

Environment Canterbury Media Release 26/01/21

Landpro has been carrying out two types of aerial survey. The first has been a high density aerial (LiDAR*) topographic survey of Christchurch. The final flight for this work was carried out last night. These surveys are routinely captured, and the last time this occurred in Christchurch was February 2019.

The second survey is for aerial photography. This will occur around midday over the next couple of weeks, depending on the weather. These flights need to occur during the middle of the day so that there are minimal shadows in the photography. The public can view the latest, and historical, aerial photography the councils hold on your property using the Canterbury Maps property search tool <https://propertysearch.canterburymaps.govt.nz/>

What work is this aircraft being used for?

The aircraft is capturing a high density aerial (LiDAR*) topographic survey of Christchurch. These surveys are routinely captured and the last time this was captured over Christchurch was 8/Feb/2019.

Why is this aircraft flying low?

The aircraft is required to fly low to capture up to 16 pulse returns per metre for highly accurate topographic mapping of the natural environment, city surfaces and the built environment.

How long will this work be carried out?

The work is due to be completed today (weather and flight clearance dependant). The company has been asked not to fly past 20:00 for the remainder of the project.

Why is this air craft being flown at night?

The aircraft has been coordinating with air traffic control to get flight clearance. Unfortunately they have not been given the airspace during the day so have had to fly into the night.

Why does this aircraft fly over the same area multiple times?

The flights are conducted with front and side overlap in their capture swathes so a continuous ground and surface model can be extrapolated.

*LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data, or height data, is precise laser measurements of the Earth's surface that is used for creating highly accurate 3D maps of the land. Having better elevation data will enable the city council to map infrastructure including transport network and impervious surfaces and improve the slope and elevation information that go into Land Information Memorandum reports. LiDAR topographic datasets are also foundational datasets that scientists use to improve geological, flood and coastal natural hazard models. It provides land information to benefit better planning for development, engineering, architecture, and design applications by the private sector and is available to the public via open data on Canterbury Maps, a joint project by regional and territorial councils of Canterbury.