

# Capability Building in State Land Management: New Zealand Experience

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## SUMMARY

Issues of capability can arise throughout the reforms of management of state land. It is an area with few academic qualifications and much of the knowledge of the particular issues with state land is held by only a few experienced officers. For many government agencies, land management is secondary to the delivery of vital services such as schools, roads or hospitals. In New Zealand, the establishment of a specialist centre has allowed issues of capability across government to be considered in a more detailed manner. The vision of is to be a leader in the management of Crown land (the generic term for state land in New Zealand). The aims are to ensure that government buys and sells land in a way that advances the public interest and protects private property rights and that state land is put to its best use. The paper focuses in particular on the steps being taken to build capability across government and in the private sector, which in New Zealand's market economy, provides many of the day-to-day services associated with state land management. This includes efforts to increase expertise and staff capability, across agencies, and establishing mechanisms to share specialist technical advice across government.