



Institute of Cadastral Surveying (Inc)

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6 June 2019

Brett Parker
Senior Policy Advisor
Land Information NZ

Via email: BParker@linz.govt.nz

Dear Brett

LINZ Cost Recovery Review – Roundtable

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the above roundtable in Auckland or Wellington in June.

Unfortunately, the Institute of Cadastral Surveying will be not be able to attend either venue. This is due to other consultation being undertaken by LINZ at this time; the locations of the roundtables; and as a consequence, the time and expense involved in attendance.

However, we have been keenly looking forward to this Cost Recovery Review and enclose **two submissions** on fees we have previously provided to LINZ, as an introduction to our views.

Our primary concerns are that cadastral users pay a dis-proportionately high price for both access to data and the plan examination function. These facts are based on the inputs and transactions required during our population of the cadastral framework. The promises made at the time of the initial Landonline implementation with regard to reducing costs for survey firms (Land Information Fact Sheet 1 May-1998) have not been realised.

We believe LINZ must explore alternative sources of funding - other than from search fees and typical survey and title transaction fees. This may include charging for digital data extracts and/or general taxation – which would be justified based on the accruing of benefits to other users, and not solely on those currently paying fees.

May I suggest when we next meet with our designated LINZ contacts Anselm Haanen and Mike Morris (in Wellington or Christchurch), that we include time for the ICS to be appraised your presentation/roundtable summary to the ICS at that time.

I thought I should also provide some further explanation for our non-attendance. This is not as a result of this specific consultation opportunity - nor that we regard the topic as unimportant - it is in combination with other consultation and feedback requests received from LINZ from time to time. I have therefore copied this response to others in LINZ who should be aware of its contents.

Our organisation is largely based in Christchurch (where such opportunities could be regularly attended by Executive Committee members) and with me – as President - based in New Plymouth. Our members are spread far and wide, with a near even split between the North and South Islands, and a similar regional representation division as well.

One of the effects of LINZ's centralised structure, is a loss of meaningful consultation with Regional NZ (as well as service delivery functions). To have such roundtables for such short duration, when there is the opportunity to combine with other (LINZ) events is poor planning. To restrict input from stakeholders representing the South Island and Regional NZ is a lost opportunity for your consultation efforts.

The second issue is the cost of attendance. This relates to the actual cost of flights and transport (and sometimes accommodation) to/from centralised meeting points and whilst our organisation is happy to meet some of those costs, it cannot sustain those costs at frequent intervals.

Almost all of our members are practising surveyors, many in busy practices. Our time and energy is finite, and investing in consultation has to be worthwhile. Loss of income in attendance and in sharing our expertise or experience, has a real effect on us and our incomes, which LINZ can do much more to recompense. Alternatively, LINZ travel to our locations minimises our cost and time commitment. You should also note that LINZ is not the only organisation with which we liaise.

If LINZ wishes to have sustainable meaningful consultation with *all stakeholders* across New Zealand to improve its outputs, the above issues need to be addressed in our view.

Yours faithfully



Pat Sole

cc:

Jamie Kerr (DCE – Policy and Overseas Investment) jkerr@linz.govt.nz

Anselm Haanen (Acting SG – Strategy and Stewardship Group) ahaanen@linz.govt.nz

Mike Morris (Principal Cadastral Surveyor – Property Rights Group) mmorris@linz.govt.nz