

**Appraisal Report**

**Legacy Functions, Activities and Records Evaluation for Landcare Research Limited**

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<b>Agency</b>	Archives New Zealand
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<b>Purpose</b>
<p>The purpose of this appraisal report is to obtain disposal authorisation from the Chief Archivist for Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research film reels and videos, some of which came to Archives New Zealand in 2011.</p> <p>Under section 20(1) of the Public Records Act 2005, the Chief Archivist must authorise the transfer, alteration, destruction, sale, or discharge of public records. Before authorising any disposals, the Chief Archivist must also give no less than 30 days' public notice of the intention to dispose of public records.</p> <p>This report, which makes a disposal recommendation based on an appraisal of the records, is submitted to the Chief Archivist as part of the public notification and authorisation process.</p> <p><b>Appraisal Circumstances</b></p> <p>This appraisal report covers audio-visual records (film and video) from Landcare Research Limited, which was previously held by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) until their disestablishment in 1992. When the Ministry of Works and Development (MWD) was disestablished in 1988, DSIR took over some of its functions and inherited all films and videos related to water and soil conservation or natural and physical sciences from the Ministry of Works and Development Information Services Library.</p> <p>An email chain between Landcare Research's Library &amp; Information Resources Centres Manager and Archives New Zealand reveals that Landcare offered some films they no longer wanted in 2011. Only three titles were selected for review as potential public archives by the Film Archivist at the time, but all films were sent to Archives NZ for assessment. The VHS videos are not mentioned in this correspondence.</p> <p>As the records are currently unprocessed, it is recommended that these records be appraised to enable the sentencing of non-current records that relate to an inherited function or activity from a previously responsible organisation which is not covered by the current organisation's Disposal Authority.</p>

<p><b>Scope</b></p>
<p>This report covers audio-visual material that was created by Landcare Research Limited or its predecessors that are not covered by its own Disposal Authority, DA390. Copies of audio visual material are excluded as they are covered by GDA7 (DA576), <i>Transitory, Facilitative and Short-Term Records</i>.</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>
<p>16mm colour film prints, Super 8 film print, VHS and U-matic video cassettes, film strips, date range from 1970-1990.</p>
<p><b>Function/Activity Information/Collection</b></p>
<p>Over the years the Ministry of Works, and then Ministry of Works and Development, was asked to take on an increasing amount of policy and regulatory work on behalf of government. The major Acts administered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Roads Board Act - for highway funding and administration covering both state and local highways. The ministry provided a service to the then National Roads Board. (Note: as well as that service the ministry also carried out most of the operational investigation, design and construction work on the state highway system)</li> <li>• Public Works Act - for many things including the public acquisition of land for all local and national government purposes</li> <li>• Water and Soil Conservation Act - for river control, water rights, land erosion, etc.</li> <li>• Town and Country Planning Act - for planning consents, district schemes, etc.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry also gave advice to government and the community on areas including economic matters, the building industry, civil defence, research and development. It also trained tradesmen, draughting and engineering officers and professionals, and gave financial support for undergraduate and postgraduate courses.</p> <p>In the early 1980s the Public Works Act gave the Ministry three principal functions, which were often closely related to one another. The functions were: advisory, statutory, and asset development and management or operational functions.</p> <p>The Ministry of Works and Development was disestablished in 1988 and some of its functions were divided between other agencies. Most of the film and video library went to The Works and Development Services Corporation (NZ) Ltd (WORKS), which was established under the State Owned Enterprises Act 1986, and assumed control of the consultancy services, civil construction, property maintenance and facilities management.</p> <p>The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Division of Land and Soil Sciences came into existence in October 1988 by combining units from DSIR and MWD. It dealt in soil survey, classification, characterisation and fertility land use/capability classification, geographic, information systems and erosion control. The Division had substantial research centres at Taita and Aokautere, with offices for field survey teams at Hamilton, Gisborne, Rotorua, Havelock North, Marlborough, Christchurch, Lincoln and Dunedin.</p> <p>In 1990 the Department restructured, and the Division of Land and Soil Sciences joined with the Ecology Division and Science Mapping Unit to form DSIR Land Resources Division, ABME.</p> <p>DSIR Land Resources was responsible for providing the scientific base for efficient and sustainable use of land. Its activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• soil survey</li> <li>• soil classification</li> </ul>

- geographic information systems
- erosion control

In 1992, after restructuring, all DSIR Land Resources except seismic ground motion research, were transferred to independent Crown Research Institute (CRI) Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd (ABLS). Seismic ground motion research was transferred to CRI Geological & Nuclear Sciences Ltd (ABLP).

According to the DSIR 16mm Film and Video Catalogue 1988: "The following films and videos were previously held by the Ministry of Works and Development Information Services Library. All films related to water and soil conservation or natural and physical sciences are now held by DSIR at the Soil Conservation Centre, Aokautere. The descriptions of each film have been derived from the 1985 edition of the Ministry of Works and Development Film Catalogue. The numbering system used in that catalogue has been retained." A small asterisk note at the bottom of the page indicates: "On October 1988, this Centre will become part of the Division of Land and Soil Science, DSIR." It seems that the National Film Library also offered access to these films and New Zealand Film Archive Catalogue going back to 1975.

This film and video collection then became part of the Library and Information Resource Centre of Landcare Research New Zealand in Lincoln, Canterbury, where it remained until it was offered to Archives New Zealand in 2011.

Landcare Research New Zealand Limited is the controlling public office for the records being appraised.

## Methodology

The existing sentencing list was used to confirm the titles and quantities of the audio-visual material. This list was then cross-referenced with the 1988 Department of Scientific and Industrial Research [DSIR] 16mm Film and Video Catalogue:

- All 16mm film titles can be found in the Catalogue
- Of 109 VHS titles, 55 titles are found in the Catalogue, 54 are not
- All U-matic titles are found in the Catalogue
- No film strips are found in the Catalogue
- The Super 8 film title is also not found in the Catalogue

Following the quantifying exercise, further analysis was undertaken of the 54 titles not in the DSIR catalogue.

The records have been evaluated using Archives New Zealand's **Public Sector Archival Selection Statement**. The following three principles covers the audio-visual material and are summarised below:

Principle 1 – New Zealand public sector authority, functions and activities (soil survey, classification, erosion, GIS)

- generated public interest or innovative, unique or precedent-setting practices, techniques or methods

Principle 2 – Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- principles and fulfilment of the Crown's obligations, and evidence of the absence or failure of these

Principle 3 – Individual and community knowledge, identity and memory (footage of environmental significance)

- community, cultural, Māori, environmental or heritage significance, providing links between the past and the present. Health, well-being and development of New Zealand society

<b>Class or class grouping</b>	Audio-visual material <b>related to</b> water and soil conservation, and/or natural and physical sciences
<b>Description</b>	
<p>1. This class covers audio-visual material (produced in New Zealand or overseas) relating to Landcare Research or its predecessor agencies' functions and activities regarding water and soil conservation, and/or natural and physical sciences, which were used by Landcare Research or its predecessor agencies to keep abreast of developments in the field, document the New Zealand landscape and provide informational services to internal/external stakeholders.</p>	
<b>Value Statement</b>	
<p>The audio-visual material from the 1988 DSIR 16mm Film and Video Catalogue documents the Ministry of Works and Development Information Service Library at the time of its disestablishment and its continued use within the newly formed DSIR Division of Land and Soil Sciences, followed by Landcare Research until no longer relevant.</p> <p>Audio-visual material with reference numbers "WSO-", which have come from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Soil Bureau Library (a predecessor of Landcare Research), also document the government's response to environmental factors that affect water and soil conservation. For example, videos documenting the Otoi Storm Damage or Rangitikei Valley Soil Conservation Works. This material holds the same function and value as the material from the 1988 Catalogue.</p> <p>Therefore, the unique value of these records lies in all three principles. Principle 1 – as the material documents NZ Public Sector authority, functions and activities (e.g. soil surveys, classification, erosion, GIS). Principle 2 – Treaty of Waitangi, as the acts underpinning the functions of the Ministry of Works and Development as related to these records contained no specific requirements to take Maori interests and concerns into account, when applying for water rights for example, and can be seen to document government activities prior to other acts that do take Maori interests into account such as The Conservation Act 1987.<sup>1</sup> Principle 3 – Individual and community knowledge, identity and memory as they document how New Zealand agencies responded to issues within water and soil conservation, natural and physical sciences (e.g. footage of environmental significance).</p>	
<b>Retention and disposal recommendation</b>	
<p>The recommendation is for audio-visual material related to water and soil conservation, and/or natural and physical sciences used by Landcare Research Ltd and its predecessor agencies to educate and inform internal/external stakeholders to be retained as public archives.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Marr, Cathy. May 1997. Public Works Takings of Maori Land, 1840-1981. Rangahaua Whanui National Theme G. Waitangi Tribunal Whanui Series. <https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/wt-theme-g-public-works-takings-of-maori-land.pdf>. Accessed 9 August 2021.

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. May 2002. Exploring the Concept of a Treaty-based Environmental Audit Framework. [https://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/pdfs/treaty\\_initiative.pdf](https://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/pdfs/treaty_initiative.pdf). Accessed 9 August 2021.

<b>Class or class grouping</b>	Audio-visual material <b>not related to</b> water and soil conservation, and/or natural and physical sciences
<b>Description</b>	
	2. This class covers audio-visual material that is not related to activities and technical processes of water and soil conservation, or natural and physical sciences (e.g. Staff events, test flights for cameras, Tehran International Trade Fair, or Chernobyl)
<b>Value Statement</b>	
	Audio-visual material not related to water and soil conservation, and/or natural and physical sciences holds no long-term value as public archives as they do not document the functions and activities of Landcare Research Ltd or its predecessor agencies (Principle 1), nor do they uphold Principle 2 – Treaty of Waitangi, or Principle 3 – individual and community knowledge, identity and memory. This material seems to have been used for internal administrative or informational purposes.
<b>Retention and disposal recommendation</b>	
	This material is recommended for destruction.