

ISSUE TWO: APRIL 2009

Nothing Stays the Same Forever!

Welcome to BTW's second quarterly newsletter, which endeavours to keep our clients and readers informed of matters in planning and resource consents, cadastral surveying, and our business services.

Whilst there is global decline in economy, Taranaki is holding up well, with the dairy industry stabilising and growing, and the energy sectors continuing with exploration activity. Subdivision of rural and residential land is continuing steadily, particularly in the rural sector.

In times of economic decline, we believe it is critical to focus not only on consolidating existing business, but also developing new business. In this regard, BTW Company is actively extending our business services in neighbouring King Country areas and further developing our civil engineering business. Our success in these developments will be revealed in the years ahead.

We are also consolidating and improving our existing services through improved technology and systems to ensure we continue to provide a competitive, professional service, to the mutual advantage of our clients and our business.

Phil Dickey - Managing Director

Planning Roundup!

Changes are in the wings across the board – the Resource Management Act (RMA) is receiving a fair bit of attention in the media at the moment, as are some of Taranaki Regional Councils' proposed changes to their Air Plan. Read on for more information.....

New Plymouth District Rural Review

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) has kicked off a review of all the rules in the rural area. Submissions on the first round of consultation document are due to be heard in May.

Addressing 'reverse sensitivity' issues and the impacts that rural subdivision has on rural character appear to be the main concerns that the council hopes to address with this review. More specific direction on changes to the rules, and possibly the zoning, in the rural parts of New Plymouth, is expected in coming months.

The Land Supply Review – looking at where New Plymouth will grow in the future - is still progressing and we look forward to more information from the NPDC on this in due course.

Stratford District Council – District Plan 2008

Proposed changes to the Stratford District Plan are now essentially in place. BTW Company made a number of submissions over a range of proposed changes and are generally happy with the outcome of the process. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Kathryn Hooper or Mike Gibson.



Photo: Registered Surveyor Ian Dickey.

Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki

Changes to Taranaki Regional Council's Regional Air Quality Plan were notified recently. The proposal includes banning of back-yard burning in residential areas, and this has caught the attention of the media recently. The changes proposed are quite extensive, and some new activities are proposed to be captured by air quality rules. Rules around discharges of dust are to be tightened up – so if you undertake activities such as earthworks, roading, construction or handling of materials which emit dust, it would pay to have one of our experts look at the proposed new rules and determine the implications for your operation.

Submissions close on 8 May 2009.

Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Bill

Since our last newsletter, the Government has delivered on one of its election promises by announcing proposed amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991. The focus of the amendments is to streamline the consenting process, particularly for large infrastructure projects. The Government has also indicated that the proposed amendments are much broader than originally planned in what is 'phase one' of a suite of changes, in an effort to help "kick-start" the economy in the current economic recession. The changes are being described by some as the most significant overhaul of the RMA since it was introduced in 1991 – so it pays to take note of what is planned. We'd be pleased to answer any queries on this process.

BTW Company's Resource Management and Environment team is here to help you through Council processes, and any questions you might have about the RMA and consents in general. We have a team of 5 planners, who take pride in our 'down to earth' approach.

Cadastral Corner

Since the last newsletter there have certainly been some significant changes in the economic climate but it is pleasing to see that things are still ticking over nicely in Taranaki. Work loads in the cadastral department have been on the up since the start of the year with the rural sector especially keeping us busy.

Many of our rural clients are looking to optimise core business by subdividing off surplus land and buildings. Quite often areas of unproductive land just happen to be ideal house sites, especially if the land is coastal or has a view!

In addition, we are currently completing a number of rural subdivisions which must be completed as part of a Farm Sale & Purchase Agreements, due 1st June.

A typical subdivision takes a minimum of 12 weeks from start to finish, although BTW have systems to speed up the process. So if you require 1st June settlements, call us now!

BTW have been involved in an increasing number of surveys for QEII covenants, which are established voluntarily to protect significant natural habitats such as native bush or wetlands. BTW's Mike Gibson is able to provide advice on establishing these covenants.

BTW's cadastral team continue to deliver a "farm mapping" service to our rural clients. Detailed farm maps, showing paddock names and areas have proven to be extremely valuable for farm management and planning. Costs of mapping have been rapidly recovered through the economic advantages, such as having precise areas for fertiliser and spraying calculations. Farm maps can be prepared as laminated copy of all sizes, or on whiteboards for planning daily operations.

Engineering and Energy Projects

BTW continue to be active in our engineering and energy sector business. Work fronts include Origin Energy's Kupe project, wellsite developments, seismic surveys and oil and gas pipeline surveys.

These are major projects for our clients, and for Taranaki. By contributing to their success through innovative, professional services, we also endeavour to make a contribution to our regions prosperity.

Staff Profile



Kathryn Hooper - Director, Bachelor Applied Science, Team Leader Resource Management and Environment

Kathryn Hooper has been a Director of BTW Company since 2004, and manages our Planning and Environment Department. Kathryn is highly regarded in this Industry, and is dedicated to every project undertaken. She is a Taranaki girl, mother, wife and fine colleague to all at BTW!

GIS (Geographical Information Systems)

What is GIS (Geographical Information Systems)?

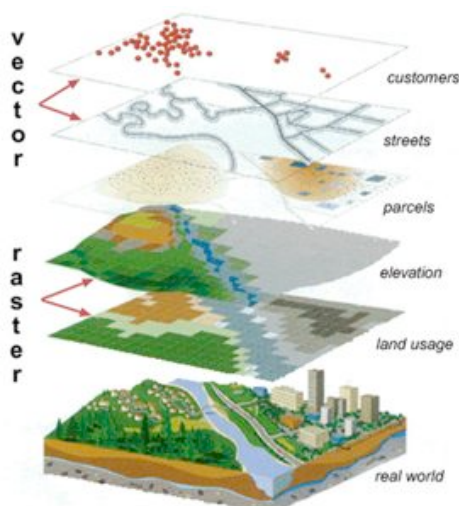
The key word to this technology is Geography - this usually means that the data (or at least some proportion of the data) is spatial, just like a road map, data that is in some way referenced to locations on the earth.

Where is GIS used?

GIS is reshaping the business world. From petroleum companies looking for resources to assessing pipeline routes, forestry companies looking for suitable land parcels for plantations to firebreak maintenance. GIS has come to touch many industries both locally and worldwide.

Case Study

BTW has developed a web GIS system used extensively to locate sites, view consents, identify spill containment points and notify if any maintenance is due on sites. This has become an essential tool to our client and is the way of the future.



What can I do with GIS?

GIS allows us to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize this data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts

Where does BTW fit into the equation?

As a technology leader, with experienced GIS specialists, BTW has developed an in-house GIS management system covering a wide range of diverse projects. We are able to provide a comprehensive selection of map data, including aerial imagery, topographic maps and layers, street data, parcel and administrative boundaries.

"BTW Company is dedicated to delivering best-value services and quality products.

We are a multi-facet company and I am extremely proud of our professional and experienced team." Phil Dickey - Managing Director