



STATEMENT OF INTENT 2005 – 2008

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STATEMENT BY THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTER

This statement is prepared in accordance with section 39 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

The information contained within the Ministry for the Environment's Statement of Intent 2005 – 2008 is consistent with the policies and performance expectations of the Government.

Signed



Hon Marian L Hobbs
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

The information for the Ministry for the Environment contained in this Statement of Intent has been prepared in accordance with section 38 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

The Chief Executive of the Ministry for the Environment acknowledges, in signing this statement, that he is responsible for the forecast financial statements contained in this Statement of Intent.

The financial performance forecast to be achieved by the Ministry for the year ending 30 June 2006 that is specified in part two of the Statement of Intent is as agreed with the Minister for the Environment, who is the Minister responsible for the financial performance of the Ministry for the Environment.

We certify that the information contained in this report is consistent with the appropriation contained in the Estimates for the year ending 30 June 2006 that are being laid before the House of Representatives under section 13 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Signed

Countersigned



Barry Carbon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
11 April 2005



Fiona Morgan
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
11 April 2005

FOREWORD



In early 2003 the Ministry for the Environment introduced a system of monthly reporting across the organisation. We use the reports from each of our business groups as the basis for sharing information and discussing issues of importance with the wider management team. Each month I am reminded, as I read the reports and hear the highlights presented by our General Managers, of the wide range of our activities and what is being achieved.

We enter the 2005 – 2008 period as an organisation in good heart and clearly focused on our priorities. We will begin some major new work programmes in the new financial year and expand others.

The international Kyoto Protocol came into force on 16 February 2005. Under the Protocol, New Zealand has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to the level they were in 1990, or take responsibility for excess emissions. The climate change work we are leading across government now takes on an added intensity as we head towards the first commitment period (2008 – 2012).

The Government has approved a broad-based work programme over the next two years for the review of river control and flood risk management in New Zealand. The intention is to create a clear picture of flood risk, clarify roles and responsibilities, and develop a flood risk management approach that is adaptable to the circumstances of councils and communities.

The work programme flowing from the review of the Resource Management Act is also substantial. The development of national policy statements and national environmental standards will provide greater national direction to local government. We have been delighted with the interest in the voluntary programme of councillor training and now need to expand this into an accreditation programme. We will also be taking a stronger role in review of and assistance to councils.

Also taking on increasing significance are our activities to promote sustainable industry. For example, the sustainable tourism project piloted in Northland is now being expanded to five other regions with support from the Ministry of Tourism. We aim to take the eco-efficiency approach to other business sectors this year, as well as continuing our focus on extended producer responsibility.

The launch of the Urban Design Protocol by Prince Charles and Minister Marian Hobbs on 8 March 2005 marked an important milestone in the Urban Affairs work programme. The work on the Protocol now moves into a stage of building support and providing guidance.

This Statement of Intent outlines our main activities for 2005 – 2008. We look forward to a challenging and productive work programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Carbon', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Barry Carbon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART ONE: THE MINISTRY



OVERVIEW

WHO WE ARE

The Ministry for the Environment was established under the Environment Act 1986. It reports to the Minister for the Environment, the Minister of Energy and the Convenor of the Ministerial Group on Climate Change.

The Ministry is the Government's principal adviser on the New Zealand environment and on international matters that affect the environment. It provides leadership on the environment across central and local government. Day-to-day environmental management is largely the responsibility of regional councils and territorial authorities.

The Environment Act defines 'environment' very widely, including ecosystems, people and communities, and natural and physical resources. Therefore the Ministry's interests and responsibilities cover the natural environment, the built environment and how people behave towards the environment.



STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The Ministry's functions under the Environment Act can be summarised as:¹

- to advise the Minister on all aspects of environmental administration
- to obtain information, and conduct and undertake research
- to advise the Government and its agencies on:
 - environmental legislation
 - assessment and monitoring of environmental impacts
 - pollution management and control
 - identification and reduction of natural hazards
 - control of hazardous substances
- to assist in resolving conflict regarding policies and proposals that may affect the environment
- to provide and disseminate information and services
- to promote environmental policies, including education and mechanisms for promoting participation in environmental planning.

The Ministry also has specific functions under the:

- Resource Management Act 1991
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Ozone Layer Protection Act 1996
- Climate Change Response Act 2002.

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Our vision is of:

- A healthy environment which sustains people and nature.

We see our mission as:

- Delivering the environment that New Zealanders expect and deserve.

The values that are important to us in our work are to be:

- Effective
- Trusted
- Influential.

OUR ROLE

The role of the Ministry for the Environment is to:

- provide **leadership** across government and the community on environment
- work in **partnership** with key sectors and organisations to improve our environment
- **fix** problems that require central government intervention
- ensure that New Zealand has good environmental **governance**.

We are only one player in delivering the environment that New Zealanders expect and deserve, though we have a central role in this. To achieve a clean, healthy environment and sustainable economic growth, New Zealand needs strong and consistent environmental governance at all levels. Laws and regulations by themselves will not produce a clean and healthy environment. By encouraging businesses and households to act more sustainably, we aim in the longer term to have an environment that is valued by '4 million careful owners'.

¹ See Part 3: Other Information, page 62 for a transcript of the Environment Act 1986 Section 31: Functions of the Ministry.

THE CONTEXT FOR OUR STATEMENT OF INTENT

There are two major influences on our activities and, therefore, our Statement of Intent – the Government’s goals and policy directions and the setting in which we operate. There is a very strong interaction between the environment, society and the economy. The environment is not only the natural world that supports all life, but also the places that we live and the essential underpinning for many sectors of our economy. Any action taken on environmental issues is likely to cut across someone else’s business. We must, therefore, always be conscious of the context within which our work is done, including government strategic directions, and how environmental management relates to other elements of New Zealand life.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Key government goals to guide the public sector in achieving sustainable development²

Strengthen national identity and uphold the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Celebrate our identity in the world as people who support and defend freedom and fairness, who enjoy arts, music, movement and sport, and who value our diverse cultural heritage; and resolve at all times to endeavour to uphold the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Grow an inclusive, innovative economy for the benefit of all

Develop an economy that adapts to change, provides opportunities and increases employment, and, while reducing inequalities, increases incomes for all New Zealanders. Focus on the Growth and Innovation Framework to improve productivity and sustainable economic growth.

Maintain trust in government and provide strong social services

Maintain trust in government by working in partnerships with communities, providing strong social services for all, building safe communities and promoting community development, keeping faith with the electorate, working constructively in Parliament and promoting a strong and effective public service.

Improve New Zealanders’ skills

Foster education and training to enhance and improve the nation’s skills so that all New Zealanders have the best possible future in a changing world. Build on the strengthened industry training and tertiary sectors to ensure that New Zealanders are among the best educated and most skilled people in the world.

Reduce inequalities in health, education, employment and housing

Reduce the inequalities that currently divide our society and offer a good future for all by better co-ordination of strategies across sectors and by supporting and strengthening the capacity of Maori and Pacific Island communities. Ensure that all groups in society are able to participate fully and to enjoy the benefits of improved production.

² Sustainable Development for New Zealand Programme of Action, 2003.

Protect and enhance the environment

Treasure and nurture our environment with protection for ecosystems so that New Zealand maintains a clean, green environment and builds on our reputation as a world leader in environmental issues. Focus on biodiversity and biosecurity strategies.

Our contribution to government goals

Of the key government goals above, those that most relate to the Ministry for the Environment are to:

- protect and enhance the environment
- grow an inclusive, innovative economy for the benefit of all
- strengthen national identity and uphold the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

These goals are reflected in the strategic priorities under which the Ministry has grouped its outcomes (see page 17), as well as in the way we carry out our work and the results we deliver.

Government policy directions

The Government's Sustainable Development for New Zealand Programme of Action, announced in 2003, sets the scene for much of our current work. Sustainable development is "development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".³ The Government's Sustainable Development Principles for Policy and Decision-Making (see page 60) reinforce the sustainable development context of our activities.

The Growth and Innovation Framework is also important, as it is designed to grow the economy through maximising New Zealand's natural competitive advantages.

Both policy statements recognise the central importance of the environment to the future economic and social wellbeing of New Zealand.

Other government strategies which have a significant influence on our work programmes are:

- The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000)
- The National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (2001)
- The New Zealand Waste Strategy (2002).

The international Kyoto Protocol on climate change is now in force. This brings a new intensity to the implementation of the Government's climate change policies and the need to meet New Zealand's international commitments.

³ Sustainable Development for New Zealand Programme of Action, 2003.

THE SETTING IN WHICH WE OPERATE

Sustainable development challenges governments to think broadly across economic, environmental and cultural objectives. It requires an integrated approach to policy and decision-making. Environmental policy, in particular, is closely connected with economic performance, social wellbeing, and cultural identity in New Zealand. The big environmental issues for the first decade of the 21st century are also economic and public health issues. In carrying out its responsibilities and in working with others, the Ministry needs to be constantly aware of the wider setting within which it works while maintaining a clear focus on protecting and enhancing our environment.

Environment

Our environment, as defined in legislation, includes both the natural world that supports all life and the places where people live, work and play. However, the health of our air, water, land and ecosystems is paramount in environmental management.

New Zealanders want to live in a clean, green and healthy country. Research carried out for the Growth and Innovation Advisory Board in 2004 showed that a large majority of New Zealanders rated the quality of the environment as most important to them. While economic growth was important, it should not be at the expense of core values such as quality of life and quality of the environment.

Surveys also show that New Zealanders consider the state and management of our environment to be good, and better than in other developed countries, though they have concerns about rivers and lakes, marine fisheries and air quality. Many want to know how they can contribute to achieving a clean and healthy environment.

The Ministry's work programme continues to have a strong focus on putting in place the fundamentals of environmental protection. This includes the national environmental standards for air quality and for dioxins and other toxics, and the sustainable water programme of action. We are also involved in cleaning up the legacy of previous practices that were not environmentally sound, such as careless handling of toxic chemicals.



Economy

Most New Zealand export and tourism businesses rely on New Zealand's natural environment. Agriculture and horticulture use more than 50% of our land and rely on other natural resources such as water. International visitors come to this country primarily for the environment – the spectacular landscapes, biodiversity, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. All of these sectors depend implicitly or explicitly on the quality of our natural environment and international perceptions about a clean, safe and healthy environment.

While many businesses depend on our natural environment, they can also have an impact on it. Intensification of rural land use, for example in dairy farming, can pollute land and water. Industry and transport can generate air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Since 1990 there have been substantial increases in carbon dioxide emissions from transport (42%), thermal electricity generation (85%), and manufacturing industries and construction (32%).

The challenge for New Zealand is to facilitate sustainable economic growth while protecting ecosystems and the quality of our environment. Industry itself can play a leading role in promoting and using sustainable practices such as eco-efficiency and extended producer responsibility.

The Ministry for the Environment has a major work programme focused on encouraging sustainable industry. We aim to help businesses think, plan and operate sustainably. Through voluntary agreements such as the Packaging and Clean Streams Accords we are working with industry to reduce their environmental impacts. We are encouraging extended producer responsibility for products through initiatives such as the Tyre Track system for old and unwanted tyres.

Cultural

Clear air, magnificent landscapes, and lazy summer days at the beach or lake, are central to New Zealanders perceptions about themselves and what New Zealand means. Our environment is intertwined with our cultural identity. For Maori, the relationship to the environment as tangata whenua and kaitiaki is hugely significant.

Immigrants to New Zealand bring a different set of cultural values into our society. In some cases their expectations about a 'clean green country' are disappointed by problems such as water pollution or waste, while the assumptions of others about use of natural resources presents challenges for those involved in day-to-day environmental management.

Much of the Ministry's work is intended to protect and enhance New Zealand's environmental inheritance. Maori cultural values in relation to the environment and resource management are embedded in legislation and the Treaty of Waitangi. They need to be respected and recognised in decisions that affect the environment.

Social

Environmental policy has a key role to play in the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders. Clean air and water are vital to people's health. We have seen how, in Christchurch, rises in air pollution caused by fine particles from domestic fires is closely tracked by rises in hospital admissions for respiratory problems such as asthma. New Zealand is seeing, each summer, increasing numbers of warnings at lakes and beaches about the health risks of swimming or recreation that involves contact with the water.

More than 80% of New Zealanders now live in urban centres. Our social wellbeing is linked to the effective functioning of our cities, towns and communities. This depends on good urban design, efficient transport networks, adequate infrastructure for water and sewerage, and appropriate waste and land management. Where cities are growing rapidly, or where there are high visitor numbers but a low population and economic base, it can be a struggle to maintain essential services.

The Ministry's work on sustainable cities, implementation of the Waste Strategy and air quality standards will help ensure the places where we live, work and play are healthy and function well.

Technology and biosecurity

Changes in technology can affect our environment. Sometimes these are positive effects, as industry has become increasingly aware of the impact of its activities and products on the environment. Packaging, for example, is coming under increasing scrutiny as the result of the Packaging Accord signed between central government, local government and industry on 10 August 2004.

New chemicals can be less hazardous to people and the environment than earlier substances developed for that purpose. However, careful consideration of their introduction to New Zealand and their conditions of use is required.

There are also threats to the environment and economy from ongoing biosecurity issues, primarily resulting from increased international trade, and potential risks from the planned introduction of new organisms into this country.

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, for which the Ministry is responsible, empowers the Environmental Risk Management Authority to make decisions about proposals to introduce new hazardous substances or living things to New Zealand. The decision-making process helps New Zealand to avoid the planned introduction of species which may threaten our ecosystems or our economy. Accidental and illegal introductions of new species are managed by other government agencies.



Relationships

As the information above illustrates, environmental issues are closely connected to economic, social and cultural matters. New Zealand's system of environmental management is highly devolved, with day-to-day decision-making and management the responsibility of local government.

The result is that most of the things the Ministry for the Environment becomes involved in cut across someone else's business. This is particularly the case with regional government. Our interests cut across the responsibilities of other government departments such as Transport, Fisheries, Agriculture and Forestry, Economic Development, and Conservation. A sustainable development approach requires collaboration with all of those interests, so that policies and decisions are the best for New Zealand as a whole.

Developing strong relationships and partnerships is the key to managing the issues that cut across someone else's business. One initiative which we are leading is the Chief Executives' Environment Forum, which brings together the key players from central and regional government. Our aim is for this forum to provide strong leadership in areas of mutual interest.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

THE DIRECTION

The Ministry for the Environment works with others to achieve the sustainable development of New Zealand.

Sustainable development is the context for all of the Ministry's work. It assumes the implementation of the ten principles of Sustainable Development Principles for Policy and Decision-Making adopted by the Government⁴ (see page 60).

The connections between environment and economy and environment and society are central to our activities, though our primary focus is to protect and enhance the environment. We desire a good environment where biodiversity and natural areas are protected and enhanced, where productive resources are used in a sustainable way, and the places where people live are clean, healthy and safe. We believe in a New Zealand that is reinforced by its sense of place. Our strategic priorities flow from the Government's Key Goals to Guide the Public Sector in Achieving Sustainable Development, linking them to our outcomes and work programmes.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Ministry's long term priorities are a healthy environment for New Zealand and sustainable economic growth. Since a whole range of environmental management responsibilities have been devolved to local government and Crown agencies, we also stress the importance of good environmental governance. These strategic priorities drive the actions and activities of the Ministry and hence the outcomes we are seeking in the medium term.

1: A healthy environment

There will be a good environment for New Zealand; the quality of the environment should meet the reasonable aspirations of New Zealanders. Everyone should be able to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment, and biodiversity should be protected and enhanced.

A healthy environment cannot be achieved by the Ministry for the Environment alone. It will be achieved through working with others, using mechanisms ranging from promoting action by households, businesses and communities, through to voluntary agreements and laws and regulations.

This strategic priority primarily contributes to the wider government goal of 'Protecting and enhancing the environment'.

⁴ Sustainable Development for New Zealand Programme for Action, 2003, p10.

2: Sustainable economic growth

There will be economic growth that follows the principles of sustainable development. If New Zealand is to have a healthy environment, we must have economic activity that is based on sustainable practices and maintains the natural environment for future generations to use and enjoy. Our interest in sustainable economic growth, therefore, supports our primary focus on a healthy environment.

In recent years we have taken on the function of promoting sustainable industry. We see our role as:

- providing resources that demonstrate sustainable industry concepts, benefits and best practice
- supporting and encouraging sustainable industry initiatives
- helping change practice and performance by providing practical strategies, actions and tools
- helping government to be a sustainable sector.

This strategic priority contributes to the wider government goal to ‘Grow an inclusive, innovative economy for the benefit of all’.

3: Good environmental governance

There will be a system of environmental governance that is integrated, cohesive, efficient and effective. Governance includes setting directions, determining priorities, delivering results, being responsive, and being trusted. The result will be good governance of the environment at all levels – central and local government, community, iwi, public and private firms, and by individuals.

Good governance means that New Zealanders are told about and informed on environmental issues where they have an interest. It means they are given a say, and listened to, before decisions are made that affect them. It means that the Ministry will work to uphold the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Again this means the Ministry working with others to do things together where we have interests in common and to collectively agree on priorities and work programmes where appropriate. It also means that the Ministry will:

- provide leadership on national environmental issues
- ensure that the advice given to the Government is coherent and incorporates a range of perspectives
- ensure that legislation and regulation deliver effective and efficient management of natural and physical resources
- set bottom-line standards for environmental protection
- ensure cost-effective regulation with minimal compliance costs or barriers to innovation
- eliminate arrangements that present purposeless barriers to development
- provide certainty of safety from harm (through codes, standards, enforcement, penalties for non-compliance).

This strategic priority will contribute to the wider government goal to ‘Maintain trust in government’ as well as to ‘Protect and enhance the environment’.

MINISTRY OUTCOMES

The outcomes towards which the Ministry is working in the medium term are:

A healthy environment

1. New Zealand's air, water and natural resources are protected, enhanced and used sustainably.
2. New Zealanders are informed of the progress being made towards a healthy environment and participate actively through action on the ground.

Sustainable economic growth

3. Our towns, cities and communities function well and are healthy and attractive for business, social and cultural life.
4. Government and industry work together so that industry is competitive, profitable, and grows sustainably.
5. The Ministry fulfils international obligations and looks after New Zealand's interests in climate change and preparation for climate change impacts.

Good environmental governance

6. New Zealand has credible and effective environmental governance and legislation.
7. The Ministry has the capability to deliver the advice and services the Government expects of it.



A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME 1: NEW ZEALAND'S AIR, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES ARE PROTECTED, ENHANCED AND USED SUSTAINABLY.

WHAT WE WILL DO	WHY WE ARE DOING IT
Improve the nationwide air quality through the continued implementation of national environmental standards.	National environmental standards will provide an equitable bottom line of health standards for all New Zealanders, creating a level playing field across regions and certainty in decision-making.
Improve the quality and allocation of freshwater in New Zealand.	<p>Significant pressures are being placed on freshwater in New Zealand, which is impacting on the allocation and the quality of freshwater.</p> <p>Catchments under pressure for allocation should have but do not always have plans setting out how water is to be allocated.</p> <p>Water quality in Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Lake Taupo have been identified as a key focus for remedial work.</p>
Maximise the effective, safe, and sustainable use of land as a resource and prevent future contamination of land.	<p>We need to provide a foundation for the identification, remediation or management of high-risk contaminated land.</p> <p>The former Fruit Growers chemical site at Mapua and the Tui mine site have been identified as priorities for clean up by government due to their contamination risk.</p>
Work with local government to remove unwanted agrichemicals from New Zealand.	<p>New Zealand has a legacy of old, banned and unwanted agricultural chemicals that have been stored in sheds in rural New Zealand for many years.</p> <p>Many of the old agricultural chemicals are persistent organic pollutants now required to be collected and disposed of under the Stockholm Convention.</p>
Provide support to the Crown in negotiating the settlement of historical Treaty grievances in so far as they relate to natural resources.	The Government has indicated a continuing commitment to negotiating the settlement of historical Treaty grievances. The Ministry for the Environment provides advice on the use of natural resources in Treaty settlements as required.
Develop and maintain effective links with science research to ensure national environmental research priorities are addressed, share knowledge on research outcomes, and facilitate its use in decision-making.	Sound environmental policy and decision-making requires relevant and timely scientific information in a format accessible and relevant to end-users. We will be influential in setting research priorities and sharing research outcomes in key areas affecting the health of New Zealand's environment.

Significant pressure is being placed on freshwater in New Zealand, which is impacting on the allocation and quality of freshwater. The Water Programme of Action, established in 2003, seeks to identify the different ways New Zealanders value and use freshwater and the best ways to manage this precious resource.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 1

- Plan for the Waitaki Catchment is approved and handed over to Environment Canterbury and Otago Regional Council.
- Improvements in air quality towards meeting national standards by 2013, as indicated by local government monitoring.
- Improvements in beach water quality as indicated by local government monitoring.
- Improvements shown in monitoring implementation of national environmental standards.
- Land cover as indicated by updates of the land cover database.
- Steady decline in the proportion of banned chemicals and/or persistent organic pollutants collected in agrichemical collections.
- The Mapua contaminated site is remediated in accordance with the requirements of the resource consents.
- The preferred remediation option for the Tui Mine contaminated site is identified and resource consents obtained to enable work to proceed.
- Community participation in the Talk Environment roadshow.
- Market research conducted as part of the 4 million careful owners campaign.
- A National Implementation Plan will be put in place that sets out how New Zealand will reduce the population's potential exposure to dioxins.



A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME 2: NEW ZEALANDERS ARE INFORMED ABOUT PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARDS A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY THROUGH ACTION ON THE GROUND.

WHAT WE WILL DO	WHY WE ARE DOING IT
Promote community awareness and participation in action for the environment.	Enhancing opportunities to promote sustainable development through events such as the Talk Environment roadshow, the Youth Environment Forum, and the Sustainable Management Fund allows the community to be better placed to protect and restore our environment.
Identify and negotiate an appropriate environmental dataset and reporting framework to meet national and international reporting requirements, and to enable the promotion of New Zealand's environmental achievements and best practice.	<p>Decision-makers need useful national environmental data that is scientifically robust yet pragmatic and of use.</p> <p>The Ministry is responsible for reporting national scale environmental information to meet reporting requirements.</p> <p>Many New Zealanders are taking action to protect and enhance natural resources and use them more sustainably. Highlighting the measurable benefits of those actions recognises those achievements and will encourage further beneficial actions.</p>

Forty-eight students from around the country gathered in Wellington last December for the annual Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Forum. The 16 – 18 year olds monitored water quality at the Pauatahanui Inlet in Porirua, developed urban planning options in downtown Wellington, and explored solutions to packaging and waste issues.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 2

- High turnout to and positive feedback from the annual Talk Environment roadshows and other major consultation programmes.
- The number of visits to the websites administered by the Ministry.
- Perceptions of the state and management of the New Zealand environment as measured in the biennial Lincoln University research.
- Awareness about climate change as measured in the market research for the 4 million careful owners programme.
- Awareness about freshwater and biodiversity as measured in proposed market research.
- Monitoring of community projects funded through the Sustainable Management Fund show that all goals and objectives of the projects are met.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

OUTCOME 3: OUR TOWNS, CITIES AND COMMUNITIES FUNCTION WELL AND ARE HEALTHY AND ATTRACTIVE FOR BUSINESS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE.

WHAT WE WILL DO	WHY WE ARE DOING IT
Develop a robust approach to managing flood risk and controlling rivers in New Zealand.	The Manawatu and Bay of Plenty floods in 2004 highlighted the vulnerability that communities face when a major flood hits. Following from this the Government announced it would undertake a review of flood risk management to understand what future flood risk might look like, including changing land use patterns, climate change and how well flood risk is currently being managed.
Continue to implement the objectives of the New Zealand Waste Strategy, including through partnering with industry.	The New Zealand Waste Strategy was adopted by the Government in 2002. It provides a broad policy framework for the achievement of central and local governments' policy objectives for the reduction and management of waste.
Identify and make progress on priorities for urban affairs.	Setting clear strategic priorities for the improvement of our urban areas will lead to improved co-ordination across government and improved outcomes in urban areas throughout New Zealand, particularly in the delivery of government urban infrastructure.
Implement national and regional sustainable cities programmes.	The Government's Sustainable Development Programme of Action has a sustainable cities workstream. The Ministry's particular focus is on sustainable urban form, design and development, including implementing the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol. Urban design is a critical factor affecting the quality, liveability and competitiveness of our towns and cities.
Develop measures to improve how homes are heated in New Zealand in areas of poor air quality.	The Ministry for the Environment wants to encourage families to make their homes more energy efficient and install cleaner heating.

New Zealand is one of the most highly urbanised countries in the world with well over 80% of us living in urban areas. The recently launched Urban Design Protocol seeks to make our towns and cities healthy, safe and attractive places where business, social and cultural life can flourish.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 3

- Improvements in waste management are shown through monitoring of progress towards the targets of the New Zealand Waste Strategy.
- At least two new agreements are negotiated with producers of special wastes.
- The number of signatories implementing the Urban Design Protocol continues to grow.
- One home heating pilot (in a low socio-economic area) retrofitted.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

OUTCOME 4: GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY WORK TOGETHER SO THAT INDUSTRY IS COMPETITIVE, PROFITABLE, AND GROWS SUSTAINABLY.

WHAT WE WILL DO	WHY WE ARE DOING IT
Work with key industry sectors to develop and support voluntary accords and extended producer responsibility schemes to manage environmental impacts and improve environmental performance.	<p>Voluntary, industry led programmes allow the responsibility for the environmental impacts of a product to be shared with producers, importers, brand owners, retailers and other parties involved in the life cycle of a product.</p> <p>The Government has entered into a number of voluntary accords to improve the environmental performance of New Zealand. As a partner in the accords we will work with industry to ensure effective implementation.</p>
Promote and support good sustainability practices in business through developing eco-efficiency projects with industry and exploring opportunities to use market-based instruments.	Success of key industries, specifically tourism and film, is strongly linked to our international reputation as a clean environmental destination. To enable industry to compete and grow sustainably we will support businesses to increase their awareness and implementation of sustainable business practices.
Lead government actions embedding sustainable practices into government departments including procurement, transport and waste management practices (Govt ³).	Government activities make up a large proportion of the New Zealand economy, and government spending on goods and services amounts to over \$5 billion per year. Improving the sustainability of this activity will reduce the environmental impact of central government.
Work with industry to look for business opportunities arising from climate change.	The Government wants to maximise benefits of a low carbon economy and encourage uptake of new technologies.
Lead the negotiation of environment provisions in international trade agreements.	To align international trade and environmental sustainability with national environmental and sustainable development objectives and to identify associated opportunities to influence an area of international importance.

Tourism businesses from around the country are tapping into the rewards of smart environmental business practice through a Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Tourism project. Regional tourism organisations from Northland, Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Nelson, Wanaka and Southland/Fiordland are taking part in the Environmentally Sustainable Tourism Project.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 4

- There is strong and growing uptake of government/industry partnership programmes such as sustainable tourism.
- Action is taken by the dairy industry and regional councils to meet the targets of the Clean Streams Accord, shown by monitoring of the accord.
- Monitoring of the Packaging Accord shows action is being taken to reduce unnecessary packaging in New Zealand.
- A voluntary accord covering environmental impacts of offshore petroleum exploration is agreed and progress is made towards the targets.
- The number of government agencies making a commitment to action on sustainability through the Govt³ programme continues to grow (38 as at March 2005).
- Over time, environmental impact information for Govt³ member agencies and topic groups shows improvement against the baseline data to be collected in 2005.
- Increased business uptake of the range of projects available including the Projects to Reduce Emissions and Clean Development Mechanism.
- New Zealand's trade agreements with other countries and international trade policies contain environmental provisions.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

OUTCOME 5: THE MINISTRY FULFILS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LOOKS AFTER NEW ZEALAND'S INTERESTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND PREPARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.

WHAT WE WILL DO	WHY WE ARE DOING IT
<p>Implement policies and programmes including Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements, carbon tax, Projects to Reduce Emissions, agricultural emissions research and programmes with small and medium sized enterprises and local government.</p> <p>Co-ordinate cross-government development of further policy on agriculture and forestry, transport, emissions trading, adaptation and public awareness.</p>	<p>As good global citizens, we are contributing to global actions to avert the effects of climate change and to protect New Zealand's interests and to prepare for any adverse impacts.</p> <p>We need to ensure that low-cost emission reductions are secured early thereby minimising the risks and costs of greenhouse gas emission growth.</p>
<p>Develop and maintain New Zealand's greenhouse gas, and carbon stocks accounting and reporting systems, and meet our international reporting requirements.</p>	<p>New Zealand has commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The work will enhance our ability to track and manage our emissions, comply with our international reporting obligations and maximise any benefits from trading on the international carbon market.</p>
<p>Link domestic policy to inform the on-going New Zealand negotiating position internationally.</p>	<p>We want to maximise the potential benefits to the economy through the value of carbon abatement and sequestration and minimise risks and liabilities to the Crown.</p>

The Ministry's '4 million careful owners' climate change project continues to raise awareness of how New Zealanders can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The campaign was launched late last year with a red carpet surprise for Wellington train commuters who were applauded for taking public transport instead of their cars into the city.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 5

- Continued progress, as measured through the national greenhouse gas inventory, is made towards a long term downward trend in greenhouse gas emissions.
- New Zealand's inventory of greenhouse gases and carbon stocks and carbon accounting systems meet international reporting requirements and deadlines.
- A minimum of ten Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements are negotiated and signed.
- Emission Units are successfully allocated through the third round of the Projects to Reduce Emissions.
- 50% of the New Zealand population is represented through local government membership of the Communities for Climate Change Protection.
- New Zealand's position post 2012 is developed recognising domestic and international developments.



GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME 6: NEW ZEALAND HAS CREDIBLE AND EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATION.

WHAT WE WILL DO	WHY WE ARE DOING IT
With key stakeholders develop a process for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies, plans, processes and decisions related to environmental statutes, in particular the Resource Management Act and national environmental policies, accords and agreements.	To achieve a healthy environment we need effective policies, legislation and governance. We need to monitor and review the implementation and effectiveness of these to ensure acceptable progress toward the intended environmental outcomes is being made.
Assist Ministers with their statutory functions under environmental laws and ministerial responsibilities.	The Minister for the Environment has responsibilities under the Resource Management Act and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act. The Ministry provides advice and support to the Minister in carrying out these responsibilities.
Work with local government, industry and other agencies to make progress towards the targets of the New Zealand Waste Strategy, especially through waste management planning, hazardous waste management, and beneficial use of biosolids.	Both the New Zealand Waste Strategy and The Local Government Act 2002 promote the use of integrated planning to address the issues of waste on a local and regional scale.
Develop the environmental legislation framework to cover significant gaps, including oceans management and product stewardship.	The oceans within New Zealand's jurisdiction need an integrated and consistent management regime. Product Stewardship legislation will provide the potential for regulations where there is a specific need to reduce resource use and waste.
Improve the effectiveness of environmental legislation, including the Resource Management Act and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.	We are seeking to deliver legislative and non-legislative improvements for the RMA that focus on quality of decisions and processes while not compromising good environmental outcomes or public participation. We want to ensure a good environment for New Zealanders through sound management of risks related to hazardous substances and new organisms while ensuring minimal compliance costs.
Increase the effectiveness of Maori participation in the management and use of our natural resources.	More effective participation by Maori in the management and use of natural resources will ensure improved environmental outcomes and management of natural resources.
Support the Bioethics Council in its role to conduct dialogue with New Zealanders on the cultural, ethical and spiritual dimensions of biotechnology.	Developments in biotechnology should have regard to the values of New Zealanders.
Develop a national policy statement on indigenous biodiversity.	The Government wants to provide national direction on the protection of ecosystems that are most vulnerable to extinction of species.
Support the implementation of environmental legislation, particularly the Aquaculture Reforms.	In December 2004 the Aquaculture Amendment Bill reformed the way we plan for and allocate space to aquaculture in New Zealand. This places increased emphasis on regional councils to plan for aquaculture development in their regions.

The Aquaculture Reform legislation, which came into effect on 1 January 2005, reforms the way we plan for and allocate space in our coastal waters for aquaculture. The legislation enables regional councils to effectively manage aquaculture, and encourages the aquaculture industry to develop in a sustainable way.

Photo courtesy of the New Zealand Mussel Industry Council.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 6

- Cases are heard by the Environment Court within six months of the appeal being lodged.
- Business surveys no longer identify the RMA as being a stumbling block to sustainable development.
- The number of accidents involving hazardous substances and new organisms, as tracked by the Environmental Risk Management Authority, steadily declines.
- The biennial RMA survey shows a steady improvement in council practices.
- The majority of the members of a hearings body have been trained through the Making Good Decisions programme.
- Usage of the Quality Planning website to share good practice continues to grow.



GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME 7: THE MINISTRY HAS THE CAPABILITY TO DELIVER THE ADVICE AND SERVICES THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS OF IT.

WHAT WE WILL DO	WHY WE ARE DOING IT
Strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders.	The Ministry wants to be seen as a trusted, respected, effective organisation that other organisations want to work with to achieve a common goal.
Operate robust, future-proof and practical systems and structures.	These systems enable the Ministry to operate efficiently in the delivery of its work programmes.
Attract, develop and retain the right combination of people for the Ministry.	Having skilled, staff who want to work at the Ministry will allow us to provide high quality advice and service.
Monitor the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) and the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA).	We assist Ministers to ensure good governance in the delivery of their services as required under the Public Finance Act 1989, Crown Entities Act 2004, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (for ERMA), and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000 (for EECA).

The Ministry for the Environment is the Government's principal adviser on the New Zealand environment and on international matters that affect the environment. We want to be seen as a trusted, respected, effective organisation that other organisations want to work with.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 7

- The provision of advice and delivery of services meets the reasonable expectations of our Ministers and the Government.
- Feedback gained through stakeholder liaison meetings is positive.
- Climate survey results show that Ministry staff feel positively about working at the Ministry.
- External audit reports confirm that our systems are robust and policies are clear and effective.
- External reviews will highlight the Ministry as having elements of best practise.



ENHANCING **CAPABILITY** AND IMPROVING OUR **PERFORMANCE**

Achieving the goals and outcomes identified in this Statement of Intent will require the Ministry to continue to develop its capability and improve its performance.

Capability in this context is the ability to attract, develop and retain the right combination of people; to involve the whole community in the governance of the environment; and to operate robust, future-proof and practical systems and structures.

To achieve this goal we need to:

- build on our strategic direction setting and management capability
- increase our ability to influence the decision-making and behaviours of others
- refine our human resources policies and strategies
- maintain and improve corporate systems
- appropriately measure our achievements.

CAPABILITY IN SETTING STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Environmental governance issues are complex. It is often difficult to determine the most effective points for government intervention and there are often no direct causal links between outputs and the outcomes we are seeking. This suggests a need to develop our capability to produce stronger mechanisms that will help Ministers prioritise activities so they make the greatest contribution to achieving the Government's outcomes.

The development of the previous Statement of Intent saw greater focus on achieving long term outcomes, with 13 of these detailed. This year we have further refined these outcomes, with seven now worked towards, providing greater clarity towards the relationships between these and our long term strategic priorities. Furthermore, development of this Statement of Intent lends greater focus to the alignment of our key work programmes with that of the outcomes and the relevant tools for progress measurement.

Over the next three years we will focus on:

- identifying and using opportunities to improve capability and performance
- aligning activities with outcomes
- aligning, measuring and reporting with outcomes.

MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Good governance of the environment requires the input, will and co-operation of many stakeholders. To guide the good governance of the environment, we must influence the approach and actions of stakeholders.

We share the environment stage with many others, each with their own charter and responsibilities. Working and communicating with them is a very high priority for us. This calls for the Ministry to strengthen its relationships with stakeholders, while continuing to maintain traditional relationships with Ministers.

Our structure, which aligns with the Ministry's priorities, is designed to enable us to take a behavioural approach to achieving change in the environment. We will do this through working with key stakeholder groups. We will focus on how we can strengthen and maintain open lines of communication and develop working relationships with a broader range of stakeholders – particularly industry – and, in turn, develop common approaches to governance or interventions.

HUMAN RESOURCES CAPABILITY

The Ministry needs to have the necessary staff capability to achieve its goals and outcomes. To be recognised and respected sufficiently to influence the behaviour of others, we need to build our leadership capability while significantly developing our ability to build strong working relationships with a wide range of groups and organisations, both within and beyond the public sector.

We are working on a human resource strategy designed to:

- continue to develop our leadership and management capability
- encourage an innovative culture that motivates people to make things happen
- ensure we recruit and retain high quality staff with the capability to deliver our outcomes
- create an open friendly work environment
- enhance human resource information systems to provide more effective management human resource information.

ROBUST CORPORATE SYSTEMS

To support a culture of leadership, capability and excellence, appropriate corporate systems are needed. The Ministry continually works towards having systems that provide staff with the support they need, while at the same time ensuring that rigorous management checks and measures are maintained.

Our current focus is on:

- the implementation of the Ministry's information strategy
- refinement of corporate support systems to match changing requirements
- further developing a project management approach that is applied consistently across all work areas
- maintaining appropriate and flexible financial and human resource management systems.

MEASURING ACHIEVEMENTS

It is important for the Ministry to know how it is doing and to be able to demonstrate what difference it has made. The Ministry makes use of rigorous monthly reporting on all activities. We monitor our organisational performance in terms of our strategic goals.

The focus of our organisational performance measurement is on:

- achievement against planned targets
- maintaining and developing future capability
- meeting stakeholder needs, particularly output delivery for Ministers
- the strength and quality of stakeholder relationships
- creating value in outcomes for stakeholders (i.e. making a difference)
- robust management controls.

RISKS TO ACHIEVING SUCCESS

The greatest strategic challenge facing the Ministry is determining and sticking to doing what we ‘must do’ and where we can make the greatest difference – as opposed to what we ‘can do’ or ‘could do’ to enhance the management of the environment. There is a constant risk that we will get pulled in too many directions and end up stretched too thinly again. While the expectations of our stakeholders are high, they often have conflicting values. This creates an ongoing tension in dealing with environmental issues and governance.

The key business risks are:

- We will continue to be under pressure to adopt new priorities and consider new issues. While there will sometimes be new tasks that we must take on, we need to maintain our strategic focus and complete what we start.
- Our aim is to work more closely with other organisations, such as other central government agencies, local government, community and industry – not all of which agree on issues or agree with our approach. Developing the respect of others and maintaining effective working relationships with them is critical to our effectiveness.
- To achieve the outcomes and goals in this Statement of Intent, we need to recruit and retain highly skilled and knowledgeable staff. They must be able to provide leadership and work in partnership with stakeholders who have differing views and priorities. However, we are competing in a labour market of high demand that places a premium on the skills we need and value.

The key operational risks are:

- We must focus on the environmental issues collectively seen as the greatest risks and manage them appropriately. This also requires an emphasis on timely action.
- We must be aware of, and respond to, the economic, social and political context in which we are working. We must recognise the economic impact of any regulatory intervention, including the economic and health benefits of appropriate action.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

The Ministry works towards three major strategic priorities – a healthy environment; sustainable economic growth; and good environmental governance.

Our work programmes support these strategic priorities in a number of ways, from direct action in fixing problems, to partnering with delivery agencies to improve practices, to leading public information campaigns aimed at changing behaviours. To make a financial connection between any strategic priority and any one work programme would not be possible.

MAJOR EVALUATIVE ACTIVITIES

The evaluation of our priorities and work programmes are of a high importance to the Ministry. Not only is this important with respect to our internal processes and the functioning of the entities in which we monitor, but it is also important that we are peer evaluated to ensure we are on the right track to achieve our desired outcomes. Major evaluative activities that have occurred in the last financial year include a review of the policies and procedures of the environmental legal assistance fund, a review of our policies for contracting with non-governmental organisations and a review of New Zealand's environment centres, particularly with respect to the centres' alignment with the Ministry's desired outcomes and priorities.

Approximately each decade, the OECD conducts a peer review of each participating country's environmental performance, with New Zealand currently under review. This is facilitated through a questionnaire to which the Ministry for the Environment is leading New Zealand's response.

The questionnaire covers all aspects of environmental performance, including:

- water quality
- waste
- nature and biodiversity
- the environment – economy interface
- implementing environmental policies
- social and the environment
- international co-operation.

The questionnaire also prompts response to OECD recommendations made at New Zealand's last review (1996), assessing our progress accordingly. This process of reporting and the subsequent feedback that will be received contributes significantly to the evaluation of the Ministry's progress towards both our outcomes and our long term objectives.

Results and further recommendations made in relation to the review will be published by the OECD by mid-2006.



ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Until recently the Ministry's structure comprised four groups: Working with Local Government, Working with Central Government, Sustainable Industry and Climate Change, and Corporate and Community. Although this worked effectively, development of work programmes and the associated growth of the Ministry has required the creation of two new groups, to enable alignment between structure and strategic priorities. The Reporting and Review Group and the Urban Group have been formed, picking up work programmes and personnel previously part of other groups.

THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT GROUP

Leading, directing and linking the work of the Ministry internally and externally is the role of the Chief Executive, Barry Carbon, who is supported by the Deputy Chief Executive, Lindsay Gow, and five General Managers. The Senior Management Group ensures that all policy development and actions link together cohesively, and that activities and outcomes are well defined, to ensure everything the Ministry does contributes to a good environment through good governance.

WORKING WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Working with Central Government Group is led by Dave Brash. It is responsible for developing and maintaining the framework of environmental legislation (including the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996). It also works on policy in the areas of marine issues and Treaty of Waitangi claims relating to natural resources. In addition, it undertakes work to improve environmental outcomes for Maori and to encourage Maori participation in the management and use of natural resources. Other key work areas are providing support for the Bioethics Council, managing relationships with Ministers, other government agencies and iwi, and monitoring the performance of the Environmental Risk Management Authority and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Working with Local Government Group is led by Sue Powell. It manages the relationship with local government and works with local government in areas of collective interest. It also reports on the performance of our environmental policies, carries out statutory functions under the Resource Management Act, and develops national environmental standards and other national instruments.

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Sustainable Industry and Climate Change Group is led by Bill Bayfield. Sustainable Industry works with business and industry to promote sustainable business practices and to support innovation in environmental management. It works with targeted sectors to initiate improvements in environmental performance. Climate Change implements climate change policy through measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and at adapting to climate change impacts.

REPORTING AND REVIEW

The Reporting and Review group works to ensure that New Zealanders have credible environmental information to make good decisions and measure progress in maintaining a healthy environment; including our contribution to the global environmental effort. It monitors and reports on the effectiveness of policies and legislation, liaises with the science community to report on emerging environmental issues and inform policy decision-making, co-ordinates national, international, and other environmental reporting obligations, and works closely with local government to evaluate the effectiveness of policies, plans and decisions related to the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Ministry's other statutes.

URBAN

The Urban Group is led by Lindsay Gow. It provides leadership across central government for the Urban Affairs portfolio (as a specific additional responsibility of the Minister for the Environment). The Group is responsible for developing and implementing the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol, co-ordinating the Year of the Built Environment 2005, and working with other agencies and Auckland local authorities to deliver the sustainable cities workstream of the New Zealand Sustainable Development Programme of Action. The Group also administers the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund, and has responsibility for co-ordinating the Ministry's leading contribution to the OECD Environmental Performance Review of New Zealand.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

The Corporate and Community Group is led by Fiona Morgan. It promotes environmental awareness and action in the community, co-ordinates corporate communications, and manages relationships with the community. It also supports our activities through information management, legal advice, financial systems, human resources and administrative support.

MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONAL CHART





PART TWO: FORECAST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

These forecast financial statements for the Ministry for the Environment contain the following statements pursuant to section 41 of the Public Finance Act 1989:

- a statement of financial performance reflecting the forecast revenue and expenses for the financial year ending 30 June 2006
- a statement of the estimated financial position as at 30 June 2005 and forecast financial position as at 30 June 2006
- a statement of cash flows reflecting forecast cash flows for the year ending 30 June 2006
- a statement showing the reconciliation of the net forecast operating surplus to the net cash flow forecast from operating activities for the year ending 30 June 2006
- a statement of forecast movements in taxpayers' funds (equity)
- a statement of forecast commitments
- a statement of forecast details of physical assets by category
- a statement of departmental capital expenditure
- a statement of significant underlying assumptions
- a statement of accounting policies
- a statement of objectives specifying the financial performance forecast for the Ministry for the year ending 30 June 2006
- a statement of objectives specifying the performance forecast for each class of outputs for the year ending 30 June 2006.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
Revenue: Crown	36,916	39,830	39,830	51,593
Revenue: Dept and other	5	223	223	433
Output expenses	36,921	40,053	40,053	52,026
Other expenses	-	-	-	-
Net surplus from operations	5	5	5	5
Physical assets	562	2,001	2,001	2,580
Taxpayers' funds	343	1,843	1,843	2,693
Net cash flows from operating activities	565	(3,152)	(3,152)	671
Net cash flows from investing activities	(385)	(1,778)	(1,778)	(1,245)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	36,916	39,830	39,830	51,593
Departments	-	196	196	428
Other	5	27	27	5
Interest	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	36,921	40,053	40,053	52,026
EXPENDITURE				
Personnel	16,100	17,223	17,223	19,740
Operating	20,294	22,451	22,451	31,468
Depreciation	500	352	352	671
Capital charge	27	27	27	147
Total expenditure	36,921	40,053	40,053	52,026
Profit on sale of assets	5	5	5	5
Other expenses	-	-	-	-
Net surplus from operations	5	5	5	5

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2005 AND FORECAST FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

	<i>Actual financial position as at 30 June 2004</i>	<i>Estimated actual financial position as at 30 June 2005</i>	<i>Forecast financial position as at 30 June 2006</i>
	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>
Taxpayers' funds	343	1,843	2,693
Total taxpayers' funds	343	1,843	2,693
Represented by:			
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Bank	7,208	3,057	3,328
Pre-payments	110	100	100
Debtors and receivables	299	-	-
Total current assets	7,617	3,157	3,428
Physical assets	570	2,001	2,580
Total assets	8,187	5,158	6,008
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Creditors and payables	5,937	2,010	2,010
Provision for the repayment of surplus to the Crown	721	5	5
Employee entitlements	655	650	650
Total current liabilities	7,313	2,665	2,665
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee entitlements	531	650	650
Total liabilities	7,844	3,315	3,315
Net assets	343	1,843	2,693

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash provided from:				
Supply of outputs to Crown	36,916	39,830	39,830	51,593
Supply of outputs to departments	-	495	495	428
Supply of outputs to others	5	27	27	5
Cash disbursed to:				
Cost of producing outputs	(36,329)	(43,477)	(43,477)	(51,208)
Capital charge	(27)	(27)	(27)	(147)
Net cash flows from operating activities	565	(3,152)	(3,152)	671
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash provided from:				
Sale of physical assets	15	5	5	5
Cash disbursed to:				
Purchase of physical assets	(400)	(1,783)	(1,783)	(1,250)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(385)	(1,778)	(1,778)	(1,245)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash provided from:				
Capital contribution	-	1,500	1,500	850
Cash disbursed to:				
Repayment of surplus to Crown	(5)	(721)	(721)	5
Net cash flows from financing activities	(5)	779	779	845
Net decrease in cash held	(175)	(4,151)	(4,151)	271
Opening cash balance at 1 July	3,481	7,208	7,208	3,057
Projected closing cash and deposits at 30 June	3,656	3,057	3,057	3,328

RECONCILIATION OF NET OPERATING SURPLUS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
Net surplus from operations	5	5	5	5
ADD NON-CASH ITEM				
Depreciation	500	352	352	671
ADD/(LESS) MOVEMENTS IN WORKING CAPITAL ITEMS				
Decrease in pre-payments	-	10	10	-
Decrease in debtors and receivables	-	299	299	-
Decrease in payables and provisions	(100)	(321)	(321)	-
Decrease in other accrued liabilities	215	(3,806)	(3,806)	-
Increase in provision for employee entitlements	(50)	114	114	-
Increase in GST payable	-	200	200	-
ADD/(LESS) INVESTING ACTIVITY				
Net gain on sale of physical assets	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Net cash flow from operating activities	565	(3,152)	(3,152)	671

STATEMENT OF THE FORECAST MOVEMENT IN TAXPAYERS' FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006

	Actual financial position as at 30 June 2004 \$000	Estimated actual financial position as at 30 June 2005 \$000	Forecast financial position as at 30 June 2006 \$000
Taxpayers' funds brought forward as at 1 July	343	343	1,843
Net surplus from operations	721	5	5
Total recognised revenues and expenses for the year	721	5	5
Provision for repayment of surplus to the Crown	(721)	(5)	(5)
Capital contribution	-	1,500	850
Taxpayers' funds as at 30 June	343	1,843	2,693

STATEMENT OF FORECAST COMMITMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006

	<i>Actual financial position as at 30 June 2004</i>	<i>Estimated actual financial position as at 30 June 2005</i>	<i>Forecast financial position as at 30 June 2006</i>
	\$000	\$000	\$000
OPERATING AND ACCOMMODATION LEASE COMMITMENTS (GST EXCLUSIVE)			
Not later than 1 year	1,806	1,634	901
Later than 1 year but not later than 2 years	1,992	2,282	2,282
Later than 2 years but not later than 5 years	3,743	3,860	3,860
Later than 5 years	9,007	9,231	9,231
Total operating and lease commitments	16,548	17,007	16,274
Capital commitments	-	-	-
Total commitments	16,548	17,007	16,274

FORECAST DETAILS OF PHYSICAL ASSETS BY CATEGORY AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

	<i>Estimated actual position as at 30 June 2005</i>	<i>Cost as at 30 June 2006</i>	<i>Accumulated depreciation as at 30 June 2006</i>	<i>Net book value as at 30 June 2006</i>
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Furniture and fittings	1,511	1,735	292	1,443
Computer software	23	948	203	745
Computer hardware	396	1,255	963	292
Total	2,001	4,326	1,746	2,580

DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital expenditure is incurred in accordance with section 24 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

	<i>2005/06 Forecast</i>	<i>2004/05 Estimated actual</i>	<i>2004/05 Budget</i>	<i>2003/04 Actual</i>	<i>2002/03 Actual</i>	<i>2001/02 Actual</i>	<i>2000/01 Actual</i>
	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>
Furniture and fittings	152	1,500	1,500	7	15	55	124
Office equipment	62	18	18	18	32	58	23
Computer software	884	0	0	38	9	20	15
Computer hardware	152	265	265	235	325	261	199
Total	1,250	1,783	1,783	298	381	394	361

The forecast furniture and fittings expenditure for the 2005/06 financial year is related to the fit-out of the Ministry's new Head Office (Environment House). Other expenditure is for the routine replacement and upgrade of the Ministry's information technology and office equipment, to help our staff efficiently deliver the services set out in this Statement of Intent.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS

These prospective financial statements have been compiled on the basis of government policies and the Ministry for the Environment's Output Plan as agreed with our Ministers.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These prospective financial statements comply with generally accepted accounting practice. The measurement base applied is historical cost adjusted for revaluations of assets.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry for the Environment is a government department as defined in section 2 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

These are the financial statements of the Ministry for the Environment prepared pursuant to section 41 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

(i) Budget and appropriation figures

The budget and appropriation figures are those presented in the 2005 Budget Night Estimates (Main Estimates) and those amended by the Supplementary Estimates and any transfer made by Order in Council under section 35 of the Public Finance Act 1989 (Supplementary Estimates).

(ii) Revenue

The Ministry derives revenue through the provision of outputs to the Crown and for services to third parties. Such revenue is recognised when earned and is reported in the financial period to which it relates.

(iii) Cost allocation

The Ministry for the Environment derives the costs of outputs using a cost allocation system. This is outlined below.

Cost allocation policy

Direct costs are charged directly to the Ministry's outputs. Indirect costs are charged to outputs based on a primary cost driver of salaried full time equivalents.

Criteria for direct and indirect costs

'Direct costs' are those costs directly attributed to an output. 'Indirect costs' are those costs that cannot be directly associated with a specific output.

Direct cost assigned to outputs

Direct costs are charged directly to outputs.

Indirect costs assigned to outputs

Indirect costs are assigned to outputs based on a proportion of the number of full time equivalents assigned to each output.

(iv) Debtors and receivables

Debtors and receivables are recorded at estimated realisable value, after providing for doubtful debts.

(v) Operating leases

Leases where the lessor effectively retains all the risks and benefits of ownership of the leased items are classified as operating leases. Payments under these leases are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

(vi) Plant and equipment

All fixed assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Fixed assets are recognised as individual items costing \$1,500 (GST exclusive) or more, which have a useful life greater than one year.

(vii) Depreciation

Depreciation of fixed assets is calculated on a straight-line basis so as to allocate the cost of the assets, after recognising residual values, over their useful lives.

The estimated useful lives of the assets are:

	Depreciation rate (%)	Useful life (years)
Furniture and fittings	20	5
Office equipment	20	5
Computer software	33	3
Computer hardware	33	3

The cost of leasehold improvements (included in furniture and fittings) is capitalised and depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated remaining useful lives of the improvements, whichever is shorter. Items classified as furniture and fittings but not deemed to be part of leasehold improvements are depreciated over their useful lives.

Losses and gains on disposal of fixed assets are taken into account in determining the operating result for the year.

(viii) Employee entitlements

Provision is made in respect of the Ministry's liability for annual leave, retention/refresher leave, long service leave and retirement leave. Annual leave is calculated on an actual entitlement basis at current values of pay. All annual leave is expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date.

Long service leave, retention/refresher leave and retirement leave are calculated on an actuarial basis, based on the present value of expected future entitlements. These have been provided for as long term liabilities on the statement of financial position.

(ix) Statement of cash flows

'Cash' means cash balances on hand and cash held in bank accounts.

Operating activities include cash received from all income sources of the Ministry and record the cash payments made for the supply of goods and services.

Investing activities are those activities relating to the acquisition and disposal of non-current assets.

Financing activities comprise capital injections by, or repayment of capital to, the Crown.

(x) Financial instruments

The Ministry for the Environment is party to financial instrument arrangements as part of its normal operations. All financial instruments are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position and all revenues and expenses relating to financial instruments are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. The Ministry for the Environment has not entered into any off-balance sheet transactions.

The following methods and assumptions were used to value each class of financial instrument:

- accounts receivable are recorded at expected realisable value
- all other financial instruments including cash and bank, short-term deposits and accounts payable are recognised at their fair value.

(xi) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All statements are GST exclusive, except where otherwise stated. Creditors and payables and debtors and receivables in the Statement of Financial Position are stated inclusive of GST. GST payable at balance date is included in creditors and payables.

(xii) Taxation

The Ministry for the Environment is exempt from income tax in terms of the Income Tax Act 1994. Accordingly, no charge for income tax has been provided for.

(xiii) Commitments

Future expenses and liabilities to be incurred on contracts that have been entered into at balance date are disclosed as commitments at the point a contractual obligation arises, to the extent that they are equally unperformed obligations.

(xiv) Contingencies

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are disclosed at the point at which the contingency is evident.

(xv) Taxpayers' funds

Taxpayers' funds are the Crown's net investment in the Ministry.

(xvi) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies since the date of the last audited financial statements. All policies will be applied consistently throughout the period.

FORECAST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006

	Unit	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
OPERATING RESULTS					
Revenue: Crown	\$000	36,916	39,830	39,830	51,593
Revenue: Departments and other	\$000	5	223	223	433
Output expenses	\$000	36,921	40,053	40,053	52,026
Net surplus/(deficit)	\$000	5	5	5	5
WORKING CAPITAL					
Net current assets	\$000	381	492	492	763
Liquid ratio	%	127	118	118	129
RESOURCE UTILISATION					
Physical assets	\$000	562	2,001	2,001	2,580
Physical assets as % of total assets	%	13.2	39	39	43
Additions as % of physical assets	%	71.2	89.1	89.1	48.4
Physical assets per employee	\$000	2.4	8.4	8.4	8.9
TAXPAYERS' FUNDS					
Level at year-end	\$000	343	1,843	1,843	2,693
Level per employee	\$000	1.5	7.7	7.7	9.3
FORECAST NET CASH FLOWS					
Surplus/(deficit) from operating activities	\$000	565	(3,152)	(3,152)	671
Surplus/(deficit) from investing activities	\$000	(385)	(1,778)	(1,778)	(1,245)
Surplus/(deficit) from financing activities	\$000	(5)	779	779	845
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	\$000	175	(4,151)	(4,151)	271
HUMAN RESOURCES					
Staff turnover	%	14	12	12	12
Average length of service	Years	4.6	4.6	3.7	3.3
Total staff	No.	230	239	239	290

QUALITY STANDARDS FOR POLICY ADVICE

The Ministry has a number of policies, standards, best practice documents and standard operating procedures to ensure that its service performance remains at an optimum level. These standards are applied to all aspects of our organisation, and are maintained through internal processes to ensure the quality of our policy advice. Such processes include peer review, and consultation within the organisation and relevant external agencies.

Additionally the General Managers work with the Chief and the Deputy Chief Executive on a regular basis, with all issues discussed at weekly meetings to ensure that work programmes remain consistent with the Ministry's core objectives.

VOTE: ENVIRONMENT

OUTPUT CLASS: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVICE

Description

The Ministry takes a strong role in environmental governance and provides investigation, analysis, review and provision of advice on a range of environmental issues. This includes leading all government initiatives, co-ordinating the collaboration of central and local government in the delivery of environmental programmes and administration of legislation as well as advice to the Government and others.

OUTPUT OPERATING STATEMENT

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	23,157	24,401	24,401	34,922
Other	5	193	193	372
Total revenue	23,162	24,594	24,594	35,294
Annual appropriation	23,162	24,594	24,594	35,294
Surplus	-	-	-	-

Overarching priority

To achieve the outcomes and outputs that have been identified, the Ministry needs to continue to:

- enhance its capability
- develop effective systems and structures
- build strong relationships with key stakeholders.

Outputs

Within this output class the Ministry will:

Work with central government to lead and participate in interdepartmental initiatives on:

- sustainable development, specifically sustainable cities and energy
- oceans policy development and provision of advice on fisheries and marine issues, including completing the Fiordland Marine Management legislation and implementation of the Aquaculture Reforms
- biodiversity, specifically the development of a biodiversity strategy for New Zealand as well as the development of a National Policy Statement on Biodiversity
- improving the operation of the Resource Management Act 1991
- improving the operation of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

Work with local government to lead and participate in issues relating to:

- improving the legislative framework
- urban affairs
- water e.g. Project Waitaki and Lake Taupo
- environmental reporting
- addressing major environmental problems e.g. contaminated sites
- implementing the New Zealand Waste Strategy.

Work with industry to:

- provide advice, information and resources that demonstrate sustainable industry concepts, benefits and best practice
- provide tools to help change practice and performance
- co-ordinate access to government services and manage roadblock issues for industry
- encourage other sectors to build sustainability into what they do.

This output class also includes the work the Ministry undertakes in relation to:

- raising awareness and participation to enable the involvement of the whole community in the governance of the environment
- monitoring the Environmental Risk Management Authority
- the provision of integrated advice and support to the Ministers and Government on environment issues and correspondence e.g. ministerials and parliamentary questions.

OUTPUT CLASS: ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT FUND

Description

This output class covers the purchase of policy advice on the allocation of funds to other parties, and the administration and management of Sustainable Management Fund contracts.

OUTPUT OPERATING STATEMENT

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	662	662	662	662
Other	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	662	662	662	662
Annual appropriation	662	662	662	662
Surplus	-	-	-	-

Outputs

Within this output class the Ministry will:

- advise on the size of allocations and payments to approved providers in accordance with criteria in the Sustainable Management Fund (SMF) Guide for Applicants
- monitor contract and expenditure, including completing technical audits
- encourage community action for the environment through a greater funding emphasis on community led initiatives and proactive partnerships between the community, iwi and local government.

OUTPUT CLASS: BIOETHICS COUNCIL

Description

This output class provides for the effective operation of the Bioethics Council. This Council is a ministerial advisory committee. Its role is to:

- provide independent advice to government on biotechnological issues involving cultural, ethical and spiritual dimensions
- promote and participate in public dialogue on cultural, ethical and spiritual aspects of biotechnology, and enable public participation in the Council's activities
- provide public information on the cultural, ethical and spiritual aspects of biotechnology.

OUTPUT OPERATING STATEMENT

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333
Other	-	3	3	6
Total revenue	1,333	1,336	1,336	1,339
Annual appropriation	1,333	1,336	1,336	1,339
Surplus	-	-	-	-

Outputs

The Bioethics Council is responsible for providing accurate and informative information to government on biological issues. The Ministry assists the Council by:

- providing administrative support and research material for the Council
- leading the whole of government approach by co-ordinating government agencies that are able to contribute to the Council's effectiveness
- collaborating with similar international groups to procure relevant research information to assist the Council
- assisting with the co-ordination of public dialogue and participation in Council activities.

OUTPUT CLASS: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (WAITAKI CATCHMENT) AMENDMENT ACT

Description

Government has agreed to develop legislation to address competing water use applications in the Waitaki River Catchment, including additional information on a further option for decision-making processes.

OUTPUT OPERATING STATEMENT

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	489	2,009	2,009	756
Other	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	489	2,009	2,009	756
Annual appropriation	489	2,009	2,009	756
Surplus	-	-	-	-

Outputs

Within this output class the Ministry will:

- provide a process to develop and confirm a framework for the allocation of water
- provide a framework covering significant applications for water use and application of lesser significance for water use
- establish a statutory body that invites submissions, conducts a hearing, and makes decisions on an allocation framework for water use in the Catchment
- assist a panel of commissioners, which acts as a consent authority in making decisions on the significant applications for water use and other related consent applications and designations.

VOTE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

OUTPUT CLASS: POLICY ADVICE – ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Description

This output class covers the monitoring of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority. It also provides for research analysis and advice necessary to shape a sustainable and efficient energy future for New Zealand. It involves integrating environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects of policy development.

OUTPUT OPERATING STATEMENT

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	216	216	216	216
Other	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	216	216	216	216
Annual appropriation	216	216	216	216
Surplus	-	-	-	-

Outputs

The following activities are included within this output class:

- provision of policy advice on energy efficiency and conservation
- monitoring the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)
- advising the Minister of Energy on matters relating to energy efficiency and conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy in New Zealand
- administration of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000
- administering energy efficiency regulations.

OUTPUT CLASS: CLIMATE CHANGE – POLICY ADVICE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Description

This output class covers:

- the provision of climate change policy advice from the Ministry for the Environment
- assessing firms' eligibility to enter into Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements and subsequently negotiating agreement
- the establishment and operation of a Projects Mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- establishment and operation of programmes for local government, agriculture and forestry, small and medium sized enterprises, energy intensive businesses, business opportunities, transport, climate change adaptation, science and emissions inventory
- the operation of climate change information programmes
- fulfilling New Zealand's international climate change obligations and building international relationships.

OUTPUT OPERATING STATEMENT

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	8,159	8,309	8,309	10,804
Other	-	27	27	55
Total revenue	8,159	8,336	8,336	10,859
Annual appropriation	8,159	8,336	8,336	10,859
Surplus	-	-	-	-

Outputs

Within this output class the Ministry will:

- develop cost effective abatement measures which preserve the competitiveness of New Zealand business
- develop and implement policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from key sectors including agriculture, small and medium enterprises and energy intensive businesses, local government and transport
- develop materials and information to assist key sectors prepare for the impacts of climate change
- represent New Zealand at multilateral and bilateral international forums
- implement a public awareness and education programme on climate change and keep New Zealanders well informed about climate change science
- ensure New Zealand's response to climate change takes account of the latest information on relevant science and technology
- co-ordinate the preparation of New Zealand's annual greenhouse gas inventory
- advise on the development of regulations under the Climate Change Response Act 2002.

OUTPUT CLASS: CARBON MONITORING PROGRAMME

Description

This output class involves the implementation of the New Zealand Carbon Monitoring Programme to ensure our land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) data in our greenhouse gas inventory and entering the carbon accounting system, is robust, meets international requirements, and underpins the economic return on sink credits.

OUTPUT OPERATING STATEMENT

	2004/05 Main estimates \$000	2004/05 Supplementary estimates \$000	2004/05 Estimated actual \$000	2005/06 Budget \$000
REVENUE				
Crown	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
Other	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
Annual appropriation	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
Surplus	-	-	-	-

Outputs

This output class covers:

- data collection in indigenous forests, regenerating scrub forests and the soils beneath
- data collection on soils undergoing land use change (e.g. from pasture to forestry and vice versa)
- analysis, allometric model development and provision of other science related to data collected
- data on soils other than those covered above
- planted production forestry growth data
- land use, land use change and forestry underpinning science and science capability
- provision and analysis of data for tracking the land use change from 1990
- development, management and co-ordination of the carbon accounting and monitoring system.

PART THREE: OTHER INFORMATION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES FOR POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

The Government recognises that its decisions should ensure the wellbeing of current and future generations. It will take account of the economic, environmental and cultural consequences of its decisions by:

- considering the long term implications of decisions
- seeking innovative solutions that are mutually reinforcing, rather than accepting that gain in one area will necessarily be achieved at the expense of another
- using the best information available to support decision-making
- addressing risks and uncertainty when making choices and taking a precautionary approach when making decisions that may cause serious or irreversible damage
- working in partnership with local government and other sectors encouraging transparent and participatory processes
- considering the implications of decisions from a global as well as a New Zealand perspective
- decoupling economic growth from pressures on the environment
- respecting environmental limits, protecting ecosystems and promoting the integrated management of land, water and living resources
- working in partnership with appropriate Maori authorities to empower Maori in development decisions that affect them
- respecting human rights, the rule of law and cultural diversity.



FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The functions of the Ministry for the Environment as set out in the Environment Act 1986 are:

- To advise the Minister on all aspects of environmental administration, including:
 - i. Policies for influencing the management of natural and physical resources and ecosystems so as to achieve the objectives of the Environment Act 1986;
 - ii. Significant environmental impacts of public or private sector proposals, particularly those that are not adequately covered by legislative or other environmental assessment requirements currently in force;
 - iii. Ways of ensuring that effective provision is made for public participation in environmental planning and policy formulation processes in order to assist decision making, particularly at the regional and local level.
- To solicit and obtain information from any source, and to conduct and supervise research, so far as it is necessary for the formulation of advice to the Government on environmental policies.
- To provide the Government, its agencies, and other public authorities** with advice on:
 - i. The application, operation, and effectiveness of the Acts specified in the Schedule to the Environment Act 1986 in relation to the achievement of the objectives of that Act;
 - ii. Procedures for the assessment and monitoring of environmental impacts;
 - iii. Pollution control and the co-ordination of the management of pollutants in the environment;
 - iv. The identification and likelihood of natural hazards and the reduction of the effects of natural hazards;
 - v. The control of hazardous substances, including the management of the manufacture, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous substances.
- To facilitate and encourage the resolution of conflict in relation to policies and proposals which may affect the environment.
- To provide and disseminate information and services to promote environmental policies, including environmental education and mechanisms for promoting effective public participation in environmental planning.
- Generally to provide advice on matters relating the environment.”

The Ministry also administers the legislation listed on page 63.

** “Public authorities” means:

- a. a Minister of the Crown
- b. a Government Department
- c. any instrument of the Executive Government of New Zealand
- d. any local authority

LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
- Environment Act 1986
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Ozone Layer Protection Act 1996
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000
- Climate Change Response Act 2002
- Aquaculture Reform (Repeals and Transitional Provisions) Act 2004.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Head Office

Before July 2005:

Grand Annexe Building
84 Boulcott Street
Box 10-362, Wellington, New Zealand
Phone (04) 917 7400, Fax (04) 917 7523

After July 2005:

Environment House
23 Kate Sheppard Place
Box 10-362, Wellington, New Zealand
Phone (04) 917 7400, Fax (04) 917 7523



