

Cadastral Survey of the Year Award 2023



Finalist: ALEX HARRINGTON – SO 577255
Survey of MHWS with UAV – Manukau Harbour



Watercare Services Ltd (Watercare) is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) wholly owned by Auckland Council. Watercare is New Zealand’s largest company in the water and wastewater industry.

To support a complicated land swap agreement between Auckland Council and Watercare, Beca Ltd were commissioned to undertake a cadastral survey to define land to be retained for operational purposes, land forming a coastal walkway that would be transferred to Auckland Council and land that was situated in the Common Marine and Coastal Area below MHWS.

SO 577255 is the legalisation survey of this land, and involved the survey and establishment of over 5.5km of a new mean high water springs (MHWS) boundary with a UAV. To add to the complexity the underlying definition was technically difficult and there were challenging health and safety requirements to consider (a significant portion of the site was within the active operational area of the Puketutu Island Bio-Solids operational area and the Auckland Airport restricted flight zone). Also being in the Manukau Harbour and close to Ihumatao the site is of huge significance to local iwi.

The survey plan only lists the Licensed Cadastral Survey but the cadastral surveyor should not work in isolation and this survey highlighted a wide variety of skills from the pilot to the Landonline Drafting Expert and the Otago Student on work experience.

Finally this survey highlights robust verification procedures that are important to every CSD – particularly when using new technology or methods. As a result this CSD did not receive a requisition and was approved on its first submittal.

