

A better way to resolve issues

Land Acquisition Resolution Service (LARS) is a free and independent mediation service for landowners whose land is being acquired under the Public Works Act 1981.

Waka Kotahi and Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand have engaged Fair Way to provide this service to help streamline the acquisition process and improve landowners' experience.

LARS is designed to support landowners and the Crown to reach agreements during negotiations on property acquisition.

The mediation process is free for landowners whose property is needed for a project that is part of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme. The service is fully funded by Waka Kotahi.



Land Acquisition Resolution Service

Land Acquisition Resolution Service (LARS) is a free and independent mediation service to help landowners and the Crown quickly reach agreement.

Fair Way is the independent operator of LARS and has a panel of experienced mediators who are neutral and independent of the Crown and its representatives.

Mediation is a safe place for landowners to ask questions, share their perspective with the Crown, learn about projects and explore options together. LARS empowers the landowner and Crown to navigate these conversations with the support of a skilled mediator and to reach agreement together.

Contact us



Website

www.fairwayresolution.com/LARS



Email

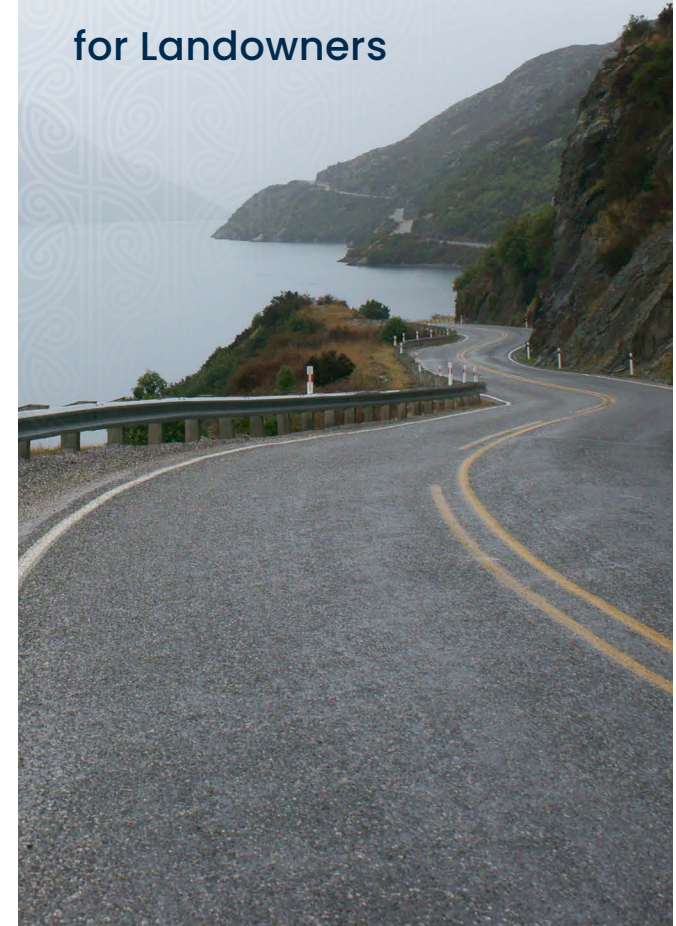
LARS@fairwayresolution.com



Phone

0800 60 43 73

Independent Mediation for Landowners



Land Acquisition
Resolution Service

Land Acquisition Resolution Service Process



Get in touch

You can get in touch by phone, email or online



Have a chat

Share your details, ask questions, choose a mediator and find out more



Case conference

An opportunity for you and the Crown to clarify issues and get things ready before mediation



Prepare

Optional – A professional can help you develop skills and strategies for mediation



Mediation

You and the Crown will meet with the mediator to explore resolution options – experts can be involved as needed



Agreement

The mediator will prepare a summary of any agreements reached

What is mediation?

Mediation creates a safe environment for landowners to ask questions, to have constructive conversations with representatives for the Crown, and work through any disagreements around compensation or other matters.

Mediation allows parties to explore options and reach an agreement together. It helps avoid extended discussions or proceedings at the Land Valuation Tribunal.

How does mediation work?

A mediator is like a guide. They help you to navigate the issue and they find a path for you to move forward. As an independent, neutral person, they can support the mediation parties to reach an agreement on their own terms – the mediator will not determine the outcome. The mediation may take anywhere from a few hours to an entire day, with the mediator speaking with the parties together or separately. If you reach an agreement, the mediator will prepare a summary to sign. This agreement is made under section 17 of the Public Works Act 1981 and, as a public record, will not be confidential.

When can I use Land Acquisition Resolution Service (LARS)?

At any point in the acquisition process, you can use LARS. Landowners can contact LARS directly to begin mediation. The Crown can also suggest LARS to landowners during or after negotiations.

Who runs LARS?

LARS is operated by Fair Way who has a panel of independent and skilled mediators.

Are there costs involved?

The mediation process is free for landowners.

Can support people attend?

You can have representatives, lawyers, valuers and support people attend the mediation.

Can my needs be accommodated?

Yes. Land Acquisition Resolution Service (LARS) is committed to accessibility and meeting diverse needs. This means we can provide support, for example arranging an interpreter or taking a tikanga-based approach to mediation.

Can I pick my mediator?

Yes. Fair Way will recommend some mediators based on your needs for you to choose from. A full list of independent and accredited LARS mediators is available on the website.

Can I meet the mediator before the mediation?

The mediator will speak with each party separately before the mediation to understand the matter and discuss the process going forward. The mediator will ask the parties to sign an "Agreement to Mediate" which will cover the basic guidelines of the process. The mediation process is confidential, so anyone attending a mediation will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.

What happens at the case conference?

A case conference is an opportunity to get things ready for the mediation. You can clarify the matters that you would like to address during the mediation. The mediator will organise the date, time and venue of the mediation.

Where do mediations take place?

You can choose to meet in person at a suitable venue near you or online.