

NEW ZEALAND

REPORT TO THE 11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ICA OTTAWA, AUGUST 1999

COUNTRY PROFILE

Cartography in New Zealand has undergone some major organisational and technological changes since 1996. Prior to July 1996, the Department of Survey and Land Information (formerly the Department of Lands and Survey) undertook the production of a wide range of New Zealand's maps.

New Zealand Government policy since the mid 1980s has been to separate the role of departments of State from a combined policy, statutory, regulatory and production function to a clearly defined role of policy, statutory and regulatory responsibility. Production of goods and services has been actively contracted to private industry on a contestable tender basis.

These organisational reforms have been extensive in New Zealand and have affected most government departments. The object of the reforms being to create more cost effective delivery system for government goods and services, whilst allowing the government departments to remain in control of any goods and services produced, to meet their obligations to the New Zealand public.

In July 1996, The Department of Survey and Land information was restructured into two separate organisations. A new Department of State, Land Information New Zealand was formed to provide the policy, statutory and regulatory requirements for land information. Terralink New Zealand Limited was formed as a State Owned Enterprise, operating under the Companies Act, to provide production services in surveying, the sale of surplus government land and map production (including photogrammetry, GIS, satellite image processing, digital data maintenance and cartography).

At this time the number of previously produced "official" maps was rationalised, to focus on core topographic maps of New Zealand's mainland, offshore islands, some Pacific islands and Antarctic Dependency and is responsible for the provision of hydrographic navigation charts. Other maps previously produced, such as street maps, National Park maps, general Pacific area maps and world maps were available to be provided by other government departments or private enterprise.

Land Information New Zealand has developed a digital topographic database (at 1:50 000 capture scale) which is the repository for current topographic mapping data. Maintenance of the topographic data and map production from the database is tendered to private companies. Each year, Land Information New Zealand lets tenders for the provision of approximately 50 new editions of Topographic maps at 1:50 000 scale. Maps at other scales will be derived from digital data stored in the topographic database.

Map making technology has also changed considerably in the last few years. Very few maps produced in New Zealand are now produced by manual cartographic methods. The majority of map producers have embraced computerised technology for all map production. Maps are produced using most of the popular software programs available internationally. The production software used includes not only the systems specifically made for map production, but also the capability of desk top publishing software for the production of a range of innovative illustrative maps. Technological change has been hastened by the advances in systems used in the pre-press and printing industries

Apart from the above mentioned range of mapping published by Land Information New Zealand, the following is a list of most of the other main publishers of printed maps in New Zealand.

1. Minimaps Ltd., publishes a wide variety of sheet street maps and street map books.
2. The Automobile Association publishes a range of road maps, sheet maps and street map books.
3. Wisers NZ Limited publishes a range of road maps, sheet street maps and street map books.
4. The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences publishes a range of NZ geological and related scientific maps.
5. The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research publishes a variety of oceanic charts.
6. Landcare Research NZ Ltd. publishes soil and land use maps.
7. The New Zealand Electoral Commission publishes maps showing electoral boundaries.
8. Statistics New Zealand publishes maps of statistical data.

9. Various local government agencies publish maps of their areas of responsibility on a variety of themes.
10. Some New Zealand universities publish printed maps.
11. A number of commercial publishing companies publish a limited number of atlases and other map related products.

Not all of the above named organisations have a cartographic production capability. Some map publishers contract for production work.

Terralink NZ Limited has the longest experience and is the largest company engaged in production mapping, producing a wide range of topographic, thematic, street maps and atlases. Since its establishment it has not been a publisher itself, the company preferring to produce for other organisations under contract.

Overall the cartographic industry in New Zealand is expanding, with more small firms taking advantage of computerised technology to produce a wide variety of map products.

NEW ZEALAND CARTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The New Zealand Cartographic Society has experienced considerable operational difficulties over the last few years, mainly because of the new work place reforms.

Many voluntary organisations world wide have experienced similar difficulties as their organisers are forced to spend more time concentrating on their careers, leaving little time for the operation of their professional societies. Major difficulties have also been experienced, obtaining enough innovative and original material to maintain the publication of our journal.

As the working environment becomes more and more competitive, there is less incentive for society members to share their knowledge. Rather this knowledge is carefully guarded in the hope of using it for commercial gain over competitors.

The New Zealand Cartographic Society has been in operation for over 25 years and has failed to attract new and dynamic members to assist in leadership roles. This is largely due to the lack of employment opportunities being available for prospective cartographers over the last decade.

Although our Society has been virtually non-functional over the last few years, there is still considerable reluctance to abandon it. Informal discussions have taken place recently with a view to re-activating the Society, possibly by taking advantage of new technology such as the Internet as a vehicle for communication.

Through our participation at the Ottawa conference, we will be hoping to gather facts on issues facing other member bodies of ICA, with a view to New Zealand once again actively participating in international cartographic matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all delegates a successful and rewarding conference.

Rob Phillips
President
New Zealand Cartographic Society