

## BRIEFING TO THE MINISTER FOR LAND INFORMATION

June 2009



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# Introduction

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Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) was established on 1 July 1996 and is responsible for policy, regulatory and service delivery of New Zealand's authoritative land information.

LINZ is responsible for:

- developing land information policy
- regulatory frameworks used to define and transact land
- providing a secure environment for buying, selling and subdividing land property through:
  - guaranteed titles for property dealings, and
  - an accurate system of land boundary definition
- administering the Crown's interests in land through:
  - the acquisition, disposal or administration of Crown land, and
  - the management of Crown land liabilities
- providing a nationally consistent valuation system for rating purposes
- helping address Treaty of Waitangi issues by providing information on land history and status, and contributing to the policy relating to Treaty settlements
- administering New Zealand's inbound investment regime under the Overseas Investment Act 2005, and
- ensuring New Zealand has high-quality databases for its survey, mapping, hydrographic, place naming and property activities.

This briefing introduces LINZ, starting with the issues that will require the attention of the Minister for Land Information in the next six months (Section A). It then sets out the strategic issues the department faces, including the LINZ perspective on the critical issues for environmental sustainability.

Section B outlines LINZ's responsibilities, which are covered in more detail in the Statement of Intent 2009–2012 and the Annual Report 2007–08 (copies provided with this briefing). Section C provides a brief description of LINZ's regulatory role, a list of the legislation that LINZ administers, its statutory officers and boards, and the operational decisions the Minister is required to make.

Further information can also be found on the LINZ website [www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz), on the Landonline website [www.landonline.govt.nz](http://www.landonline.govt.nz), and the website of the New Zealand Geospatial Office [www.geospatial.govt.nz](http://www.geospatial.govt.nz).

If you would like a more detailed briefing on any matters covered in this briefing, please advise Colin MacDonald, Chief Executive of Land Information New Zealand.

# Section A: Current issues

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## Headlines on current matters

Outlined below are current matters from across LINZ's areas of responsibility for discussion with you in the near future. These are also described in greater depth in Section B.

### **Priorities for the Land Information portfolio**

In February 2009 the following were agreed as the Government's priorities for the Land Information portfolio:

- Developing and implementing the Government's High Country policy
- Implementing the New Zealand Geospatial Strategy – delivering accessible, available, shareable and useable geospatial information and infrastructure to New Zealanders, and
- Encouraging overseas investment in New Zealand by simplifying and amending the regulatory regime in conjunction with the Minister of Finance and the Treasury.

Some other additional priorities include:

- improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the land titles system
- Treaty of Waitangi settlements
- legislative programme for land information, and
- biosecurity.

### **Savings identified by LINZ**

In response to the Government's request for savings, the department has offered back \$18 million over three years. Ongoing savings were offered from a reduction to the hydrographic survey programme, efficiency savings in the pastoral land management programme, and a reduction in the strategic projects funding pool.

### **Survey and titles impact of economic downturn**

Due to the economic downturn, volumes in the survey and titles area have dropped significantly, which has reduced revenue received. Demand for LINZ's survey and titles services has been 25% lower in 2008/09 compared to projected long term demand in this area. LINZ maintains memorandum accounts for survey and title fee-payers and for the Overseas Investment Office. The budgeted deficit in 2008/09 would usually require a drawdown on any surplus held in the survey and title memorandum account, which had a surplus of \$11.805 million at 30 June 2008 but was projected to be in deficit by \$9.96m by 30 June 2009.

LINZ applied for, and was granted, a capital contribution in February 2009 of \$30 million for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 years to compensate for this reduction in revenue. Memorandum accounts can fluctuate between surplus and deficit, and fees are reviewed regularly. Survey and title fees are scheduled for review in the 2009/10 financial year, with a planned effective date of 1 July 2010.

## Smart Processing 2012

### **Office Closures**

The move to 100% e-lodgement will result in planned office closures in Wellington, Dunedin and Auckland. A transition programme called Smart Processing 2012 has been established to manage the change, including staff relocation, staff redundancies, office closures, and the development of processing capability and capacity in the remaining offices of Hamilton and Christchurch. The transition is due for completion in 2012, to enable optimisation

of lease expiry dates, and maintenance of processing capability to meet regulatory requirements. Sixteen staff made redundant through this transition will leave LINZ on 10 July 2009, with a further round of redundancies planned for November 2009.

### **Remuneration issues**

As at 31 December 2008, LINZ reported an establishment of 545 full time equivalents (FTEs) to the State Services Commission. LINZ's forecast for 31 December 2009 is 539 FTEs. The forecast figure reflected changes to organisational structures and ongoing efficiencies known at the time.

## **Overseas Investment Office (OIO)**

The complexity of assessing overseas investment applications has consistently exceeded that expected when the overseas investment fees were set in 2005, during the last reform of the overseas investment legislation. Fee revenue has not been sufficient to fund the operation of the Overseas Investment Office (OIO) and has led to delays in assessing applications. Based on current fees, the OIO already has a memorandum account deficit and is expected to incur a further deficit of \$1.2 million in 2009/10.

The deficit has been caused by three factors:

- **Higher prices (costs)** required to correct significant cost under-estimations since 2005. In the absence of operational experience, the OIO's costs were underestimated when it was formed in 2005 and have since been subsidised from other areas in LINZ.
- **Lower quantity.** In the last quarter of 2008, the number of applications received by the OIO fell by 25%, coinciding with the global economic recession. Fewer application numbers mean that fee revenue is lower and does not cover the OIO's costs.
- **Improved standards.** Personnel costs have increased as the OIO has increased staff numbers from five to 12 since 2005/06 in order to improve standards by significantly reducing application assessment times, which benefits investors.

Three proposed options to address the deficit will go forward to the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee for consideration on 24 June 2009.

## **Land valuation tribunal hearing – Minaret Station pastoral lease**

The Land Valuation Tribunal hearing into the rental valuation for Minaret Station is a test case of the Crown methodology of land valuation for rent assessment. Since May 2007, LINZ has issued rent notices that reflect amenity values, which include factors such as location, landscapes and views, and natural characteristics. A review, completed in 2006, concluded that a proper interpretation of section 131 of the Land Act 1948 requires amenity values to be taken into account when valuing land for rental calculations. The hearing commenced on 13 October 2008 and concluded on 28 January 2009. A decision on the case has not yet been issued (see page 11).

## Upcoming key dates (to September 2009)

Date	Activity	Context
June 2009	OIO Fee Increases	A review of the fees and charges relating to overseas investment applications
July 2009	OIO Regulations	Legislative approval of the regulations drafted to reflect decisions on OIO fee increases
June 2009	NZGB Act – report back to Cabinet	New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 - a report back on progress in addressing technical issues with the use of macrons in some electronic databases and a recommendation on the commencement date for sections 32 and 33 of the Act
June 2009	NZGB appointment	Appointment of one new member under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008
July 2009	Co-management accord with Waikato-Tainui	Signing of co-management accord between Waikato-Tainui and the Commissioner of Crown Land as part of Deed of Settlement for the Waikato River claim
June/July 2009	Review of Land of Potential Interest process – report to Cabinet	A 2007 Cabinet decision established a process to assess every disposal of Crown land and seek approval from a group of Ministers. A review by LINZ found the process duplicated existing processes, was unnecessary, slow and costly and should be rescinded. Cabinet have asked for consideration to be given to retaining a modified version of the process. LINZ is preparing a paper to this effect
Aug/Sept 2009	Topographic/hydrographic fees	<p>The fees for topographic and hydrographic information (including paper maps, charts, bulk data and supporting data) are currently being reviewed.</p> <p>The topographic/hydrographic fees will be amended to recover dissemination costs in accordance with the agreed Policy Framework for Government Held Information [Cab (97) M 15/4C (1)]. Maintaining topographic and hydrographic data is part of LINZ's core functions.</p>

## Other early matters without specified dates

- Signing compulsory acquisition notices under the Public Works Act 1981 (these powers cannot be delegated to LINZ officials).

Under Cabinet decisions you are required to consider certain matters in conjunction with other Ministers. These include:

- Approving funding for Crown pastoral lease tenure review proposals, following consultation with the Minister of Conservation
- Considering reports that assess the disposals of 'lands of potential interest' proposed by Crown agencies and entities (as part of a Ministerial group including the Minister for State Owned Enterprises, the landholding Minister and consulting with the Minister of Finance where required).

The processes are described further in Section B.

## Strategic issues

The LINZ Statement of Intent for 2009–12 (attached) sets out the key strategic issues facing LINZ and the priorities that will form the focus of LINZ's work programme over the next three years.

### Strategic direction LINZ Statement of Intent 2009–12

LINZ's activities are structured around four outcome areas that reflect LINZ's purpose and functions:

- **Certainty of property rights** – this relates to LINZ's transactions management functions in which it maintains and administers the regulatory framework and system for defining and transacting land.
- **Authoritative land information** – LINZ is the custodian of several nationally significant geospatial datasets. Management of these datasets is the focus of this outcome area.
- **Federated geospatial information** – this outcome relates to LINZ's leadership role in the co-ordination and accessibility of geospatial information across government and the private sector.
- **Best use of Crown property** – this outcome area relates to LINZ's land management functions, including LINZ's various responsibilities for the administration of certain Crown lands.

To ensure LINZ is effective, we need to prioritise efforts by focusing expertise and resources on the activities within our influence and which will make the greatest contribution towards achieving the desired change in each outcome area. LINZ has identified a small number of activities and initiatives that represent our key initiatives and these are outlined in LINZ's 2009–12 SOI.

Some key strategic issues facing LINZ include:

#### **Instability in the economic system**

Instability in the global and national economic system affects LINZ directly. Sales activity in the New Zealand property market directly impacts on revenue because a proportion of LINZ's income is sourced from fees associated with property transactions. As a direct result of the recession, there has been a downturn in the property market and in overseas investment. The flow-on effect of this has been a reduction in fees revenue from title and survey transactions and overseas investment applications. This reduction in fee income has, and will continue to have, an impact on LINZ's baseline and cash flow.

#### **Increasing importance of geospatial information**

For many nations, access to geospatial information has become a critical national priority. Geospatial information is a core component of New Zealand's society and economy, and is increasingly critical to commercial products and services, as well as core government functions. Significant technological developments will continue to change the way people gather and use information, and this will create opportunities and challenges for LINZ as we look to maximise the long-term value of this information to New Zealand's society and economy.

#### **Changing dynamics in information and knowledge management**

The way knowledge is produced, accessed, distributed and owned is changing in significant ways. Globally, we are seeing the rise of open-source approaches to knowledge development, as communities (as opposed to individuals and organisations) generate and share information. This trend may have an impact on the way geospatial information is gathered, maintained and distributed, particularly as more data is generated by citizens.

#### **Changes in how New Zealand's natural resources are used and managed**

The earth's finite natural resources are under increasing pressure. One impact of this complex issue is that natural resources such as fresh water and air may have rights, responsibilities and restrictions applied to them in the future. Because of LINZ's expertise in managing the transaction and access system for land rights, we may have a role to play in recording and enabling access to information about rights for these and other precious resources.

### **Changes in how LINZ communicates and collaborates**

Increasingly, the outcomes LINZ seeks to achieve, and the systems we exist in, have interdependencies with other agencies, with stakeholders and customers, and with broader communities of interest. LINZ will need to strengthen our customer-centric approach across all our products and services, and, recognising our broader focus on land information market leadership, ensure our collaboration and communication practices adapt to this

## **Working in the land development market and the regulatory framework for land**

LINZ, under a key initiative, is seeking to take a leadership role to work with key industry representatives to establish a shared view on shaping the land development market. This will be with a view to assess how the various professions and players in the land development market can more efficiently work together to meet the future needs of New Zealand and promote economic efficiencies. LINZ will use this work to align its frameworks and processes to improve its own efficiencies in this area.

LINZ has identified stakeholders in the survey, conveyancing and valuation professions, and will work with them to develop a shared understanding of the appropriate regulatory environment. This work is intended to improve the functioning of the land development market by influencing and improving LINZ's understanding of the future needs of the land development and cadastral information industries and aligning LINZ's frameworks and processes to it, and achieving optimal regulation – 'as little as possible as much as necessary'. Through working with stakeholders to identify future needs, LINZ expects to identify key areas in which regulatory design, and our role in the land development market, can be improved so that it is fit for purpose into the future, without imposing unnecessary costs on users.

In a second key initiative, LINZ is looking at its regulatory framework. LINZ currently manages a world-class system for defining, managing and trading in real property rights, and authorises and records changes in rights to land. Together with the geodetic and cadastral survey systems that LINZ maintains, these systems provide the framework for recording rights in land. This framework has served New Zealand well and there is now the opportunity for LINZ to lead debate and discussion on how property rights can expand into new environments.

This initiative will take a longer-term strategic view of this framework, with a view to future-proofing it for new and emerging trends. There are current and emerging property rights beyond traditional 'land' that do not fit well within the existing framework and require resolution. These include rights to water, air, ocean resources, the seabed, customary rights and new mixed-use land rights (such as public foreshore and seabed rights). LINZ will undertake work in this area by examining what is needed to create certainty in ownership and definition of such property rights.

Please refer to the LINZ SOI 2009–12 for more details of the strategic issues/environment facing LINZ.

## **Critical sustainability issues from a LINZ perspective**

While LINZ can contribute to the development of policy relating to sustainability issues, four in particular affect the Land Information portfolio.

### **Natural resources policy and management arrangements that better reflect the Treaty of Waitangi relationship**

Recent Treaty settlements have placed increasing pressure on LINZ to change the management structures and disposal processes for LINZ-administered assets (a recent example being the Waikato River settlements). Broader governmental sustainability objectives are not explicitly considered in the Treaty settlement process - in part because these objectives are still being developed. LINZ's land management also faces often competing calls for either increases or decreases in public access, protection of significant values (including cultural, historic, landscape, heritage, recreation, etc), or land use restrictions and environmental sustainability activity (ranging from pest and weed control to changing ownership of the land, for example).

### **Fresh water quality decline, demand pressures and allocation**

As LINZ administers river and lake beds on behalf of the Crown, LINZ faces increasing pressure to ensure its water resources are managed sustainably. This means that surrounding Crown land also needs to be managed

sustainably. In addition to helping develop policy for the management of New Zealand fresh water resources, the control of pests (plant and animal) on Crown-owned riverbeds and lake beds is vital to ensuring the natural resource base is protected.

### **Pressures on biodiversity and ecosystems**

LINZ manages considerable land by way of Crown forest land in the North Island, South Island high country pastoral leases, river and lake beds, and a range of other land parcels. Competing demands from central, regional and local government, lessees and licensees, iwi and public interest groups impact on LINZ's management of these assets. These competing demands influence decisions on matters such as pollution from land activities, sustainability of water extraction, access, erosion, pest management, tree planting, renewable energy and reserving land for the conservation estate. In respect of pastoral leases, for example, through the tenure review process a number of high priority environments are protected and distinctive or rare ecosystems protected. While the record of protection has progressively increased, further opportunities are possible.

### **Environmental pressures and allocation issues for New Zealand's oceans, particularly the near-shore marine environment**

LINZ-led work on surveying the limits of New Zealand's continental shelf led to the recently accepted submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. While LINZ manages a detailed land title register and cadastral survey system that extensively maps and defines property rights on land, there is no equivalent national property rights framework applicable in the marine environment. The recognition of the outer limits of the continental shelf, along with the pressures on inshore marine space (eg for marine farming), will bring into greater focus the fact that New Zealand is not yet well placed as a nation to enable the greatest benefit to be obtained from its marine resources. LINZ's expertise and experience in defining, mapping and managing property rights frameworks could assist in providing some certainty to the increasingly important task of sustainably managing New Zealand's oceans. In addition, LINZ manages the inter-agency Ocean Survey 20/20 programme, which aims to provide New Zealand with greater knowledge about its ocean territory.

## **Natural resources network**

A co-ordinated effective and efficient decision-making process for sustainable management and ownership of natural resources by LINZ and other government agencies will require clear all of government objectives to guide decisions when competing land use and management demands arise. One solution to this has been the establishment of a Natural Resources Network with the primary purpose of the network is to ensure that across government agencies a strategic, integrated and aligned approach supports and informs the sustainable management and use of New Zealand's natural resources.

This purpose will inform the provision of high quality advice to government, the implementation and execution of major government policies, coordinated approaches to key relationships and the policies and practices of individual agencies.

# Section B: Outline of LINZ responsibilities

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## Overseas Investment Office (OIO)

### Overseas Investment Act 2005

The Overseas Investment Act 2005 (the Act) contains a screening and compliance regime for overseas investors wanting to acquire sensitive New Zealand assets. These sensitive assets include significant business assets (non-land assets valued at \$100 million or more), certain types of sensitive land, and fishing quota. The Act incorporates sections 56 to 58B of the Fisheries Act 1996, which regulates the acquisition of fishing quota by overseas persons. The Act aims to provide better protection of sensitive land (for example, sites of special historic, cultural or environmental significance) while also encouraging foreign investment where it can make a positive contribution to the New Zealand economy.

The Act is administered in the Treasury, and Treasury is responsible for strategic policy. Primary responsibility for development of operational policy or operational functions rests with LINZ, subject to consultation with the Treasury. The guidelines around the delivery of policy advice and aspects of the operational functions of the OIO are set out in a Memorandum of Understanding dated October 2005 between Treasury and LINZ.

### Ministerial roles

The Act contains a standard generic definition of the term 'Minister', which refers to the Minister who, under the authority of any warrant or with the authority of the Prime Minister, is for the time being responsible for the administration of the Act. The Minister responsible for the administration of the Act (and the Act's predecessor, the Overseas Investment Act 1973) has always been the Treasurer/Minister of Finance.

The Minister decides applications relating to significant business assets. Sensitive land applications are decided by the Minister and the Minister for Land Information. The Minister and the Minister of Fisheries decide fishing quota applications. Ministers make consent decisions after considering recommendations made by the OIO. Currently, the Minister and the Minister for Land Information delegate some of their powers and functions under the Act (including decision-making powers) to LINZ, under a designation and delegation letter dated 22 April 2009.

Under section 34 of the Act, the Minister may direct the OIO by a Ministerial directive letter, and the OIO must comply with it. The current Ministerial directive letter dated 31 October 2007 directs the OIO (among other matters) about the Government's general policy approach to overseas investment in sensitive New Zealand assets.

### Role of Overseas Investment Office

The regulator administers the Act. The regulator is defined in the Act as the chief executive of the department that is designated by the Minister as the regulating department. The Minister may revoke the designation of the department as the regulating department at any time.

LINZ was made responsible for making decisions on overseas investment applications by designation and delegation letters dated 24 August 2005, 12 December 2007 and 22 April 2009. LINZ's powers and functions under the Act are delegated to staff within the OIO. The OIO forms part of LINZ's Crown Property and Investment group.

The OIO is responsible for receiving and processing applications under the Act, advising the relevant Minister or Ministers on how the applications should be determined, consulting with relevant government departments and other agencies as appropriate, and providing information to applicants and the public generally.

## Processing of applications

Following the introduction of the Act in 2005, the number of applications has increased rather than reduced as originally predicted. In addition, the increased requirements and complexity of the Act contributed to a substantial increase in turnaround times in 2007/07 and a large backlog of applications on hand. This was compounded by difficulties in recruiting appropriately qualified staff. Since the last quarter of 2008, the number of overseas investment applications received has reduced, likely due to the global economic recession. The OIO currently receives 10–15 applications a month. In mid-November 2008, 65 applications were on hand. As at 30 May 2009, the number of applications on hand had reduced to 35.

Slow turnaround times limit overseas purchasers' ability to make investment decisions thereby reducing the attractiveness of New Zealand as a place to invest. The key challenge in the next six months is to continue to improve the turnaround time for the processing of applications under the Act.

The OIO is working to a target of 90% of applications to be processed within 50 working days by 1 July 2009. The target represents the total application processing time for accepted applications, including time taken to seek additional information. Of those 50 working days, it is expected that applications will be with the OIO for 20 working days, back with the applicant for 20 working days (for further information), and with the Ministers for 10 working days in total (ie five working days each). As at 30 May 2009, the average processing time for applications decided since 1 October 2008 was 24 working days for delegated applications and 41 working days for Ministerial applications.

## Review of the Act

LINZ is assisting with the Treasury-led review of the regulations relating to overseas investment.

Specific activities being considered in the review include how the purpose of the Act could be restated to better reflect the importance of foreign investment to New Zealand's economic growth; how the screening thresholds for sensitive land and significant business assets can be adjusted to ensure they promote the flow of investment into New Zealand, how the type and scope of land defined as sensitive land can be refined to so that only land that is of particular significance or importance to New Zealand is screened; and how the criteria for consent and factors for determining benefit to New Zealand can be altered to avoid deterring valuable investments and to minimize compliance costs.

LINZ is also assisting Treasury with a review of the fees and charges (specified in the Overseas Investment Regulations 2005) for overseas investment applications.

Following completion of the review, there will be further activities for LINZ arising out of implementing the review outcomes.

## Crown pastoral land

### Overview

The Crown owns about 1.6 million hectares of environmentally sensitive land in the South Island high country that is leased or (in a few cases) licensed for pastoral farming purposes. Pastoral leases have a 33-year term with a

perpetual right of renewal. Leases allow grazing of the land for pastoral farming purposes but leaseholders are subject to a range of restrictions on other land uses.

Crown pastoral leases are managed and reviewed in accordance with the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 (CPLA). LINZ currently administers 241 pastoral leases (as at 30 May 2009). The Commissioner of Crown Lands is the statutory officer who exercises rights of ownership and has statutory responsibility for all Crown land, therefore including Crown pastoral leases.

## Tenure review

Under the CPLA, LINZ operates the process of tenure review which seeks to determine what land should be retained by the Crown for conservation purposes and what the lessee can gain as freehold title. The Department of Conservation provides advice on 'significant inherent values' of properties through conservation resource reports to LINZ.

Tenure review is a negotiated agreement between the Crown and lessee. It is a voluntary process for both the Crown and lessees, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands has exercised the Crown's discretion not to participate in tenure review in some cases. In 2003, the Government adopted 10 high country objectives for the management of its high country estate covering economic development, recreational and environmental uses of the land. Tenure review and lease purchases have been the main tools used to achieve these objectives.

In 2007, the Government adopted further protection mechanisms for iconic lakeside landscapes and lowland biodiversity. These include lakeside land being retained in Crown ownership or covenanted to restrict subdivision and protect significant landscape, biodiversity and access values. The Government decided only to fund tenure reviews where these conditions were met. While these mechanisms were being developed, tenure review negotiations on 38 properties were affected.

As at 31 October 2008, leaseholders of 21 of these 38 lakeside properties have agreed to the new conditions and the tenure reviews of their leases are continuing. A final tenure review agreement has been reached on one lakeside property. Land not funded for from tenure review will either continue to be administered as a pastoral lease or, if the lease is available for sale, it may in some circumstances be purchased by the Crown and vested as public conservation land.

In accordance with Cabinet decisions made in 2007, a report on any new properties due to enter into tenure review is provided to the Minister for Land Information to consult with the Minister of Conservation. Tenure review land also goes through the land of potential interest process for the disposal of 'sensitive' Crown land, which reports to a Ministerial group that includes the Minister for Land Information.

In accordance with the priorities agreed with the Prime Minister, LINZ is developing and implementing the Government's high country policy by leading a reassessment of the current policy and legislative settings in the South Island high country with the aim of making a difference to the current and future viability of this part of the country for New Zealand. LINZ is reporting to a Ministerial group (Minister for Agriculture (lead), Minister for Land Information and Minister of Conservation) on development of policy for Crown pastoral land. LINZ, along with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Conservation, has prepared a draft Cabinet paper that proposes a strategic direction for the management of Crown pastoral land and proposes rescinding the previous Government's policy of excluding lakeside properties from tenure review. Ministers have agreed with the proposals and the paper is now being finalised for consideration by Cabinet.

The three Ministers have also directed that work on addressing the issue of rents for pastoral lease properties and aligning rents with the earning capacity of properties continue, but that a Cabinet paper not be completed until after a decision has been reached in the Minaret Station case currently before the Land Valuation Tribunal (see below for further details). No date for this decision has been advised.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment began an investigation into tenure review in 2006. The Commissioner issued a report in April 2009 titled 'Change in the High Country: Environmental Stewardship and Tenure Review'. A number of agencies including LINZ are considering this report along with a range of other

matters including the multiple permits required for some activities in the high country, fuel build-up and greater use of covenants.

## **Funding tenure review**

LINZ uses multi-year capital appropriations to fund the purchase of a lessee's interest in a pastoral lease. This is because the uncertainty of the timing of settlements makes managing the programme using annual appropriations very difficult. Budget availability is obviously a factor in the pace of achieving tenure reviews. LINZ monitors and seeks to balance the purchase priorities within the constraints of the budget allocation. In accordance with Cabinet decisions made in 2007, funding approval from the Minister for Land Information, following consultation with the Minister of Conservation, must be received before any tenure review proposal (preliminary or substantive) can proceed.

## **Tenure review progress**

As at 30 May 2009, 62 of the 303 pastoral leases eligible for review under the CPLA have had their tenure reviews completed. A further nine substantive (final) proposals have been accepted by leaseholders and are being implemented. In addition, five Crown purchases of whole leases have been made and 11 substantive proposals have been accepted and are being implemented. Of the remaining 227 pastoral leases, 93 are in some stage of tenure review.

Total land for which tenure review has been completed (as at 30 May 2009) is 385,073. Of this, 183,100 hectares (48 percent) has been, or will be transferred to the Department of Conservation as public conservation land and 201,973 hectares (52 percent) has been, or will be, disposed of as freehold to former lessees. 1,619,541 hectares remain as pastoral leases.

## **Land valuation for pastoral lease rents – Minaret Station test case**

A review of lease rental issues was completed in 2006 and concluded that a proper interpretation of the section 131 of the Land Act 1948 requires amenity values to be taken into account in rental valuations. Amenity values include factors such as location, landscapes and views, and natural characteristics. Since May 2007 LINZ has issued rent notices that reflect amenity values.

Rents are set every 11 years on a rolling basis. The increase in land values in the last 11 years, coupled with the inclusion of amenity values in rental calculation led to substantial increases in the rents being notified. Cabinet agreed that lessees should be able to apply for rent adjustments to help them manage the increases. In exchange, lessees could offer additional land husbandry, heritage protection activities, or provide public access. Cabinet also agreed that rent adjustments could be progressed even without such considerations.

By agreement between LINZ and lessee representatives, a Land Valuation Tribunal hearing into the rental valuation for Minaret Station is a test case of the Crown methodology of land valuation for rent assessment. The hearing commenced on 13 October 2008 and concluded on 28 January 2009. The Tribunal has not yet released its decision.

## **Crown pastoral occupation licences**

LINZ administers five Crown pastoral occupation licences. These allow farmers to access high country land to graze stock, for example over the summer months. Unlike pastoral leases, pastoral occupation licences have a fixed term with no right of renewal. Some licences had been continually renewed over long periods of time. The CPLA 1998 requires that these be reviewed and phased out.

## Pastoral Endowment leases

LINZ manages four Otago University Endowment Leases totalling 20,928 hectares situated on the Benmore Range (adjoining Twizel). This is leasehold estate held under section 66 of the Land Act 1948 and is subject to the provisions of the Otago University Reserves Act 1904, which authorises administration under the Land Act for leasing (and issue of licences for removal of timber and flax) but for no other purposes. The leases are the balance of what was quite an extensive Otago endowment

The leases are:

Totara Peak	4937.1648 hectares
Glencairn	3988.9518 hectares
Peak Valley	4228.9650 hectares
Ben Omar	7773.1500 hectares

## Survey and titles

The land registration system that LINZ maintains provides an accurate and up-to-date picture of legal ownership of land in New Zealand. LINZ maintains the geodetic and cadastral survey systems, which work together to provide the parcel-based<sup>1</sup> framework for recording rights in land. LINZ also authorises and records changes in rights to land.

### Electronic survey and title services

Landonline provides land professionals with secure access to New Zealand's authoritative titles register and digital cadastre<sup>2</sup>. Registered users conduct secure electronic title and survey transactions in real time. These online services have automated and sped up manual processes, which were sometimes prolonged and complex, to enhance the efficiency and ease of land transactions.

The move to 100% electronic lodgement of all land title transactions and survey plans via Landonline was phased in gradually from mid-2007. It was completed when e-lodgement of remaining title transactions became mandatory on 23 February 2009. All title instruments can be lodged electronically, with the exception of those where original signatures are required, for example, court orders.

Landonline is the first fully integrated electronic survey and title registration system in the world. This has contributed to New Zealand being ranked first out of 178 economies for ease in registering and transacting property in the World Bank's 2008 report on business regulations. The move to electronic lodgement and processing has reduced costs for the provision of LINZ's survey and title services, reduced turnaround times, and improved access to services for land professionals. LINZ has commenced assessing how the benefits have flowed on to lawyers' and surveyors' offices.

### Electronic survey and title systems

LINZ places a strong emphasis on the availability and performance of Landonline to ensure it provides a stable electronic platform. This is crucial now that Landonline is the only sole channel for lodgements with LINZ. During the 2007/08 financial year, the system was available 99.8% of the time during extended business hours, including weekday evenings and 9am to 5pm Saturdays.

LINZ has an in-house IT team but is also reliant on key external suppliers for supporting Landonline. These include EDS, which operates the data centres used to house the Landonline systems, IBM, which provides application development support, and Gen-i, which provides IT network services and is LINZ's IT procurement partner.

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<sup>1</sup> A parcel is a fundamental cadastral unit: a piece of land which can be owned, sold, and developed.

<sup>2</sup> The record of property location and related information (including boundary dimensions) in New Zealand is called the cadastre.

## Customer support

Landonline was designed in close collaboration with stakeholders, including surveyors, lawyers, conveyancers and local authorities. This ensured their needs were incorporated into its development and provided opportunities for users to review and improve their workflows and service to their clients. LINZ continues to work closely with these groups to prioritise enhancements to the Landonline system.

LINZ has assisted survey and conveyancing professionals to get ready for new Landonline functionality and enhancements as each phase of mandatory e-lodgement was introduced. These efforts were developed and delivered in partnership with the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors and the Property Law Section of the New Zealand Law Society, and have been key to the uptake of e-lodgement.

## Smart Processing 2012

Landonline has also enabled LINZ to streamline its own business functions, resulting in faster processing of both manual and electronic survey and title lodgements and registration. Today, all lodgements are processed straight into Landonline by both surveying and conveyancing professionals and LINZ staff.

The move to 100% electronic lodgement means that surveying and conveyancing professionals no longer need to visit LINZ processing centres. As a result, LINZ can consolidate its processing into two centres, one in the North Island (Hamilton) and the other in the South Island (Christchurch). Processing staff numbers have been progressively reduced over recent years, but will now remain relatively static at about 150.

A phased approach has been agreed for the transition from five to two centres. LINZ is building capacity and capability in Hamilton and Christchurch and gradually reducing staff numbers in the Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin centres. Staff from closing centres have been given the opportunity to relocate to either Christchurch or Hamilton and some are doing so. The processing centres in Wellington and Dunedin will close in April and November 2010 respectively to coincide with lease expiry dates. A date for the Auckland centre closure is yet to be determined, but is likely to be in either 2011 or early 2012 depending on the level of demand for survey and titles services.

## Public counters and access to paper records

Coinciding with mandatory 100% e-lodgement, three of LINZ's five public counters closed. Limited counter services are still available in the Hamilton and Christchurch centres. Access to all current, frequently-used survey and title records is available for land professionals via Landonline. Documents or records that are historic, too fragile or large to convert to digital records, or are infrequently accessed can be made available for viewing.

LINZ has outlined how it will provide access to and manage core paper survey and title records in the Core Paper Records Strategy (October 2007). A detailed programme is now underway to determine practical solutions. LINZ has consulted with stakeholder groups on how to support public access without reliance on public counters.

Until digitisation and transfer is complete, reading rooms in LINZ processing centres are available for viewing original records that are not capable of being supplied electronically or as photocopies. As now, the public can order copies of land records online, or by fax, post or phone. LINZ is working closely with Archives New Zealand to implement this strategy.

## Review of the Land Transfer Act 1952

The Land Transfer Act 1952 regulates the registration and transfer of land (the Torrens System). The New Zealand Law Commission is reviewing the Act in conjunction with LINZ and the Ministry of Justice. The review will

consolidate and clarify changes made earlier when electronic lodgement was first introduced and modernise the Act for future developments.

## Regulation of Crown property acquisitions and disposals

### Overview

LINZ regulates the acquisition, management and disposal of the Crown's interest in land and property (including buildings) outside the conservation estate, in accordance with the Public Works Act 1981 and the Land Act 1948.

Government agencies undertake acquisitions and disposals for their own purposes. LINZ ensures that robust statutory decisions are made and that government agencies comply with the statutory requirements in a consistent manner.

### Public Works Act

The Public Works Act 1981 provides powers for the Crown, local authorities and 'requiring authorities' (ie utility companies) to acquire property from landowners for 'public works'. It also provides for the disposal of land once it is no longer required for the public work. Compulsory acquisition orders are required to be signed by the Minister for Land Information<sup>3</sup>.

It is anticipated that a number of applications under section 186 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) may eventuate over the next year. This provision allows a requiring authority to ask the Minister for Land Information to exercise their compulsory acquisition powers under the Public Works Act and acquire land on the authority's behalf. This special provision is used when a requiring authority has been unsuccessful in acquiring an interest in land from private owners. For example, Transpower may request additional section 186 RMA notices be issued to enable them to progress their plans to upgrade the transmission network in the central North Island.

### Disposal of 'lands of potential interest'

In accordance with Cabinet decisions made in 2007, all Crown agencies and entities must currently assess whether any land intended for disposal is of 'potential interest'. This is intended to ensure that wider national interests are identified and appropriately protected before Crown-owned land is disposed of. Any land intended for disposal that meets the criteria is referred to LINZ. Following input from relevant agencies, LINZ assesses the land for the following potential values:

- conservation
- historic heritage
- Māori cultural and historic
- recreation
- potential use in Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

LINZ provides a report to a Ministerial group (Minister for Land Information, Minister for State Owned Enterprises and the landholding Minister – consulting with the Minister of Finance where required) that determines what, if any, protection mechanisms are required before the sale can proceed.

A review by LINZ found the process duplicated existing processes, was unnecessary, slow and costly, and should be rescinded. Following consideration of this paper by Cabinet, LINZ has been asked to consider developing a modified version of the process. LINZ is preparing a paper to this effect and will be submitting it to you shortly.

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<sup>3</sup> These powers cannot be delegated to LINZ.

# Management of Crown property

## Overview

As a land-holding agency, LINZ manages almost three million hectares of Crown land outside the conservation estate, which is around eight percent of New Zealand's land area. This includes around 1.6 million hectares of high country land in the South Island, Crown forest land and approximately 4,000 properties.

## LINZ disposal programme

LINZ identifies properties from its Crown property assets that the Crown no longer needs and are available for sale or transfer. Each year, the department manages a disposal programme of these properties.

## Crown forest land

LINZ administers 72 Crown forest licences (CFLs), covering approximately 480,000 hectares, under delegation from the shareholding ministers (Finance and State-Owned Enterprises). CFLs are provided for in the Crown Forest Assets Act 1989 (CFA Act). This Act empowered the Crown to sell its exotic forests and related assets while retaining the land for use in Treaty claim settlements. As part of the Treaty settlement with the Central North Island Iwi Collective, the land underlying 23 licences, covering approximately 180,000 hectares, and the licences themselves will transfer to a holding company on 1 July 2009. The Crown will have a 10% shareholding in this holding company.

## Management of land-related liabilities

LINZ (on behalf of the Crown) deals with a number of land-related liabilities that have arisen from the actions or omissions of LINZ or its predecessors, and from the actions of illegal occupiers. This includes investigation and remedial action, where necessary, of contaminated land under its administration and, in certain cases, on former Crown-owned land.

## Biosecurity

LINZ manages biosecurity on Crown land under its administration and works with landowners, regional councils and other agencies. The main weeds and pests that LINZ controls are gorse, broom, wilding pine trees, rabbits and lakeweed. LINZ's programmes typically follow the intent of the Regional Pest Management Strategies (RPMs) that are developed by regional councils with public input. Much of LINZ's biosecurity works are undertaken on LINZ-administered river beds and lakes.

LINZ receives annual appropriations for biosecurity work to control weeds and pests. LINZ consults and works closely with communities and stakeholders on biosecurity programmes. Expenditure on the programme is prioritised in order to obtain the best biosecurity outcomes. LINZ works to a budget and often cannot do everything that other interested parties may want. As a result, LINZ is sometimes lobbied for more expenditure on specific biosecurity activities.

Two major programmes are currently underway to control lakeweeds at Lake Wanaka and Lake Karapiro. Significant progress is being made in controlling the introduced lakeweed lagarosiphon in Lake Wanaka as part of a 10-year Lagarosiphon Management Plan implemented in 2005. Large areas of hornwort were successfully controlled during 2007/08 in Lake Karapiro and LINZ will continue this work in the build up to the Rowing World Championships to be held at the lake in 2010.

## Rating valuation

LINZ ensures that property valuations for rating purposes are provided to a consistent standard. It sets standards for rating valuations and certifies that revaluations are suitable prior to their publication.

Territorial authority revaluation audits take place on a three-yearly rolling programme. When councils notify property owners of their new rating valuations this can trigger public comment. With the current volatility in the property market there could be more comment on rating values in the coming months. There is a standard process through which ratepayers can object to their rating valuation and this is managed by the territorial authorities.

## New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB)

### Overview

The New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) is responsible for place naming in New Zealand, within its territorial waters and the Ross Sea region of Antarctica. It is an independent statutory body of government administered by LINZ.

The Board makes public the place names that it is proposing for consultation, as well as its final decisions. Naming proposals can be contentious and often generate letters to the Minister for Land Information. There are currently 27 proposals out for public consultation, of which the most contentious is a proposal to change the name of the city of Wanganui to Whanganui. The next meeting, to make a decision following this consultation and to consider alterations or new place names, will take place on 16 September 2009.

The Minister also has a role in the decision-making process if there is public objection to a name proposed by the Board and the Board does not accept the objection. In this case the Minister makes the final decision. The W(h)anganui proposal has already received objections. If the Board decides to proceed with the proposal in September the final decision will be made by the Minister. If the Board decides not to proceed, that decision of the Board will be final.

The Board has also signalled a proposal to identify Māori names for the North and South Islands that may optionally be used together with or instead of the English names, and to formalise the English names. Consultation with iwi has started, and public consultation is expected to begin in 2010.

### New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008

This new Act came into effect on 1 November 2008. LINZ has identified some technical issues with the recording of place names with macrons in some of our electronic databases, which affects LINZ's ability to comply with the requirements of sections 32 and 33 of the new Act. It is possible that electronic databases or systems used by other agencies may face similar problems. Because of these issues, the commencement of sections 32 and 33 of the Act has been deferred until the extent of the problems and work on possible solutions has been progressed.

LINZ will be reporting back to Cabinet shortly on the progress with addressing these issues and on a commencement plan for sections 32 and 33 of the Act.

## Optimal regulation

In 2009, LINZ will complete a multi-year programme to rationalise all its regulatory interventions. An approximate number of 290 documents are being reduced to about 40 documents to regulate in the various regulatory areas. The aim is to focus each regulation on the risk to be mitigated and the outcome to be achieved, rather than on specifying how the outcome will be achieved.

Regulatory compliance practice is also moving from the audit of individual activities to testing the systems and controls put in place by providers. This is a more forward-looking, preventative approach in which providers take greater accountability for the quality of their work through their systems and controls.

The level of industry co-operation required to move to the 'optimal' level of regulation may require a shift away from the current paradigms in which each industry operates. Professions may have to take greater ownership of best practice.

## Topographic information

LINZ is responsible for national topographic mapping at a scale of 1:50,000 and broader scales for defence, emergency services and constitutional purposes.

LINZ has developed a new national 1:50,000 topographic map series, Topo50, which will be launched in September 2009. The launch of the new paper map series will coincide with the provision of corresponding electronic versions directly into the databases of New Zealand's emergency services and via our website. LINZ has worked closely with emergency services and other key stakeholders in developing and planning the introduction of the new paper map series.

Mapping coordinates in Topo50 will correspond with those used internationally in Global Positioning System (GPS) applications. This series uses a different geodetic datum and projection<sup>4</sup> to provide the underlying spatial framework. As a result, the coordinates (latitude and longitude) of a point will be different to those in the previous map series. LINZ is working with the emergency services, interest groups<sup>5</sup> and map retailers to encourage regular map users to migrate to the new series. A public awareness /education campaign will also be undertaken to support the launch of the new map series.

## Hydrographic information

LINZ is responsible for providing authoritative hydrographic information for navigational purposes, in accordance with the standards of the International Hydrographic Organisation.

LINZ has recently introduced a new hydrographic data infrastructure that will ensure LINZ continues to meet its responsibilities for providing official hydrographic information and satisfy increasing expectations for electronic products. The database enables more efficient delivery of products and services and the generation of new products such as Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs), which are used in electronic navigational systems onboard ships. LINZ has commenced a programme to produce ENCs for all areas of our charting responsibility that will enable LINZ to meet timelines established by the International Maritime Organisation.

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<sup>4</sup> A geodetic datum is a mathematical model of the Earth's shape. Positions are expressed as latitudes and longitudes. As the coordinates relate to a curved surface, a projection is used to manage the distortions when the coordinates are represented on a flat surface such as a map.

<sup>5</sup> Interest groups such as the Mountain Safety Council and the Federated Mountain Clubs

## Cross-government initiatives

### New Zealand Geospatial Office

The New Zealand Geospatial Office, located within LINZ, has worked with officials from other agencies on an all-of-government work programme for delivering the New Zealand Geospatial Strategy. The Minister for Land Information and the Minister for Communications and Information Technology are jointly responsible for the strategy. Funding is likely to be required over time to deliver parts of the work programme.

Initially the programme is focused on geospatial standards, metadata and access to key geospatial datasets. Improving geospatial data, access, interoperability and governance has the potential for significant savings for central and local government, with potential flow on effects for the rest of the economy. Geospatial information is essential for core government activities like responding to climate change, emergency management, defence, emergency services, planning and land use controls.

### Treaty of Waitangi settlements

LINZ contributes to the Treaty of Waitangi claim settlement process through its policy advice and regulatory responsibilities, as well as its role as a manager of Crown land. LINZ officials are not normally involved in direct negotiations with claimants.

The services provided by LINZ in Treaty settlements include:

- expert policy and land transaction advice
- regulatory decisions on Treaty settlement documents for registration
- place name changes through interaction with the New Zealand Geographic Board
- administration of land held for future settlements and disposal processes for LINZ land selected for settlements
- land transaction processing to implement the legal transfer of Crown-owned land and forests.

In particular, LINZ has recently provided substantial policy advice on Crown forest land, disposal processes, the practicality of new redress mechanisms, and registration and survey requirements.

### Walking access

LINZ will continue to provide advice and information to support the new Walking Access Commission in the context of improving public walking access to New Zealand's rivers, lakes and lands.

In accordance with Cabinet decisions made in 2008, improved information on the location and extent of marginal strips (alongside water margins) is now required to be recorded clearly in survey information when Crown land is sold. Seeking opportunities to improve public access in the South Island high country is one of the criteria used in the assessment of tenure review proposals.

# Section C: Legislation and statutory roles

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LINZ administers legislation, sets standards and ensures compliance for:

- the delivery of Crown property management, acquisition and disposal services
- property valuation for rating purposes
- the investment in New Zealand by overseas persons, and
- the collection, authorisation, management and dissemination of information associated with the:
  - land rights registration system
  - place naming system
  - geodetic and cadastral survey reference systems
  - topographic and hydrographic information systems.

## Legislation

Legislation administered by LINZ:

- Cadastral Survey Act 2002
- Crown Grants Act 1908
- Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998
- Deeds Registration Act 1908 \*
- Hunter Gift for the Settlement of Discharged Soldiers Act 1921
- Land Act 1948
- Land Transfer Act 1952 \*
- Land Transfer (Computer Registers and Electronic Lodgement) Amendment Act 2002
- New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008
- Public Works Act 1981
- Rating Valuations Act 1998
- Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Acts
- Unit Titles Act 1972 \*
- Valuation Department (Restructuring) Act 1998
- Valuers Act 1948.

(\* Administered jointly with Ministry of Justice)

LINZ also has functions under a number of other Acts including:

- Electoral Act 1993 (relating to electoral boundaries)
- Geographical Indications Act 1994 (relating to geographical names)
- Overseas Investment Act 2005
- Resource Management Act 1991 (relating to network utility operators and acquisition of land)
- Treaty of Waitangi Claims Settlement Acts (various)
- Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (relating to Māori land).

The Chief Executive of LINZ also has statutory functions under the Public Works Act 1981 relating to the disposal of surplus land. This disposal function can arise for land held by other agencies under various Acts such as:

- Airport Authorities Act 1966
- Crown Research Institutes Act 1992
- Health Sector (Transfer) Act 1993
- New Zealand Railways Corporation Act 1981
- State Owned Enterprises Act 1986
- Treaty of Waitangi (State Enterprises) Act 1988.

## Statutory officers

Four statutory officers – the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Surveyor-General, Registrar-General of Land, and Valuer-General – have functions to set regulations and ensure compliance under the Acts administered by the department. In addition, LINZ, through the Registrar-General of Land and the Surveyor-General, has special responsibilities relating to land transactions under more than 50 other statutes.

## Operational decisions that the Minister makes

There are a number of operational decisions that the Minister is required to make. These include:

- considering applications to compulsorily acquire land under the Public Works Act 1981
- considering place name recommendations from the New Zealand Geographic Board if objections are received to a place name proposal
- authorising the purchase of land (by agreement) under the Land Act 1948, and
- considering applications for overseas investment in land under the Overseas Investment Act 2005 (jointly with the Minister of Finance).

## Boards

### Valuers Registration Board

The Minister for Land Information appoints the four members of the Board, all of whom must be registered valuers. The Board is chaired by the Valuer-General. The Valuers Registration Board is an independent statutory body that operates under the Valuers Act 1948. It manages the registration, conduct, and discipline of 'registered' valuers, under the oversight of the Minister for Land Information and the Valuer-General.

### Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board

The Board consists of five members appointed by the Minister for Land Information. The Surveyor-General is also an *ex officio* member of the Board. The Board is an independent statutory body that operates under the Cadastral Survey Act 2002. It is responsible for the licensing of cadastral surveyors. The current Board appointment expires in September 2009

### New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB)

The Minister appoints members to the NZGB. It is an independent statutory body, governed by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 and chaired by the Surveyor-General, and is responsible to the Minister for Land Information. It is the national place naming authority and assigns official place names in New Zealand and in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica.

## Section D: Funding sources

Under the public sector management framework, LINZ is accountable to the Vote Minister for the delivery of outputs and for funds appropriated by Parliament for this purpose.

The table below sets out the 2009/10 output classes, their costs and sources of funding.

Output Class (GST Excl)	Expenses \$000	Revenue Crown \$000	Revenue Other \$000
Administration of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008	761	761	0
Administration of the Overseas Investment Act 2005	2,404	0	2,404
Crown Property Management & Disposal Services	25,319	18,158	7,161
Land & Seabed Data Access & Dissemination	4,142	1,185	2,957
Land & Seabed Data Capture & processing	41,840	16,266	25,574
Land & Seabed Information Storage & Management	27,673	4,560	23,113
Oceans Survey 20/20	7,176	7,176	0
Policy Advice	2,741	2,716	25
Standards & Quality Assurance	7,443	3,886	3,557
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119,499</b>	<b>54,708</b>	<b>64,791</b>

'Revenue Crown' is provided out of general taxation revenue. 'Revenue Other' comes from fees paid by users of LINZ services.

LINZ reports on expenditure and revenue on a monthly basis.

A brief description of the output classes follows:

### **Administration of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008**

- Administration of the New Zealand Geographic Board

### **Administration of the Overseas Investment Act 2005**

- Administration of the Overseas Investment Office

### **Crown property management and disposal services**

- The acquisition, management and disposal of land property administered by the department on behalf of the Crown.

### **Land and seabed data capture and processing**

- Involves the collection of data for specific public policy, operational business or legislative purposes. It includes the capture and processing of hydrographic, topographic, land title, and survey information.

#### **Land and seabed information storage and management**

- Includes the efficient and secure management of LINZ's databases and systems for storing and managing data, including enhancements to relevant processes and systems.

#### **Land and seabed information access and dissemination**

- Involves the provision of easy, widely available and equitable, access to, and dissemination of, information (both electronic and paper) held by LINZ.

#### **Policy advice**

- Includes the provision of policy advice to the Government and to the Minister for Land Information, relating to land, property and seabed information, as well as the provision of ministerial support.

#### **Standards and quality assurance**

- Includes the regulatory activities for which the department is responsible. This output aims to ensure the regulatory frameworks that create and protect property rights, and protect the public interest in Crown property management, rating valuations and the land information for which LINZ is responsible, are managed effectively, and that delivery against the frameworks is quality assured.
- This output is both Crown- and third-party funded.

#### **Ocean Survey 20/20 Programme**

- This appropriation is limited to the initiatives within the Ocean Survey 20/20 programme.

## **Crown funding**

In addition to the above, LINZ receives appropriations to undertake various land and property activities as the Crown's agent. These include:

- management and remediation of Crown contaminated sites and hydro lakes
- management of Crown-owned land related liabilities
- management of the Crown's financial obligations in respect of liabilities, rates and rentals
- acquisition of properties arising from Crown obligations including gifted land
- refund to the New Zealand Transport Agency of funds from land sales received on their behalf
- write-down of Crown land to transfer values negotiated as part of Treaty of Waitangi settlements
- costs relating to the management of Crown forest properties and licences, including settling reviews.

Funds appropriated for these purposes in 2009/10 are \$21.921 million.

In addition, a multi-year appropriation of \$35.185 million covering the years 2008/09 to 2010/11 is used for the acquisition of lessees' interests in leased Crown pastoral land.

## **Crown revenue**

LINZ also receives revenue as an agent on behalf of the Crown from property rentals, including pastoral leases, map and chart sales, and land sales on behalf of the New Zealand Transport Agency. Capital revenue of \$3.0 million is expected to be received in 2009/10 from sales of Crown land.