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## STATEMENT OF INTENT REFLECTS GROWING BREADTH OF WORK

Take a close look at the LINZ Statement of Intent (SOI) for 2005/06 and, apart from the new design, you'll notice some subtle but important shifts in emphasis.

The vision ("LINZ is valued as Government's centre of electronic land information and expertise") and purpose ("To provide people and systems that ensure confidence in the land rights and geographic information underpinning New Zealand as a nation") are more streamlined, sharper statements. They reflect the department's continuing evolution in a working environment that's increasingly electronic and increasingly dominated by inter-agency teamwork.

Also new this year is an additional end outcome: "Crown assets are put to their best use." LINZ Chief Executive Brendan Boyle says this reflects the department's growing core role around the management of Crown land. "Our stated purpose reflects the strong connection that kiwis have with the land."

He adds that while core functions don't change much from year to year, there is always movement in policy boundaries.

"It's important that we don't get too far ahead of ourselves or our customers when we're mapping out our intentions. That's why the SOI is such a useful document – both internally and for our customers.

"Our work programme involves a combination of serving primary customers like the emergency services, responding to new challenges such as use of land information during the recent foot and mouth disease scare, and rolling out planned initiatives like the Ocean Survey 20/20 Strategy."

Brendan says there is growing breadth to the scope of LINZ's work.

"Landonline is a useful example. Lodgement transaction activity such as *e-Dealing* and *e-Survey* is stable and focused

around a well-defined customer base. But the other aspect of Landonline – accessing information online – is a much more open-ended proposition.

"There are far more possibilities around the delivery and packaging of information, not only for LINZ, but right across Government. We need to keep an open mind about future directions, and potential for third-party providers to add value to core data."

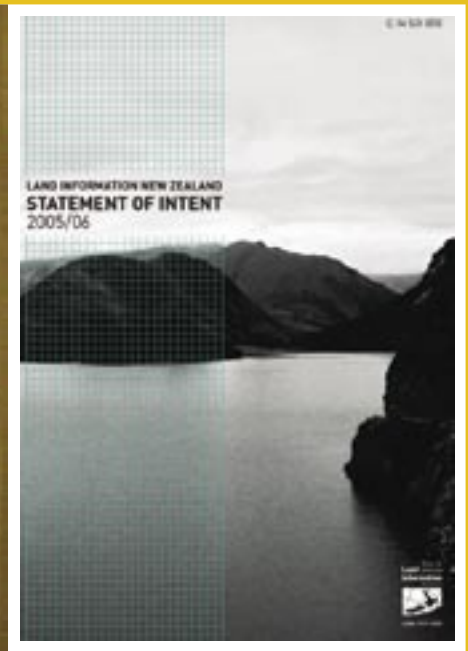
Brendan says the hoax foot and mouth scare on Waiheke Island highlighted the potential for greater collaboration between government agencies around such national emergencies and the importance of access to timely, authoritative land information.

He says there are large areas of common interest between LINZ and the operations of other departments. For example, LINZ shares an interest in biosecurity and land access issues with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, works with Department of Conservation on Tenure Review, and with the Office of Treaty Settlements on Treaty of Waitangi claims.

While the whole-of-government approach to such issues can be "high maintenance", there are huge benefits, Brendan says. Taking the example of the LINZ-led Ocean Survey 20/20 Strategy, he says that with multi-agency buy-in comes the need to reconcile a wide range of views and interests, "but we will ultimately achieve far more than we could have on our own".

The "20/20" initiative is only one of a range of key initiatives that the Government is funding through LINZ. Also featured in the new Statement of Intent are initiatives concerning:

- The Government's high country objectives



A good read: Brendan Boyle says the Statement of Intent is a useful reference for both staff and customers.

- The Geospatial Strategy
- Removing impediments to Maori land development
- Sea level monitoring
- Overseas investment.

Brendan says some areas require a stronger focus. One such challenge is customer readiness to embrace the electronic paradigm for accessing information and lodging land transactions.

“That’s an area where we’re putting in some extra effort, and we welcome an excellent working relationship with the New Zealand Law Society and the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors in helping bring members up to speed. This will become of increasing importance as electronic lodgement becomes the norm rather than an optional extra.”

He says the department has a four-pronged strategy to support the transition, based around marketing activities, technology capabilities, enhanced functionality, and overall system management.

Brendan says that the Statement of Intent maps out the department’s plans for the next three years, but LINZ will monitor progress towards achieving the outcomes throughout this year and identify improvements for 2006/07.

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### INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION AT THE WORKFACE

LINZ has led a successful multi-agency approach to a pressing environmental problem in one of New Zealand’s tourism hot spots. Bringing together the Department of Conservation, Otago Regional Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) and community group Guardians of the Lake Wanaka, the department helped facilitate a strategy to deal with an infestation of Lake Wanaka with the invasive water weed, *Lagarosiphon major*. (See page 6 for more details).

In the LINZ Statement of Intent 2005/06, QLDC Mayor Clive Geddes says he’s been heartened by the close working relationship that’s developed between LINZ, his council and the other agencies.

“LINZ has got a very good grip on the fact that it doesn’t need to be all things to all people. It successfully uses a series of contractors to perform functions for it, and I think it’s now starting to understand that it can actually start looking at local government in that same light.

“Out of it has come an ongoing management programme where, if you think about it, everybody’s the winner. It’s a great example of where agencies develop a good understanding of each other’s role.”

## TENURE REVIEW UPDATE

By 30 June 2005, 196 properties (about two-thirds of all pastoral leases) were involved at some stage of the tenure review process. This is how the various reviews stood as at that date:

Stage	Number of leases
Implementation complete; freehold title granted.	18
Final Proposal (substantive proposal) signed off; implementation under way.	20
Final Proposal (substantive proposal) put to leaseholder for consideration.	3
First Cut of Proposal (preliminary proposal) completed; public submissions closed and under consultation to develop a Final Proposal.	14
First Cut of Proposal completed and advertised for public and iwi submissions	5
Consultation with leaseholder under way prior to formulation of first cut of proposal.	78
Invitation to carry out review received and lease accepted into programme; initial research under way.	58
Total leases to complete, or currently in the tenure review programme	196

4

## TENURE REVIEW DELIVERS CULTURAL, CONSERVATION, FARMING BENEFITS

Four further tenure reviews have made significant progress since we reported last issue. Spectacular mountain landscapes, cultural features and native species will be protected because of the reviews.

Two leases, **Dingleburn Station** at the northern end of Lake Hawea, and **Wyuna Station** on the Glenorchy-Queenstown road, have reached sign-off stage for the substantive tenure review proposal.

The 23,707 hectare Dingleburn Station incorporates attractive areas for wilderness trout fishing, climbing and back country skiing.

About 70 percent of the Dingleburn lease – nearly 17,000 hectares – will be restored to, or retained in, full Crown control. The area being transferred to the Department of Conservation (DOC) adjoins the 49,000 hectare Ahuriri Conservation Park. It includes some spectacular mountain landscapes, and will protect extensive tussock lands, shrub lands, regenerating hardwood forest, beech forest, alpine fell fields and snow fields.

The outcomes also recognise the area's significant cultural value for Ngai Tahu; in particular, the Dingleburn Lagoon, historically a place used for food gathering, fishing, eeling, bulrush gathering, and weka hunting. About 50 km of easements across the 7013 hectares of Dingleburn to be freeholded will ensure good public access to the rivers and conservation land.



Ian Wright (NIWA – National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research), Bryan Davy (GNS – Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences), Elana Geddis (MFAT – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and Russell Turner (LINZ) discuss the latest continental shelf reports at a recent joint meeting.

## SHELF PROJECT ON TRACK AS SUBMISSION DATE NEARS

With only a year to go until the deadline for New Zealand's Continental Shelf submission, Project Leader Russell Turner says the project is right on track

Russell says the five out of the six regional reports that will make up the final case have now been completed. The sixth, a very small report, will be dealt with in the final 'washup'.

"All of the data analysis and interpretation is now done," Russell says. "We are now doing some quality checking on the reports for language and consistency."

After the signing last year of the treaty between Australia and New Zealand agreeing the maritime boundaries between the two countries (see Landscan No. 30, September 2004), there has been some follow-up work to reflect the agreement in the New Zealand submission, Russell adds.

"Preliminary discussions on the maritime boundaries with Fiji and Tonga have started, and the outcomes from these will also be factored into our case, right at the final stage. This process is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade."

Russell says that the LINZ involvement in the project is now winding down, and the role of the Ministry of Foreign

Most of the land being freeholded is lower altitude flats, fans and terraces, which have already been developed, or have the potential for pasture development. Usage of about 2000 hectares of this land will be covered by Conservation or Reserves Act covenants.

The most recent tenure review to reach sign-off on the substantive proposal stage was the 12,297 hectare **Wyuna Station**. Under the proposal, about three-quarters of the lease will become conservation area and reserve lands. The conservation land extends from a wetland on the edges of the Glenorchy Lagoon up to more than 2000 metres above sea level.

The alpine setting will provide an exceptional opportunity for trampers and other recreationists heading into the high mountains. There are also opportunities for visits to an old scheelite mine and lower level walks.

About 2700 hectares of the original Wyuna lease will become freehold. In addition, there will be a grazing concession on part of the recreation reserve.

Public access to the conservation land at Dingleburn and Wyuna stations will not be available until surveying and fencing is complete and DoC signs are put in place. This process could take up to 12 months.

Two further reviews, **Stonehurst** and **Glenlapa**, have now been implemented.

Some 775 hectares of **Stonehurst**, at the southern end of Otago's Rock and Pillar Range, has been freeholded under its tenure review.

A further 2070 of the former pastoral lease has become public conservation land. The range hosts a broad diversity

Dingleburn Station, at the northern end of Lake Hawea, incorporates attractive areas for wilderness trout fishing, climbing and back country skiing.



of flora and fauna, and is home to the New Zealand falcon, giant alpine weta and native galaxiid fish among many other native species.

A conservation covenant protects shrubland and broadleaf forest communities, with a public access easement from the Strath Taieri Plain to the crest of the range. The conservation lands will eventually be incorporated into the proposed Rock and Pillar Conservation Park.

**Glenlapa**, in northern Southland, adjoins the upper reaches of the Mataura River, well known for its brown trout fishery. Under the recently implemented tenure review for the former pastoral lease, 550 hectares has been added to public conservation lands.

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Affairs and Trade is starting to grow as the time to present the submission draws nearer.

With the content of the reports all but complete, Russell is now turning his attention to the physical production of the submission, which must follow strict guidelines. Hard copies are required, but these will be backed with electronic versions and a GIS-style presentation.

So far only four submissions have gone through to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Brazil and Russia's were the first, followed by Australia and, just a few weeks ago, Ireland. The Commission only deals with two submissions at any one time, and Russell is expecting the Irish and Brazil claims to be wrapped up soon. However, several other countries have indicated that they intend to make their submissions over the course of the next year, including Tonga, Norway and Nigeria.

It is difficult to know how long New Zealand's case will take to be processed once it has been submitted, Russell says.

"The four cases that have gone up so far are very different from one another. Russia and Australia are both quite large, complex cases, while those of Brazil and Ireland are fairly straightforward."

He says by the time our case is presented, the Continental Shelf project will have stretched back a decade to 1996, when New Zealand ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Looking ahead, Russell says the 15-year Ocean Survey 20/20 initiative announced earlier this year will be the perfect complement to the Continental Shelf Project.

"The Continental Shelf Project will provide certainty about the extent of our sovereign rights over the resources of the seabed."

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## LESSONS LEARNT FROM WANAKA WEED CONTROL PROGRAMME

There were mixed results, but some useful lessons from the 2004/05 programme to control the invasive water weed, *Lagarosiphon major* in Lake Wanaka, according to a report for LINZ by NIWA and Landward Management.

An aquatic herbicide, Diquat, was used in addition to mechanical weed control techniques (mainly diver-operated suction dredging). It was applied during suitable weather conditions by both boat and helicopter.

The report says the Diquat (formulated with Aquagel®) worked well in Paddock and Parkins Bays, which contained 80 percent of the total weed targeted by herbicide in the lake. In these bays, most of the weed beds collapsed, with a substantial reduction in biomass. The success of the application in removing the weed, has lessened the chance for lakeweed to be spread by boats.

However the treatment is a control method and cannot be expected to eradicate the infestation; the report said that

without re-treatment, the weeds would fully recover within a year.

Nonetheless, the treatment successfully prevented surface-reaching weed beds from establishing over the summer months, when the lake is most heavily used for recreational activities.

The herbicide was less successful where the bands of weed were narrow, colonies were newly established or small, or when they were located on steep gradients or next to large areas of open water. The report suggests that this could be due to inadequate contact time with the herbicide, and recommends some strategies to overcome this problem.

### GOOD RESPONSE TO 10-YEAR PLAN

The Lake Wanaka *Lagarosiphon* Managers' Committee was pleased to receive 57 submissions on its draft 10-year plan for weed control in the lake.

The committee has had the submissions analysed, and independently reviewed and has made the analysis publicly available. The final draft plan will be approved at the end of August.

Key features of the draft plan include the adaptive management approach to weed control where combinations

of methods will be trialled to ensure effectiveness before being used more extensively in the lake. There are also plans for ongoing education of lake users to help prevent the weed from being spread.

The Lake Wanaka *Lagarosiphon* Managers' Committee comprises the Queenstown Lakes District Council, Otago Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand and Lake Wanaka Guardians.

Defoliated Lagarosiphon major stems lying on the lake bed in Paddock Bay, Lake Wanaka four months after diquat treatment. New young shoots can be seen regrowing from the old stem material. Photo: John Clayton, NIWA.



The 2004/05 Lagarosiphon control programme in Lake Wanaka had mixed results. Photo: John Clayton, NIWA.

Important native plant communities at deeper levels were totally unaffected by the herbicide

More suction dredging had to be used than originally planned, as a result of public concern about use of the herbicide. Areas around marina and boat ramps had enough weed cleared by suction dredging down to two metres deep, to help reduce the risk of it being spread by boats and trailers.

If suction dredging continues to be used around the marina and boat ramps, it will need to be repeated regularly, the report noted.

The report recommended that deepwater disposal of suction-dredged material should be investigated for areas where the shoreline drops steadily away, but said this would have to be done carefully to avoid the risk of viable shoots re-surfacing. (This technique is successfully used in some North Island lakes.)

It also recommended follow-up visits to suction-dredged areas within 3-4 months to remove any regrowth or missed plants, and to keep on top of the infestation.

The Lake Wanaka Lagarosiphon Managers' Committee has followed the report's recommendations for follow-up herbicide treatments in the Roy's Peninsula, Paddock Bay and Parkins Bay areas. These were done during May.

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## LANDONLINE ON SHOW IN CANBERRA

LINZ continues to stand out as the leader among countries moving towards fully automated land registration systems.

In May, a LINZ team of four management representatives returned from the Land Registrar Development Officers' Conference in Canberra confident that Landonline *e-dealing* offers the best automated land registration capability available.

Customer Services Senior Business Analyst, Brett Tercel, presented background to Landonline as well as LINZ's planned approach to automating a wider range of title transactions. He also demonstrated an online real-time *e-dealing* registration.

"The online real-time registration captivated the audience from start to finish," Brett said.

Countries represented at the conference, including Britain, Scotland, Singapore, Hong Kong, all Australian States and Territories, and New Zealand, use a Torrens-based system.

"Others are at varying stages of progress ranging from largely paper-based systems (Tasmania), to fully electronic registers and Cadastre (Northern Territories, Queensland).

"But while they might all be moving towards fully automated registration, New Zealand definitely leads the charge worldwide," Brett says.

LINZ continues to receive enquiries from around the world regarding the development, implementation, security and maintenance of Landonline.



# SURVEYOR-GENERAL APPOINTED

Don Grant has been able to hit the ground running with his appointment as Surveyor-General from 16 May 2005, having been filling the role in an acting capacity since early last year.

In fact, he's been close to the role for much longer than that. Don was appointed Deputy Surveyor-General in 1996, at about the time LINZ took its present shape. Like the Surveyor-General's role, this too was a statutory position. During this period Don has been heavily involved in the implementation of the New Zealand Geodetic Datum 2000 – the underpinning framework of our survey and mapping system – and in the development of Landonline from its conception in the mid 1990s.

Don's latest appointment caps a 30-year career in land information. With an honours degree in physics and a diploma in land surveying, Don started out as a graduate surveyor in the Christchurch office of the then Department of Lands and Survey. In the 1980s he took a study break, gaining a PhD in Surveying at the University of New South Wales.

When he came back to New Zealand in 1988, the former Lands and Survey had been transformed into the Department of Survey and Land Information, and he began a period as Geodetic Scientist, Research and Development with the reshaped department.

During the past 15 years, Don has taken part in two significant overseas secondments: first from 1991-94 as Chief Geodesist for the UN Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, and then in 2003, a seven week secondment working in conjunction with US Geological Survey in Antarctica. This included a trip to set out the precise position of the South Pole.

But now Don's attention is focused much closer to home, and his responsibilities as Surveyor-General.

The Cadastral Survey Act 2002, with a primary focus on standard setting, has meant the Chief Surveyor role has gone, and the Surveyor-General does not have an operational role.

“Operational matters have for some time been handled through LINZ Customer Services and its predecessor, LINZ Operations,” he explains. “Also, in the recent realignment, all the regulatory audit functions, including survey audits, have been brought together to be managed in a consistent way across all areas. My job is to identify risks to the survey system; our regulatory QA staff focus on how best the compliance risks are to be managed, which will include a focus on self compliance by surveyors.”

The Surveyor-General is now part of a regulatory group managed by Warwick Quinn. Don's role is focused around four statutory areas:

- cadastral survey
- geodetic survey system
- electoral boundaries
- New Zealand Geographic Board.



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