

Supplementary Information on the responsibilities of LINZ's statutory officers

Registrar-General of Land – Robbie Muir

1. The Registrar-General of Land (RGL) is an independent statutory officer established by the Land Transfer Act 1952 with specific responsibility for the land titles system. The Office of the RGL is located within LINZ. The RGL is appointed under the State Sector Act 1988.
2. The current RGL is Robbie Muir and his Deputy is Mary Gordon. Robbie has been in the role since 2000. He previously held legal roles associated with the property rights system within LINZ and the Department of Justice.
3. The RGL delegates the day-to-day operational functions associated with the delivery of title registration services to the Survey and Titles Operations team within LINZ. These services are delivered through the electronic register of land title known as Landonline.
4. Land title registration functions are conducted according to the Land Transfer Act in compliance with regulatory standards and guidelines set by the RGL. These rules and requirements govern the maintenance of the title register, provision of access to the title information, and online registration of land title transactions.
5. The title of a registered landowner is state guaranteed under the Land Transfer Act; a key feature of our land title system. This is supported by a statutory compensation regime under which damages may be paid by the Crown for loss arising from a registration error, guaranteed title search or title fraud. Claims for compensation are decided by the RGL in conjunction with the Attorney-General (who is supported by the Crown Law Office).
6. The RGL runs an annual assurance programme to ensure the system is operating as intended and standards are complied with. This includes audits and reviews of the lawyers and conveyancers who have rights to certify transactions for registration via the Landonline system. The RGL has authority to exclude such individuals from the system in cases of serious non-compliance.

Surveyor-General – Mark Dyer

7. The Surveyor-General (SG) is an independent statutory officer established by the Cadastral Survey Act 2002 with specific responsibility for the survey system. The Office of the SG is located within LINZ. The SG is appointed under the State Sector Act 1988.
8. The current SG is Mark Dyer and his Deputy is Anselm Haanen. Mark has been in the role since April 2014. He previously worked in the private sector as a professional surveyor and planner, practicing in Auckland and Bay of Plenty survey and planning consultancy firms. Mark is a Licenced Cadastral Surveyor and past President and Fellow of the NZ Institute of Surveyors.
9. The SG is an ex-officio member of the Cadastral Surveyors Licencing Board established under the Cadastral Survey Act. This is an independent statutory Board reporting directly to the Minister for Land Information and comprising members appointed by the Minister.
10. The role of the SG is part of the regulatory framework for the national geodetic and cadastral survey systems. New Zealand's geodetic system is the infrastructure that is used to accurately define the location and height of the country's land and sea. The geodetic system provides the underlying spatial reference framework used for cadastral surveys. The cadastre records the location of boundaries of rights and interests in land under various tenure systems including freehold, leasehold, Māori and Crown land.

11. The SG maintains the national geodetic control system, sets the standards (including for the conduct of cadastral surveys) that govern this system, and monitors and audits compliance with these standards.
12. The SG has a particular role to audit the LINZ Chief Executive (CE) in respect of the CE's functions under the Cadastral Survey Act. The CE has a statutorily defined role and must maintain a facility (Landonline) to receive and store cadastral surveys. The CE must also determine whether cadastral surveys comply with the SG's standards. The SG audits the Chief Executive in relation to these functions, which are carried out in the Survey and Titles Operations team of LINZ. Some types of surveys must be approved by the SG, and the Survey and Titles Operations team also carry out that function, under delegation from the SG.
13. The SG also has responsibilities under a diverse range of over 40 statutes. Under the Electoral Act 1993, the SG is responsible for maintaining a record of the boundaries of parliamentary electoral districts and producing an index of street and place names. The SG also convenes the Representation Commission, which reviews the names and boundaries of electorates every five years. The SG has functions under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 1974 in relation to local authority boundaries, road names and addresses to support electoral and other purposes.
14. The SG is also the ex-officio chairperson of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa under the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 and manages the secretariat for the Board which is located within LINZ.

Valuer-General – Neill Sullivan

15. The Valuer-General (VG) is an independent statutory officer established by the Ratings Valuation Act 1998 and also has functions and responsibilities under the Valuers Act 1948 and the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998. The Office of the VG is located within LINZ.
16. The current Valuer-General is Neill Sullivan and his Deputy is Callum Taylor. Neill has been in the role since 2004. He has been involved in a wide range of both private and government valuation roles, having been a registered valuer since 1985.
17. In accordance with the Rating Valuations Act, the VG must ensure that district valuation rolls used by Territorial Authorities for rating purposes are maintained to minimum standards. This is achieved by monitoring and auditing the work of rating valuation service providers against the Rating Valuation Act, rules and regulations.
18. Under the Valuers Act, the VG helps regulate valuers by sitting on the Council of the New Zealand Institute of Valuers and is the ex-officio chair of the Valuers Registration Board. The Valuers Registration Board is an independent statutory body and as Minister for Land Information, you are responsible for making appointments to the Board. The Board is responsible for regulating registered valuers, issuing practising certificates and investigating complaints about them in accordance with the Valuers Act.
19. The Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 requires the VG to set the details of the system for assessing pastoral lease rents, to be consistently applied across the South Island high country pastoral estate. Accordingly, a rent-setting framework has been implemented by the VG, to aid the VG in assessing how much stock a Crown pastoral lease can carry.
20. The VG also provides technical advice to government on valuations and the valuation services sector and makes statutory decisions on the certification of general revaluations.

Commissioner of Crown Lands – Craig Harris (Acting)

21. The Commissioner of Crown Lands (CCL) is an independent statutory officer established by the Land Act 1948 who exercises powers and duties under that Act (such as removing trespassers and enforcing contracts on Crown land). The CCL also has functions under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 and other statutes, including Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation.
22. The current acting CCL is Craig Harris. Craig has been acting CCL since April 2017. He previously held roles associated with Crown Property and Policy within LINZ and served as private secretary to the Minister for Land Information.
23. The CCL exercises ownership rights for and on behalf of the Crown over all land held under the Land Act 1948, whether the land is held by LINZ or another Crown agency. This includes administering the land and approving any right over, or use of, that land by other parties.
24. The CCL oversees the tenure review process for Crown pastoral leases in the South Island high country. The CCL manages relationships with pastoral lessees and other stakeholders for this process and the management of pastoral land generally.
25. The CCL also has formal relationships with iwi arising out of Treaty claim settlements. These include Accords for the beds of the Waikato-Waipā Rivers and Deeds of Recognition over the beds of other riverbeds and lakebeds across the country. These require the CCL to consult with iwi on activities or issues on these areas of Crown land, before making a decision.
26. As a statutory officer the CCL exercises powers independently of the Minister for Land Information or the Chief Executive of LINZ.
27. The CCL delegates some of his statutory responsibilities to officials in LINZ. Decisions are subject to a review and appeal process set out in the Land Act 1948.
28. The CCL's responsibilities do not include land held for public works, such as schools, roads etc. These are administered by individual Crown agencies and are subject to legislation such as the Public Works Act 1981.