

Building Land Management Organisations and Professions for the Information Age

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Keywords: Land management; Professional practice;

SUMMARY

We live in the 21st Century and land management professionals use technologies of the information age when undertaking their professional roles. Observations of organisation and management are that much of it is based around techniques of the industrial age. The question to ask is whether the organisations we work in and management techniques in professions have kept up to date. There are pressures for stability in organisations and structures. The management of land is an underpinning building block of all societies. As an established function that has been operating for a number of years the organisations involved in delivering the various component parts of the system tend to be older more structured organisations. This is particularly so with the components that deliver the government managed components. The stability and certainty that is often desired and expected by those receiving services can restrict the ability of the organisations to respond to the demands of a changing world. There is an increasing recognition that change is needed within organisations to respond to the challenges presented by population, economic, social and climate change. The demands are ones that challenge world leaders and impact directly on how land is managed and competing usage needs. Solutions will demand that new approaches are used as the old ones are not adequate to the size and scale of the problems. This paper will review how organisations are adapting to changes and trying new approaches to manage in complex and often chaotic environments. It will use case studies on private and public organisations from research on innovation in organisations to provide ideas and examples that have been used successfully and identify ones that may be useful to land management organisations. It will present case studies on land management organisations that are using new approaches to deliver in a way that meets the demands of a fast changing professional environment. The paper will conclude by summarising the challenges and reviewing the approaches and suggesting what are the characteristics of successful land management organisations.

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