylight does not give direct electronic access to the relevant paper records and does not allow a search for individual records, but it does help guide enquirers to ensure their request is targeted accurately. Credit card facilities are also available to pay for the order on-line.



Skylight can be accessed through the home page of the LINZ web site, on www.linz.govt.nz

To order a record via **Skylight** it is necessary to know the appropriate land district, the record reference (eg, a Lot Number or Document Number), and the record type (eg, title, deed etc).

The **Skylight** pages on the LINZ web site also list the 12 main types of records held by LINZ, with some useful background information about their history and function. Under each record type there's a guide which tells you what information you'll need to make an order and where to get the information. There's also some useful advice on getting a professional to help search out documents.

The 12 types listed under **Skylight** are:

- Survey plans
- Documents (eg, transfer of ownership, mortgage etc)
- Journals (chronological records of lodgements in the title system)
- Field books (recording measurements obtained in the field)
- Titles (records of property ownership)
- Maps and charts
- Indexes (including survey data and land titles)
- Deeds (original records of ownership from before land titles were introduced)
- Cases (This is a LINZ term, rather than a legal term. Here it means records of significant events, held in the public interest)
- Abstracts (a record of documents lodged)
- Crown grants (evidence of ownership when Crown land is sold)
- Traverse records (the coordinates assigned to each survey mark).

Original paper records cannot be sent out, but are generally available for view at the appropriate LINZ regional office. Originals of documents converted to **Landonline** are not available unless the quality of the original was such that details aren't viewable on the electronic version.

As a guide, if all the right information has been supplied and the appropriate fee paid, LINZ will endeavour to have the requested paper record information available for delivery within 36 hours.

Contact for further information:

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Portal to Maori land information ready soon

Many requests for land information are made to LINZ by people researching land records for the purpose of lodging claims with the Waitangi Tribunal under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975. As it happens, most documents of direct interest to Maori are held by other organisations: mainly Te Puni Kokiri, The Maori Trustee or the Maori Land Court. Nonetheless, there are historical records held by LINZ that can help researchers piece together the history of ownership of specific pieces of land.

In order to help quickly find records of special interest to Maori, a special portal is being developed on the LINZ web site. The as-yet unnamed site is currently being built in consultation with stakeholders. This will go live by the end of June. The site will initially be in English, but important elements will be translated into the Maori language where that will assist enquirers.

A LIGHTER TOUCH TO STANDARDS FOR LANDONLINE

The trouble with computers, is they can be just too eager to please. That's not how the people at **Landonline** would articulate it, but it's essentially what's behind the latest set of refinements to the way the system performs.

LINZ Deputy Manager Operations, Lindsay Meehan, explains that fine tuning the way **Landonline** works is a matter of striking a balance between the need for accuracy and consistency, and the needs of clients who require transactions to be dealt with inside acceptable timeframes.

He says a recent independent report on **Landonline** performance highlighted the need to focus on outputs – ie, the end result – than slavish attention to details which have no material effect on the integrity of the land information involved. Querying minor errors or defects can bog down the system with unnecessary rework on submitted land title documents, and the report is leading to a more pragmatic approach to the acceptance of work.

Lindsay says the standards and guidelines for land titles and survey plans will be kept under review with perhaps a lighter touch.

The review carried out by Australian QA consultancy Opticon identified a number of positives about the way **Landonline** is performing where it has been rolled out (ie, in the South Island).

“The first thing is that it can actually do what's required of it without manual intervention,” he says. “The other really important factor is the staff – they are totally committed and keen to see it work. **Landonline** has definitely improved performance where it has been introduced, and it has introduced uniformity of standards.

“I've worked in a number of LINZ sites over the years, and you inevitably get local cultures and ways of doing things with a manual system.

Landonline is eliminating these local inconsistencies. That's a good thing, but we need to be conscious of how fussy we are about details that don't affect the outcome of the job.”

Lindsay says the review also identified some problems. Chief among these was the length of time taken to process larger and more complex land title transactions – for example, a commercial or residential development requiring multiple easements.

There have also been some system issues, such as screen freezes at inconvenient moments, system instability and support. “You can't get much sense out of a mute screen,” Lindsay observes. “We're taking a closer look at calls to the solutions centre to ensure problems are dealt with promptly.”

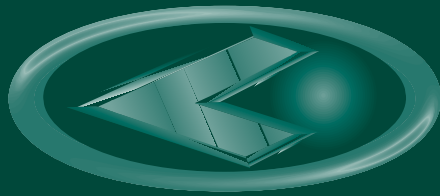
The review has been healthy for **Landonline**, and has flushed out issues that will be progressively addressed as the system starts its northward progress next month (Wellington region is due to start conversation on 2 July).

“When **Landonline** rolled out in Dunedin it was essentially version 1.0. We're progressively refining the way it works, and the later regions to convert will benefit from the experience we've gained in Dunedin and Christchurch. These two regions only account for about 25 percent of the total volume of business for **Landonline**. Auckland alone accounts for 35 percent. When that region rolls out next year I expect we'll be focusing more on issues of capacity – making sure **Landonline** can deal with the sheer volumes of work.”

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Landonline
survey and title automation

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HISTORY MEETS THE FUTURE IN NELSON AND CHRISTCHURCH

“This is where history meets the future,” announced LINZ chief executive, Russ Ballard, as he launched **Landonline** to customers in Nelson and Christchurch recently.

The launches, attended by a combined audience of almost 300, signalled another milestone in the national rollout of the first stage of **Landonline**.

Tony Fraser, LINZ regional manager for Christchurch, whose territory covers the West Coast, Nelson, Marlborough and Canterbury, also took the stage at the Rutherford Hotel in Nelson and at Christchurch’s convention centre.

“You will have already noticed a few changes over the last few months, and at times you may have been slightly frustrated with the time it was taking to turn around your dealings as staff got used to the system, and the system got used to them,” he told the audiences. “Naturally, there have been a few bugs and related business issues during this transition. We expected that, but we have worked on them, and together with the feedback from customers, we are extremely happy with the results.”

At the time of the launches, on 21st and 22nd of May, the vast majority of records had been converted for Christchurch, with Nelson’s conversion expected to be complete by the end of May. This meant that customers signing up to **Landonline** could gain online access to the most-accessed of LINZ’s South Island land records.

And sign up they did. In the week of the launches, 16 new customers filled in the online registration form, bringing the total number of licences to about 120, though many of those licences have more than one user.

Stephen Hall, of the **Landonline** change team, said after the launches that he was delighted with the take-up. “The last two weeks have been our biggest weeks so far, with sixteen last week, breaking the record that was set only a week earlier. On this trend, we can expect Christchurch numbers to overtake Dunedin in the near future. There was a lot of enthusiasm at the launches, so I think we can expect continued strong sign-up for a few weeks to come.”



At the launches, **Landonline**’s stakeholder representatives Duncan Terris (lawyers) and Jeff Needham (surveyors) gave live demonstrations of **Landonline**, while Stephen Hall manned the registration enquiry desk.

“Registration is done electronically via the website,” said Stephen. “We don’t expect people to sign up on the spot, but at the Nelson launch, Chris Coll, a surveyor from Westport, was so keen he insisted we took a cheque off him there and then!”

With the records conversion all but complete in Nelson, the LINZ Nelson office closed its doors for the last time on Friday 25th May. Records conversion for the remaining South Island branch offices began mid-June, with office closure dates for Hokitika and Blenheim scheduled for 29 June and 6 July respectively.

LINZ Registrar General of Lands, Robbie Muir, said the transition period moving from paper to electronic records would require a change in procedure for lodgements.

“All plan and dealing lodgements for the Westland Land Registration District must be made to the Christchurch Regional Office from 11 June, and for the Marlborough Land Registration District from 18 June,” he said. “During this time a Transitional Search Service will be implemented, with full details available from the Christchurch Regional Office on (03) 379 9793.”

Next on the rollout schedule is Wellington, with records conversion due to start on 2 July. In order, **Landonline** will subsequently be launched in Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland before the end of next year. This will signal the end of stage one of **Landonline**, and the closure of the New Plymouth, Napier and Gisborne branch offices.



Stage two of the automation project recently got underway with the signing of a contract between LINZ and PricewaterhouseCoopers, who will deliver the digital lodgement phase. This will see the facility created whereby electronic lodgement of survey plans and title dealings will become a reality, again by the end of 2002.

At the recent launches in Nelson and Christchurch, regional manager Tony Fraser said, “This stage will bring even greater benefits to users with such things as remote digital lodgement, and the possibility of integrating with e-commerce opportunities that other people would develop.”

He said that although that was in the future, he noted that the present progress of the **Landonline** project was due to the dedication of both LINZ staff and customers.

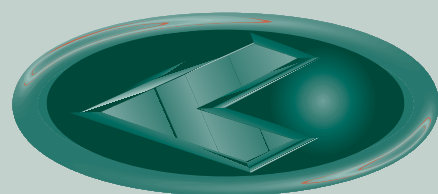
“I want to take this opportunity to thank firstly our customers for their support and patience, and secondly our staff whose commitment and drive in this challenging time has been exemplary.”

More information on **Landonline** is available from the website: www.landonline.govt.nz

① Maria Booker and Darryl Marshall of Haven Realty discuss **Landonline** with Stephen Hall at the Nelson launch.

② Christchurch Regional Manager Tony Fraser rehearses his presentation.

③ Stakeholder representative Duncan Terris shows launch attendees what **Landonline** can do.



Landonline
survey and title service

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR OCEANS POLICY

The sea plays a huge part in New Zealand's heritage. The sheer vastness of the oceans surrounding us ensured that ours was one of the last significant landmasses on earth to be colonised by humans. Just getting to and from here required epic ocean voyages until well into the 20th Century.

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The oceans control our climate, and with most New Zealanders living close to our 6000 kilometres of coastline, the sea looms large in our social and economic landscapes.

In fact the economic value of the oceans – the biomass, the water column itself and the seabed beneath – is becoming increasingly important. Our exclusive economic zone yields a fisheries harvest of more than \$1 billion a year, while the mineral and energy resources within the seabed have a big part to play in our economic future.

And our seas provide an ever-growing range of recreational and tourism opportunities, from jet-skiing to whale watching to fishing for a snapper.

The ocean appears to be a limitless resource, and to many people there has seemed no end to the amount of effluent we can safely pour into it, or resources we can extract out of it. But as our population grows, as the volume of sea traffic increases, and our hunger for ocean-based resources such as oil and gas intensifies, oceans and seas around the world are showing signs of stress.

Our control over the surrounding oceans is itself in a state of transition. Our territorial rights extending 12 nautical miles offshore, and our 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (at 405 million hectares, it's the world's fourth largest) are well established. But our interests spread further than this, and New Zealand is due to lodge its submission on the legal limits of its surrounding continental shelf by 2009.

By a quirk of geography, this country has an interest in its surrounding oceans, their biosphere and seabeds, that's out of all proportion to our population and landmass.

New Zealand has a plethora of policies, laws and regulations governing the way the oceans are used. The problem is that they have been developed in isolation and without the guidance of an overarching policy framework. For example, the laws which established our fisheries quota system were set up without any reference to laws governing discharge of effluents into the sea – yet there are obviously strong linkages between the two areas.

There are at least 18 pieces of New Zealand legislation governing aspects of marine management and giving legal rights and responsibilities, and 14 government agencies with jurisdiction over aspects of the marine environment.

The Government has decided to address this situation by developing an Oceans Policy. The aim is to develop a policy framework that can be used as a reference point for all ocean-related policies and laws. The policy will touch on a wide ranging set of environmental, cultural and economic issues:

these include marine biosecurity, Maori interests in marine resources and cultural values, access to fisheries, the impacts of technology, climate change and the impact of population growth on the oceans.

A team of six Government Ministers is leading the policy initiative. The Ministers are being supported by a Ministerial Advisory Committee, chaired by Dame Catherine Tizard, which will be holding a series of meetings across the country from late June to mid August. An officials group in which LINZ plays a part is supporting the Ministers and Committee.



LINZ's vision is: To provide world-class land and seabed information services that will:

- ensure the security of New Zealand land rights and interests;
- enable the people of New Zealand to fully enjoy the benefits of our land and seabed resources; and
- meet (and often exceed) the expectations of the Government and customers.

This makes the Oceans Policy initiative of importance to the department as a number of our core activities are directly involved. These include our management of the \$44m continental shelf delimitation project, and our responsibility for the purchase and integrity of hydrographic charting.

The geodetic survey system provides an underlying national spatial referencing system for New Zealand's land and seabed, and the integrity of this system underpins many of the economic and environmental management activities carried out on and beneath our surrounding oceans.

New Zealanders are being given the opportunity to make an input into the Oceans Policy. The Oceans Policy Secretariat can be easily contacted via:

the Oceans Policy Internet site: www.oceans.govt.nz
a toll-free number: **0800 001 461**
or, by e-mail: info@oceans.govt.nz

For further information on LINZ's role in the development of the Oceans Policy contact:

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WATERING HOLE MAKES WAY FOR FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS

The century-old Bendigo Hotel in Alexandra has made a stately exit from the townscape as it makes way for the protection works being constructed to prevent a repeat of the flooding that's occurred in recent years.

More than 800 people gathered at the historic watering hole in March to bid for the remaining stock, fittings and furnishings. Everything from ashtrays to menu boards, historic photos, fire extinguishers and a flag pole went under the hammer, with spirited bidding from those eager to keep a reminder of the old pub. A dinner gong attracted especially fierce bidding, before being knocked down for \$600.

The building was constructed in 1900 to replace the original establishment which was built in 1862.

And why is LINZ interested in the fate of an old pub? In short, the Crown Property Management group is managing the contract for the purchase of properties needed to construct flood protection for the town – and the Bendigo was one of those that had to make way in the interests of the town's future security.

The Property Group Limited, contracted to the Crown Property Management group, is negotiating the purchases of 30 properties in the Linger and Die, Left Bank and Central Business District areas (CBD). By early June 21 purchases had been settled, with a further nine being negotiated.

The project is being funded jointly by the Crown and Contact Energy Ltd. It involves a three-section stopbank, being constructed by the Otago Regional Council. Work on the stopbank in the Linger and Die area started on 1 May is scheduled for completion by mid September. The CBD and Left Bank area stopbanks are scheduled to begin this month, with work to be completed by early November.

Brian Usherwood, LINZ General Manager Business Support, chairs the Crown/Contact Energy Ltd oversight committee for the project. He says progress has been very good. "It's been an interesting and positive experience chairing the committee,



Local resident and Bendigo regular Geoff Bayliss snapped up this sandwich board at the auction of pub memorabilia in Alexandra. The old watering hole had to make way for earth works required to protect the town from further flooding. LINZ is managing the contract for the property purchases involved in the project. Photo: Lakes District and Central Otago News.

being Crown representative on the joint committee in Alexandra, and working directly with the people affected by the floods," he says.

Contact for further information:

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ACCREDITED SUPPLIERS ACCESSIBLE ON LINE

A complete listing of Crown property accredited suppliers can now be found on the LINZ website. These are people who have been accredited by the Chief Crown Property Officer to do work associated with the acquisition of land for Crown purposes and the disposal of surplus lands.

Suppliers are accredited in various categories, covering different Acts and parts of Acts. To help make a search for an appropriately accredited supplier more simple, the website allows you to select suppliers according to particular pieces of legislation – for example, the Public Works Act 1981 – Assessment of Compensation.

The complete listing of suppliers can also be viewed. Details for each supplier include all address information and an email link.

The listing can be found on the LINZ website on www.linz.govt.nz/services/property/accreditedsuppliers/index.html



Contact for further information:

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PROPERTY DISPOSAL TARGETS ACHIEVED AHEAD OF TIME

The Crown Property Management Group of LINZ has almost completed its property disposal targets for the financial year.

10 The original revenue target was set at \$9.5 million for the year. However, as the programme was running very well the target was increased to \$12 million.

The excellent result for the group was anchored by three significant sales during the year:

- Part of Otahuhu railway workshops (\$3.4m)
- Bowen Street (Wellington) car parking building (\$1.7m)
- 7.2ha of surplus land in Bairds Road, Auckland (\$1.5m).

These were the leaders among some 330 individual property sales managed by the group over the past year.

Paul Kelly of the of the LINZ Crown Property Management Group, says major property disposal contracts covering Auckland, Wellington and the South Island are nearing completion.

However, the group intends to offer new disposal contracts for a three-year period. The contracts will include properties throughout New Zealand. The contracts will be smaller than previous years, reflecting less economically viable properties available for sale in the LINZ portfolio and also a changing emphasis within the Crown Property Group. “Disposal now comprises less than 10 percent of our work,” says Paul.

“Most of the property involved is surplus railway land, but there will also be Crown land under the Land Act and surplus government land under the Public Works Act.”

Paul says a relatively long lead time is required for some transactions because of the complex requirements for disposal under the various pieces of legislation governing acquisition and disposal of Crown land.

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RIVERTON BRIDGE REMOVED

The Riverton Bridge is no more. The rail bridge that has spanned the Riverton estuary in Southland for nearly a century has been removed by Queenstown contractor Steve Rout Contractors in a trouble-free operation.



Before and after: The ‘footprint’ of the removed causeway from the bridge can now be barely seen. The retained northern causeway can be seen in the distance.

The contract was managed on behalf of LINZ’s Crown Property Management Group by Opus International Consultants.

The job involved taking away a central causeway and two spans of wooden “Howe Truss” bridge structure. One section of the historic Howe truss was removed intact for display by the Southland District Council. The section of truss is currently stored at the Council yard in Riverton awaiting a decision by

Council on the display location. Removal of the bridge components and foundation piles was done with the aid of a barge and excavator, with compressed air piped around the bridge piles to help loosen them up for extraction.

The 150-metre northern causeway has been left intact and repaired, and will no doubt regain its popularity with locals as a vantage point or fishing spot.

George Rogan of Opus says the southerly storms that swept the area during May delayed some work, but by the beginning of June, all that remained to be done was some minor earthworks, landscaping and regrassing to tidy up the shore site.

He says the local residents got into the spirit of the occasion, holding a festival day for the estuary during the project.

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CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC WORKS ACT DRAWS GOOD RESPONSE

LINZ received more than 250 submissions on the Public Works Act (PWA) review by the 31 May cutoff date. They came from a wide range of people – everyone from those who have been directly affected by the legislation, to those charged with administering it.

The original deadline of 30 March was extended by two months to allow people more time to put their submissions together.

LINZ Policy Analyst Sarah Buchanan says the consultation process has been a big success.

“We’ve had an excellent response to the consultation document, and a number of people told us they found the submission form very useful,” Sarah says.

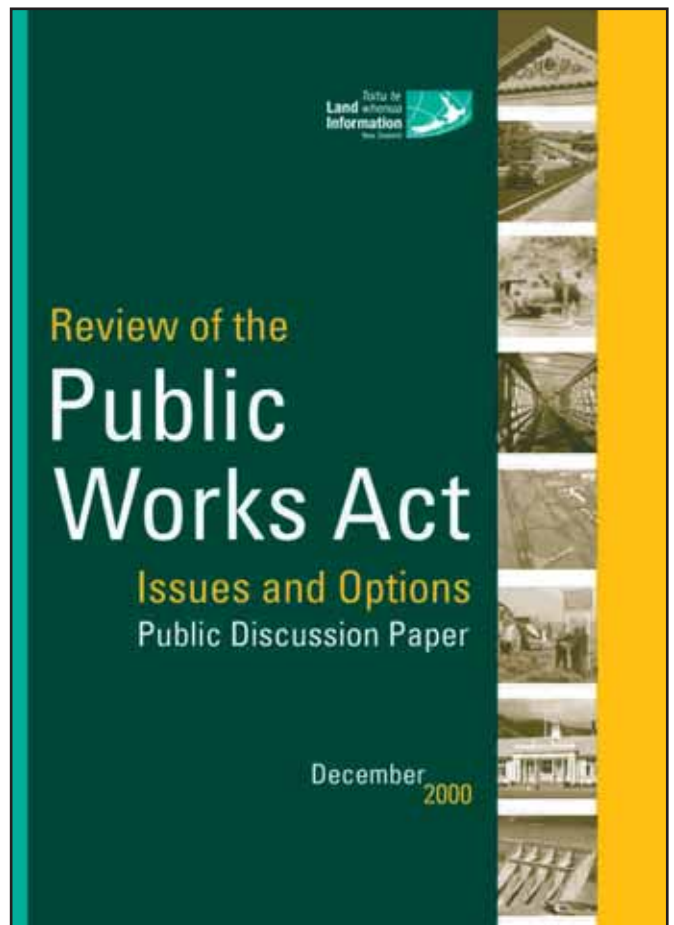
She adds that the internet played a big role in the consultation, with about 25 percent of respondents choosing to make their submission electronically, via the special Public Works Act Review website.

The discussions at 17 regional hui on the issues and options canvassed in the discussion document were recorded for use in the policy development phase of the review. Sarah says the hui were very well attended as the administration of the Public Works Act and its predecessors has featured in many Maori land issues.

Six public meetings were also held on the review. Although these were not so strongly attended, there were useful points expressed, Sarah says. A number of accredited agents came to the meetings, along with people who had been affected by decisions under the Act.

The LINZ PWA review team is now putting together a summary of the submissions, including the views expressed at the hui and public meetings, which will be sent to those who made submissions, and posted on the LINZ web site at www.linz.govt.nz

The next stage will be an analysis of the issues raised and the development of policy options. New public works legislation is likely to be introduced during 2002.



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

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NEW POLICY FOR REGULATION OF CADASTRAL SURVEYORS

If cadastral survey information – records of the spatial location of legally defined land parcels – is inaccurate or faulty, or if boundary pegs are in the wrong place, the consequences could have far-reaching effects for property owners and the land market.

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The risk of faulty or inaccurate surveys and entries into the cadastral database is currently managed through a combination of:

- a system of occupational regulation that ensures cadastral surveyors have a basic level of competence before they carry out cadastral surveys;
- standards for cadastral surveys set by the Surveyor-General; and
- a system of (office and field) checks and audits of cadastral surveyors' inputs into the cadastral database.

Over the last five years LINZ has carried out a review of the first of these mechanisms, to assess whether registration of surveyors by the Survey Board is still necessary and cost effective, and provides a net benefit to the nation in today's environment.

For some time the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors (NZIS) has also sought amendments to the legislation to remove some of the restrictions which inhibit the Institute's development and role.

LINZ concluded that relying solely on standards and audits, without some system for assessing the competency of cadastral surveyors, would be an expensive way of maintaining the integrity of the cadastral survey system. It would also mean that people who use a cadastral surveyor's services only occasionally could not easily ascertain their competence.

Government policy on a new system

In late 2000 the Government decided to maintain a system of occupational regulation for cadastral surveyors. It decided this should be done through an independent statutory board that licenses individuals to practise cadastral surveying. It also decided that:

- an ability to require ongoing competency should be introduced; and

- membership of the NZIS should be voluntary for all practising surveyors.

The new board will comprise six members (including the Surveyor-General ex officio and a lay (non-surveyor) representative) and be called the "Cadastral Surveyors' Licensing Board of New Zealand". Only individuals who have a current licence will be allowed to practise cadastral surveying and use the title "licensed cadastral surveyor".

The new board's functions will include:

- defining the competency standards necessary for an individual to reliably meet the standards set by the Surveyor-General for cadastral surveys;
- issuing licences that are valid for a defined period of time to individuals who meet the board's competency standards and pay their fees;
- gathering evidence and hearing complaints about licensed practitioners failing to meet the board's standards for surveyors or the Surveyor-General's standards for surveys.

The Board's costs will be met from the fees it sets for licensing surveyors and it will be required to prepare annual reports of its activities and financial situation.

Where to from here?

Details of transitional arrangements from the old system to the new system of occupational regulation are still being developed in consultation with the NZIS and the Survey Board. The policy decisions outlined above will be implemented through an amendment to the Survey Act 1986. A Bill is expected to be introduced later this year and there will be an opportunity for public submissions when the Bill is considered by a select committee.

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