

Briefing to the Incoming Minister for Land Information

Introduction to the Land Information Portfolio



Contents

Introduction	3
Our core functions	3
LINZ at a glance	4
Who we are: senior leadership team and functions	5
What we do: facts and figures	6
Your role and functions as Minister for Land Information	7
Core functions	7
Crown property	7
Overseas investment applications	7
The New Zealand Geographic Board	8
Policy, administration and regulatory stewardship	8
Related responsibilities	8
Current LINZ priorities.....	9
Work of the Overseas Investment Office (OIO)	9
Making data available.....	9
Improving the use of geographic information	10
Advanced Survey and Title Services (ASaTS)	10
Realising the value of Māori Land.....	11
Crown property	11
Supporting the rebuild of Canterbury	12
Supporting the Hurunui/Kaikoura earthquake recovery	12
Working with you over the next 100 days	13

Introduction

This document introduces you to the Land Information portfolio. It sets out what we do and why, and covers your role and functions as Minister for Land Information. It also covers the matters requiring your attention over the next three months.

Our core functions

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) takes its Māori name Toitū te Whenua from the proverb *Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua*: “people pass on, but land remains”.

Accurate geographic information and good land management are vital in New Zealand, where land and water are key to the economy as well as to New Zealanders’ sense of identity and wellbeing.

LINZ collects core geographic information (for example, where things are on the land and seabed) and maintains the infrastructure that produces this information. We use the information to produce maps and charts. We also release it for others to use through the LINZ Data Service (LDS), which is an exemplar of open data.

LINZ maintains the integrity of New Zealand’s property rights system through the land registration system called Landonline. The system is seen as critical national infrastructure as there is no other way to transact property in New Zealand.

LINZ is the guardian of almost two million hectares of land, which is about 8% of New Zealand. This land consists of properties including South Island high country pastoral leases, riverbed land, beds of lakes such as Wanaka and Karapiro, major sites such as the Waihi gold mine, and Crown forestry licences.

LINZ currently manages about 16,000 Crown properties, which are worth about \$1 billion. We are working with other government agencies to free up close to \$80 million worth of surplus property so the money can be invested in other areas of government interest.

The Overseas Investment Office (OIO) sits within LINZ. The OIO administers the overseas investment regime, which regulates overseas ownership of sensitive New Zealand assets.

LINZ administers 15 Acts including the Public Works Act, the Land Act, and the Land Transfer Act.

LINZ is funded through Vote Lands and has a total departmental appropriation of \$115 million. Approximately 60% of LINZ’s revenue is generated from third parties, mainly through property title transactions and survey charges.

Main expenditure areas	2015/16
Survey and title system	49%
Location information and geospatial work	22%
Management of Crown land	12%
Overseas Investment Office	3%
Other (includes biosecurity and provision of policy advice)	14%

LINZ has approximately 600 staff in Wellington, Christchurch and Hamilton.

LINZ at a glance

PURPOSE

- Make geographic information accessible and usable
- Protect New Zealanders' property rights
- Ensure Crown property is sustainably managed

STRATEGY

LINZ's **vision** is that the power of where drives New Zealand's success

LINZ's **goal** is to grow by tenfold the value created for New Zealand through the use of geographic information over the next decade

LINZ's three **strategic objectives** are to:



Increase the use of geographic information



Unlock the value of property



Improve resilience to natural events

LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY OFFICERS

LINZ administers 15 **Acts** and has specific functions under many others

There are four **independent statutory officers** based at LINZ:

- Commissioner of Crown Lands
- Registrar-General of Land
- Valuer-General
- Surveyor-General

THE NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR (NRS)

LINZ is one of eight agencies in the NRS, a group of government agencies responsible for management and stewardship of New Zealand's natural resources

Who we are: senior leadership team and functions



Andrew Crisp - Chief Executive of LINZ



Russell Turner - Deputy Chief Executive Property Rights

- Property Rights Support
- Survey & Title Operations
- Advanced Survey and Title Services (ASaTS)
- Technical Capability



Brian Usherwood - Deputy Chief Executive Crown Property

- Business with Māori
- Crown Property Centre of Expertise
- Legal Services
- Commissioner of Crown Lands
- Canterbury Recovery
- Christchurch Residential Red Zones



Jan Pierce - Deputy Chief Executive Location Information

- Geodesy
- Hydrography
- Topography & Addressing
- Data Services
- Māori Land Service
- Sector Data Programmes (Open Data, NZ Geospatial Strategy)



Robert Muir - Acting Deputy Chief Executive Location System

- Policy & Frameworks
- Surveyor-General
- Registrar-General of Land
- Valuer-General



Lesley Haines - Deputy Chief Executive Overseas Investment Office

- Overseas Investment Office



Simon Rice - Deputy Chief Executive Corporate

- Risk & Assurance
- Finance, Facilities & Procurement
- Human Resources
- Information, Strategy & Delivery
- Strategic Communications & Digital Services
- Strategy & Performance
- Enterprise Programme Management Office

What we do: facts and figures

INCREASE THE USE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



Make land and seabed data freely available through the LINZ Data Service (LDS)

- **30,000** users of LDS in 2015/16
- **74,000** downloads of LDS data in 2015/16



of LINZ bathymetric data – data about the depth of the ocean floor – available for reuse

56,000+

addresses processed on behalf of local councils



185

maps updated and released

UNLOCK THE VALUE OF PROPERTY



Administer New Zealand's survey and title system, with:

- **190,000** titles issued or reissued
- **10,500** cadastral survey plans approved
- **2.5 million** land parcels with **2.2 million** live titles held in Landonline

Managing Crown land

- **2 million** hectares of land managed
- **\$1 billion** worth of land administered
- **16,000 properties** administered on behalf of eight other agencies
- Managing Christchurch Residential Red Zones

Overseas Investment Office

- **133** applications decided in 2015/16
- **697** conditions of consent monitored



IMPROVE RESILIENCE TO NATURAL EVENTS



Developed specifications for collection of new elevation information (**LIDAR**)



Released new elevation information to help others identify flooding risk

Your role and functions as Minister for Land Information

Core functions

As Minister for Land Information you are responsible for a range of functions relating to this portfolio concerning:

Crown property
Acquisition and disposal of land under the Public Works Act 1981
Crown pastoral land and tenure review
Overseas investment applications
The New Zealand Geographic Board
Place names
Policy, administration and regulatory stewardship (including maintenance of the land management system)

Crown property

Acquisition and disposal of land under the Public Works Act 1981

The acquisition and disposal of land by the Crown can generate significant public interest either locally or nationally.

While most decision-making is delegated to LINZ officials either by you or the Chief Executive of LINZ, you will be asked to make 100-150 decisions each year on compulsory acquisition of land. This usually occurs where it has not been possible to reach agreement on the acquisition.

Crown pastoral land and tenure review

The Crown owns 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. The Commissioner of Crown Lands is the statutory officer who exercises rights of ownership and has statutory responsibility for all Crown land.

Tenure review seeks to determine which land should be retained by the Crown for conservation purposes and what land the lessee can gain as freehold title. Tenure review is a negotiated agreement between the Crown and lessee.

You will make decisions on tenure review proposals that require the expenditure of Crown funds for completion. You are likely to receive 12-18 tenure reviews for decision per year.

Overseas investment applications

Overseas investment applications are decided by the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Land Information, or the Minister for Primary Industries when applications are for fishing quota. In the past, the Minister of Finance has delegated their decision-making authority to an Associate Minister of Finance.

You will be asked to make decisions on applications that do not meet the delegation criteria, as set out in the designation and delegation letter. During 2015/16, 41 applications were sent to Ministers for a decision.

The New Zealand Geographic Board

Place names

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) is our national place-naming authority responsible for consistent, standardised and accurate official place names in New Zealand, our continental shelf and our area of interest of Antarctica.

The NZGB also makes a significant contribution to processing Treaty of Waitangi name proposals made by the Office of Treaty Settlements on behalf of claimants, which may become official through Treaty settlement legislation.

Your decision is required when the NZGB rejects any objecting submissions. During 2015/16, the Minister made final decisions on 13 such name proposals. During 2016/17, the Minister has made six decisions, with two more referred back to the NZGB for comment.

Policy, administration and regulatory stewardship

We will brief you to support your decision-making related to LINZ's policy programmes and initiatives, and the maintenance of the land management system and associated regulatory frameworks. This will also involve you taking legislation through the House.

Recent activity in this area includes the Canterbury Property Boundaries Act, Land Transfer Act, and Survey and Title fees review.

Related responsibilities

You will also work with other Ministers on the broader issues that LINZ supports.

LINZ is working with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on Greater Christchurch Regeneration and provides support to Ministers Brownlee and Wagner.

Under the Te Ture Whenua Māori Bill, the Minister for Land Information is part of the joint Ministers forum responsible for the development of the Māori Land Service (MLS). Other members are Minister Flavell (Lead Minister as Minister for Māori Development), Minister Finlayson (Associate Minister for Māori Development) and Minister Adams (Minister of Justice and Minister for Courts).

LINZ also works with the Office of Treaty Settlements. We manage the Treaty Settlements Landbank, containing Crown-owned properties that could be used in future settlements. Minister Finlayson is the Minister for Treaty Negotiations and Minister Flavell has a role in Landbank properties as the Minister for Māori Development.

LINZ, along with Statistics New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs, is a core government information agency. We are working with other agencies to open up government data for use and reuse, and improve connections between the data.

The Minister for Land Information sits on the Natural Resources stream of the Business Growth Agenda (BGA) Ministers' group. LINZ leads initiatives in three of the six BGA work streams: natural resources, infrastructure, and investment.

The Minister of Finance is responsible for strategic policy decisions on overseas investment. LINZ works closely with the Treasury to support this.

Current LINZ priorities

Work of the Overseas Investment Office (OIO)

State of play

The OIO's objective is to ensure that New Zealand's sensitive assets are adequately protected, while facilitating overseas investment that provides benefits to New Zealand.

Overseas investors must show that the key persons with control of the investment are of good character; and, in the case of land, that the benefits of the investment will be greater than those created by a New Zealand investor.

Conditions imposed on the consent ensure that the benefits promised are delivered. The OIO's enforcement function supports the OIO's objective by ensuring overseas investors get consents when required, give truthful and accurate information, and keep the promises they make when consents are granted.

The OIO is funded by fees paid by applicants. This year, Cabinet agreed fee increases that came into effect on 1 July 2016.

The OIO has used the increased funding to implement a quality programme to better match resources to risk and complexity, improve timeliness, and strengthen enforcement.

The OIO is also working with the Treasury to advise the Government on the operation of the legislation, including the regulations and the directive letter under which the Minister of Finance directs the OIO on priorities.

Next Steps

There will be a number of applications for you and the other decision-making minister (the Minister of Finance or nominated Associate) to consider over the next three months. We will brief you on these particular applications in the New Year.

In addition, the OIO will brief you on possible new regulatory exemptions, and an updated directive letter from the Minister of Finance.

Making data available

State of play

LINZ makes most of the geographic information it holds available via the LINZ Data Service, which has almost 30,000 registered users.

This information helps decision makers find long-term solutions to some of New Zealand's most challenging issues. For example, how to boost economic performance, manage urban growth, and respond to climate change.

Opportunities

LINZ is leveraging its expertise in land and information to enable and support other agencies to:

- Coordinate the maintenance and distribution of key data sets of national interest with a focus on geographic and property information
- Lead building and property information initiatives across central and local government to ensure there is joined up property information
- Accelerate the release and reuse of government data.

Next steps

[Section 9\(2\)\(f\)\(iv\), Official Information Act 1982](#) [redacted] In addition, we are due to report back to Ministers in February 2017 on an Integrated Property Services (IPS) work programme to achieve connected property data services across government.

Improving the use of geographic information

State of play

LINZ is using geographic information to improve New Zealand's resilience to natural events.

Opportunities

We are improving the country's vertical datum – a reference for measuring elevation: the height of the land and its features. This is helping planners model the height of our landscape and buildings so they can see how water will move during storm surges and floods – New Zealand's most common natural hazard.

We are also working with GNS Science and NIWA to ensure our datasets best support their flood and sea level rise modelling.

Next steps

We have developed a business case to support greater elevation modelling across New Zealand. We will brief you on this, along with other Budget initiatives, in February 2017.

Advanced Survey and Title Services (ASaTS)

State of play

New Zealand has one of the most efficient and robust property rights systems in the world. The system is used for surveying, measuring and maintaining an official record of land boundaries, and for registering land titles and property transactions.

The current technology platform for the survey and title system (Landonline) is reaching the end of its life.

ASaTS is a project to replace and improve Landonline, maximising the use of new technology to create a more complete picture of property and provide an improved experience for customers.

LINZ is taking an 'as a service' approach. This means we will select a vendor that can deliver a suitable system that we pay to use rather than paying a vendor to build a system that LINZ then owns. No capital injection is required under this approach.

ASaTS received Cabinet approval earlier this year. The project is worth approximately [redacted] and is due to be implemented in 2021.

[Section 9\(2\)\(j\), Official Information Act 1982](#)

Issues and opportunities

ASaTS also provides the opportunity to add some new services such as a register of all Crown land and 3D cadastre support.

The 'as a service' approach has the potential to be used across government to solve the capital constraints associated with major system replacement.

Next steps

We have begun the procurement process to find a vendor for ASaTS. We will provide you with further advice and a Cabinet paper on the viability of 'as a service' in March 2017.

Realising the value of Māori Land

State of play

Much of the 1.4 million hectares of land governed by the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 has untapped potential. In 2015/16, LINZ worked with the Ministry of Justice and Te Puni Kōkiri to review the Act and find ways of lifting the productivity of Māori land. The Te Ture Whenua Māori Bill was introduced to Parliament during 2016.

Opportunities

Our role to better support Māori freehold land owners will be provided through a Māori Land Service (MLS), which will help give effect to changes made by the legislation now before Parliament.

LINZ will manage the technology and infrastructure behind the Māori land register, a key component of MLS. This recognises our strength in managing land information.

Next steps

We will continue to work with Te Puni Kōkiri to support the Bill. We are also developing further policy advice for rating valuation and other issues relating to enabling the greater use of Māori land. We will brief you on our work in February 2017.

Crown property

State of play

LINZ's proven track record in managing and disposing of Crown property is resulting in more government agencies signing agreements for LINZ to dispose of properties for them.

Opportunities

LINZ is working to improve the management of Crown property to optimise the value of Crown assets. This includes accelerating the disposal of surplus Crown property to free up capital for higher priority use.

We are also helping other government agencies free up their land, supporting broader government efforts to make Crown land available for urban development.

Next steps

Cabinet has agreed that LINZ should take over the administration of Watts Peninsula, Wellington. **Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982**

Supporting the rebuild of Canterbury

State of play

LINZ is supporting the rebuild by managing Crown-owned properties in Christchurch's residential red zones (RRZ) and the central business district.

LINZ is also responsible for the administration of a Compensation Panel relating to land compulsorily acquired for anchor projects and for overseeing the recovery of relevant insurance claims.

Opportunities

In our management of the properties, we are preserving options for future use and to support the regeneration of greater Christchurch.

Supporting the Hurunui/Kaikoura earthquake recovery

State of play

LINZ is working alongside other agencies including Civil Defence, Maritime New Zealand and GNS Science.

Opportunities

We are working with GNS Science to build, using satellite and aerial imagery, an understanding of the land movement and its impact on property boundaries.

Our hydrographic team is supporting Maritime New Zealand and the local harbourmaster to ensure the safety of vessels at sea in light of the significant seabed movement.

The Hurunui/Kaikoura Earthquakes Recovery Bill (passed in December 2016) provides for Orders in Council (OIC) to be made under various acts to enable a timely, efficient and effective response. It includes several acts administered by LINZ.

The first OIC to be made is the Hurunui/Kaikoura Earthquake Recovery (Restoration of Coastal Route) Order 2016. LINZ was closely involved in the development of this OIC, which amended the requirements for acquiring land under the Public Works Act.

Next steps

You could be required to provide input into further OICs in 2017. We will provide you with updates via our weekly meeting and/or weekly reports.

Working with you over the next 100 days

The most important things for you to be aware of by the end of March 2017 are:

- A Cabinet Paper updating Ministers on Advanced Survey and Title Services (ASaTS) and a Cabinet report back on next steps with Integrated Property Services (IPS)
- Budget 2017 processes, including bids for elevation data and [REDACTED] [Section 9\(2\)\(f\)\(iv\), Official Information Act 1982](#)
- Overseas investment applications which require decisions
- Release of the 2016/17 second quarter data on foreign tax resident purchases of land will be in February 2017.

These and other items are listed in the table below along with indicative briefing dates in the New Year:

Vote Lands : 2017 Budget initiatives	
We will brief you on bids for Budget 2017.	February
We will seek your agreement to the Estimates of the Land Information Appropriation.	March
Overseas investment applications	
We anticipate up to 20 applications for your consideration.	By 1 April
Reviews of third party fees	
Survey and title fees review – we have statutory authority to set fees to recover costs of administering the survey and title system. We will provide you with detail on the review [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982	February
Topographic fees review – [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982	February
Legislative initiatives	
We will be asking you to approve bids to include four Bills in the 2017 Legislation Programme. These are the [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982	January
The Land Transfer Bill is waiting for its third reading. We will brief you and provide you with speech notes.	January/February
Te Ture Whenua Māori – your support will be sought for the Minister of Māori Development’s Cabinet paper, and related Supplementary Order Paper. Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982	Early February
Rating of Māori Land – [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982	January/February
Legislative functions	
Te Arawa River Iwi Trust Minister’s Accord – this arises from the Waikato River Treaty Settlement (2010). The Accord has been drafted and agreed. You are due to sign this in January or February.	January/February

Public Works Act decisions	
You will receive a number of these over the next 100 days. As the process often involves other government agencies (such as the NZTA) and contracted service providers, it is difficult to predict when particular cases will require your action.	Ongoing
Cabinet papers	
<p><i>Advanced Survey and Title Services (ASaTS)</i></p> <p>We are preparing a paper that will update EGI on the viability of the 'as a service' delivery model. [REDACTED]</p> <p>Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982 [REDACTED]</p>	March
<p><i>Integrated Property Services (IPS)</i></p> <p>The IPS programme is working with local government to create a consistent way to identify and describe property drawn from LINZ and some local government datasets. ■</p> <p>This is a joint ministerial programme, with the Ministers for Building and Housing, Environment and Local Government. [REDACTED]</p> <p>Section 9(2)(f)(iv), Official Information Act 1982 [REDACTED]</p>	March