

VOTE

*Parliamentary
Counsel*

Parliamentary Counsel

Overview

Appropriations sought for Vote Parliamentary Counsel in 2006/07 total \$16.245 million. This is to be applied as follows:

- \$8.365 million (51.5% of the Vote) on Law Drafting Services.
- \$7.880 million (48.5% of the Vote) on Access to Legislation.

Details of how the appropriations are to be applied appear in Parts B1 and C of this Vote.

Terms and Definitions Used

IRD	Inland Revenue Department
PAL	Public Access to Legislation
PCO	Parliamentary Counsel Office

Minister Portfolio Table

5	Attorney-General
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Parliamentary Counsel

VOTE MINISTER: Attorney-General

ADMINISTERING DEPARTMENT: Parliamentary Counsel Office

The Attorney-General is the Responsible Minister for the Parliamentary Counsel Office

Part A - Statement of Objectives and Trends

Part A1 - Objectives for Vote

Outcomes

In New Zealand, parliamentary democracy based on the rule of law is the outcome of many different factors and influences. The institutions of Parliament, the executive, and an independent judiciary existing within the framework of New Zealand's constitutional law and conventions are central to that outcome. So also is respect for and adherence to the rule of law in its widest sense. The drafting of New Zealand's laws and the making of those laws accessible to the citizen also contribute to the outcome.

The Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) contributes to parliamentary democracy under the rule of law by supporting Parliament and the executive in their law-making roles, and contributes to the Government's objectives by:

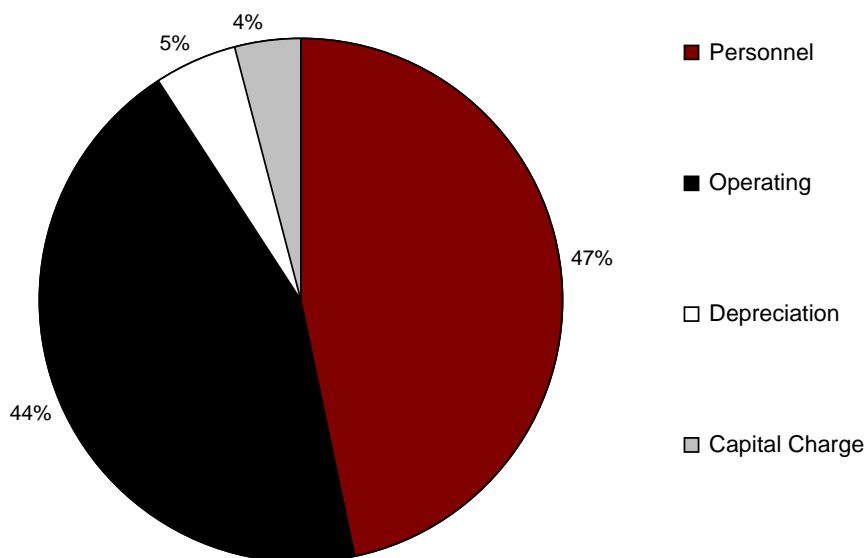
- drafting changes in the law that are necessary to implement Government policies
- making the law accessible to the public.

In order to give effect to these intermediate outcomes the appropriations will fund the following activities:

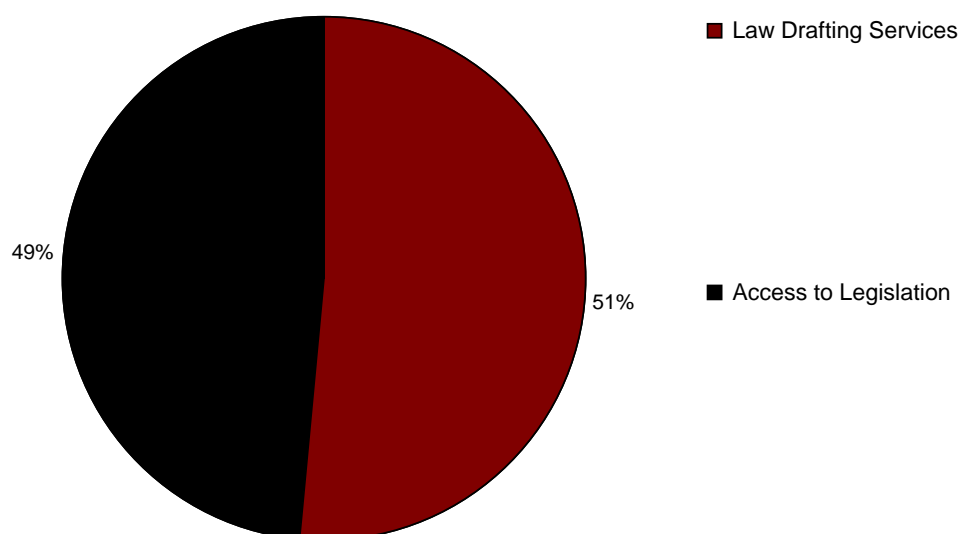
- drafting Government Bills (including amendments) and Statutory Regulations
- examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills and drafting amendments to them
- supplying printed copies of Government Bills and Government Supplementary Order Papers to the House and, on a selective basis, copies of Acts with proposed amendments incorporated
- publishing printed copies of Bills and Supplementary Order Papers, pamphlet copies of Acts and Statutory Regulations, and annual volumes of Acts and Statutory Regulations
- compiling reprints of Acts and Statutory Regulations with their amendments incorporated and publishing them
- publishing the *Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force* in printed form, and in electronic form on the Internet free of charge
- providing the above for sale at designated bookshops and by subscription
- providing free public access via the Internet to an electronic database of legislation, including Bills and Supplementary Order Papers, and maintaining the electronic database of legislation in an up-to-date form.

Output Classes	Intermediate Outcomes
<p>Law Drafting Services</p> <p>Drafting Government Bills (including amendments) and Statutory Regulations.</p> <p>Examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills, and drafting amendments to them.</p>	<p>Legislation that is necessary to change the law in order to implement Government policies is effective and clear.</p>
<p>Access to Legislation</p> <p>Supplying printed copies of Government Bills and Government Supplementary Order Papers to the House and, on a selective basis, copies of Acts with proposed amendments incorporated.</p> <p>Publishing printed copies of Bills and Supplementary Order Papers, pamphlet copies of Acts and Statutory Regulations, and annual volumes of Acts and Statutory Regulations.</p> <p>Compiling reprints of Acts and Statutory Regulations with their amendments incorporated and publishing them.</p> <p>Publishing the <i>Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force</i> in printed form, and in electronic form on the Internet free of charge.</p> <p>Providing the above for sale at designated bookshops and by subscription.</p> <p>Providing free public access via the Internet to an electronic database of legislation, including Bills and Supplementary Order Papers, and maintaining the electronic database of legislation in an up-to-date form.</p>	<p>Legislation (including Bills and Supplementary Order Papers) is accessible to the public in both printed and electronic forms, and the House is provided with copies of printed Government Bills and Government Supplementary Order Papers.</p>

Figure 1 - Vote Parliamentary Counsel: Expenses



Source: Parliamentary Counsel Office

Figure 2 - Vote Parliamentary Counsel: Outputs

Source: Parliamentary Counsel Office

Part A2 - Trends in Vote

The appropriation for the 2006/07 year provides additional funding in the Output Expense Access to Legislation, agreed in the 2005 Budget, to enable completion of work on the project to improve public access to legislation (PAL Project). There is no variance this year in the appropriation for Output Expense Law Drafting Services.

Organisational Capability

Increases in appropriation throughout the last decade result from a deliberate policy on the part of successive governments to ensure that the PCO has sufficient resources to enable it to carry out its principal functions effectively.

In the course of the 2003/04 budget preparation, the Treasury and the State Services Commission considered it would be desirable to review the funding and operations of the PCO with a view to determining an appropriate level of funding for the PCO and, having regard to the significant growth in staff numbers, the potential impact of the PAL project, and other factors, the organisational structure and administrative and management systems required to support the office. As indicated in the Part A2 - Trends in Vote Parliamentary Counsel in the Estimates for the 2005/06 year, one of the principal purposes of the review was to identify future funding needs with a view to limiting the need for annual increases in appropriation. A review was commenced in late 2004 but it was not completed.

The PCO considers that it now has a sufficient number of Parliamentary Counsel to be able to meet the Government's requirements for legislative drafting services and other staff to perform its publishing function. A number of the issues that gave rise to the previous review still remain, in particular, the appropriate organisational structure and management and administrative systems for the PCO. The PCO intends to work with the Treasury and the State Services Commission to address these issues. To assist this process, a further review has now been commissioned and will be carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The specific terms of reference for the PricewaterhouseCoopers review are:

- governance and strategic management arrangements within the PCO

- management of the PCO's activities, with a particular focus on non-drafting activities
- knowledge and information management arrangements
- strategic development and management of information systems and publishing systems
- options for organisational structure (including roles)
- human resource management and systems
- capability development, including training
- development of a career structure within the PCO for both drafting and non-drafting staff
- accounting and financial advice and services.

Recommendations from the PricewaterhouseCoopers review may require some funding adjustment.

The PAL Project

In 2005, the Government approved capital investment and an increase in appropriation that enabled resumption of the PAL Project, which had been delayed since 2003. The project is now scheduled for completion in late 2006/early 2007.

The main impact of the implementation of the PAL Project on the operations of the PCO will occur in the 2006/07 financial year. The cut over to the new system will involve the conversion and migration of work in progress (including legislation being drafted at that time, and Bills and Supplementary Order Papers before the House or select committees). New and changed business processes will need to be documented. Since the PCO will be supplying prepublication services to the Office of the Clerk and Tax Drafting Unit of the Inland Revenue Department (IRD), arrangements and service-level agreements will also need to be agreed between the PCO and both of those agencies.

The implementation of the new PAL system will also involve significant change management issues for the PCO, since the introduction of the new system will affect key aspects of the work processes of the PCO, Office of the Clerk, and Tax Drafting Unit of the IRD. Although Unisys, on behalf of the PCO, will house and maintain the new PAL system at Unisys' Kapiti Data Centre, the PCO will be responsible for first tier support of the system for the PCO, Office of the Clerk, and Tax Drafting Unit of the IRD. The appropriation includes funding to allow the PCO to recruit additional IT staff to boost Helpdesk support, and to provide business analysis skills to support the ongoing development of the system.

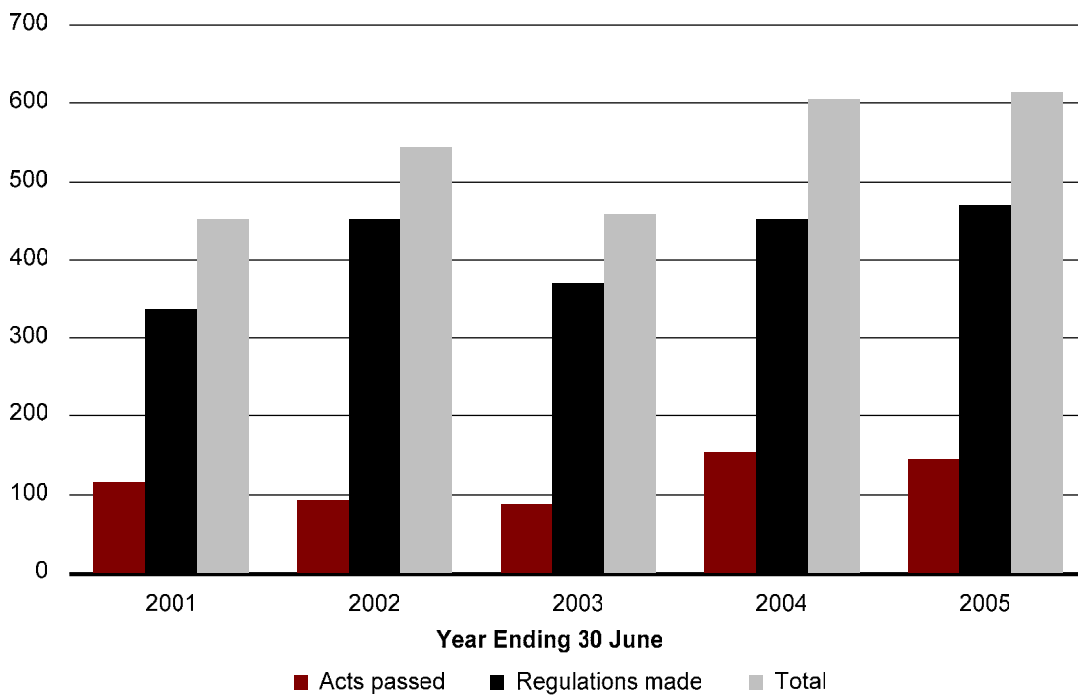
The challenge for the PCO will be to successfully manage the implementation and bedding-in of the new PAL systems while still ensuring that the standard of service it provides to Ministers, departments, and select committees is maintained.

Key Current Issues for Vote Parliamentary Counsel

Key current issues for the 2006/07 year include:

- completing the review of the PCO's organisational structure and management and administrative systems, and implementing changes resulting from that review
- completing the PAL Project
- responding to recommendations on clear drafting and progressing other priority projects
- continuing to maintain and enhance capability.

Figure 3 - Number of Public Acts passed and Statutory Regulations made for the financial years 2000/2001 to 2004/05



Source: Parliamentary Counsel Office

Note: A general election was held on 27 July 2002.

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	6,212	9,082	12,837	14,586	15,882	15,882	16,245	-	-	-	16,245	15,238	15,238	15,238
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	6,212	9,082	12,837	14,586	15,882	15,882	16,245	-	-	-	16,245	15,238	15,238	15,238
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)							
Access to Legislation (M5)	7,517	-	7,517	-	7,880	-	- Supplying printed copies of Bills and Supplementary Order Papers to the House; publishing legislation and distributing it through designated bookshops and by subscription; reprinting legislation with the amendments incorporated; publishing tables of legislation; providing free public access via the Internet to a database of up-to-date legislation. The appropriation also includes some funding to cover costs associated with the PAL Project and to cover the costs of prepublication services and the interim website until the project goes live.
Law Drafting Services (M5)	8,365	-	8,365	-	8,365	-	- Drafting Government Bills (including amendments) and Statutory Regulations, examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills and drafting amendments to them.
Total Departmental Output Expenses (General)	15,882	-	15,882	-	16,245	-	
Total Appropriations	15,882	-	15,882	-	16,245	-	

Part C - Explanation of Appropriations for Output Expenses

Part C1 - Departmental Output Expenses

Output Expense - Law Drafting Services

Under this output expense, the PCO will deliver a service that provides for:

- drafting Government Bills (including amendments) and Statutory Regulations
- examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills, and drafting amendments to them.

Outcomes

Contributing to a parliamentary democracy under the rule of law by supporting Parliament and the executive in their law-making role and contributing to the Government's objectives by ensuring that legislation that is necessary to change the law to implement Government policies is effective and clear.

Output Expense - Access to Legislation

Under this output expense, the PCO will deliver a service that provides for:

- supplying printed copies of Government Bills and Government Supplementary Order Papers to the House and, on a selective basis, copies of Acts with proposed amendments incorporated
- publishing printed copies of Bills and Supplementary Order Papers, pamphlet copies of Acts and Statutory Regulations, and annual volumes of Acts and Statutory Regulations
- compiling reprints of Acts and Statutory Regulations with their amendments incorporated and publishing them
- publishing the *Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force* in printed form, and in electronic form on the Internet free of charge
- providing the above for sale at designated bookshops and by subscription
- providing free public access via the Internet to an electronic database of Acts (both as enacted and with their amendments incorporated), Statutory Regulations (both as made and with their amendments incorporated), Bills, and Supplementary Order Papers, and maintaining the electronic database of legislation in an up-to-date form.

Outcomes

Contributing to a parliamentary democracy under the rule of law by supporting Parliament and the executive in their law making role and contributing to the Government's objectives by ensuring that legislation, including Bills and Supplementary Order Papers, is accessible to the public in both printed and electronic form, and by providing printed copies of Government Bills and Government Supplementary Order Papers to the House.

Part E - Explanation of Capital Flows

Part E1 - Explanation of Movements in Departmental Net Asset Schedules

Details of Net Asset Schedule for Parliamentary Counsel Office	Estimated Actual 2005/06 \$000	Projected 2006/07 \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2006/07
Opening Balance	6,168	8,797	
Capital Injections	2,629	3,552	Funds to meet the capital costs of the PAL Project
Capital Withdrawals	-	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	8,797	12,349	