



## In this issue...



Customer Strategy Manager Jeff Needham discusses *e-survey* with Michael Brownie, Wellington City Council.

### 2 Landonline e-lodgement benefits explained

A high-level LINZ team has been meeting core customer groups to talk in detail about the ways LINZ can help ease the transition to an electronic environment.

### 3 Landonline reaches milestone

Land Information New Zealand's (LINZ) Landonline service recorded its one millionth online property registration, recently.

### 4 Statement of Intent: moving LINZ forward

A new Chief Executive and a refined vision statement spearhead LINZ's second Statement of Intent (SOI), published late last month as a Budget document.

### 5 Three further properties complete Tenure Review

More than 10,500 hectares have been added to the conservation estate following completion of the Tenure Review process for three prominent Otago high country stations.

### 6 Surveyor-General retires after 40-year career with department

The retirement in April of Tony Bevin as LINZ Surveyor-General marks the end of a distinguished career in a profession that literally defines the shape of our nation.

### 8 LINZ support provides key linkages in Treaty partnership

As an organisation dealing directly with land, it's not surprising that LINZ has an especially strong focus on Treaty of Waitangi outcomes. The Department's commitment to Treaty issues and the needs of Maori is woven into its organisational culture across the board.

### 10 Spruced up public areas get thumbs up

Some modest public amenity areas around Lake Dunstan in Central Otago have received a fresh injection of care and maintenance and an emphatic thumbs-up from the Central Otago District Council and public.

## Landonline e-lodgement benefits explained

New Zealand's booming property market has kept many land professionals too busy to step back and plan how to capitalise on the efficiencies offered through Landonline's digital lodgement services.



LINZ staff show customers Landonline's digital lodgement services. (left) Senior Development Advisor, Ralph Winmill advises attendees at the Christchurch event. (middle) Newly designed Landonline materials. (right) User Support Specialist *e-dealing*, Julie Gillatt demonstrates Landonline at the Christchurch event.

2 That was one of the interesting discussion points to emerge from last month's round of customers events for Landonline's new support initiatives.

Customer Strategy Manager Jeff Needham was part of a high-level LINZ team meeting core customer groups during May, to talk in detail about the ways LINZ can help ease the transition to an electronic environment.

He was accompanied at the presentations by LINZ Chief Executive Brendan Boyle, General Manager Operations Sharon Cottrell, National Processing Centre Manager Lindsay Meehan, and National Systems Manager Paul de Wijze. They were supported by a team of front-line technical support and training staff, along with local processing centre managers and team performance coordinators.

Jeff says the transition to *e-dealing* for land title lodgement and *e-survey* for survey lodgement stacks up both from the technical and business perspectives.

"That's an important shift in emphasis, and we were keen to show our customer groups how electronic lodgement fits in so well from the point of view of a business model. Brendan Boyle led the presentations by spelling out the Department's commitment to working alongside customers through this transition."

Jeff says presentations to the two key customer groups – legal and survey professionals – were 'segregated' to allow a focus on their specific needs.

In addition to the LINZ presentation, lawyers also received a presentation developed by Tim Jones, a member of the Land Titles Committee of the New Zealand Law Society's Property Law Section. Tim, who has provided advice from a customer perspective since the earliest days of Landonline development, showed a workflow model for *e-dealing*, using a case study.

"It showed that there is nothing to fear from the transition," Jeff says. "All of the roles and functions undertaken by legal executives in the paper environment can continue to be done by them as part of an *e-dealing*. The only difference is the medium that's used for transactions – and a great deal more efficiency!"

Jeff says that because law partners are often not directly involved hands-on with the transactions being revolutionised

through digital lodgement services, it can take a little longer for them to appreciate the very positive impact it can make on their business.

"We're confident the customer initiative presentations have helped bring this message home."

He says that surveyors, by nature of their profession, are more technology-savvy and curious about the front-line operation of Landonline. "They were very keen to get a hands-on experience of the technology and see it for themselves at the customer initiative events," Jeff says. "We had a live online setup and technical staff there to help them do just that."

He adds that for all groups contemplating the jump to electronic land information transactions there are understandable fears of the unknown. "That is normal and we are happy to work through any questions with people making the shift. The last thing they want is disruption to business processes. What we have been able to start showing people is that not only can the transition be a smooth one, but once made some real business advantages will start to accrue."

About 250 law professionals and 250 surveyors attended the presentations, and these contacts are now being followed up by Business Development Specialist Robyn Gogan.

"Robyn is establishing links with individual customers and, where there is an interest in taking things further, technical staff are deployed to work with them one-to-one to show how the customer initiatives can be put to work in their own situation," Jeff says.

He is encouraged by the response to the initiatives so far and is confident that uptake of electronic lodgement services will accelerate as more and more firms begin to enjoy the business benefits.

### Contact for further information:

Jeff Needham, Customer Strategy Manager,  
Land Information New Zealand,  
via [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz) or 0800 ONLINE (0800 665463)

[info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)



## Landonline reaches milestone

Land Information New Zealand's (LINZ) Landonline service recorded its one millionth online property registration, recently.

The huge number of electronic registrations shows how far Landonline has come, says Sharon Cottrell, LINZ's General Manager, Operations.

“Electronic processing and registration of property transactions is now business as usual in LINZ offices. Only four years ago, we were using a paper system that dated from Victorian times.

“Landonline customers can search millions of title and survey records online, eliminating time spent waiting for a paper copy. Conveyancing customers can now instantaneously register up to 70% of titles transactions online using the electronic lodgement service, *e-dealing*. Built-in automatic checks reduce the risk of delays caused by the need to resubmit work and enhance the security of the system.

“Electronic lodgement and registration of property transactions is quicker, more secure, more efficient and cheaper than the equivalent transactions lodged on paper. It's better for the land professional, better for their customers.”

LINZ is helping lawyers and surveyors make the move to electronic lodgement (e-lodgement) through increased support, a revamped Landonline website ([www.landonline.govt.nz](http://www.landonline.govt.nz)) and more targeted business communication.

e-lodgement comprises two basic services: *e-dealing* and *e-survey*. *e-dealing* enables lawyers and conveyancers to prepare and lodge routine conveyancing dealings online via their own PC. *e-survey* allows surveyors to digitally prepare and submit cadastral surveys directly with LINZ from their own office using the Landonline workspace.



## How the one millionth transaction was done

The one millionth online property registration occurred in Dunedin. Noeline Ingram, the Legal Executive from Oamaru solicitors Berry & Co, prepared the Transfer Instrument: a one page document which shows the current owners, identifies the land concerned and transfers that land to the new owners.

LINZ lodgement staff entered the title references into Landonline, scanned the documents and sent the job electronically to a LINZ technical staff member who checked the transaction for legal validity, created the new title showing the new owners' names in the Landonline database and registered the transaction. Within minutes the new title had been created and the paper documentation returned to Berry & Co.

This process is repeated about 40,000 times a month, (even more during a property boom), as LINZ staff nationwide use Landonline to record changes in ownership and property rights.

### Contact for further information:

Sharon Cottrell, General Manager Operations,  
Land Information New Zealand,  
via [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz) or 0800 ONLINE (0800 665463)

[info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)

Dunedin Property Rights Analyst Kim Bathgate (left) registers the one millionth Landonline dealing for Oamaru-based Legal Executive Noeline Ingram.



## Statement of Intent: moving LINZ forward

A new Chief Executive and a refined vision statement spearhead LINZ's second Statement of Intent (SOI), published in May as a Budget document.

4

Brendan Boyle, who began his appointment as Chief Executive last August, says the first SOI clarified LINZ's objectives and a strategy for achieving them. "This year, responding to changes in our operating environment, we have further developed our strategy to better reflect what we intend to do and why," Brendan said in the statement's introduction.

The SOI unveils LINZ's vision, which has been refined to:

"Government's Centre of Land Information and Expertise". The change from the earlier vision statement acknowledges the Department's intention to apply its expertise and authoritative land information to the task of working effectively with other government agencies and delivering visible results.

The LINZ statement focuses on three significant factors in its operating environment that have played a role in the development of the Department's strategic direction for the next three years:

- a continuing growth in the adoption of digital information and communication technologies, both by businesses and individuals
- a lower than expected customer uptake of electronic lodgement services in Landonline
- a greater need for all-of-government initiatives.

In his introductory message, the Minister for Land Information, Hon John Tamihere, highlighted three areas in which LINZ initiatives will take shape in the coming year. These initiatives, which reflect LINZ's response to its operating environment, include:

- a strategy to achieve the Government's objectives of balancing conservation, economic and social outcomes for the South Island high country
- increasing the uptake of electronic lodgement of title documents and survey datasets via Landonline
- working closely with other government agencies to help remove barriers to the development of Maori land.

The SOI teases out LINZ's plans for the next three years into three core strategic goals, with an explanation of how these will be implemented from various perspectives: financial, customer, and LINZ's processes and capabilities.

Strategic Goal A, **Optimal Regulation**, is focused upon the optimisation of the regulatory framework. The Statement notes that raising the level of first-time compliance with standards is an important goal. "Our challenge is ensuring the type of regulation is appropriate to the risk, that we design the regime to have minimal compliance costs, and that people transacting with us are treated fairly," the Statement says.

Strategic Goal B, **e-Delivery Excellence**, will be the main priority for LINZ over the next three years, and envisions a future where LINZ's primary customers exclusively use electronic channels to access land information and conduct land transactions.

The Statement underlines the ongoing transition from the face-to-face (or fax-to-fax) interaction with clients that predominated in the past, to purely electronic channels with call centre support. "Eventually, electronic lodgement systems will become compulsory," the Statement says. "...the transition to electronic systems will be a key management issue."

Strategic Goal C calls for **All-of-Government leadership**. This goal foreshadows an intensified effort by LINZ to lead the coordination of land information, working with central and local government agencies to get results. Part of this effort involves the Department's stewardship of 'base layer' information such as the survey mark network, title and cadastral survey information, topographic and hydrographic data, and electoral information.

The second, and substantive part of the SOI, fleshes out the strategic objectives in terms of performance measures, with details on how resources will be allocated to specific activities.

The LINZ Statement of Intent 2004/05 can be downloaded from:  
[www.linz.govt.nz/docs/supporting\\_info/aims\\_objectives/soi\\_2004.pdf](http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/supporting_info/aims_objectives/soi_2004.pdf)

### Contact for further information:

Jane Pearce, Manager Planning and Ministerial Services,  
Land Information New Zealand,  
via [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz) or 0800 ONLINE (0800 665463)

[info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)

# Three further properties complete Tenure Review

More than 10,500 hectares has been added to the conservation estate following completion of the Tenure Review process for three prominent Otago high country stations.



Left: Alphaburn Station is one of three prominent Otago high country properties to have recently completed Tenure Review.

Right: Public walking access in the Wanaka area will be enhanced following the Alphaburn Tenure Review.

Leaseholders at Alphaburn, Ben Avon and Glen Nevis Stations have now completed the Tenure Review process (Ben Avon and Glen Nevis leaseholders have secured freehold title to parts of the former Crown pastoral leases, title for Alphaburn is pending). The balance remains in Crown ownership and management of this land is transferred to the Department of Conservation.

This latest batch of settlements brings the number of properties to have finished the Tenure Review process under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 to eight. Leaseholders for a further 22 Crown pastoral leasehold properties have accepted final proposals for Tenure Review – the penultimate stage in the process. In addition, a further 16 Tenure Review proposals are now in their final stages of development.

**Alphaburn**, the smallest of the three properties, is situated at the southern end of Lake Wanaka. It has a leasehold area of 4554 hectares and about one quarter (1249 hectares) is to become public conservation land.

The conservation land, an important part of the natural landscape in the Wanaka area, ranges from the 1581 metre Roys Peak to a wetland at Scaifes Lagoon. The Tenure Review for Alphaburn provides for guaranteed public walking access to Roys Peak by way of a popular track currently used by about 11,000 people a year.

The review also opens up a 10 km public walking route from Damper Bay to Glendhu Bay on Lake Wanaka, likely to become a very popular and easy walking track along the southern shore of the lake. Two public car parking spaces will also be provided as part of the review.

About two-thirds of the 6674 hectare **Glen Nevis Station** in the Nevis Valley east of Lake Wakatipu is to become conservation land. This includes protection of all of the Nevis Valley which was previously part of the pastoral lease. This area contains significant wetlands, tussock grasses and scrubland, and a significant altitudinal sequence from the Nevis River to the crest of the Hector Mountains.

This is also a popular recreation and historical gold mining area and home to a range of threatened plant and invertebrate species and the native fish, the Nevis River Galaxiid.

**Ben Avon** station, east of Lake Hawea, will pass over 4804 of its 8300 hectares to the conservation estate. It includes the high tops above the Ahuriri Valley and the upper Dingleburn Valley.

A wide range of forest, grassland and alpine vegetation in the area will become protected as a result of the review. This includes a 75 hectare scenic reserve protecting wetland remnants by the Ahuriri River, with three public access easements incorporated into the plan to give access to the conservation area, scenic reserve and Ahuriri River.

The land returned to the conservation estate through the Ben Avon Tenure Review adjoins the southern boundary of the former Birchwood Station, recently purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund. It is also close to the former Quailburn property, which completed Tenure Review earlier this year (see *Landscan* No. 27, December 2003).

Public access to the new areas will be opened up once the necessary surveying, fencing, track work and signposting is completed.

## At a glance

- ◆ Three further properties have completed the Tenure Review process
- ◆ They are Alphaburn, Glen Nevis and Ben Avon Stations, all located in Otago
- ◆ The reviews see a further 10,527 hectares added to the conservation estate
- ◆ Each property has important conservation and recreation values, in addition to their economic importance as farming units
- ◆ The review opens up further land to the public where there has not previously been formal access.

### Contact for further information:

Paul Jackson, Manager Crown Property,  
Land Information New Zealand,  
via [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz) or 0800 ONLINE (0800 665463)

[info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)

Tony Bevin with a special survey peg presented to him by colleagues to mark a long and distinguished career with the Department.



## Surveyor-General retires after 40-year career with Department

When you have been part of the same organisation for 42 years – well, you have become something of an institution yourself. And the retirement in April of Tony Bevin as LINZ Surveyor-General marks the end of a distinguished career in a profession that literally defines the shape of our nation.

6

Tony's career path – from Lands & Survey Department Draughting Cadet in 1962, to Surveyor-General in 1996 – is not such a typical one in today's environment of highly mobile managers. But in the very dynamic context of the surveying profession and the Government's management of its land information and assets, Tony's experience has been invaluable as surveying navigates new technologies and responsibilities.

Tony admits he didn't know a lot about surveying at the time, but the combination of his love of the outdoors and aptitude in mathematics and geography made it a natural choice when he joined the Lands & Survey Department in 1962 – and it's a choice he's never regretted.

Inevitably, as his career progressed, Tony began to spend less time surveying the real world and more time as a manager, "surveying my desk".

He completed a Diploma in Land Surveying at Victoria and Otago Universities (now a degree course) and became a Registered Surveyor in 1967. Through the 1970s he worked in the Wellington Land District and in Lands & Surveys' Head Office on his own survey work and the regulations and administration of survey work generally. This included the oversight of a number of survey and mapping projects.

In 1979 Tony became Assistant Director of Surveys and Chief Geodesist and, in 1985, Director of Surveys, managing the Department's geodetic survey and mapping programmes. He was also involved in the development of cadastral survey standards, and was closely involved in the policy and legislative build-up to the major environmental government department restructuring that took place in 1987.

Tony says that, as a department with a very long history, Lands & Survey had accreted a vast array of sometimes loosely connected functions. In the sweeping changes of 1987, the Department was split up. Land ownership and management functions went to the newly-created SOE, Landcorp, while environmental work was taken up by the new Department of Conservation. What was left was the Department of Survey and Land Information (DOSLI), which also took in the former Forest Service's survey and mapping activities.

"It was a very exciting time," Tony recalls. "There were no precedents for this type of restructure, and were on a very steep learning curve as we created a completely new model for the regulation and management of New Zealand's survey and mapping systems, including cost recovery and new financial systems."

He says the major structural reforms of 1987 created big challenges for the new Department. "The Government had to take stock of its assets for the first time in many years, and the transfer of land to some of the new assets created a major new survey programme," he explains.

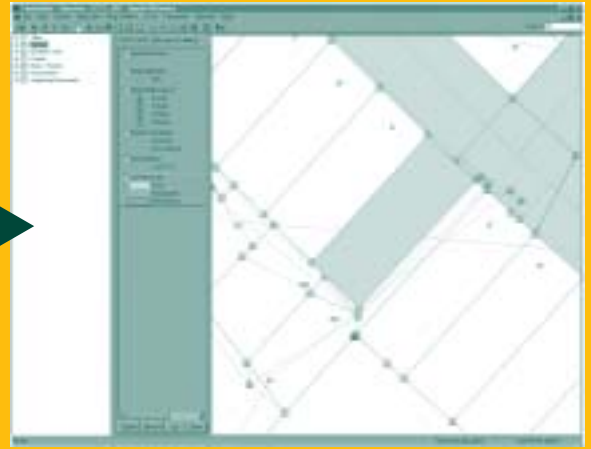
It was also a time of rapid technological advances and the beginnings of the GPS technology that underpins so much of today's land information work.

Tony's own career took a similarly dynamic turn. He became Chief Surveyor in the Wellington District Office of DOSLI, and in 1988 returned permanently to Head Office as Assistant Surveyor-General. In 1989 he became Deputy Director-General/Deputy Surveyor-General under the leadership of then Surveyor-General Bill Robertson. In 1994 Tony also took responsibility for the management and administration of the Government's Crown land assets and reviewed Crown land tenure policies and legislation. (That responsibility has since been brought together under the current Crown Property Management Group within LINZ.)

The year 1996 saw the last major structural change when the more commercial survey and mapping functions of DOSLI were separated out into the SOE, Terralink, and Land Information New Zealand was created in the shape we know today.

With that change came the creation of several regulatory offices within the Department, with Tony Bevin, as Surveyor-General, leading the group responsible for survey legislation, standards and regulation. He was also made chair of the Geographic Board, a position Tony has enjoyed immensely.

"It has given me a unique new perspective on our country. Through the naming of geographic features you gain a fantastic insight into the history and social fabric of our country," Tony says.



Tony has seen surveying go from paper records to electronic data.

Land transfers and restructuring were the big drivers in the late 1980s, and a decade later, the Department regathered itself for the next big challenge: the planning and implementation of Landonline.

Tony says two people especially have blazed the path for Landonline. “Bill Robertson built the technical capability for the Department to tackle such a challenging project, and Russ Ballard had the vision, determination and leadership to make it happen. With Landonline there’s no room for half-measures!”

Tony admits the survey profession is still catching up with some of the possibilities that have evolved with Landonline, but he’s confident the system is now in place to change forever the way surveyors access land information and lodge their plans.

“Another development I’ve been pleased to see is the survey profession taking greater responsibility for its work. The Department, while still setting and monitoring standards, no longer has to follow their every move.”

He has seen a major outflow of front-line surveyors from the Department since he joined more than 40 years ago. “When I started there were 220-250 survey staff, as well as a larger number of survey draughting staff. In the LINZ of today there is barely 10 percent of that number. Much of what used to be core government work is contracted to the private sector.”

Tony says this change in the professional makeup of the Department has an inevitable impact on the culture of the place, and he is keen to see LINZ retain a solid core of survey professional competencies. “We must have a good sense of history and learn from the past – but we also need to be forward-looking and ready to face the challenges ahead,” he says.

The profession outside the Department has evolved considerably since Tony was a young cadet. “Today’s surveyor is well educated, keen and dealing with a much broader range of issues. In addition to the core skills of surveying, they are involved in resource management and land use issues and are IT experts. They have a much more diverse range of career choices, with many being employed by local authorities and GIS specialists, as well as survey firms. In my day it was a very male-dominated profession – there’s a much better balance today.”

Another aspect of the Department’s work that Tony has enjoyed since the late 1980s is the growing involvement in Maori land issues. “While the Department is not involved in negotiations between the Crown and Maori, it has been able to help the process considerably thanks to the great respect shown for accurate land records going back to the very earliest days. It has been a pleasure to be able to provide good information that gives the Treaty partners a solid ground for negotiation.”

Looking ahead, Tony says the bedding in of Landonline will by no means allow his successors to rest up. “There will always be new challenges. There is plenty of work ahead to refine and encourage wider uptake of Landonline. But beyond that there are major land access issues on the horizon, not to mention developments in the seabed and foreshore ownership debate. I think the Department and the profession will be quite busy for the foreseeable future,” Tony smiles.

And his own plans? After a hectic few weeks in the leadup to his retirement, Tony was looking forward to spending some more time with his young grandchildren and catching up on a few projects closer to home. He’s also planning to keep up his linkages with the survey profession through some advisory work for the Institute of Surveyors.

While the technology has changed remarkably over 40 years, Tony concludes, the work is enduring. “The work surveyors do influences the landscape for decades, even centuries. Once a survey is done, it’s there for a long time.”



# LINZ support provides key linkages in Treaty partnership

As an organisation dealing directly with land, it's not surprising that LINZ has an especially strong focus on Treaty of Waitangi outcomes.

LINZ Chief Executive Brendan Boyle says the Department's commitment to Treaty issues and the needs of Maori is woven into the organisational culture across the board. Proposed changes to the Public Works Act and the New Zealand Geographic Board are just two instances involving intensive consultation with Maori. LINZ is also working closely with the Maori Land Court to help ensure information is packaged appropriately and processes streamlined to help Maori engaged with the Crown on Treaty issues.

Another key working relationship for LINZ is that with the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS), an arm of the Ministry of Justice responsible for negotiating the settlement of historical Treaty grievances on behalf of the Crown.

LINZ provides support right through from the pre-negotiation phase to the implementation of Treaty settlement legislation – work that can continue for many years. The work is varied and challenging and without it, the Crown and its Treaty partner would not have the information they need to engage meaningfully around the negotiating table.

Paul Jackson, Manager of the LINZ Crown Property Management Group, says LINZ has developed an excellent long-term working relationship with the OTS. "There are regular management meetings between our two organisations, while staff from LINZ's business groups are working with OTS counterparts day to day," Paul explains.

His view is strongly endorsed by Bill Naik, Manager of the OTS Implementation and Land Advice Team. "We have a very open working relationship and keep each other in the loop as claims work progresses."

Paul notes that LINZ gets involved early in the process that leads ultimately to a Deed of Settlement between claimants and Crown, and the enabling legislation.

That early involvement is vital, Bill adds. He says LINZ has a role at the research phase, in support of the negotiation process, and finally during implementation, where the Department has a more direct relationship with the claimants.

"Once a mandated negotiating group has been recognised by the Crown and the claimants' area of interest is identified, OTS gets to work identifying Crown property for the area that is potentially available for use in a settlement. This can be anything from schools and hospitals to smaller pieces of property. We are also

informed of any technical matters concerning titles or leases involving the property," Bill explains.

Much of this information comes from other vendor Crown agencies, including LINZ.

A major part of LINZ's work focuses around the Policy and the Crown Property Groups, and the standard-setting functions of the Registrar General of Lands, the Surveyor-General and the Property Regulatory Group. Most of the Department's business groups provide support for Treaty settlement and implementation.

Although the work rarely attracts headlines, it's the meticulous attention to detail and good inter-departmental working relationships that help ensure Treaty settlements can be negotiated and implemented successfully.

Once Treaty settlements are reached, legislation is required to put aspects of the agreement into effect. The settlement of course binds the whole Crown, not just OTS. Implementation involves a number of Crown agencies and LINZ has a key role among these.

Specialised areas of work for LINZ from the Treaty settlement implementation process, and associated legislation, include the removal of SOE Resumptive Memorials from Certificates of Title, and management of the Right of First Refusal processes.

LINZ also has a role in implementing Deeds of Recognition between the Crown and Maori in relation to the way LINZ administers Crown land, especially some of New Zealand's rivers and lakes, where iwi are consulted prior to any decisions being made by LINZ.

## At a glance

8

- ◆ LINZ is strongly involved in supporting the Treaty of Waitangi claims negotiation and implementation process
- ◆ This support is Department-wide
- ◆ There is an excellent working relationship and high level of contact with the Office of Treaty settlements
- ◆ LINZ is involved from the pre-negotiation phase, researching Crown land, through to implementation, facilitating transfers of ownership and consulting Treaty partners on land-related issues.

## Te Uri o Hau settlement – a development partnership

Willie Wright of Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust admits implementing the settlement between his hapu and the Crown has involved a steep learning curve. There has also been some frustration at the time it takes from the signing of the settlement deed to final implementation.

“Titles can’t be raised until the legislation has been passed to put the settlement into effect,” Willie explains. “That’s taken some patience on our part, but things are now progressing.”

Te Uri o Hau, a large hapu of Ngati Whatua, occupies the Northern Kaipara region, stretching across the island from the Pouto Peninsula on the West Coast to Mangawhai Heads on the East Coast. Willie says most of the hapu’s 6500 members now live in other parts of New Zealand, and much of the focus will be putting the provisions of the deed and the \$15.6 million settlement to work for the cultural, social, environmental and economic benefit of those still living in the area in the first instance.

The settlement deed, signed in December 2000, provides for both cultural and commercial redress. On the cultural side, this involves access to traditional foods and gathering areas, and the return of some sites of significance to the hapu.

The most significant commercial assets involved are two areas of Crown Forest Land, one at Pouto and the other at Mangawhai. Prior to the settlement, the Crown land in both of these forests was administered by LINZ, as were the Crown Forest Licences. The Mangawhai forest involves splitting an existing forest licence.

LINZ has been involved with the transfer, working with Te Uri o Hau and the licensee Carter Holt Harvey to ensure a smooth transition of the licence to Te Uri o Hau. The Department also assisted with a scheduled rental review for the Crown Forest Licence, which coincided with the transfer.

Willie Wright says that in order to maximise the returns to his hapu, the Settlement Trust is now looking at future alternative uses for the land once the existing forest licence has expired.

He says the claim settlement process has involved intensive communication with many groups, including the widespread membership of the hapu. “I have also devoted a lot of time to talking with community groups and organisations about what the settlement means for them.”

As well as the Trust’s ongoing relationship with LINZ, they are also developing protocols for communicating with agencies such as the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

At a local level they are working with both LINZ staff and their contractors. One of the ongoing tasks at this level is to create a number of easements between the Department of Conservation and Te Uri o Hau land, and to formalise access arrangements.

Willie Wright concludes that while processes like this take longer than the claimants had anticipated, they are focused on the future. “We are putting the historical grievances behind us. By building our knowledge and relationships with organisations like LINZ and local authorities, we’re building partnerships that will help in the development of our people.”



