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# BRIEFING TO THE INCOMING MINISTER FOR LAND INFORMATION – 2011



## Our role

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Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is funded through Vote Lands and LINZ has a total departmental appropriation of just over \$114 million.<sup>1</sup> LINZ has approximately 430 staff in Wellington, Christchurch and Hamilton.

We manage a wide range of activities that can be grouped under three broad roles - management of property rights, management of location-based information, and management of Crown land.

### Management of property rights

The survey and titles system we administer forms the basis of New Zealand's land property rights market and is critical to the ongoing functioning of the economy. LINZ helps to ensure confidence in property rights through the delivery of a world-leading system that facilitates the sale, purchase and development of property. We also have additional property rights-related roles, including regulating property valuation for both the private sector and local government, managing property rights related to reclaimed marine and coastal land, and administering New Zealand's overseas investment legislation.

### Management of location-based information

Location-based (or geospatial) information is information describing the location and names of features beneath, on or above the earth's surface. LINZ manages and develops existing and new datasets of key location-based information that we release for others to reuse. This includes topographic, hydrographic geodetic, cadastral and title information in the format of maps, charts, notices to mariners etc. LINZ also administers place-name rights through the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa).

LINZ houses the New Zealand Geospatial Office, which leads all-of-government efforts to unlock the estimated \$500 million in annual economic benefits from better reuse of location-based information. Better use of this information leads to productivity gains and better decision-making and is estimated to already contribute more than \$1.2 billion in productivity benefits every year.

LINZ is also taking a leading role in Open Government work where Cabinet has directed departments to proactively release all their high value data and information.<sup>2</sup>

### Management of Crown land

LINZ manages eight percent of New Zealand's land area, consisting of 5,000 properties which include 219 South Island High Country pastoral leases, riverbed land, beds of lakes such as Wanaka and Wakatipu, major sites such as the Waihi gold mine and 48 Crown Forestry Licenses. The value of this land ranges from significant and productive land through to land that is a liability to the Crown (such as contaminated sites). LINZ will also manage up to 7,000 properties in the Canterbury red-zone, over doubling the number of properties it manages.

We have made good progress recently in developing a new pastoral rent system in the South Island High Country, and continue to contribute a significant amount of resources to the programme of Treaty of Waitangi settlements. LINZ also regulates the acquisition and disposal of land by all Crown agencies; many such transactions are vital to the development of our national infrastructure.

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 56% of our revenue comes from third-party (fee-paying customers) and 44% from Crown funding. The fees LINZ charge can be broken down into Survey and Title fees and charges, valuation and rating valuation fees, Overseas Investment Office application fees, charges for land related activities and charges for LINZ data products.

<sup>2</sup> CAB Min (11) 29/12 - Cabinet directed all public and non-public service departments, encouraged State Service agencies, and invited State Sector agencies to commit to releasing high value public data for re-use, in accordance with the Declaration on Open and Transparent Government and New Zealand Data and Information Principles, and in accordance with the NZGOAL Review and Release process.

## The broader picture

LINZ contributes to a number of other agencies and sector outcomes. For example we contribute to Treasury's outcome to improve economic performance through our administration of the Overseas Investment Office. LINZ also participates in cross-government sector groups such as the Natural Resources, Treaty Settlements and Urban Sectors.<sup>3</sup>

## Our three roles come into play in Canterbury

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A priority for LINZ has been assisting in the rebuild of Canterbury. This assistance provides a concrete example of how all three of our roles have a practical effect on the ground, both as part of the emergency response, the recovery, and by maintaining critical property rights systems during the disruption.

**Management of property rights:** Our electronic property rights system ensured that no registered records of property rights were lost and land transfer transactions could continue. LINZ promptly provided guidance to surveyors on how to deal with issues caused by the significant earth movements, facilitated legislative amendments to allow a delay of council rating valuations, and advised Government on the use of rating valuations for red zone property acquisitions.

**Management of location-based information:** LINZ has performed a variety of roles in the provision and management of location-based information. We coordinated hydrographic surveys of Akaroa and Lyttelton Harbours to ensure the safety of the ports immediately after the February earthquake. LINZ is now coordinating repair of the survey network that underpins infrastructure rebuilding and civil defence hazard identification, and is assisting with the development of geospatial tools to help agencies involved in recovery and rebuilding. The network and tools will assist agencies with better decision-making and enable the development of more modern ways to present information and engage stakeholders and citizens about the future of Canterbury.

**Management of Crown land:** As expert land managers, LINZ has assisted the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) and the lawyers acting for affected residential property owners with processes relating to the acquisition of those properties by the Crown.

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<sup>3</sup> You will receive separate briefings on the Natural Resources and Treaty Settlement Sectors.

# What we do

**Toitu te Land whenua Information New Zealand**

**GEODETIC**  
Providing a location-based reference system that enables accurate positioning of land and sea features

**TOPOGRAPHIC**  
Recording the physical features of our natural and built environment to provide up-to-date maps and information

**PLACE NAMES**  
Naming our geographic features and places including those in the continental shelf and the Ross Sea region of Antarctica

**CROWN PROPERTY**  
Managing our Crown land, road and lake beds, administering high country pastoral leases, and Crown forestry licences in land held for Treaty settlements

**OVERSEAS INVESTMENT**  
Administering the rules for overseas investment in sensitive New Zealand assets, and ensuring a balanced outcome protecting those assets while facilitating investments that benefit New Zealand

**SURVEY AND TITLES**  
Providing a system of land titles and boundaries that is secure, accurate and easy to understand

**GEOSPATIAL**  
Providing a range of information about the physical, biological, social and cultural characteristics of our land and sea

**HYDROGRAPHIC**  
Managing our water resources, including the water quality and quantity of rivers and lakes

**VALUATION**  
Providing independent, impartial and accurate valuations for Crown land, including the valuation of Crown land, and the valuation of land and buildings

**New Zealand Government**

## Current Status

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### Management of property rights

Key areas of focus:

- Continuing to maintain high service delivery standards for processing survey and title transactions.
- Developing options for the replacement or refreshment of the current business and funding model for survey and title transactions, to ensure it keeps pace with customer expectations and technological opportunities.
- Undertaking a new role under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 in relation to reclaimed land, the Marine Coastal Area Register, the approval of the placement of some important structures or infrastructure in customary marine title areas, and the approval of surveys of Customary Marine Title Areas.
- Continuing to focus on high-quality and timely decisions on applications for overseas investment in New Zealand, monitoring consent conditions and investigating suspected breaches of the overseas investment legislation.

Key relationships you should be aware of:

- Mature relationships with lawyers, surveyors, valuers and their stakeholder representatives e.g. the Law Society and the Institute of Valuers; evolving relationships with the Māori Land Court and territorial authorities.
- The Overseas Investment Office has mature relationships with Treasury, the office of the Minister of Finance and other interested portfolio Ministers (this includes but is not limited to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Agriculture, Forestry, Commerce and the Prime Minister), and an evolving relationship with lawyers acting for overseas investors.

### Management of location-based information

Key areas of focus:

- Continuing to raise awareness about the innovation and productivity potential of better use of location-based information.
- Promoting standards for discovering and accessing data.
- Coordinating the development of a national Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for finding, sharing and using location-based data by 2014.
- Coordinating the development of fundamental datasets needed for an effective SDI.
- Continuing to improve the national approach for coordinating imagery and our cadastre datasets.
- Coordinating trans-Tasman research opportunities and targeted capability-building initiatives to support growth in geospatial technologies and uses.
- Continuing to improve the accuracy of and access to LINZ's data in areas identified as priorities by the geospatial sector.

Key relationships you should be aware of:

- As LINZ broadens the availability and use of its datasets and encourages open data across government, mature relationships remain with emergency services, defence agencies, mariners and map customers; relationships with community groups, lawyers and their stakeholder representatives are evolving as new uses for data emerge.
- Several groups are working with LINZ in an evolving relationship to transform the availability and use of location-based information. These groups include location-based information businesses (e.g. the Spatial Industries Business Association), utility companies and other businesses that use location-based information, local government, research organisations (e.g. Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information), departments holding important location-based information, the

Auckland Policy Office and CERA. There has also been a lot of active involvement in the use and application of location-based information from industry groups.

## Management of Crown land

Key areas of focus:

- Implementing the new pastoral rent system once relevant legislation is enacted.
- Working to resolve pastoral lease rental disputes.
- Continuing opportunities to consolidate Crown land holdings.
- Developing a framework for any further consolidation of Crown-owned land on LINZ's balance sheet.
- Continuing focus on biosecurity, risk-management, managing tenancies and disposal of properties.
- Rolling out a new joint land information management system with the Department of Conservation (DoC) in early 2012.
- Meeting timeframes for statutory decisions, such as Public Works Act acquisitions, that are needed to progress national infrastructure projects.

Key relationships you should be aware of:

- LINZ has mature relationships with DoC and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry through our work on tenure review of South Island High Country pastoral leases. The relationship with the lessees and their representatives (e.g. High Country Accord and Federated Farmers) is important and is evolving due to interaction on designing the new pastoral rent system.
- Evolving relationships exist with community and environmental interest groups (such as Forest and Bird, Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations etc), particularly in the South Island High Country, but mature relationships exist with tenants of other LINZ-administered land, State Owned Enterprises, and the Crown Forestry Rental Trust.

## Treaty of Waitangi/relationship with Māori

Key areas of focus:

- Continuing to deliver a range of activities in alignment with the Office of Treaty Settlements-led programme for completing negotiations of Treaty grievances.

Key relationships you should be aware of:

- Due to the collaborative nature of Treaty settlement work, mature relationships exist with the Office of Treaty Settlements and other departments (and their Ministers) in the Treaty sector. However, relations with Māori are evolving through direct iwi-departmental relationships as well as engagement and relationships deriving directly and specifically from treaty settlements.

## Action and Engagement

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The following are suggested as the key areas for your action and engagement within this portfolio. The early areas for engagement and action are based upon legislative obligations and pending decisions. The possible areas for further engagement are those considered to be more strategic in nature and those which will require more input and guidance from you as they concern potential future policy and departmental decisions. Areas to note include issues where developments either domestically or internationally mean that we propose to have a watching brief and keep you informed about those issues and their potential impacts on your portfolio.

### Early areas for your engagement and action

- Implementing the current New Zealand Geospatial Strategy.
- Canterbury rebuild obligations – resourcing.
- Enactment of legislation: Crown Pastoral Land Act (CPLA) Amendment Bill; New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Amendment Bill; Reserves and Other Lands Disposal (ROLD) Bill, and the yet-to-be introduced Land Transfer Bill.
- Crown land management, including Public Works Act amendments (RMA II).
- Ownership obligations including the Four-Year Budget Plan and the Statement of Intent.

### Possible areas for your engagement

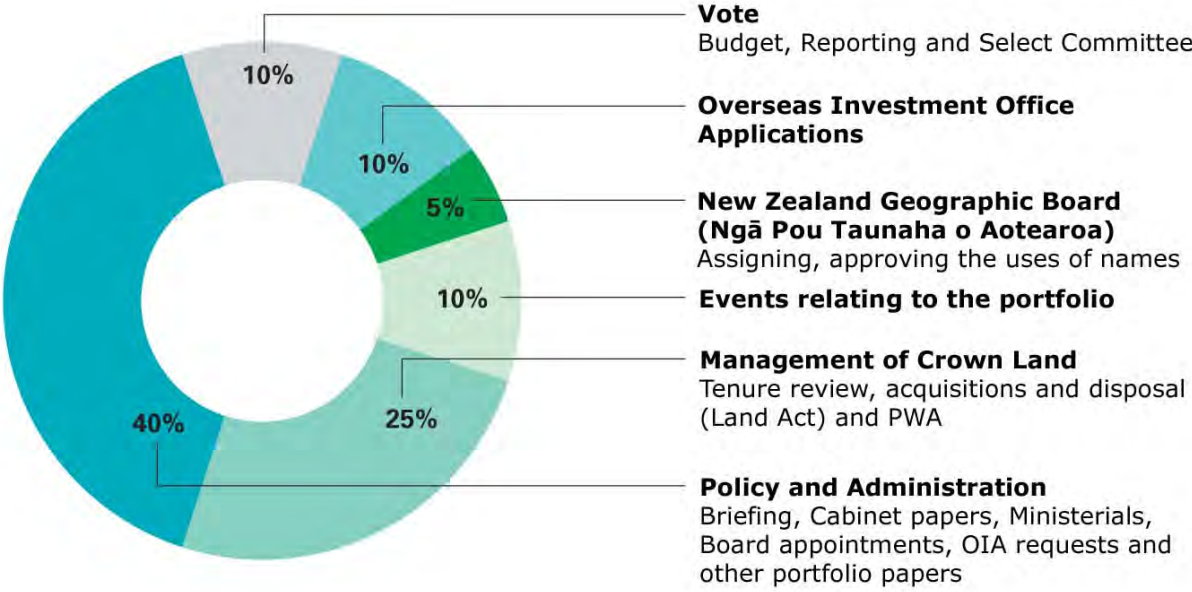
There are a number of areas where your input and guidance as to prioritisation will be sought. These include:

- Crown land management: the potential for LINZ to play a broader role in the advice on and management of Crown land.
- Open government: accelerating the implementation of the Declaration on Open and Transparent Government.
- Property rights issues and functions in other portfolios (e.g. marine, freshwater, minerals) and potential efficiencies across government.
- Future survey and title business and funding models.
- South Island High Country – medium-term strategic direction.
- Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

### Areas to note

- Collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade/NZ Aid and others on maritime safety in the South West Pacific.
- Local government portfolio developments and their relationships with a number of LINZ functions.
- Reviews of the Valuers Act and Ratings Valuations Act dealing with the regulatory framework for Valuers and rating valuations.
- Government-wide reviews relevant to the portfolio.
- Future strategies for cadastral surveying and conveyancing.

# The Minister's role



The above pie chart is an estimation of how your time is likely to be spent as Minister for Land Information. Please note it is not possible to delegate to a great extent the work within the Land Information portfolio as you have a number of statutory obligations. The statutory obligations are mentioned below; however, if you require further information this can be provided.

## Policy and administration

A significant portion of your work within the Land Portfolio will be policy decision-making and administrative work associated with these decisions. This will include signing briefings and Cabinet papers, managing the passage of legislation through Parliament and regulations through Executive Council, approving Ministerials, making appointments to the three Boards LINZ administers, approving and reviewing Official Information Act requests, and reading other portfolio Cabinet and briefing papers that are relevant to LINZ.

## Events

As Minister for Land Information you will be invited to a number of events. These will include both government forums, meetings, and public events. Two important events where your participation is encouraged are the Shallow Survey Conference (20-24 February 2012) and the Digital Earth Summit (2-4 September 2012).

## Management of Crown land

Crown land matters can be split into three parts - acquisition, disposal, and management of Crown lands. Your time will be spent undertaking activities such as Tenure Review proposals, considering land acquisitions under the Land Act 1948, and considering applications for the compulsory acquisition of land under the Public Works Act 1981. Applications to acquire and dispose of land can generate significant public interest within localised regions.

## Overseas Investment Office applications

Overseas investment applications are a small part of LINZ's core business and comprise only 2.5% of LINZ's total appropriation, but they can have a high public profile. Consideration of these decisions (with the Minister of Finance) is expected to take up around 10% of your time and will sometimes require a quick turnaround.

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

The New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) assigns, approves, alters or discontinues the use of names for geographic features. The Board is a small part of LINZ's core business and is allocated only 1.3% of LINZ's appropriation. It is expected that consideration of Board reports will take up approximately 5% of your time. You will consider applications where objections to a place naming proposal have been received and not upheld. Place names can sometimes be contentious and become high profile. Previous examples of naming issues that required Ministerial consideration were the decisions to include an 'h' in Whanganui and to name a ridge on Aoraki/Mt Cook in honour of the late Sir Edmund Hillary.

## Vote Lands Information

It is expected that your remaining time will be spent on undertaking the duties required of you as the Minister responsible for Vote Lands. This will include reporting and finance-related items such as the LINZ Statement of Intent, the Annual Report, the Output Plan, Budget requirements and the Select Committee Estimates Review.

## Further information

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Please contact Colin MacDonald, Chief Executive of Land Information New Zealand.