



Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board of New Zealand



Last year the Board farewelled some long-serving members and welcomed a few new faces to the table. The present Board comprises Neale Faulkner (returning Chair), Anselm Haanen (Surveyor-General), Craig McInnes (returning), Clare Tolan (new), Laura Coll McLaughlin (new), and Pengbo Jiang (new lay member). In addition, Colin McElwain was reappointed as substitute member and Sundeep Daggubati appointed as the new lay substitute member. Phil Napper continues to serve as Secretary and is the acting Examinations Coordinator.

The Board has a statutory obligation to maintain the integrity of the cadastre thereby safeguarding the public interest regarding land tenure. To achieve this, the Board follows a rigorous process around licensing and complaints and ensures the high level of competency standards continue. With this in mind, the Board is in the process of developing a new replacement competency assessment framework for applicants seeking an initial annual licence to practise as a cadastral surveyor. This stemmed from

a review of the existing longstanding process by Dr Don Grant, which was followed by a series of workshops with key stakeholders and consultation with the wider profession. As a result, the following framework has been adopted by the Board.

Having a sequential process means graduates will build upon the foundation they obtained at university by getting real-world experience on surveying projects. Once they have an acceptable portfolio of experience to demonstrate their skills, they sit a professional challenge to test what they have learnt. Once they pass this, they progress to a professional interview to confirm their competence.

Developing the New Competency Assessment Framework

The Board's current focus is on the new competency assessment framework. The Board appointed Synapsys Ltd as its key partner to implement the new framework. Synapsys is a Wellington-based firm specialising in people and process challenges. Its mission is to bring clarity, certainty

and confidence. Synapsys Ltd has 20 years' experience across nearly every sector in New Zealand.

There are two key streams of work for the framework where Synapsys is involved. Firstly, the competencies were refined into measurable achievement standards applicable for those seeking a first-time licence. These were then aligned with the appropriate stage of the framework where they could best be assessed. A User Requirements document has been developed which sets out what each group of people will need from the system.

Secondly, Synapsys is working to deliver the new assessment framework via an online platform. It has recommended a platform called Moodle which is widely recognised and used by a number of organisations and tertiary educators in New Zealand.

The Board regularly publishes updates on the CSLB website around the progress of the assessment framework and other matters. Candidates and their supervising surveyors are strongly encouraged to

engage with the new process, and candidates should register with the Boards Examinations Coordinator.

Reflections and Learnings from the Complaints Process

The Board receives notifications from the Surveyor-General of significant failures by cadastral surveyors to comply with the standards together with the occasional correction survey. These are seen as a warning sign that a surveyor may not be as diligent in the process of conducting a cadastral survey as they should be and are duly investigated. Subject to the outcome of that investigation, the surveyor's performance is monitored by the Board for a period of time to ensure that any failures are unlikely

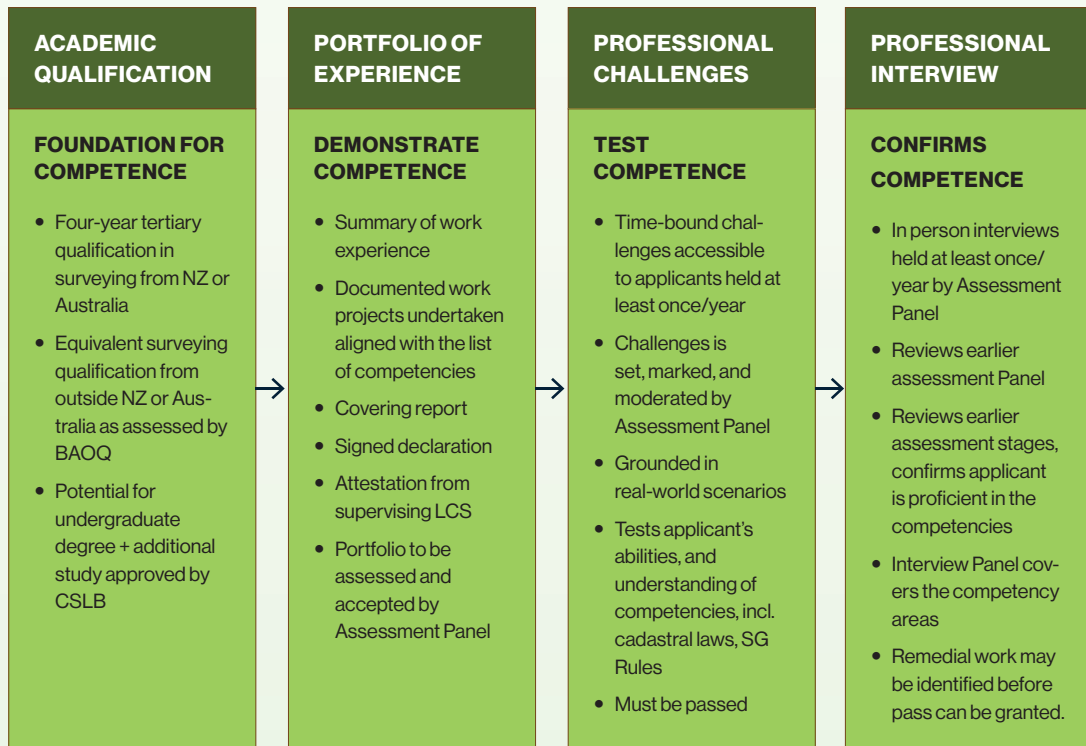
to reoccur. The Board treats these notifications using the analogy of the 'ambulance at the top of the cliff' with the view of helping surveyors to recognise their shortcomings and eliminate the possibility of any recurrence.

In addition, the Board receives occasional complaints of professional misconduct, primarily from the Surveyor-General, but also the public and professionals. These are taken very seriously by the Board and often result in a hearing with various consequences which can include supervision by another licensed cadastral surveyor, the suspension of a licence, or in the worst-case scenario, the cancellation of a licence as a last resort.

Often failures result from

poor-quality assurance processes at all stages of the cadastral survey process. It is vitally important that a good quality assurance process is adopted and applied from the commencement of the survey right through to the end when the cadastral survey dataset is lodged with Land Information New Zealand. In this way, the possibility of errors and failures will be minimised and ideally eliminated. A good tool in this regard is to review and learn from all requisitions received from Land Information NZ, together with those from your colleagues. Upon request, Land Information will provide any licensed cadastral surveyor with a summary of requisitions over a period of time which highlights in graphical form specific areas where its requisitions are commonly occurring. First-

Cadastral Surveying: Proposed Framework for Assessing Competency



Each of these stages must be completed successfully before the applicant can progress to the next stages

BAOQ-Bureau for the Assessment of Overseas Qualification
LCS – Licensed Cadastral Surveyor

INTERESTING FACTS

1 The number of surveyors renewing their annual licence this year was 726 compared with 723 last year.

2 The current (October 2024) number of licensed cadastral surveyors is 731.

3 10% of licensed cadastral surveyors are female.

4 This year the Board saw a small increase in applications from graduates (31 compared with 29 in 2023).

5 The vast majority of new licenses issued continue to be to New Zealand survey graduates from the School of Surveying at the University of Otago.

6 The younger (20-39) age group represents 32% of the total number of licensed cadastral surveyors.

7 The current oldest licensed cadastral surveyor is 90 years of age and was first granted registration in 1958.

8 Last year a surveyor, who registered in 1951, decided it was time to 'hang up the chain' and not renew his annual licence at the age of 97.

time compliance should always be the goal as it has many benefits.

It is encouraging that the number of significant failure notifications to the Board has reduced over the past three years from 5 per year to 3 per year, as have the number of complaints of professional misconduct, from 3 in 2020 to 1 in 2023.

Responsibility for conducting cadastral surveys

The Cadastral Survey Act 2002 makes it clear that a licensed cadastral surveyor is responsible for a survey conducted by a person acting under their direction [s47(3)].

In accordance with s73 of the Cadastral Survey Rules 2021, a cadastral survey dataset must be certified by the licensed cadastral surveyor as follows:

I [name], being a licensed cadastral surveyor, certify that—

(a) this dataset provided by me and its related survey are accurate, correct, and in accordance with the Cadastral Survey Act 2002 and the Cadastral Survey Rules 2021; and

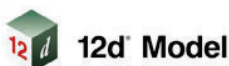
(b) the survey was undertaken by me or under my personal direction.

Failure to personally direct the cadastral survey and the related field operations can lead to a complaint of professional misconduct (s1(b), Schedule 2).

A licensed cadastral surveyor is guilty of professional misconduct if the cadastral surveyor is found in any proceedings or appeal under Part 4 to have certified to the accuracy of any cadastral survey or cadastral survey dataset without having personally carried out or directed the cadastral survey and the related field operations.

The Board is aware that with modern survey technology and changes in practice that some surveyors may not be adequately meeting their responsibilities in this regard. Furthermore, the Board has observed that a few licensed cadastral surveyors are certifying a high number of surveys each year, in some cases, this equates to 2-3 per week over a prolonged period of time.

Don Grant (former surveyor-general) published an excellent article entitled 'Directing and certifying cadastral surveys' which the Board encourages all licensed cadastral surveyors to read and reflect upon on a regular basis. A copy of this article is available under the 'About - News and Publications' tab on the CSLB website. ●



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