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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Property Boundaries will be Affected by Earthquakes

Licensed Cadastral Surveyors (LCS) are the only professionals that can define property boundaries.

This is particularly relevant after the recent Canterbury, Seddon and now Kaikoura earthquakes. Land ownership and property rights underpin the NZ economy, so it is important that the cadastre – the record system that contains the land survey information – is correct.

Pat Sole from the Institute of Cadastral Surveying says that Licensed Cadastral Surveyors are qualified experts in legal boundary definition.

“A LCS has a full understanding of the laws and rules relating to land boundary definitions. Surveyors deal with the effects of significant earthquakes by interpreting the hierarchy of evidence available - assessing natural boundaries, boundary pegs, witness marks, occupation (buildings and fences), other recorded rights, old survey plans and mathematical calculations. The role of the LCS can therefore range from archaeologist to historian to mathematician and then to the field surveyor. Boundary determination requires specialist knowledge, experience and skill.”

Land Information NZ confirms definition compliance by examining and approving all new surveys that are lodged before they are integrated in the cadastral land record system – called LandonLine. The Canterbury Property Boundaries and Related Matters Act 2016 has entrenched the value of survey monuments, and that boundaries indeed move with the land as a result of earthquakes.

Property owners who have concerns about the post-earthquake location of their land boundaries as part of any recovery phase should contact a Licenced Cadastral Surveyor who can advise them accordingly.

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