

## **2020 - Note from the Examinations Committee**

### ***Cadastral Law Examination***

*Tēnā koutou katoa*

Survey and Spatial New Zealand has created a Laws and Regulations Panel (the Panel) for the purposes of competence testing as set out in the Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board of New Zealand Standards for Licensing dated April 2013. The Panel is a regulatory testing body and is responsible for conducting the examinations currently known as the Cadastral Law Examination (the Exam). Candidates and employers are encouraged to ensure candidates are well prepared for the examinations.

The Exam is held once a year in June. Preparation by the examiners for the Exam begins in March and concludes in August with the publication of results and website updates. The Preview for the Exam is normally posted on the website 2 months prior to the examination. Throughout the year the Panel also responds to queries about the examination.

For the candidates learning and applying the law relating to land begins at university. It continues when the candidate begins their working career. The more the candidate can learn in the workplace the better prepared for the Exam they will be. The candidates need to be working towards being familiar with all relevant Acts that surveyors come across in their work, or otherwise.

Studying for the Exam is not about just studying the Acts and regulations that are advised in the Preview for the Exam. A thorough knowledge in all relevant Acts and regulations is expected from all Licensed Cadastral Surveyors (LCS). If candidates are unfamiliar with what Acts are relevant then they should discuss this with either LCS, or their peers.

Studying for the Exam is something that cannot simply be left to the last minute, being the time the Preview for the Exam is posted on the website. A candidate needs to allocate sufficient time to study for the Exam on top of their work commitments just as LCS undertakes professional development outside of work hours.

The Exam is at a level that all LCSs should be expected to be able to undertake and pass. All legislation, rules and standards are publicly available. The Exam is set by knowledgeable practising surveyors and is independently moderated before finalising.

The Young Professionals (YPs) group communicates with the Examinations Committee and has a representative on the Committee. The YPs have made various requests on behalf of their members to make format changes to the Exam which the Committee has taken on board.

The S+SNZ streams and the Young Professionals group need to provide support to the candidates preparing for the Exam. The candidates that spend time attending study sessions tend to do better.

The CSLB set standards for all licensed cadastral surveyors. The Exam is used to test the level of competence to meet the standards required by CSLB. All candidates and licensed cadastral surveyors should meet the standards set by CSLB.

The Committee and Panel would welcome feedback on the methodology used to test competence in cadastral law. Any feedback put forward would also need to include how those suggestions would meet the CSLB standards.

*Ngā mihi nui*

### **Survey and Spatial NZ Examinations Committee**

Russell Benge | S+SNZ Council Representative

Jo Johnston | Chairperson Examinations Committee

Kevin Taylor | Chairperson Laws and Regulations Panel