



In this issue...



3 Prestigious mapping award for LINZ

LINZ has been recognised by its global peers as the best national mapping agency.

2 LINZ Statement of Intent published

LINZ's Statement of Intent 2009-2012 sets out how LINZ will meet the challenges of the next three years.

4 Overseas Investment Act review

The Government is reviewing the Overseas Investment Act 2005 to make foreign investment in New Zealand simpler and more attractive, while also protecting sensitive land, assets and resources.

5 LINZ promotes environmental valuation database

A series of LINZ seminars has promoted awareness of an environmental valuation database available to New Zealand policymakers.

6 Board consulting on wide range of proposals

In May, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa opened consultation on 27 proposals to assign new place names or alter existing place names.

6 High Country Conference

LINZ chief executive Colin MacDonald has outlined the department's priorities for pastoral land management at a Federated Farmers' conference.

8 Changes to LINZ's senior leadership team

Changes to the LINZ's senior leadership team are designed to reflect Government priorities and increased clarity about LINZ's strategic direction.



Colin MacDonald,
Chief Executive, LINZ.

LINZ STATEMENT OF INTENT PUBLISHED

LINZ's Statement of Intent for 2009–2012 sets out how LINZ will meet the challenges of the next three years, says Chief Executive Colin MacDonald.

2008/09 saw the achievement of the final milestone in a 12-year journey to full electronic lodgement of survey and title transactions.

This has been a major focus for LINZ. The time is now right for us to take a step back and consider our core role in supporting New Zealand through property rights and management, and land information.

We recognise we are operating in an increasingly dynamic world. In addition, uncertain economic times have heightened our need to ensure we are contributing fully to New Zealand's economic future.

LINZ'S CORE ROLE

LINZ's purpose is to maintain and build confidence in property rights in land and geographic information, and to encourage land information markets to mature. The department's core roles are:

- transaction management – maintaining and operating the regulatory framework and systems for rights and transactions involving land
- information management – generating, collecting, compiling, and providing geographic information, and information relating to property rights and transactions, and
- land management – administering a range of Crown-owned lands for the benefit of the New Zealand public.

The activities we carry out are structured around four outcome areas: certainty of property rights, authoritative land information, federated geospatial information, and best use of Crown assets.

KEY INITIATIVES

We have identified key areas of focus where we expect to make the most impact towards achieving these outcomes. We have called these our "key initiatives".

The driving goal of the Government is to grow the New Zealand economy in order to deliver greater prosperity, security and opportunities to all New Zealanders. The key initiatives are aimed at supporting this goal, and reflect the three priorities the Government has agreed for LINZ:

- developing and implementing the Government's South Island high country policy
- implementing the New Zealand Geospatial Strategy, and
- encouraging overseas investment in New Zealand.

We will contribute to the Government's review of the Overseas Investment Act and continue to improve the efficiency of our application processing, with a view to enabling overseas investment while protecting sensitive land, assets and resources.

Geospatial information is increasingly relied on and pervasive in our daily lives. There is growing awareness of the benefits of geospatial information to modern economies (as well as developing ones).

These benefits are economic and social, and across the public and private sectors. There is also a growing expectation and belief that there is a role for government in geospatial information. Given LINZ's functions and information, we are taking a leadership role this area, co-ordinating across government, with a view to achieving federated geospatial information for New Zealand.

The South Island High Country is an important part of New Zealand's economic and cultural fabric. This iconic country is capable of productive use for farming and

tourism opportunities, as well as forming a part of our New Zealand identity.

LINZ will review the policy settings for pastoral leases in the high country, to ensure economic and ecologically sustainable policy settings for pastoral leases into the future, recognising high country leaseholders are effective stewards of the land.

WORKING SMARTER

Supporting sustained economic growth has always been a focus for LINZ. In a climate of New Zealand and world-wide economic recession, this focus is even more important. The public sector also needs to ensure we are working smarter and cost-effectively.

LINZ has a track record in working smarter through utilising technology and we have also focused in recent years on ensuring our regulatory frameworks are optimal, with compliance costs minimised given the risk.

We will continue to focus on these areas, as well as on continually improving the efficiency of our processes. We will also work to improve our information gathering, analysis and planning, so we ensure we focus on the right things, and our research and evaluation, so we can measure our progress and adjust as needed.

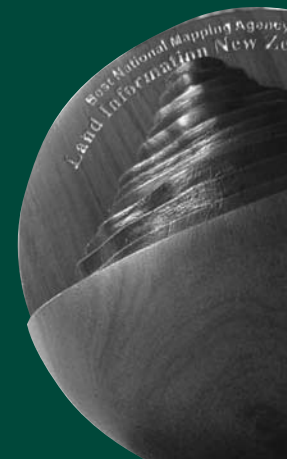
The challenges facing us are significant as we work to deliver our outcomes, encouraging economic growth and prosperity, while recognising the fast-changing economic environment surrounding us and adapting to that. I have confidence in LINZ's ability to meet those challenges.

Colin MacDonald

You can view the Statement of Intent 2009–2012 on the LINZ website: www.linz.govt.nz

PRESTIGIOUS MAPPING AWARD FOR LINZ

LINZ received the best national mapping agency award at the recent Map World Forum in Hyderabad, India.



3

The award recognises LINZ's contributions as a national mapping agency towards national development and services to citizens of the country at large. General Manager Customer Services, Sharon Cottrell, accepted the award on LINZ's behalf.

"The award was clearly seen as prestigious and I had people approach me to congratulate LINZ on our achievements," says Sharon.

"I felt privileged to be there accepting it, and to receive international recognition for our products and services," says Sharon. "It was also intriguing listening to the other speakers."

The forum's theme was "Geospatial Technology for Sustainable Planet Earth" and it aimed to raise the profile and expand the horizons of the geospatial industry.

With 1200 delegates from more than 40 countries, the forum represented a broad range of professions across the geospatial industry including scientists, trainers, technology, developers, application and solution providers, media agencies and students.

"It's truly fascinating how some developing countries have developed pragmatic solutions that enable them to get a functioning property market. Some land titles are as little as a signature on a photograph, but they've found what works for them with the resources they have available."

Sharon made a presentation on the ways LINZ helped make land information more broadly available.

"We are unique in the way we do things here, and this became even more evident to me at the forum. My presentation was well received and there was definite interest in Landonline and how it operates."

And the trip was insightful on a personal level as well.

"I walked around quite a bit while I was there and found myself lost at one point. It was then I discovered the lack of road signs in India is well and truly compensated for by the friendly people willing to help with directions!"

For more information on the Map World Forum, visit www.mapworldforum.org

OVERSEAS INVESTMENT ACT REVIEW

The Government is reviewing the Overseas Investment Act 2005 to make foreign investment in New Zealand simpler and more attractive, while also protecting sensitive land, assets and resources.



The review, which started in March, is being led by The Treasury. It covers three broad areas:

- putting in place some immediate measures, such as ensuring more applications are decided by the Overseas Investment Office, rather than by Ministers. This means applications will be turned around more quickly
- considering changes to the Overseas Investment Regulations. These changes will require Cabinet approval, and
- considering changes to the scope of the overseas investment screening regime generally. Any such changes would be likely to require amendments to the Act.

A Technical Reference Group has been established to advise officials on the practicality of any amendments to the Act and to provide suggestions on other improvements to the Act.

Cabinet will consider recommendations from the review in the coming months and any proposed changes to the Act will be open to public submissions.

NEW DESIGNATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

The Minister of Finance and the Minister for Land Information have issued a new Designation and Delegation letter to the Overseas Investment Office.

The new letter sets out the powers and functions delegated to the Office, effective from Monday 27 April 2009. It superseded the previous designation and delegation letter, dated 14 December 2007.

Under the new delegation powers, the Office has greater authority to make decisions under the Overseas Investment Act 2005 on whether to grant consent to overseas investments in sensitive land (land decisions).

Decisions on whether to grant consent to overseas investments in significant business assets (business decisions) will continue to be delegated.

Several other functions and powers under the Act and the Overseas Investment Regulations 2005 have now been delegated.

“These changes are intended to streamline the assessment of applications for consent,” OIO Manager Annelies McClure said.

“Around 40 percent fewer applications will need to go to Ministers for decision-making, so the new delegations will improve the timeliness of the application process.”

Applicants should be mindful of these changes in delegations when paying application fees, Annelies said.

KEY CHANGES

- Land decisions where the substantial and identifiable benefits criterion (section 16(1)(e)(iii)) does not apply, will now be delegated to the Office.
- The exception to the above will be where the relevant land is or includes special land, land on other islands, the foreshore or seabed or the bed of a lake, or adjoins the foreshore or bed of a lake.
- Even if the ‘substantial and identifiable’ criterion applies, decisions will be delegated where:
 - The land is leasehold (other than pastoral lease land) or the interest being acquired is an interest as mortgagee or encumbrancee, or
 - The only ‘sensitivity’ is that the land is non-urban and more than five hectares.

To view the Designation and Delegation letter, go to www.linz.govt.nz/overseas-investment

LINZ PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL VALUATION DATABASE

In late April and early May, LINZ ran a series of seminars to raise awareness of the Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory (EVRI).



From left: Yves Bourassa Policy Manager for Environment Canada, Mark Jones Senior Policy Analyst LINZ, and Geoff Kerr of Lincoln University.

The database offers over 2,200 case studies and is a very useful tool for policymakers assessing the economic impacts of environmental, conservation or health policy says Mark Jones, a LINZ senior policy analyst.

“Environmental valuation is a specialised field of research. Rather than reinvent the wheel carrying out expensive impact studies, you can use the database to see how others have determined economic values for particular activities and apply them to the policy problem you’re working on.”

“This ‘benefits transfer’ approach saves time and is cost-effective.”

EVRI is the largest and most up-to-date database of its kind in the world, and a growing number of these studies are specific to New Zealand, says Mark.

EVRI was developed in Canada by Environment Canada in cooperation with international experts and organisations.

Yves Bourassa, Policy Manager for Environment Canada, spoke at the seminars held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Yves has had extensive experience of a range of environmental policy issues.

“EVRI can contribute to developing sustainable and greater evidence-based policies, and enhance a country’s ability to analyse economic impacts of their policy approaches,” says Yves.

“At the moment, members include Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the USA, France and the United Kingdom.

“These countries use EVRI data extensively as a source of economic values for environmental components.”

The seminars were attended by more than 200 people from private agencies, academia, and government organisations such as the Ministry of Fisheries and the New Zealand Defence Force. Attendees were enthusiastic and interested in what Yves had to say.

LINZ hosted the seminars in co-operation with the Government Urban and Economic Development Office, the Institute of Public Administration New Zealand (IPANZ), Victoria University’s Institute of Policy Studies and Lincoln University.

Knowing where to access and utilise studies in the policy arena is extremely useful for organisations, says Mark, who first made use of it in the United Kingdom.

“The EVRI database benefits LINZ because we’re able to look at studies not only from other countries, but from around New Zealand too.”

“Being a member means we’re contributing to a tool that facilitates worldwide development and promotion of environmental, conservation and health valuation.”

For more information, visit the website at www.evri.ca. Access to the database is free in New Zealand.

The current New Zealand contact for the database is Matthew Hickman (matthew.hickman@mfe.govt.nz) at the Ministry for the Environment.



HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE

LINZ Chief Executive Colin MacDonald spoke at the annual conference of the Federated Farmers' South Island High Country Committee in June. Edited highlights of the speech are reproduced below.

From the outset I want to say how pleased I am at the strengthening relationship between pastoral leaseholders and LINZ.

LINZ is here for the long run, and we take seriously the responsibility that we have to ensure that the relationship between leaseholders and the Crown is healthy and robust.

No doubt there are some challenging issues to traverse as Government policy is progressed in the coming months. Affordability of rents, restrictions on land use, consents

required to carry out activities on pastoral land, and ongoing stewardship of this land are some of the key issues in this area.

But the important thing to me as we work through these issues is that we keep the communications channels open. The relationship has made great strides over the past several months and we want to keep up the momentum.

There are a number of groups with a stake in the high country, and we want to make sure that all the relevant voices are heard.

NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD CONSULTING ON SEVERAL NAME PROPOSALS

In May, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa opened consultation on 27 proposals to assign new place names or alter existing place names.

The name proposals range from assigning new names for un-named creeks in Westland, to alterations of the names of railway lines, as well as the proposal to correct the spelling of Wanganui to include an 'h' (Whanganui).

For the W(h)anganui proposal Dr Don Grant, Chair of the Board, said that the Board wanted to make it as easy as possible for members of the public to provide their views on the 'h' debate.

“There’s been a high level of public interest so we want to facilitate people’s submissions as much as we can – that’s why we developed an online form for people to submit their views to the Board.”

BEST USE OF CROWN ASSETS

Administering high country pastoral land on behalf of the Crown is a significant undertaking. The goal LINZ is working towards for this land is “the best use of Crown assets”.

Put another way, we want to make sure that the land is put to its best use for economic, environmental and social purposes.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE HIGH COUNTRY

Developing and implementing the Government’s South Island high country policy is one of three priorities the Prime Minister has agreed for the Land Information portfolio.

A review of pastoral land policy settings, including rental policy, has begun. Under this key initiative, we’re also planning to develop a greater understanding of the current uses of pastoral land, and what future uses are likely.

We will continue to enhance the engagement between leaseholders and the Crown. And, we’ll be exploring options to recognise high country leaseholders are effective stewards of the land, reflecting the Government’s desires in this area.

By doing this LINZ aims to ensure that the right range of economic, environmental and social considerations are balanced when making decisions about the best use of Crown pastoral land. Recognising leaseholders’ proven ability to manage land for conservation and economic outcomes is a key to achieving this.

A second and related key initiative centres on our biosecurity programme for Crown land.

Weeds and pests on Crown land impact on the use and economic viability of the land. Effective programmes can only be undertaken in partnership with our neighbouring landowners and territorial authorities.

To this end, we intend to work with our neighbours and key stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of biosecurity programmes on crown land we administer. We want to foster greater collaboration with neighbouring landowners, including you as leaseholders, and with regional councils and the Department of Conservation.

These initiatives will help LINZ to enhance the economic use of land, reduce the threat of pests and weeds spreading to and from neighbouring land, and foster a collaborative approach to pest and weed management.

So far there has been a good uptake of the form, with many people opting to use it over post, fax or email options, which are also still available.

The Board also hopes to make this online submission form available in the future for other proposals.

At its next meeting in September, the Board will consider all the submissions received, and make decisions taking into account all relevant information.

A full list of the proposals can be viewed on the LINZ website www.linz.govt.nz under ‘Place names’.

Mr Grant said the board also recently announced it wanted to make official the names ‘North Island’ and ‘South Island’. It also intends considering alternative Māori names which would be used alongside the English names.

TENURE REVIEW

The Government has indicated its support for tenure review and for wider consideration being given to alternative mechanisms for protecting significant inherent values.

As part of the policy work we’ve embarked on, we are exploring, along with the Department of Conservation, how more use can be made of covenants as a way of protecting these values, while allowing for ongoing economic use, and recognising leaseholders’ stewardship role.

The tenure review programme is proceeding, but expenditure on reviews needs to be within the constraints of the annual budget.

We have a limited baseline and can only undertake so many reviews at one time. It may be some lessees intending to enter tenure review need to wait until LINZ has the resources and funding to accept new invitations.

The full version of the speech is available at www.linz.govt.nz

TENURE REVIEW STATUS

As at 30 May 2009:

- 62 of the 303 pastoral leases eligible for review under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 have had tenure reviews completed
- 9 substantive proposals have been accepted and are being implemented
- total land for which tenure review has been completed or agreed is 385,073 hectares
- of this 183,100 hectares has been or will be transferred to the Department of Conservation as public conservation land
- 202,000 hectares has been or will be freeholded to former lessees.
- 10 preliminary proposals have recently been advertised, and several more are likely to be advertised in the next few months.

The Board has specific statutory functions to collect and encourage the use of original Māori place names. The Board’s research has shown several variations of Māori names were used on maps and charts by early explorers and settlers. There have also been different English names used for the islands, such as New Ulster (North Island) and New Munster (South Island).

Having alternative Māori names for the North Island and South Island will allow this part of our history to be preserved and recognised, while still retaining the well-known and used names ‘North Island’ and ‘South Island’, says Don.

Public consultation for alternative Māori names is not likely to start until next year, once the Board has collected known traditional Māori names from iwi, and decided which names it will put forward.

For more information on the place naming and submission process, view the LINZ website www.linz.govt.nz

CHANGES TO LINZ'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

8

Late last year LINZ Chief Executive Colin MacDonald commissioned a review of LINZ's organisational capability in response to:

- the incoming Government's priorities, and
- increased clarity regarding LINZ's future role within the geospatial arena.

The findings of the review highlighted the need to re-balance the accountabilities of the senior leadership team.

Colin says LINZ is now moving to implement these changes as three of the leadership team roles are vacant and there is one pending retirement within the current team, that of Sharon Cottrell, General Manager Customer Services.

The new LINZ senior leadership team will still be made up of the Chief Executive and five General Managers. However, there will be some changes to these roles:

- merging LINZ's Policy and Regulatory groups under one General Manager

Brian Usherwood,
General Manager
Crown Property and Investment.



- changing the role of General Manager Business Support to the role of General Manager Strategic Development and Support – responsible for strategy and corporate service functions, together with Business and Regulatory Assurance, and the New Zealand Geospatial Office, and
- creating a new role of General Manager Crown Property and Investment - responsible for all Crown property and Overseas Investment Office functions.

The existing roles of Chief Information Officer and General Manager Customer Services remain unchanged. Brian Usherwood, formerly General Manager Business Support, has taken up the role of General Manager Crown Property and Investment.

Colin says it's an exciting time to join the organisation. "LINZ is responsible for world-leading systems and regulation. We have a strong foundation to leverage our knowledge and information for the growth and prosperity of New Zealand. There is both challenge and opportunity ahead."

LINZ expects to have appointments to the team made by July 2009.

Thanks for reading *Landscan*. We welcome your feedback.

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