Future Topographic Maps Programme

Webinar Q&A

Thank you for registering for the webinar. As promised, here is the final list of questions and answers that were asked during the webinar on **6 May 2026**.

If you have any ongoing questions about the programme, you can contact Jonathan at jball@linz.govt.nz.

Question	Answer
Are the buildings shown in the presentation, related to the building dataset available on LDS & ESRI Living Atlas?	It's likely this question relates to 'building outlines' (https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/101290-nz-building-outlines/) which are available on LDS and LINZ AGOL. This is different from the specific layer being shared in the presentation (https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/50246-nz-building-polygons-topo-150k/) which is available on LDS but not LINZ AGOL.
When will these schema changes be moved to LDS?	Not in the short to medium term, and potential not at all. We will initially provide access to the new layers via AWS S3 storage. The source format will be Geoparquet files with STAC metadata.
What might happen with ice contours maintenance in the future. Detail is already marginal on 1:50,000.	Currently there is no ice area maintenance on the Topo50 map series. The main reason is that removing the ice polygon and retaining the old contours might create an issue by implying the contours are from bare earth and not the ice. Historically we do not have the capability to update data using 3D. We will be using the new Lidar to update the contours when the areas of interest have been captured.
Will changes to the storage datum affect users?	The vector data will be stored New Zealand Geodetic Datum 2000 - NZGD2000 (EPSG:4167) Lat/Long by default. The Map products will remain in their current projection for example NZ Topo50 in NZTM2000.

	The advantage of the base Lat/Long CRS is it can be projected into any other projection, typically dynamically. Let us know if there is a specific use case for Vector data being needed in NZTM2000.
Can you confirm that the Geoparquet/STAC technology can be utilised in the Esri ecosystem?	Yes. Geoparquet (fully supported) and STAC (API only) support have improved greatly in the Esri environment in the last year. Direct reads of the STAC items for geoparquet data is not currently supported. You will be able to access via a Cloud Storage Connection. As with all modern formats and standards, older system may not provide support. This issue will reduce as systems upgrade over time, and LINZ is likely to continue to publishing data in current structure and schema via the LDS to minimise impact.
Esri has the market share (in GIS) and to stop people duplicating data, it would be good to have a one source of the truth services?	To maximise the re-use value of our open data, LINZ consider data delivery mechanisms beyond traditional GIS software and aims to provide geospatial data to all modern technology applications and uses cases. To achieve this, it is essential we delivery openly licenced data via open standards and protocols. We are not resources to provide specialist delivery channels (beyond the current offering) to accommodate software needs. With that said, we believe our solution provides adequate integration with Esri software.
Will LINZ add existing public access easements or Unformed Legal Roads to Topo50 maps?	No. Apart from adding more under-construction road features. LINZ can however look at adding these layers into our basemap services in the future.
Are you considering data and/or cartographic changes bringing the publics access rights more front and centre into the Topo products?	Only for walking tracks - roads will still be shown and access/right of way will not be expressed. Currently there are features, such as locked gates that imply some sort of limited access.

Will more data be presented on Topo50 maps? Specifically waterbodies, rivers, wetlands, lakes, road, walking access.	No, the current capture specifications remain. However, where data is lacking we can look to improve on a case by case basis.
Do you liaise with NZAA and Te Puni Kōkiri on marae and pā features?	We use open data sources and have access to these datasets when a registered user is required to have access. We don't have specific liason agreements with these agencies.
Have you thought about Māori data sovereignty intersects with your offshore S3 Amazon storage of Marae & Pā features?	As we develop our offering in this space we acknowledge we will need to consider this matter further. Improvements related to these layers are not imminent.
Will you be using user generated data and/or 3rd party to improve the accuracy of things like walking/tramping tracks?	Yes, our new system will make it easier for us to integrate these types of data sources into our data.