

VOTE

Parliamentary

Commissioner for the

Environment

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

Overview

Appropriations sought for Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in 2006/07 total \$2.704 million (GST exclusive). This is intended to be spent on the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment undertaking his or her constitutional function in assisting Parliament by independently:

- assessing the capability, performance and effectiveness of the New Zealand system of environmental administration
- providing advice and information that will assist managers to maintain and improve the quality of the environment.

Details of the outputs that will be provided through these appropriations appear in Parts B1 and C of this Vote.

Footnotes

Note 1 The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment is an Office of Parliament under the Public Finance Act 1989.

Note 2 Costs to be incurred pursuant to section 9 of the Environment Act 1986.

Minister Portfolio Table

78 Speaker of the House

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

VOTE MINISTER: The Speaker of the House

ADMINISTERING DEPARTMENT: Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (see Note 1)

The Speaker of the House is the Responsible Minister for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

Part A - Statement of Objectives and Trends

Part A1 - Objectives for Vote

The appropriations in Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment make an important contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the quality of the environment in New Zealand. Specifically the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment contributes to:

- a healthy environment, highly valued by people and managed responsibly for the current and future benefit of all.

The appropriations provide:

- the independent investigation and review of:
 - the system of agencies and processes established by the Government for managing the allocation, use and protection of natural and physical resources
 - public authority environmental planning and management
 - any matter in respect of which the environment may be or has been adversely affected
- the provision of advice to the House of Representatives and committees of the House on:
 - the results of investigations and reviews conducted by the Commissioner
 - petitions, Bills and other matters under consideration by the House or a committee
- the collection and dissemination of information relating to the environment, including the results of investigations and reviews conducted by the Commissioner and advice on preventive measures and remedial actions for the protection of the environment.

Part A2 - Trends in Vote

The time series of flows detailed in the table below for Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment shows that in 2002, an increase of \$77,000 for 2001/02 and \$97,000 for 2002/03 only was approved for the establishment of the audit role as required under the Electricity Amendment Act 2001.

In 2003, an increase of \$57,000 for 2002/03, \$325,000 for 2003/04 and \$312,000 for 2004/05 and outyears was approved to undertake an electricity industry audit and further development of the audit framework, to employ a specialist writer to raise awareness of environmental sustainability issues and to fund a one-off Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment study tour.

In 2004, an increase of \$93,000 for 2003/04 and \$103,000 for 2004/05 and outyears was approved for the increased costs of office accommodation. \$44,000 was also approved for 2004/05 and outyears for

ongoing electricity audit functions. A capital contribution of \$113,000 (GST not applicable) for 2003/04 was approved for costs associated with relocating the Commissioner's office.

In 2005, an increase of \$73,000 for 2004/05 was approved to enable the Commissioner to undertake a study tour and to reprint two recent major investigation reports. \$355,000 was approved for 2005/06 and outyears to support the restoration of investigative capacity and to further expand the Commissioner's communication capacity.

In 2006, an increase of \$24,000 in 2005/06, \$25,000 in 2006/07 and \$26,000 from 2007/08 was approved to enable the Commissioner to cover costs of a retirement scheme for office staff. \$89,000 was approved to meet some of the costs in relation to a programme of events to mark the 20th anniversary of the Commissioner's establishments in 2006/07. Parliament also approved, for 2006/07 and outyears, \$45,000 to improve capability with respect to information and records management.

New Policy Initiatives by Appropriation

Initiative	Appropriation as shown in Part B	\$000 increase/(decrease)				
		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Retirement scheme	Departmental Output Expense - Reports and Advice	24	25	26	26	26
20th Anniversary events	Departmental Output Expense - Reports and Advice	-	89	-	-	-
Information and records management	Departmental Output Expense - Reports and Advice	-	45	45	45	45
Total Initiatives		24	159	71	71	71

Part B - Statement of Appropriations

Summary of Financial Activity

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06		2006/07 Appropriations to be Used				2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	By the Department Administering the Vote		For Non-Departmental Transactions		Total \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000
							Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000				
Appropriations														
Output Expenses	1,763	1,850	2,098	2,220	2,573	2,573	2,478	226	-	-	2,704	2,616	2,616	2,616
Benefits and Other Unrequited Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	1,763	1,850	2,098	2,220	2,573	2,573	2,478	226	-	-	2,704	2,616	2,616	2,616
Crown Revenue and Receipts														
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-

Part B1 - Details of Appropriations

Appropriations	2005/06				2006/07		Scope of 2006/07 Appropriations
	Budget		Estimated Actual		Vote		
	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	
Departmental Output Expenses (General)							
Reports and Advice (M78)	2,343	230	2,343	230	2,478	226	Provision of reports and advice on the legal and other systems governing management of the environment and on the performance of central and local government agencies in maintaining and improving the quality of the environment. (See Note 2.)
Total Departmental Output Expenses (General)	2,343	230	2,343	230	2,478	226	
Total Appropriations	2,343	230	2,343	230	2,478	226	

Part C - Explanation of Appropriations for Output Expenses

Part C1 - Departmental Output Expenses

Output Expense - Reports and Advice

Under this output expense, reports and advice are provided on the capability of the government system of agencies and processes for managing the environment, including independent advice on the performance of central and local government agencies with statutory and administrative responsibilities relating to the maintenance and improvement of environmental quality.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment is now required under the Electricity Amendment Act 2001 to audit the Electricity Governance Organisation with respect to environmental objectives and outcomes and has been funded accordingly. The role is an opportunity to add value to the electricity reforms and work with all parties to achieve better environmental outcomes for the sector.

Part E - Explanation of Capital Flows

Part E1 - Explanation of Movements in Departmental Net Asset Schedules

Details of Net Asset Schedule for Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment	Estimated Actual 2005/06 \$000	Projected 2006/07 \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2006/07
Opening Balance	172	172	
Capital Injections	-	-	
Capital Withdrawals	-	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	172	172	