

Vote Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Speaker of the House of Representatives (M78)

APPROPRIATION ADMINISTRATOR: Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Summary of the Vote

Overview

The position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment was established by the Environment Act 1986 to provide Members of Parliament with independent, high quality advice about environmental matters. Advice is generally in the form of reports on investigations, and presentations and submissions to select committees.

The Commissioner has seven statutory functions under the Environment Act to investigate environmental issues, processes, and public agencies. As an Officer of Parliament, the Commissioner has a unique opportunity to provide Parliament with independent advice in its consideration of any matters that may have an impact on the quality of the environment. The Commissioner also communicates her advice to a wider public audience.

The Commissioner is required to deliver one output, Reports and Advice. The Vote comprises:

- one output expense of \$2.890 million for Reports and Advice
- other expense of \$296,000 for the Commissioners Remuneration under Permanent Legislative Authority, and
- capital expenditure of \$72,000 under Permanent Legislative Authority for office equipment, furniture and fittings.

Details of these appropriations are set out in Parts 2-4.

Estimates of Appropriations

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual and Permanent Appropriations

	2013/14		2014/15
	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
Departmental Output Expenses			
Reports and Advice (M78)	2,440	2,440	2,890
This appropriation is limited to reviewing, investigating, providing reports and advice on the legal and other systems governing management of the environment and the performance of central and local government agencies in maintaining and improving the quality of the environment.			
Total Departmental Output Expenses	2,440	2,440	2,890
Departmental Other Expenses			
Remuneration of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment PLA (M78)	296	296	296
This appropriation is limited to remuneration expenses for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment as authorised by section 9 of the Environment Act 1986.			
Total Departmental Other Expenses	296	296	296
Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment - Capital Expenditure PLA (M78)	72	72	72
This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.			
Total Departmental Capital Expenditure	72	72	72
Total Annual and Permanent Appropriations	2,808	2,808	3,258

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.1 - New Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Appropriation	2013/14 Budgeted \$000	2014/15 Budget \$000	2015/16 Estimated \$000	2016/17 Estimated \$000	2017/18 Estimated \$000
Additional resources for Environmental Reporting Bill	Reports and Advice	-	450	450	300	300

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		2014/15			2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000
Appropriations												
Output Expenses	2,277	2,327	2,347	2,340	2,440	2,440	2,890	-	2,890	2,890	2,740	2,740
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	256	267	276	286	296	296	296	-	296	296	296	296
Capital Expenditure	51	26	34	84	72	72	72	-	72	72	72	72
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)												
<i>Output Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	2,584	2,620	2,657	2,710	2,808	2,808	3,258	-	3,258	3,258	3,108	3,108
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-

Note - where restructuring of the vote has occurred then, to the extent practicable, prior years information has been restated as if the restructuring had occurred before the beginning of the period covered.

1.3 - Analysis of Significant Trends

The appropriations for the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment remained unchanged between 2010 to 2012/13. In the 2013/14 financial year a \$100,000 increase to baseline funding was given to meet increasing cost pressures that had been absorbed in prior years. For 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years a \$450,000 increase to baseline has been given to meet resource requirements under the Environment Reporting bill. This additional funding reduces to \$300,000 for 2016/17 and outyears.

Part 2 - Details of Departmental Appropriations

2.1 - Departmental Output Expenses

Reports and Advice (M78)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to reviewing, investigating, providing reports and advice on the legal and other systems governing management of the environment and the performance of central and local government agencies in maintaining and improving the quality of the environment.

Expenses and Revenue

	2013/14		2014/15
	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	2,440	2,440	2,890
Revenue from the Crown	2,437	2,437	2,887
Revenue from Others	3	3	3

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended achieve investigations and provision of advice in the following areas:

- New Zealand's ability to adapt to climate change.
- New Zealand's marine environment.
- Commenting on environment reporting as reported by the Secretary for the Environment and the Government Statistician.

Throughout the year the office will also be providing advice on bills, responding to citizens concerns, and scoping other environmental issues.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

	2013/14		2014/15
	Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual Standard	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Proportion of recommendations adopted or partially adopted	65%	63%	65%
Proportion of recommendations responded to	100%	100%	100%

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in the Annual Report that is to be presented to the House.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2013/14 Budgeted \$000	2014/15 Budget \$000	2015/16 Estimated \$000	2016/17 Estimated \$000	2017/18 Estimated \$000
Meeting cost pressures	2013/14	100	100	100	100	100
Additional resources for environment reporting bill	2014/15	-	450	450	300	300

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

Additional appropriation for requirements to fulfil functions as envisioned under the Environment Reporting bill.

2.2 - Departmental Other Expenses**Remuneration of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment PLA (M78)***Scope of Appropriation*

This appropriation is limited to remuneration expenses for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment as authorised by section 9 of the Environment Act 1986.

Expenses

	2013/14		2014/15
	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	296	296	296

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This permanent appropriation provides payment to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment as determined by the Remuneration Authority.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment leads the performance of the Office. The performance of the Office's activities, including the above payment, is reflected in the information for departmental output appropriations.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for the Office will be reported in the Annual Report that is to be presented to the House.

2.3 - Departmental Capital Expenditure and Capital Injections

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment - Capital Expenditure PLA (M78)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Capital Expenditure

	2013/14		2014/15
	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	72	72	72
Intangibles	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	72	72	72

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the replacement and/or upgrade of assets in support of the delivery of the Office's services.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

Expenditure is in accordance with the department's capital asset management.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in the Annual Report that is to be presented to the House.

*Capital Injections and Movements in Departmental Net Assets***Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment**

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2013/14 Estimated Actual \$000	2014/15 Projected \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2014/15
Opening Balance	613	613	
Capital Injections	-	-	
Capital Withdrawals	-	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	613	613	