

Council Committees and Board Support



ADVOCACY

2018/19 has been a busy year advocating on matters affecting the surveying and spatial community with S+SNZ getting its voice heard by local authorities, government departments, the Environment Court, and a parliamentary Select Committee. Advocacy is being progressively more targeted to priority areas, particularly the built environment and housing, that are set out in Council's Letter of Expectation. The input of members' expertise has been critical to making well informed, quality submissions.

S+SNZ supported Fellow Don McKay's initiative to seek a declaratory judgement on whether the conversion of cross lease to fee simple title amounted to a subdivision in terms of the Resource Management Act. Whilst the September 2018 Environment Court decision was not the hoped-for outcome, it did provide valuable guidance on what conditions councils could reasonably impose on such conversions.

With the release of the *National Disaster Resilience Strategy* in February 2019, S+SNZ had the opportunity to make a submission on the contribution of surveyors and spatial experts to disaster recovery, and to be heard by the Governance and Administration Select Committee. We highlighted the need for national adoption of NZVD 2016 to assist with disaster recovery. Work towards that had already commenced in 2018 when S+SNZ helped initiate a programme of workshops to inform local councils. Land Information New Zealand is now rolling out a programme of information workshops across New Zealand with assistance from S+SNZ branches.

On-going representation of surveying and spatial professionals continues in LINZ's Landonline Rebuild project under an arrangement between S+SNZ and LINZ. This has enabled our members' technical expertise and user experience to assist with the various phases of the Rebuild project.

Other advocacy activity has involved four further submissions, including:

- two submissions to the Surveyor-General in response to two consultation documents on the Rules for Cadastral Survey 2010
- a response to LINZ on proposed changes to Landonline terms and conditions
- a submission to the Ministry for the Environment on National Planning Standards.

To help build branches' capacity to make their own submissions about local matters, an information sheet has been produced on how to scan the local environment and ways to obtain information on what is happening in local communities.

The Young Professionals Division ran a workshop in Dunedin advocating for volunteering survey and spatial expertise overseas and how that could be accommodated in members' careers. A Pacific Workshop in connection with the Memorandum of Understanding with

the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council was planned but unable to be held in 2018/19 because of timing and financial considerations.

In 2018, S+SNZ also signed up as a Founding Partner to the Diversity Agenda with the goal of having 20 percent more women by 2021 and to more broadly meet Council's commitment to diversity.

The 2019/20 "Advocacy Year" looks to be even busier with targeted engagement at Ministerial level while continuing engagement with counterparts overseas, New Zealand professional organisations with complementary focus, and enhancing local and central government interaction on our priority focus areas.