

VOTE

*Parliamentary
Commissioner for
the Environment*

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

Overview

Appropriations sought for Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in 2001/2002 total \$1.876 million (GST inclusive). 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.

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

VOTE MINISTER: The Speaker of the House

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

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

Part A - Statement of Objectives and Trends

A1 - Objectives for Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

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 will 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.

A2 - Trends in Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

The time series of flows detailed in the table below for Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment shows that additional funding of \$88,000 (GST inclusive) was provided in 1996/97 only for a symposium to assist the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment with the development of the Commissioner's strategic direction for the next five years, and the transfer to Wellington of the new Commissioner, who took up office on 1 January 1997.

As a consequence of an interim review by the Commissioner in January 1997, additional funding of \$177,000 (GST inclusive) was provided in 1997/98 only to maintain the quality of current outputs, pending the outcome of the 1997/98 appropriation baseline review. This review was carried out in March 1998, with the result that the interim funding of \$177,000 (GST inclusive) for the 1997/98 year was confirmed by Parliament to be part of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's baseline appropriation for 1998/99 and outyears.

In 1998 the Commissioner agreed to the Government's 1% Expense Savings Proposal, resulting in a \$13,000 (GST inclusive) reduction in the annual appropriation for 1998/99 and outyears. An increase of \$38,000 (GST inclusive) was approved for the 1998/99 year only to meet severance costs as a result of a restructuring of the Commissioner's support team.

In 1999, additional funding of \$32,000 (GST inclusive) was provided for 1999/2000 and outyears to maintain and improve the quality of the Commissioner's information systems, and the Commissioner received a one-off increase of \$45,000 (GST inclusive) in his 1999/2000 appropriation to meet unanticipated recruitment and investigation costs.

In 2000 an increase of \$242,000 (GST inclusive) was approved for 2000/2001 and outyears, to support the Commissioner's work in systems investigations and environmental audits.

In 2001, no increase in funding was sought.

Trends in Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment - Summary of Appropriations and Crown Revenue

Types of Appropriation	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01		2001/02 Appropriations to be Used				Total \$000	
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	By the Department Administering the Vote		For Non-Departmental Transactions			
							Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000		
Operating Flows												
Classes of Outputs to be Supplied	1,464	1,599	1,623	1,668	1,877	1,877	1,692	184	-	-	-	1,876
Benefits and Other Unrequited Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Flows												
Capital Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase or Development of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Repayment of Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	1,464	1,599	1,623	1,668	1,877	1,877	1,692	184	-	-	-	1,876
Total Crown Revenue and Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-

Part B - Statement of Appropriations

Part B1 - Details of 2000/01 Appropriations

	2000/01			2001/02		
	Vote		Estimated Actual	Vote		Other \$000
	Annual \$000	Other \$000		Annual \$000	Other \$000	
Appropriations						
Departmental Output Classes (Mode B Gross)						
D1 Reports and Advice	1,692	185	1,692	1,692	184	Description of 2001/02 Appropriations
						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 Appropriations for Departmental Output Classes (Mode B Gross)	1,692	185	1,692	1,692	184	
Total Appropriations	1,692	185	1,692	1,692	184	

Part C - Explanation of Appropriations for Output Classes

C1 - Departmental Output Classes

For more detailed analysis of Departmental Output Classes, including financial and non-financial performance measures, please refer to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's Forecast Report C.12 FR (2000).

Output Class D1 - Reports and Advice

Description

Under this output class, 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.

Part E - Explanation of Appropriations for Capital Flows

E1 - Capital Contributions

There is no appropriation in respect of Part E1.

Net Worth of Entities Owned

Statement of Estimated and Forecast Net Worth

	Balance Date	Estimated Net Worth 2000 \$ million	Forecast Net Worth 2001 \$ million
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment	30 June	0.059	0.059