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Regulatory Frameworks
Land Information New Zealand
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Via Email: sgrulesreview@linz.govt.nz

Dear Sir

Submission on Review of the Rules for Cadastral Survey – Issues and Opportunities

This submission has been prepared by the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors (NZIS) Cadastral Stream Leadership committee. We would like to thank LINZ for the opportunity to provide feedback on the paper dated 7 August 2017.

We disclose that the Cadastral Stream Leadership have met with the Surveyor General and his Rules Review Team at our last meeting. This discussion included providing direct initial feedback.

We disclose that we have not requested feedback or input from our members as we felt that all members had the opportunity to attend and provide feedback at the workshops which LINZ held at various locations around the Country.

We expect as LINZ work through the feedback received during these workshops LINZ will approach the Stream for technical input and feedback from the Members we represent where we can collect, collate and reply to LINZ.

With reference to the sections in the above document, we make the brief comments as below:

Section 1 – The Review Process:

Generally, the Stream is supportive of the review process as described in the paper. We understand the timeframes as proposed and the necessary processes which need to be undertaken. We strongly support the formation of a "Reference Group" and suggest that this is established as soon as practically possible to allow for the needs of the Profession to be incorporated into the Rules from the outset. This will help ensure that the final Rules are a document which is able to be easily used and understood by both Surveyors and LINZ alike. We are happy to help LINZ form this group and are willing to use our connection to the New Zealand Survey community to help facilitate this.

Section 2 – Rules Review – Context and background:

We generally accept the statements made in this section of the document.

Section 3 – Identified Issues:

We feel that the issues identified in this Section are ones which we also have identified. We also suggest that the current Rules as written are confusing with circular references. It would be helpful if the Rules were written in section where all the requirements for Water Boundaries, for example, were in one section, not various sections.

We also advocate for the wording and definitions to be what they are. Some of the definitions in the current rules are not clear, defined by Survey, Adoption or Accepted for example, in the current Rules have lead to confusion.

It would also be an advantage to use positive language. Currently the Rules use a lot of negative language. For example, a non-boundary mark could be described as a traverse mark, Class B is currently defined as, (paraphrased) being neither Class A, C, or D.

The Rules should also allow for the cases which do not fit within them, such as the current dispensation process.

We strongly recommend that the Rules are written in plain English so that they can be easily understood. We understand that the Rules need to be written and published by The Parliamentary Council Office, however this should not prevent this. Some of the 2010 Rules appear to be written to be as concise as possible at the expense of clarity. It should be possible to read and understand the Rule requirement without needing to re-read multiple times and cross referencing to an interpretation guide.

Section 4 – The Future Environment:

The Stream believe that the Rules should be flexible enough to allow for the use of new technology. We understand that the ASaTS project is still in its infancy and there may need to be a review of the Rules prior to ASaTS becoming live. This will enable the accommodation of any differences between ASaTS and Land Online platforms. This process would also allow an opportunity to review any issues which are found in the Rules once they are being worked with in a day to day environment.

Summary:

Overall the NZIS Cadastral Stream are supportive of the direction which LINZ are moving in the review of the Rules for Cadastral Survey. We ask that a working group or similar is established to allow the Profession working day to day with the Rules to provide feedback to LINZ. This will ensure that the Rules are written in a way which is clearly understood by both the Surveyors submitting Datasets to LINZ and LINZ staff members processing the submitted datasets. We welcome further contact from LINZ on a technical level and also as a route to discuss and collate the thoughts of our Membership to supply to LINZ.

With best regards

Matt Ryder
NZIS Cadastral Stream Chair

