



**INVESTIGATION INTO THE USE OF EXTERNAL  
SECURITY CONSULTANTS**

## **1 Background**

GNS were requested by the State Service Commission to conduct an inquiry into the use of external security consultants.

The services by the security consultants relates to high-level security assessments and private investigation of individuals or groups. This includes:

- engagement of third parties to gather intelligence from open source documents on security related issues
- use of surveillance on individuals, groups or meetings
- security or threat assessments of individuals or groups
- analysis of any information or intelligence gathered in the manner described above.

The period of interest is from 2008 to present. The following companies are of interest:

- Thompson and Clark Investigations Limited
- Eyela Limited
- Cyclops Monitoring Limited
- Bikini Red Limited
- Clark and Botica Holdings Limited
- Clark Capital Limited
- Propello Solutions Limited
- Thompson Capital Limited
- Thompson Trustee Limited

The following URL's are of interest

- <http://www.tcil.co.nz>
- <http://www.cyclopsmonitoring.com>
- <http://www.propello.net>
- <http://www.smartcontrols.co.nz>

The purpose of the review was to consider and analyse all the available documents and other relevant information obtained during my investigation and to prepare a report on the findings.

No discussion was held with the relevant department to verify or to provide context to the findings.

The scope from the request had to include reviewing our contract register, financial records and email system for the period of interest.

## **2 Facts**

- a) Financial records
  - We obtained the financial records from October 2008 to October 2018 and found none of the security companies listed, above received any payments from GNS Science.
- b) Contract register
  - GNS Science did not maintain a contract register to record contracts with consultants, contractors or service providers during that period.

c) Emails

- The period under review GNS Science made use of Lotus Notes and Microsoft Outlook.
- We selected all tier 1 to tier 3 employees to search for any communication with the companies noted under the background section.
- The following were noted:
  1. Three of our employees received emails when they were copied in with other agencies. This amounted to 7 emails in total.
  2. One employee was asked for information relating to a specific condition of a field that Thompson and Clark was interested in. The employee responded that the information is available on our website.
  3. One employee received an email requesting to be on their distribution list. The employee didn't respond to this email.
  4. From June 2016 to August 2017 we received 34 emails from Thompson and Clark. We responded 20 times during this period. The details are:
    - These emails contained communication between Thompson and Clark and three GNS Science employees.
    - Thompson and Clark indicated they can provide input with security planning, vessel port call support and normal security response to operation.
    - The heading of these emails was as follows:
      - GNS and the Joides Resolution Drill Ship
      - Situation Reports
      - Security Risk Management Proposal IODP
    - Over this period, they provided GNS Science with examples of Security Situation Reports from other agencies and a risk assessment framework.
    - They also drafted a security risk assessment for the IODP project and provided this to GNS Science.
    - Thompson and Clark provided GNS Science with the following business proposals to consider:
      - IODP Security Awareness Proposal dated 28 October 2016 – various emails were send from Thompson and Clark since this period to follow up on the status of acceptance
      - IODP Security Risk Management Proposal dated 24 August 2017.
    - GNS Science declined the proposal dated 24 August 2017 on the 25 August 2017 noting that GNS Science will make use of our own resources and be working with GNS Science international partners.
    - All communication ceased from this date.

### 3 Conclusion

GNS Science has never accepted a business proposal from the listed companies and has no commercial arrangement or other relationship with them. We have not identified any gaps in the process apart from that the relevant department should have followed a procurement process. GNS Science has a formalised policy and procedures in place.