



**Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board
of New Zealand**

NEWSLETTER

Tena koutou katoa

We are already into the second quarter of 2022 and judging by the number of CSD's sitting with LINZ for approval it has been a busy time for all.

These last few months have seen datasets lodged before the changes to the SG Rules were in place, continuing demand for titles for new subdivisions, the effect of COVID with staff absenteeism, and a lack of staff resources generally which has combined to place pressure on Surveyors and LINZ.

Over the past 3 years you will have seen changes that we consider have improved our processes and efficiency. Much of the work has been behind the scenes and listed below are some of the key areas we have been working on:

Website

- moving all licence application forms online
- cessation of paper licence certificates
- a review and update of the various licence renewal and new application forms to better reflect competencies
- instigation of further requirements for individual assessment at licence renewal time (which often follows on from a notice of significant failure from the Surveyor-General)
- update of the content on the CSLB website
- more clarity on the jurisdiction of the Board when it comes to a professional misconduct complaint

Standards review

The review of the Board's Standards has been a significant undertaking. The initial work began in 2019 and has involved reviewing the CSLB Policy documentation on licensing. With the Government's requirement to have the Standards in secondary legislation format, the work was completely overhauled and updates of the competencies were made to reflect that. This work was led by two of our Board members who revised the Standards and carried out the wider consultation with the profession.

We now have an improved and clearer document setting out the Standards for Licensing Cadastral Surveyors which came into force on 1 August 2021.

Competency assessment review for Licensing

On the 13 September 2021 the Board held the first of three facilitated workshops with a cross section of the cadastral profession. This formed the basis of the review of the assessment framework and requirements for those persons proposing to apply for their initial licence under the Cadastral Survey Act 2002.

After the workshops in October 2021 Dr Don Grant then prepared a paper on options for the assessment review. It is now for the Board to formulate more detail around the assessment process and consult with the professional bodies and individuals.

This is an extremely important piece of work that needs to be expedited efficiently as it has a direct impact on graduates leaving Survey School at the end of this year.

Licence fee increase

The Board is relatively modestly resourced with its operating budget derived from licensing fees only. The annual licence fee have been held at the same level for the last five years. Keeping the fee unchanged during this time was agreed by the Board to allow for the bedding down of the new website, accounting support, process for holding of the register and the move to online licensing.

The completion of the Standards review contributed to a financial deficit in financial year 2021 and the competency assessment review work will contribute to a forecast financial deficit for financial year 2022.

To ensure the Board has sufficient funds to complete the work that is still required, and to maintain a balanced budget, the Board unanimously agreed to increase the licence fee from \$220 incl GST to \$260 incl GST from 1 July 2022.

Board nominations

Nominations for new appointments to the Board will be called for in June/July this year, with appointments to be made in December 2022. We encourage the professional bodies to consider whom they may like to nominate for a 3 year term.

As I will be retiring from the board in December 2022, and having been the sole female surveyor on the Board for the last 3 years, consideration needs to be given to nominating a female licensed or previously licensed cadastral surveyor.

Being a Board member has been both challenging and rewarding and I would encourage you to find out more by emailing the board secretary for a copy of the job description.

As a precursor to my retirement I will stepping down as chairperson of the Board and Neale Faulkner will be taking my place as of 1 July 2022. Neale has been a Board member since 2014.

COVID 19 response

Since 2020 the board has responded to the COVID pandemic by reducing the number of face-to-face meetings in Wellington and using Zoom. The use of Zoom will continue as an effective way of addressing specific matters of business.

COVID has also had an impact on the running of the Professional Interviews at S+S NZ. The Examinations Panel has been very responsive and nimble on a combination of face-to-face interviews with Examiners in Wellington and others by Zoom.

The Board has been very appreciative of the additional work required from both the administrative aspect and the examiners on a moving COVID front.

Conclusion

We trust you have found this newsletter informative. We think a newsletter update on a 6 monthly basis is an effective way to keep you informed of what the Board is undertaking in addition to its statutory functions.

Contact with the board can be made by email to secretary@cslb.org.nz.

Chairperson
Vicki Nalder