

Andrew Crisp, Chief Executive, Land Information New Zealand
The growing role of Geospatial Data Agencies

Abstract:

Andrew started his talk by using data to prove that New Zealand are punching above their weight in a number of areas from sport (rugby and sailing) to geospatial information provision. Day-to-day events hinder every organisation and LINZ is no exception. The Kaikoura earthquake in November 2016 took 20% of LINZ staff away from their usual roles to deal with the situation.

LINZ's has a wide remit which includes mapping, hydrography, survey systems, valuation services and as a regulator of foreign investment in the country.

Andrew outlined three drivers for the organisation in the near- to mid-term. These included:

- 1. Drivers to do more:** there is a role for geospatial across many sectors of government. This is started to be recognised and acted on. Increased pressures on housing are a primary focus for the Government and LINZ are at the heart of this work.
- 2. Data as a service:** Utilised data that is best for the customer. They don't want different data they just want it quicker and utilised in new ways.
- 3. Data first:** data should be integrated across a number of different areas and agencies, for example property boundaries and titles.

Andrew acknowledged that none of this is easy but NMAs do need to adapt and deliver with core functions.

Notes to support the presentation:

- New Zealand has a lot to learn from experience and knowledge.
- New Zealand has recent experiences to learn from, such as the Kaikoura earthquake which registered a magnitude of 7.8. The highest recorded horizontal movement of land was 11 meters, and vertically 8 meters.
- In the future, the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow are affected by the changes that are made today.
- LINZ has a role in many sectors including: mapping; hydrography; survey systems; valuation; management of property standards; and as a regulator if foreign investment in New Zealand.
- Mapping and location functions are all under one roof. Currently exploring how they can join the data from land and sea to understand the challenges better.
- Being in one location has its benefits and challenges. People don't know about the data. The purpose and value is not very well understood.
- Value is in the use of geospatial information increases.
- There are drivers to do more. This is driven by government to do more for what matters, for example housing. How to be more relevant, this is a huge opportunity to become relevant, but also a risk of becoming irrelevant if you don't address it. You have to make decisions on capability, skills and legislation.
- Utilise the data we produce. Users don't just want different data, they also want it quickly. There are benefits to open data, but more unanswered questions on who pays, and the privacy of the data.
- Integration. Example includes property information and boundaries/title deeds. This needs to be looked at and understood. None of this is easy, but do need to adapt and deliver especially with core functions. LINZ are an operational agency but need to bring in other skills, to enable the use of other experts. 25% of the workforce of LINZ has over 30 years experience.
- Going to focus on three areas of the core functions.

- Contract and procurement systems. Focus is to be on the top of the World Bank rankings. Tech needs to be able to link propositions across government. Don't have the access to capital. Looking to work with a supplier to produce a service – not a new concept but the first time a country is looking at bringing in a service for a core government function.
- In the past focus was to bring in data for services. Now its delivering data first demand. This means taking data and allowing others to work with it. Some is collected and used by others. Doesn't mean LINZ are not going to do maps and charts, but may be a change in focus.
- How do you procure in a different way? A LINZ data service. Used by 30,000 people, over half the users call it a critical service.
- New arrangements are only just in place. Many more now want to be involved.
- Not standing still, but growing in impact.
- What matters is being able to add as much value as possible to New Zealand and New Zealanders.