

# **A Sustainable Cadastre for New Zealand**

**Don GRANT, New Zealand**

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## **SUMMARY**

New Zealand has an AAA (accurate, authoritative and assured) digital cadastral system, based on an accurate geodetic system and supporting a digital land registration system. Survey transactions are lodged in an intelligent digital format which enables semi-automated validation of the survey data. Landowners in New Zealand have a high level of confidence in cadastral boundaries.

Despite these advantages, there are doubts that the current cadastral system design will prove to be sustainable over the next 10 – 20 years. The rapid development of positioning technology is putting surveying and geospatial applications into the hands of the general public and, in particular, landowners. Geospatial datasets are improving rapidly in terms of accessibility and accuracy. To date, new survey and computer technology has been used to make improvements to the efficiency of the task of boundary surveying – but many of the fundamentals of cadastral surveying in New Zealand remain largely unchanged. How will the cadastre remain responsive and relevant to the changing expectations of landowners in the future?

A cadastral strategy is being developed in New Zealand to address these questions and prepare for changes over the next 10 – 20 years. The main issues have been identified and a draft strategy prepared. Once wider consultation is complete, the final strategy will reshape the New Zealand cadastral survey system.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

Don Grant is the New Zealand Surveyor General. He holds a BSc Honours in Physics from Canterbury University, a Diploma in Surveying from Otago University and a PhD in Surveying from the University of New South Wales. He registered as a surveyor in 1979 and is a licensed cadastral surveyor.

## CONTACTS

Don Grant  
Surveyor-General  
Land Information New Zealand  
PO Box 5501  
Wellington 6145  
New Zealand  
Tel. +61 04 498 3507  
Email: [dgrant@linz.govt.nz](mailto:dgrant@linz.govt.nz)  
Web site: [www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz)