

Rural Bulletin

March 2007



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

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Consultation

Testing Vehicles for Noise: Have Your Say

A draft amendment to Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Equipment Amendment [2007] (Rule 32017/2) is now available for public comment. The draft extends the current provisions for objective noise testing of vehicles so they are included in warrants of fitness (WoF) and certificates of fitness (CoF) testing. It also allows inspectors to refer light vehicles for an objective noise test, if they fail the subjective (opinion-based) noise test (the subjective noise test is currently part of the WoF/CoF test).

The amendment is one of a number of measures being introduced to control vehicle exhaust noise.

The deadline for submissions is 19 April 2007. More information is at www.landtransport.govt.nz/consultation/vehicle-equipment <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28419>

Intellectual Property/Traditional Knowledge

Protection of the intellectual property Maori might have in indigenous flora and fauna could soon be available through an international protocol.

Maori are currently pursuing protection for indigenous knowledge of flora and fauna through a claim before the Waitangi Tribunal (WAI 262 - for an overview of this claim see "Treaty Claims" below).

Now the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO - an agency of the United Nations) is seeking NZ input in a proposed protocol, "Principles and Policy Objectives for Protection of Traditional Knowledge".

WIPO's definition of traditional knowledge (TK) is that which is:

- generated, preserved and transmitted in a traditional context and across generations (and not necessarily old);
- distinctively associated with or linked to a traditional or indigenous culture or community (or communities) through a sense of custodianship or cultural responsibility; or
- identified by the source community as being TK.

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) is preparing the NZ response to two WIPO papers outlining progress to date. MED is now seeking the responses of Maori and others with an interest in these issues on the two papers and also on a set of questions.

Submissions close 23 March 2007. Send them to traditional.knowledge@med.govt.nz. (put "WIPO IGC Submissions" in the subject bar), or you can mail them to: WIPO IGC Submissions, Intellectual Property Policy Group, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington. The questions for your consideration are at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC___25301.aspx

Mental Health Commission Amendment Bill

Parliament's Health Committee is inviting public submissions on the Mental Health Commission Amendment Bill. This Bill would extend the Commission's term to 2015, and make changes to the Commission's role in advising and reporting to the Minister of Health on:

- setting up the national mental health strategy;
- promoting dialogue on mental health issues; and
- advocating for people with mental illnesses and their families.

Submissions close Saturday, 31 March 2007 they go to the Health Select Committee at Parliament. More information is at <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/SubmCalled/e/b/1/eb175cbe241c4a7f8a4fdd594d73c8de.htm>. Select Committees require 2 copies of each submission. People wishing to include any information of a private or personal nature in a submission need to discuss this with the Clerk of the Committee, as submissions are usually released to the public. People who want to appear before the committee to speak to their submissions should state this clearly and provide a daytime telephone contact. Copies of the bill can be purchased at Bennetts Government Bookshops.

Licensing of Builders

A consultation paper on aspects of the Licensed Building Practitioner Scheme (for licensing people in the building industry) is now available. It's proposed to create 13 occupational licenses for builders, designers and other skilled professionals working in that industry. The license assessment process would be based around an applicant's work history and project records, client testimonials where possible, feedback from technical referees and the applicant's understanding of the responsibilities that go with the licences being sought.

The paper covers:

- the minimum standards for people wishing to be licensed for the Carpentry, Design and Site licence classes;
- the initial application and assessment process; and
- requirements for continued licensing.

Submissions close on 26 March. More information is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/occupational-licensing-discussion-docs> or you can telephone freephone 0800 606050

Compulsory Cleaning of Imported Vehicles?

Imported second-hand cars and machinery are likely to face mandatory treatment and cleaning after the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) discovered that the risk of serious pests arriving on them is higher than previously assumed.

Biosecurity NZ (a division within MAF) has found that about half the imported used vehicles are carrying contamination which could not be seen with the current visual inspection risk management system. It concluded that the current risk management system would have trouble effectively managing the risks from high-risk pests.

Submissions close on 30 March. The paper is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/strategy/consultation/risk-analysis-vehicle-machinery.pdf>

Climate Change Discussion Papers...

Powering Our Future - Towards a Sustainable Low Emissions Energy System - Draft NZ Energy Strategy to 2050

The government has released a draft NZ Energy Strategy to 2050 called "Powering Our Future - Towards a Sustainable Low Emissions Energy System - Draft NZ Energy Strategy to 2050". Your views are sought on this. Part 1 of Powering Our Future sets out the Government's proposed vision for NZ's energy future and the broad directions by which this could be achieved. Part 2 provides more detail on the proposed actions that the government could take both now and over time.

The actions and issues are discussed under six broad chapter headings:

- Resilient, low carbon transport;
- Security of electricity supply;
- Low emissions power and heat;
- Using energy more efficiently;
- Sustainable technologies and innovation; and
- Affordability and wellbeing.

Submissions close 30 March 2007. More information is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary____24493.aspx. Electronic responses preferred. Email address is nzes@med.govt.nz, postal address is NZ Energy Strategy, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington

Making It Happen: Action Plan to Maximise Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in NZ

You can also make a submission on the draft replacement National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy: "Making It Happen: Action Plan to Maximise Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in NZ (NZEES)". The NZEES proposes ways to promote energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of renewable sources of energy. It includes measures to reduce electricity demand, address energy use in transport, buildings and industry, and promote greater consideration of sustainable energy in the development of land, settlements and energy production.

The information will be added to NZ Energy Strategy.

Submissions close 30 March 2007. They go to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), PO Box 388, Wellington, or you can email them to EECA at feedback@eeca.govt.nz. Alternatively you can make a submission online. More information is at <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/national-strategy/release-of-draft-nzeecs.html>

In addition, the government is consulting on two related pieces of climate change policy. They are:

Transitional Measures: Options to Move towards Low Emissions Electricity and Stationary Energy Supply and to Facilitate a Transition to Greenhouse Gas Pricing in the Future

This one explores ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the stationary energy sector (electricity and industrial heat and power) before 2012 - the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It is part of the Draft NZ Energy Strategy.

It presents options for lowering emissions from the supply of energy from stationary sources. Amongst these options are: measures to introduce a price on greenhouse gases, incentives, the use of regulatory options, and voluntary measures.

Submissions are due by 5.00pm, Friday 30 March 2007. Email your submission to transitionalmeasures@med.govt.nz or post it to: Transitional Measures, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington

Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NZ Post-2012

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is circulating a discussion paper entitled "Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NZ Post-2012". It is aimed at gathering information about how the public thinks NZ should be reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and protecting and enhancing our forest carbon sinks after 2012 (the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol).

For NZ to achieve its climate change and other sustainable development objectives in the future, we will probably need a mix of voluntary options together with some price-based policies and some regulations. The paper lays out some of the options for discussion, in particular describing:

- two "price-based" measures - emissions trading and greenhouse gas charges;
- "directive" regulations (like those under the Resource Management Act or Electricity Act); and
- emission reduction agreements.

Submissions close 30 March 2007. The discussion paper is at <http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/resources/reports/discussion-paper-post-2012-dec06/index.html>. Electronic submissions are encouraged: they go to climatechange@mfe.govt.nz. Written submissions go to Post-2012, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10-362, Wellington

Managing Deforestation

This discussion paper focuses on the options for a tradeable permit scheme for managing deforestation. It supplements the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change (SLM&CC) discussion paper we described in the February Rural Bulletin.

"Managing Deforestation" provides more detail about the government's preferred approach. Deforestation accounts for around 20% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, and the projected level of deforestation in NZ between 2008 and 2012 would result in 40 million tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted. This is

far higher than historic rates of deforestation, and that would cost taxpayers an estimated \$651 million. Deforestation also causes many other environmental impacts such as increased flooding and nutrient run-off.

Submissions on both the SLM&CC paper and "Managing Deforestation" paper close 30 March 2007. The "Managing Deforestation" consultation paper is downloadable at: www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange The SLM&CC paper is at www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/discussion-document/index.htm

arriving in the next few weeks. The project is supported by Australia's National Farmers Federation and Jetstar Airlines, which is offering 100 free return flights to Christchurch.

For more information see http://www.fedfarm.org.nz/media_release/2007_02_08.html

Definition of Some of the Terms Used in Climate Change Papers

- Emissions: the intentional and unintentional release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG): greenhouse gases are constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and human-induced, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. The greenhouse gas emissions covered by the "emissions limitation commitment" for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).
- Kyoto Protocol: this is a protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that requires ratifying countries listed in its Annex B (industrialised nations) to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets during the period from 2008 to 2012 (see <http://unfccc.int> for further information).
- Tradeable permit system: this is where a government allocates permits to industry members to cover all or some of their current greenhouse gas emissions. Members are liable for emissions above the level of emission permits they hold.
- Carbon credit: a tradeable unit representing the right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions - it is also known as an emission unit or allowance.
- Carbon sinks: these are environmental reservoirs that absorb and store more carbon than they release. In doing this they offset greenhouse gas emissions. Forests and oceans are examples of carbon sinks.

Pipfruit Industry Report

An independent report on the NZ pipfruit industry recommends that the industry needs to move quickly if it wants to meet the challenges it is facing from other pipfruit producers such as Chile and China. It is urged to double the current rate of transformation by planting new trees and new varieties, particularly new varieties covered by intellectual property exclusiveness, as well as setting up associated marketing programmes. The report also highlights the importance of having systems that will provide the industry with better information about changing consumer behaviour and also better information on what the competitors are doing.

The report also comments that this industry has a high level of production efficiency, and a history of innovation and the review team believes there can be a successful future and economic sustainability for NZ pipfruit growers and businesses.

The review concludes that the small, independent orchard will have a lesser role in production in the future and it recommends more consolidation of growers and/or exporters into groups, or "clubs".

More information is at <http://www.pipfruitnz.co.nz/>

Farmers: Dealing with Pests/ Diseases

Federated Farmers (FFNZ) has produced a farmers' guide to NZ's biosecurity investigation systems for dealing with pests and diseases. The booklet includes a section on preventing the unwelcome guests and describes how NZ's biosecurity investigation process works. It also tells you what to do and who can help if unwelcome pest or disease guests are suspected.

To report a suspected pest or disease call 0800 80 99 66. For copies of the pamphlet go to www.fedfarm.org.nz, or call freephone 0800 (FARMING) 327 646

Rural

Holidays for Aussies

A holidays-for-Aussies project has been set up Federated Farmers to give a NZ holiday to Australian farming families affected by the drought in Australia. With this project people who have offered to host an Australian are contacted directly by an Australian farmer. Families from drought areas have now begun booking their flights to come to NZ, with the first holidaymakers

Farm Forestry Conference

The NZ Farm Forestry Association is holding its 51st national conference in Waikato, 15-19 April.

To register for this conference visit www.nzffa.org.nz.

Environment

Vehicle Pollution Standards

If government proposals are adopted, Japanese cars imported to NZ may soon all have to meet a series of more up-to-date and steadily increasing emissions standards. This would mean the current 6-8 year time lag between the Japanese and NZ standards will close to 5 years in 2010 and 4 years in 2013. A side-effect of the proposed new regulations would be that by 2013 no Japanese car older than four years will qualify for importation.

The new standards are to be included in a draft Ministry of Transport rule on entry restrictions for vehicle imports, which will be released for industry and public consultation in April.

More information is at <http://www.mot.govt.nz/vehicle-imports-need-to-lift-their-game/>

Water Shortages...

Water shortages have emerged along the east coast of both islands, in the horticultural areas at the top of the South Island, and in Otago, where the Regional Council is currently holding public meetings in advance of changing its regional plan to ensure sustainable allocation of water.

Environment BoP indicates that demand for water has been moving faster than its policies and research abilities. The authority has just completed a review of five years of resource consents for groundwater use which shows that as supplies from ground water are becoming fully allocated there has been a "distinct shift" to groundwater use, mainly by the farming and horticultural communities. However, the council says it does not yet know enough about some of the region's groundwater aquifers to be confident when allocating water requested in consent applications, and work on its 5-year research programme has become urgent.

The Kapiti Coast to the north-west of Wellington also has water problems throughout summer...

... New Zealand Leads Water Quality Research...

Researchers at the Open Polytechnic are leading an international investigation into ways to help relieve pressure on ground water supplies both in NZ and abroad.

Pressure on the world's agriculture systems from increasing populations and a rapid rise in industrialisation over recent years is taking its toll on the world's ground water supplies. Some coastal aquifers are suffering from salt water intrusion and this is now an emerging global issue. Deterioration in the quality of fresh water supplies can lead to potential long term socio-economic issues as some countries struggle to irrigate their agricultural crops. Many ground water pumps in coastal areas are hydraulically linked to seawater supplies to help manage the pressure of the pumping system. When large amounts of ground water is withdrawn salt water can flow back into the system, eventually affecting the quality of the water supply.

The research team is made up of academics from NZ, Japan, Australia, India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

More information is at: <http://www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz/aboutus/newsandevents/newsarchives/decostasalinigrant/>

...and Regional Water Plan Guide

An updated planning guide for the management of surface water quality in rivers, lakes and wetlands by local authorities has been published by Quality Planning, following amendments to the Resource Management Act (RMA) last year. Quality Planning is an organisation jointly managed by the NZ Planning Institute, the Resource Management Law Association, Local Government NZ, the NZ Institute of Surveyors and the Ministry for the Environment.

More information is at <http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/plan-topics/surface-water-quality.php>

Climate Change Booklets Available

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has developed a series of booklets on climate change in an effort to raise public awareness of the issues. The booklets cover the science of climate change, the likely impacts on NZ, new policies and initiatives, tips for taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the importance of preparing for climate change. A poster is also available.

For copies email publications@mfe.govt.nz or call (04) 439 7546. MfE's website is at www.mfe.govt.nz

Tourism

A Record Number of Tourists

Statistics NZ figures show that a growth rate of 1.6% in 2006 pushed international arrivals up to 2,421,561 for the year. Key markets in 2006 were:

- Australia - up 3.3% to 903,504;
- UK - down 3.9% to 294,812;
- USA - up 5.2% to 225,629;
- Japan - down 12.0% to 136,401;
- China - up 20.3% to 105,716; and
- Germany - up 3.1% to 59,353.

International Passenger Numbers 2006

In 2006, 55% of all passenger movements were overseas visitors to NZ, 43% were NZ residents going away on short-term overseas trips and 2% were permanent and long-term migrants.

Australians visited most (38% of all visitors), followed by people from the United Kingdom (12%). Two-thirds of visitors stayed two weeks or less and just 15% stayed for more than four weeks.

Australia was also the most-visited destination by NZ residents, with half of all short-term overseas trips in 2006 to that country. The second most-visited destination was Fiji, accounting for 6% of all trips. However, in 2006 there were fewer trips to both Australia (down 1%) and Fiji (down 3%) than in 2005.

Two-thirds of trips by NZ residents were for two weeks or less, while 17% were away for more than four weeks.

In 2006, there was a net inflow of 14,600 permanent and long-term migrants including a net 10,900 from the United Kingdom and 11,400 from Asia. There was a net outflow of 20,700 to Australia.

There were net outflows in the 20-24 and 50-54 year age groups, but net inflows in all other age groups including 3000 people aged 30-34 and 2800 people aged 25-29.

You can download more information from that Statistics NZ website at: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/hot-off-the-press/external-migration/external-migration-dec06yr-hotp.htm>

Health

Child Wellbeing Report

A UNICEF report on the wellbeing of children and young people in the world's advanced economies ranks NZ 18th out of 24 OECD countries, with low ratings across a number of indicators, and 24th when it comes to child violence. The report is based on data relating to 2000-2003.

European countries dominate the top half of the overall league table, with the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Finland claiming the top four places. The UK and United States are in the bottom third of the rankings for five of the six categories covered. The six categories are material well-being, family and peer relationships, health and safety, behaviour and risks, and children's own sense of well-being (educational and subjective).

No country features in the top third of the rankings for all six dimensions of child well-being, although the Netherlands and Sweden came close to achieving this.

The report is at http://unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc7_eng.pdf

World Obesity Levels

A World Health Organisation (WHO) report published recently listed countries according to the proportion of citizens who were obese. New Zealand was 17th on the league table. The top four were all from the Pacific - Nauru, Micronesia, the Cook Islands and Tonga; more than 90% of each of their populations was defined as obese. Fiji was a notable exception, ranking 68th.

WHO defines obese people as those aged over 15 who have a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more. The BMI is an equation involving a person's height and weight. A BMI of between 18.5 and 24.9 is considered healthy.

The report said altered diets in recent years, particularly as island nations developed closer economic ties with the United States and NZ, were partly to blame. Obesity levels around the world:

1: Nauru, 94.5% of population obese; 2: Federated States of Micronesia, 91.1%; 3. Cook Islands, 90.9%; 4. Tonga, 90.8%; 5. Niue, 81.7%; 6. Samoa, 80.4%; 7. Palau, 78.4%; 8. Kuwait, 74.2%; 9. United States, 74.1%; 10. Kiribati, 73.6%; . . . 17. NZ, 68.4%; 21. Australia, 67.4%; 28; United Kingdom, 63.8%; 35 Canada, 61.1%; 68. Fiji, 54.8%; 28. France, 40.1%; 148. China, 28.9%; 163. Japan, 22.6%; 194. Eritrea, 4.4%.

Quality of NZ Life: Survey Results

The Quality of Life 2006 Survey is the second national survey in a partnership between the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and 12 cities: North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland, Manukau, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, Christchurch, Dunedin and Rodney District.

Over 7,500 residents living in the country's largest cities were surveyed on quality of life; health and well-being; crime and safety; community, culture and social networks; council processes; built environment; public transport and lifestyle - work and study.

Most NZers believe they have a very high quality of life: 90% of residents living in the cities rated their overall quality of life positively, compared with 91% of respondents living outside of the main areas. Similarly, 90% of city residents viewed their overall health as favourable. Those who rated their health the best live in Tauranga and "the rest of NZ", while those who rated it less favourably live in Auckland and Waitakere. Standards of living within our major cities and districts were also reportedly positive, with the majority of people interviewed (88% city, 87% the rest of NZ) saying they had enough money to cover the cost of their everyday lives.

Most (90%) of the city residents viewed their health positively, responding with a rating of either excellent (22%), very good (40%), or good (27%). Some 20% of city respondents and 19% of those from the rest of NZ experienced some type of barrier when going to visit their general practitioner. Among those who had experienced such barriers, the most frequently mentioned was the expense (53% city, 41% rest of NZ) or that they were too busy or could not take time off work (23% city, 18% rest of NZ).

Reflecting results from those in the rest of NZ, the majority of the city respondents felt safe in their homes during the day (96%) and 91% felt safe after dark. Dunedin, Wellington and Christchurch are where most people feel safe in their homes after dark, while Manukau and Auckland are where they feel less safe. Feelings of overall safety in central city areas after dark was considerably lower with only 50% stating that they felt very safe, or fairly safe (38%). The most frequently mentioned reason for feeling unsafe was the perception of dangerous people, high profile media coverage of crime, alcohol and drug problems and poor lighting in these areas.

Males were significantly more likely to indicate that they felt safe in their city centre (58%) compared to females (42%). Those who indicated they were more likely to have encountered "unsafe people" (due to behaviour, attitude or appearance) live in Manukau, Auckland, Waitakere and Christchurch. Conversely,

those from Rodney, Dunedin or “the rest of NZ” were less likely to have had a problem.

Social connectedness within our communities could be improved with only 56% of those surveyed in the city feeling like there was a sense of community in their local neighbourhood, compared with 65% in the rest of NZ. The “busy lives of fellow residents” and “unfriendly neighbours” were the main reasons behind this perceived lack of community. Those from Rodney or “the rest of NZ” have a higher expectation of a “sense of community” whereas those from Hamilton, Tauranga or Christchurch have less of an expectation. Maori and Pacific Islanders felt more of a “sense of community” than other ethnic groups.

A lack of awareness amongst urban dwellers about Council decision-making processes emerged as an issue, with only 35% of city respondents stating that they had an understanding of Council decision-making. This compares with 44% of those from the rest of NZ. Over half of the city respondents (53%) desired a greater say in Council operations and only 42% felt that they had confidence that their Council makes decisions in the best interests of the area.

Just over half (58%) of city residents felt a sense of pride in their area. This was much less than those living in the rest of NZ (65%). Those who were significantly more likely to have felt a sense of pride in their area (either strongly agree or agree) were living in Wellington (82%), Dunedin (73%), Hamilton (69%) and Christchurch (68%). Those who were significantly less likely to have felt a sense of pride in their city lived in Manukau (39%), Auckland (43%), Waitakere (50%) and Rodney (53%). Key issues affecting sense of pride included the presence of rubbish and graffiti or vandalism and the need for better city maintenance.

Only 21% of city respondents were regular users of public transport (2 or more times per week), compared to 6% in the rest of NZ. The availability of public transport options did not appear to be a significant issue as 67% of people believed they were able to access a public transport facility.

Kiwis living within the city seem to be embracing physical activity, with 56% of those surveyed participating in some type of activity five or more days per week. However, those living in the rest of NZ participated even more (61%). Only 7% of respondents from the city indicated that they did not currently undertake any form of physical activity.

Local information on the Quality of Life survey is available from each of the 12 participating Councils

Review of Sale and Supply of Liquor to Minors

The government is reviewing the effectiveness of current restrictions on the sale and supply of liquor to young people under the age of 18. The review will:

- determine the harms arising from the sale and supply of liquor to minors;
- evaluate the effectiveness of current restrictions on sale and supply to minors; and
- develop policy proposals that address the causes of harms arising from sale and supply to minors.

It will also include a review of provisions of the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 relating to sale and supply to minors, including propos-

als for reforms to address the causes of harm to minors. Proposals could include:

- tighter controls on sale and supply of liquor, both from licensed premises and from family, friends and others; and
- increased enforcement options to address breaches of the Act by minors and by persons who sell or supply liquor.

Reviewers will also look at wider options for ways to address the harm arising from the sale and supply of liquor to minors.

A report is expected by 13 April 2007

Hauora Maori Scholarships

Hauora Maori Scholarships are open to anyone who:

- is enrolled and attending a University, Polytechnic, Wananga or College of Education;
- is studying a health-related NZQA accredited course of at least 12 weeks in duration;
- can demonstrate a commitment to and/or competence in Maori health and well-being studies; and
- has whakapapa and/or cultural links with Te Ao Maori or Maori communities.

Applications close 13 April. Forms and guidelines are available through the Ministry of Health's website at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/>

Drinking-Water Quality 2005

Figures from the Annual Drinking Water Review of 2005 show that:

- 76% of the NZ population had drinking-water complying with E. coli requirements (these people were generally located in towns with populations in excess of 5,000 people);
- 13% had drinking-water supplies not compliant with E. coli requirements (these were generally located in towns with populations of less than 5,000 people);
- 71% of the population had drinking-water complying with cryptosporidium requirements (they were generally in towns with populations in excess of 5,000 people); and
- 17% of the population had drinking water not complying with cryptosporidium requirements (they were generally located in towns with populations less than 5,000 people);

Both the bacterium E coli and the protozoa cryptosporidium can cause outbreaks of illness.

The statistics on E coli compliant water represented an improvement of 2% since 2004, while compliance with the Cryptosporidium criteria was at the same level as in 2004.

In 2005 11% of the population did not have access to registered reticulated drinking water supplies. In most cases water came from a roof tank or bore, where water quality needs to be maintained by the homeowner (see box over page).

The final report is expected by 13 April 2007.

More information about water supplies in your area is at: [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/5781/\\$File/summary-annual-review-drinking-water-quality-2005.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/5781/$File/summary-annual-review-drinking-water-quality-2005.pdf)

How's the Quality of Your Tank Water?

Keeping water tank water free from bacteria and protozoa is generally the job of the tank owner, and both the tank and the water in it need keeping an eye on.

For tank maintenance:

- keep roof catchments clean and clear of moss, lichen, debris and leaves;
- cut back trees and branches that overhang roofs;
- regularly inspect gutters;
- clean gutter and tank inlets and screens every 3-4 months;
- disinfect the supply, if tank contamination is apparent;
- inspect tanks annually and cleaning them out if necessary; and
- test the water periodically.

To maintain water quality:

- siphon off any sediment, if it has been stirred up, treat chemically with chlorine;
- add a first-flush collection system: these systems prevent the first portion of roof run-off from entering the tank, and that reduces the amount of dust, bird droppings and leaves etc, that can accumulate on roofs from being washed into the tanks.

For clean, safe drinking water:

- use an approved filter or purifier;
- boil the water for one minute; or
- add half a teaspoon of household bleach to 10 litres of water (this will kill most germs).

North Shore City's site at <http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz/Water/StormWater/stormwater-rainwater-non-flash.htm#top> is one of the sites with useful information on building and maintaining rainwater tanks, and protecting yourself against contamination in the water supply

Brain Repair Pathway Traced

New Zealand and Swedish neuroscientists have traced the pathway adult neural stem cells travel along to repair the human brain, opening up an exciting new field of research that could potentially lead to treatments for many brain disorders. They have also overturned the long-held theory that although an adult stem cell pathway existed in other mammals, it was not found in humans. Their findings are the cover story in the March 2nd issue of Science, considered the world's top scientific journal.

More is at <http://www.neurological.org.nz/html/release.php?documentCode=5591>

District Health Boards: Deficit Down...

Statistics NZ figures show that the combined operating deficit of NZ's 21 district health boards (DHBs) was \$4.7 million for the December 2006 quarter. This is down, compared with deficits of \$8.2 million in the September 2006 quarter and \$21.8 million in the December 2005 quarter.

DHB expenditure rose by \$20.1 million to \$2,476.2 million in the December 2006 quarter, with the biggest contributors to this figure being the direct provision of public hospital and health services (HHS), at \$1,395.9 million, as well as the purchase of medical services from non-government providers and inter-DHB services, at \$1,068.2 million.

The total operating expenses of the HHS providers were 0.3% lower than in the September 2006 quarter, but 6.8% higher when compared with the December 2005 quarter. Employee costs were up 0.8% (to \$890.6 million) compared with the September 2006 quarter.

DHB revenue rose to \$2,471.4 million, with funding from the Ministry of Health increasing by \$28.2 million (to \$2,080.5 million) compared with the September 2006 quarter.

DHB investment in fixed assets was \$108.2 million in the December 2006 quarter, up 10.6% on the September 2006 quarter. For the 2006 calendar year, DHBs spent \$389.7 million on additions to fixed assets, \$38.7 million more when compared with the previous 12 months.

Recruitment for Gambling Study

The Centre for Gambling Studies at the University of Auckland is keen to recruit people who are worried about their gambling - particularly about gambling on the pokies. In return for participation in the study, you will receive information and skills to help you control spending, as well as professional support at no extra cost. Confidentiality and anonymity are promised.

Applications to participate need to be in before 31 May. More information: call freephone 0800xGAMBLE (0800942625). All calls free (including mobiles)

Education

Restorative Justice in Schools Report

“Respectful Schools: Restorative Practices in Education” is a new report by Victoria University's Institute of Policy Studies researchers. The report provides case studies from schools that have used restorative justice practices and identifies the main factors underlying the successful introduction of this approach. It follows wide-spread concern about the number of students dropping out from schools - often after disciplinary measures were taken - and the impact of these young people living in their communities and often appearing in district youth courts. Research was undertaken on the premise that there must be better ways of working with students and their families that enabled all parties - schools, students, families - to remain focused on keeping students engaged in their learning and at school. The report will be distributed to all NZ school principals.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is a process through which remorseful offenders accept responsibility for their misconduct to those injured and to the community, which then supports the reintegration of the offender into the community. The emphasis is on restoration for everyone: restoration of the offender in terms of his or her self-respect, restoration of the relationship between offender and victims, as well as restoration of both offenders and victims within the community.

More information about the report is available from the Office of the Commissioner for Children at http://www.occ.org.nz/childcomm/media_and_speeches/media_releases/children_s_commissioner_says_restorative_justice_has_role_in_schools www.occ.org.nz. More information about restorative justice is available at <http://www.restorativejustice.org/intro/>

Careers Education: More \$\$

An extra \$7.5 million over the next two years in careers education will go to development of a new programme called Creating Pathways and Building Lives (CpaBL). The programme is aimed at giving world-class careers education and it specifically addresses the needs of students at high risk of leaving school with an early leaver's exemption. Years 9 to 13 students will be offered a range of advice and information tailored to their future career choices.

Currently 100 schools have been allocated funding to take part in the programme, which allows teachers to take part in professional development in order to help their school raise the profile of careers education.

Maori in Education

The latest labour force figures from the Household Labour Force Survey show that for the year to December 2006 the unemployment rate for Maori fell to 7.9%; with the employment of Maori increasing by 22,000 between December 2005 and December 2006. Figures also show the number of Maori leaving school with little or no formal attainment has gone from 40% in 1996, to 25% in 2005. However, research by Waikato University reveals that more than half of Maori boys who left school in 2005, had no qualifications.

Money Matters

Budget Day 2007

The date for the 2007 budget is Thursday 17 May, when the Minister of Finance delivers his eighth budget.

The SuperGold Card

A new SuperGold Card for NZ residents who are 65 or over, or who qualify for NZ Superannuation or a Veteran's Pension is to be introduced in August of this year.

The card will provide commercial discounts from participating businesses, and it will also mean easy access to concessions on government and local authority services. A wide range of discounts for everyday goods and services are likely to be offered, and experience in Australia with a similar scheme is that commercial discounts build up year by year. A directory and a website will list all available discounts. There will be no change to existing NZ Super entitlements.

About 540,000 people - including around 15,000 under the age of 65 - will be eligible to receive the card, which will be automatically sent to people receiving superannuation or a veteran's pension. Other people over 65 will need to apply for it.

The card will be credit card sized and will carry the holder's name, a number and whether the holder receives NZ Super or a Veteran's Pension, or has a Community Services Card.

The Community Services Card and Super Card will go at the same time as the SuperGold card arrives. People currently holding those cards will be able to access their entitlements through the SuperGold Card, and more concessions may be added later.

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) freephone for seniors wanting to make inquiries about the card is 0800 25 45 65. Businesses interested in participating in the SuperGold scheme can call 0508 65 00 00. More information is at <http://www.msd.govt.nz/media-information/press-releases/2006/pr-2006-11-11.html#2>

Transport Investment: Bond Tender

The first tender of Infrastructure Bonds has been completed, and the government is hoping that it will help accelerate our road-building programme. The money from these bonds is specifically linked to long term investment in transport. In particular it will help with key State Highway projects like the Manukau Harbour Crossing, Kopu Bridge Replacement, the four laning on the Longswamp-Rangiriri stretch of the Waikato Expressway, the Christchurch Southern Motorway, and the investigation and design of Transmission Gully.

The tender involved Treasury's Debt Management Office completing a \$100 million issue of 2017 bonds, of which \$50 million will be used to help fund a multi-billion investment in land transport over the next five years.

The 2017 issue was eight times oversubscribed. One successful bidder purchased all \$100 million of the bonds at a yield of 5.94%, slightly below the market yield at the time of the tender.

Increased Payments for Caregivers

People receiving an Unsupported Child's Benefit and Orphan's Benefit (who are not receiving a care supplement) will receive a

further \$10 per week as a contribution toward care costs from 1 April. This will take the rates of payment of Unsupported Child's Benefit and Orphan's Benefit to between \$117 per week and \$153 per week per child. Around 7,460 caregivers and 3,000 foster parents, who care for a combined total of approximately 15,000 children will receive the increase.

Feeding Us Costs More...

New figures from Statistics NZ (SNZ) show that for the year to January 2007, food prices rose 3.4%. Prices rose for all sub-groups: fruit and vegetables (up 13.7%, with apples up 18.2%, and kiwifruit up 53.1%), restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food (up 3.2%), meat, poultry and fish (up 2.4%, with poultry up 7.6%), grocery food (up 1.0%) and non-alcoholic beverages (up 2.5%). Lower prices were recorded for nectarines (down 25.2%) and tomatoes (down 11.4%).

Grocery food prices rose 1.1%, with chocolate (up 4.3%) and potato chips (up 5.4%) making the greatest contributions. Prices for the non-alcoholic beverages subgroup also increased (up 3.7%), driven by higher prices for soft drinks (up 3.3%) and fruit juice (up 7.8%).

Housing

Leaky Home Judgement: Appeal Abandoned

The recent landmark court ruling on a leaky home that was built in 1994 will now not be appealed. The judgement laid the blame for the leak problems on the local council issuing the resource consent: the council was found to have an unacceptable resource consent process, and the owner was awarded \$250,900 in damages.

Small Leaky Home Claims Fast-tracked

The Weathertight Homes Resolution Services (WHRS) Act 2006 and its regulations comes into force on 1 April, and a two-year lending assistance pilot for claimants who are unable to access finance from private lending institutions is expected to be in place from the same date.

From that date leaky home claims under \$20,000 will be managed through a new streamlined Weathertight Homes Resolution Service claims process that will encourage negotiation and mediation within a set timeframe. If settlement is not reached then an application will be able to be made to the new Weathertight Homes Tribunal for adjudication based on the papers, unless a hearing is needed.

Claimants will also be able to obtain a new comprehensive assessment report that will include potential as well as actual non-weathertightness damage repair costs. The fees for a full assessor's report are \$500 for individual homeowners and \$1500 for representative claims from multi-unit complexes. There will be no cost for an eligibility assessment report.

The Act is aimed at helping all owners of leaky homes settle their disputes faster, holding those responsible to account, ena-

bling leaky home owners to get compensation from the liable parties to fix their homes, and enhancing consumer protection for homebuyers.

More information is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/whrs-index>

ConsumerBuild: Free Housing Advice

The Department of Building and Housing and Consumers' Institute have developed a public building and housing resource called ConsumerBuild. This website is aimed at improving NZers' understanding about building, buying, renovating and maintaining their homes. The site provides a wide range of information on:

- the Building Act;
- buying a house;
- buying a section;
- the construction phase;
- dealing with tradespeople;
- design and architects;
- do-it-yourself;
- home maintenance;
- leaky buildings;
- legal issues;
- materials and features;
- moving a house;
- project management; and
- renovations.

It also includes a problems section and a list of trade groups that people can contact.

ConsumerBuild is at <http://www.consumerbuild.org.nz/publish/updates.php>

Employment

Unemployment Down

The Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) for the quarter ending December 2006 shows annual employment increased by 30,000 between December 2005 and December 2006, and unemployment is now down to 3.7%. That is the second lowest figure recorded since the survey began in 1986, ranking NZ 4th out of 27 OECD countries.

More information is at www.beehive.govt.nz/Print/PrintDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28351

Treaty Claims

Flora and Fauna (WAI 262) Claim

The indigenous flora and fauna and cultural intellectual property (Wai 262) inquiry, which resumed hearings in August 2006, is a claim to rights in respect of matauranga Maori or Maori knowledge, and indigenous flora and fauna. The claim was first brought against the NZ Crown in 1991 by the members of six iwi (Ngati Kuri, Ngati Wai, Te Rarawa, Ngati Porou, Ngati Kahungunu and Ngati Koata). It is generally known as the "flora and fauna claim", but its scope is wider, because the claim also raises a concern that NZ's intellectual property framework fails to protect traditional knowledge.

There are four statements of claim and these generally assert exclusive and comprehensive rights to flora and fauna, cultural knowledge and property as taonga protected by Article Two of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The intellectual property issues raised by this claim relate to what is loosely referred to by many Maori and commentators as "Maori cultural and intellectual property rights". These claims are similar to issues being raised by indigenous people around the world concerning intellectual property rights, laws and international agreements. The issues are currently being considered in a number of international fora including the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The evidence presented by claimants' shows that they are concerned about:

- the adverse effects intellectual property rights can have on traditional knowledge and associated cultural property and biological resources. The key concern here is the granting of intellectual property rights to third parties for creations or inventions based on traditional knowledge or practices (where there is in fact no novelty) and the resulting commercialisation (that occurs in some cases); and
- the inability of indigenous people to obtain or use intellectual property rights to enable them to protect or commercially exploit (where appropriate) their traditional knowledge, cultural property and biological resources.

The Ministry of Economic Development, along with the Department of Conservation, Te Puni Kokiri and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, is responsible for advising the Government on its response to the Wai 262 claim.

More information is at <http://www.waitangi-tribunal.govt.nz/inquiries/floraandfaunawai262/> and at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/Page_1207.aspx

Internet

Snapshot of Internet Service Providers

Every six months Statistics NZ (SNZ) surveys NZ's Internet Service Providers (ISPs - these are the businesses that supply Internet connectivity services to individuals, households, businesses and other organisations). The latest survey shows that in

the six months ended 31 March 2006 the number of non-analog subscribers (i.e. broadband subscribers) increased 29% from 30 September 2005, to 475,700. Subscribers using analog connection technology (those using dial-up) decreased 6.6% from 30 September 2005, to 812,300.

Although non-analog Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants have increased, NZ retains the same OECD subscriber ranking as at 30 September 2005. The OECD subscriber average for the period was 13.6 per 100 inhabitants.

There were 57 Internet service providers (ISPs) operating in NZ at 31 March 2006, compared to 66 ISPs operating six months earlier. During this period larger ISPs have increased their subscriber numbers at the expense of smaller ISPs.

In the year to March 2006, 20% fewer ISPs reported that the regulatory environment relating to telecommunications was a barrier to growth, and 20% fewer ISPs reported delays in obtaining facilities from backbone suppliers as a barrier to growth.

More information is at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/media-releases/internet-service-provider-survey/internet-service-provider-survey-mar06-mr.htm>

Fans of NZ wine should visit www.nzwine.com where you will find a list of more than 500 wineries around the country. As well as the big producers, smaller producers are listed (some may be making small quantities for local sale, or for a few special locations), and also very small winemakers passionate about producing good wine but have yet to give up their day job. They can still turn out a fine drop!

The *front page of Al Jazeera's English website* at <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/55ABE840-AC30-41D2-BDC9-06BBE2A36665.htm> covers news in Africa, America, Central and South Asia, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Middle East (a search looking for information using the key words "New Zealand" listed 237 items).

The *fuelsaver website* at <http://www.fuelsaver.govt.nz/> is proving popular, currently averaging more than 21,000 visits per month. The site provides information on the fuel efficiency of all new and used cars manufactured since 2000 and imported into NZ from Japan since March 2005, quick and easy comparison of fuel consumption between vehicles and myths and tips about fuel savings. It was launched in May 2006 and research in October 2006 showed that 84% of people in the market to purchase a car were interested in visiting the fuelsaver website to find out about the fuel economy of vehicles.

From the *CommunityNet Aotearoa Panui* at <http://www.community.net.nz/CommunityCentre/Panui/Default.htm> come the following sites:

- a "*Rethinking Crime and Punishment*" website at <http://www.rethinking.org.nz/> outlines a Salvation Army and Prison Fellowship NZ project aimed at raising the level of public debate about the use of prison and alternative forms of punishment in NZ.
- a *Make a Child Smile* site is at www.makeachildsmile.co.nz. It is dedicated to sick or deserving children in NZ who need a smile - people can send cards or letters of support to the child and their family.
- the *Barrier Free NZ* Trust is at www.barrierfreenz.org.nz. This trust facilitates and encourages people to provide universal access to buildings, i.e. access to all buildings for everyone.

- information about **online volunteering** at www.community.net.nz/how-to-guides/volunteering/casestudies/5-minute-volunteer.htm and at www.community.net.nz/how-to-guides/it/news/virtual-volunteer.htm. Describes cyber volunteering (where volunteers help groups keep their websites updated) which can suit people who can't or don't want to attend meetings, but who are willing to put in an hour or two a month, from home, using the Internet; and
- the **Learning For Sustainability** website is learningfor sustainability.net. This one's for government agency staff, NGOs and other community leaders who work in multi stakeholder processes - i.e. they support people in the community to come together and decide about sustainable development activities. Topics include capacity building, networking, dialogue and evaluation. A separate section links to manuals and guides on the Internet for facilitating participation and engagement.

The judges will be looking for an original image that is appealing and visually dynamic.

Entries close on 4 May 2007 Go to www.agresearch.co.nz and click through to Schools & Community and photo competition to see last years winning entries

Writing and Arts Opportunities

- **Creative NZ Michael King Writers' Fellowship:** NZ writers are invited to apply to Creative NZ for this \$100,000 fellowship - the largest writing fellowship in NZ. It will support writers who want to work on a major project over two or more years. It is open to writers who have published a significant body of work. Applications close on Friday 23 March 2007.

For guidelines go to. <http://creativenz.govt.nz/node/4316>

- **Fulbright-Creative NZ Pacific Writers' Residency:** this is based at the Centre for Pacific Studies at the University of Hawai'i, and it is a partnership between Creative NZ, Fulbright NZ and the University of Hawai'i. Available to NZ writers who want to work on a project exploring Pacific culture, identity or history. Priority will be given to the following: playwrighting, fiction, non-fiction, poetry and screenwriting. The residency runs from late August to late November and it includes return airfares, accommodation costs and an artist stipend of NZ\$6000 per month.

Applications for the 2007 residency close at 5pm, Friday 30 March 2007. For more details and application forms, please contact Anton Carter, Strategy Adviser, Pacific Arts (tel 04 498 0729, email: antonc@creativenz.govt.nz).

- **Nga Karahipi a Te Waka Toi/Te Waka Toi Scholarships:** Te Waka Toi offers two scholarships to postsecondary Maori students of Maori arts across artforms and in arts-related areas (e.g. curation, arts writing, conservation), who are involved in a course of learning at a formal or informal place of learning. All applications must be accompanied by quality examples of applicants' works.

Applications for Nga Karahipi a Te Waka Toi close at 5pm, 30 March 2007.

New Zealanders on Commonwealth Writers' Prize Shortlist

Novels by five NZ writers have been shortlisted in the South East Asia and South Pacific region of the 2007 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. New Zealanders in the Best Book category are: "Ocean Roads" (Huia Publishers) by James George of Auckland; "Mr Pip" (Penguin Books) by Lloyd Jones of Wellington, and "The Fainter" (Victoria University Press) by Damien Wilkins of Wellington.

Those shortlisted in the Best First Book category are: "Davey Darling" (Penguin) by Paul Shannon of Auckland; and "The Fish & Chip Song" (Vintage) by Carl Nixon of Christchurch.

Arts

Make a Television Documentary

If you're involved in an issue, a cause or an activity that you want people to know about, you can apply to Open Door to make your own television documentary. The Open Door project is a form of access television. Unlike the rest of NZ television programming (which can be characterised as "top down") Open Door is "bottom up". The creative initiative comes from members of the general community, who also control the programme outcomes.

The format is very straightforward. Only people directly involved in the issues appear on screen. There are no commentators, outside observers or voiceovers, and the music comes only from the content (or else it has some relevance to it). The programmes are fully funded by NZ On Air, so as well as airing on TV they are made available to any non-network regional station that may want show them. Earlier Open Door programmes have shown on Triangle Television, Auckland's non-commercial station, at prime-time. Many participants have found videotape copies of their programme to be a valuable information resource.

Open Door is seeking ideas for more documentaries. There is no closing date for applications. More information is at <http://www.opendoor.net.nz/>, or you can email morningsideproductions@xtra.co.nz

Students' Agriculture/Science Photography Contest

The AgResearch High School Agriculture & Science Photography contest is open to secondary school students from Year 9 to Year 13. There are three sets of prizes for each category, with the winners in each of the "Agriculture" and "Science" sections receiving a \$1200 Olympus digital camera, \$250 and travel to Mystery Creek prize-giving on 13 June (a \$250 framed trophy photo goes to the school). Other prizes include the Brisbane Biofutures Travel Prize and the Waikato Student Resident - Best Image.

The regional winners will be announced on 12 March.

The full list of finalists is at <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/culturediversity/writersprize/2007prize/Shortlist/>

General

New International Travel Rules for Passengers

From 31 March, all international air travellers leaving NZ will only be able to carry onto an aircraft liquids, gels and aerosols in containers of 100ml or less, and only as many containers as fit into a single resealable plastic bag of one litre volume. There will be some exemptions for medicines, baby food and essential dietary supplies, but these will be subject to additional checking by security staff.

The new rules come in response to the arrest of a number of people in Britain last year who were believed to be planning to board aircraft with liquid explosives disguised as water bottles.

Australia is introducing them on 31 March and will require passengers on international flights to and from Australia to be screened for liquids, aerosols and gels. NZ has to introduce the measures on the same date, to enable flights to Australia to continue.

More information about the new rules is at www.flysmart.govt.nz, and through travel agents, airlines, and airports

Changes in Seats for Next Election

We will have one new General electoral district in the North Island for the next election so there will now be 63 General seats in Parliament - 47 in the North Island and 16 in the South Island. The addition of the new district means there will be one fewer list seat in the 120-member Parliament (so list seats reduce from 51 to 50).

The number of Maori electoral districts remains at seven.

The average size of electoral districts will be 57,562 people for South Island General electoral districts, 57,243 people for North Island General electoral districts, and 59,583 people for Maori electoral districts.

At least half of the electoral district boundaries will need to be redrawn to ensure all seats are within 5% of these totals.

More information is at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/hot-off-the-press/2006-census/electoral-populations-calculated-2006-hotp.htm>

Emergency 111 Unlocked

Calls to the emergency 111 number are no longer locked open. This means that if you ring 111 for help you will be able to hang up afterwards and then ring your neighbours. Previously the

phones of people who rang 111 were locked open after you hung up.

Police: Speed Limit Enforcement by Schools

NZ Police are strictly enforcing the speed limit within 250 metres of the boundaries of all schools and pre-schools, and drivers who exceed the speed limit by more than 4km/hr will be ticketed.

In the past five years more than 1200 child pedestrians have been killed or injured during school terms.

More information is at <http://www.police.govt.nz/service/road/speed-kills-kids.html>

Bill to Safeguard Sustainable Fisheries

The Fisheries Act currently requires decision makers to be cautious when information is absent or uncertain, but the law is not clear about whether they should be cautious by favouring fishing or cautious by focusing on keeping the fisheries sustainable.

An amendment to this Act would make clear that where information is absent, uncertain, unreliable or inadequate, decision makers should not use this as a reason for failing to ensure sustainability of fisheries resources or failing to address the impact of fishing on the aquatic environment.

If it is passed, the changes will take effect before the Total Allowable Catches are set for each fishery at the beginning of the new fishing year in 1 October 2007.

More information is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28452>

Commercial Fish Resource Value: \$3.8 Billion

Statistics NZ (SNZ) recently worked out that the asset value of NZ's commercial fish resource, as managed under the quota management system (QMS), is estimated at \$3.8 billion. From 1996 to 2006, NZ's commercial fish resource is estimated to have increased in value by 40%, from \$2.7 billion in 1996 to \$3.8 billion in 2006. Although the number of species managed under the QMS has also increased over this period, from 32 to 94, 10 species are responsible for the majority of the total value as they contributed 81% of the total fisheries asset value in 1996, and 77% in 2006.

Twenty species of fish contributed over 90 percent of the value of NZ's commercial fish resource under the QMS: arrow squid, hake, hoki, ling, orange roughy, oreo, paua, rock lobster, snapper and tarakihi, alfonsino, barracouta, blue cod, bluenose, hapuku and bass, scallop, scampi, school shark, silver warehou and southern blue whiting.

Hoki had the highest asset value of all fish species (\$627 million) followed by rock lobster (\$612 million) and paua (\$366 million). These three species made up almost 42 percent of the value of NZ's commercial fish resource. All other species, or those fish species other than the 20 named above, had a total asset value of \$342 million.

Due to data limitations, the SNZ valuation currently excludes recreational or customary catch, species reared under aquaculture conditions, and commercial species not managed under the QMS. Statistics NZ plans to develop these areas in the future.

Settlement Experiences of Skilled Migrants

The Department of Labour has published a report called "Life in NZ: Settlement Experiences of Skilled Migrants", which contains the main findings from a Settlement Experiences Feedback Survey (SEFS) conducted in 2005. A Snapshot of the findings:

- 94% of principal and 67% of secondary applicants were working for pay or profit;
- 33% of principal and 24% of secondary applicants were classified as professionals;
- 25% of migrants were employed in health and community services;
- 85% of migrants had no difficulty in finding work in NZ; and
- 78% of principal and 72% of secondary applicants were very satisfied/satisfied with their main job.
- 56% of principal and 16% of secondary applicants had an annual income of over \$50,001;
- 60% of principal applicants from Asia had an annual income of under \$40,001;
- 20% of migrants had difficulty finding suitable housing; and
- 80% of migrants were very satisfied/satisfied with the quality of housing in NZ.
- 85% of migrants were very satisfied/satisfied with their children's school.
- 74% of migrants had taken up study or training since taking up residence in NZ;
- 35% of principal applicants studied to get their qualification upgraded, and 43% of secondary applicants studied to get a job or a better job; and
- a small proportion, 12% of principal and 19% of secondary applicants, studied to improve their English language skills.
- 40% of migrants would have liked Immigration NZ to provide them with more detail on health services;
- migrants from all regions needed help with the tax system, getting a drivers licence and finding a GP;
- at the time of the obtained residence, 60% of migrants planned to live in NZ for at least 5 years;
- after 12 months, 71% of migrants planned to live in NZ for at least 5 years;
- the majority of migrants liked NZ's climate or natural beauty and liked the friendly lifestyle or relaxed pace of life;
- about two-thirds of migrants from Asia disliked the high tax rates;
- 88% of migrants were very satisfied/satisfied with living in NZ; and
- 89% would recommend NZ to others as a place to come and live.

The paper can be downloaded from the DOL website at: <http://www.dol.govt.nz/PDFs/Settlement-Experiences-of-Skilled-Migrants.pdf>

New Youth Justice Residence

Parekarangi, south of Rotorua, is the preferred site for a new Youth Justice Central residence. Child, Youth and Family is planning to seek a designation for 40 young people to be accommodated in the residence, which will be built in stages. Initially it will cater for 24 young people. Final details of the work are to be done and costs are yet to be finalised. Construction is expected to start before the end of this year.

Religious Diversity Consultation

Consultation on a National Religious Diversity Statement for NZ involved groups as diverse as the Exclusive Brethren, the Destiny Church, Catholic Bishops, the evangelical Vision Network, Rationalists, Humanists, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Baha'is, Jews, Sikhs, Quakers - and many others. Submitters - groups and individuals - voiced both religious and anti-religious views. Overall, there was a clear message of support for the principles of tolerance and recognition. Main issues voiced were around:

- the separation of church and state;
- the particular place of Christianity in NZ history and contemporary society;
- "proselytisation" (inducing people to convert);
- education about religions in schools;
- accommodation of religious belief and practices in workplaces; and
- freedom of the media.

More information: Human Rights Commission at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/default.php> or tel 09 375 8616

Racing Board Nominations Sought

The NZ Racing Board has an independent member vacancy and is seeking nominations for the position. The Board has seven members: an independent chair, three independent members, and members representing each of the thoroughbred, greyhound, and harness racing industries.

Nominations close Friday, 23 March (anyone can make a nomination). More details about the Board's membership, functions and powers can be obtained from the Department of Internal Affairs website www.dia.govt.nz or by calling (04) 495 9313

World's Fifty Top Restaurants

First published in 2002 and now in its sixth year, The S.Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants lists the best restaurants around the world. It is regionally based: and to get the list each member of an international panel of voters lists five personal choices - two in their own region and three in other regions - casting a total of 2800 votes. Two restaurants from Australasia were in the 2006 top fifty - and both were from Australia. Tetsuya's came in at 5 and Rockpool at 30.

The top ten were: 1: El Bulli (Spain); 2: The Fat Duck (UK); 3: Pierre Gagnaire (France); 4: The French Laundry (USA); 5: Tetsuya's (Australia); 6: Bras (France); 7 Le Louis XV (Monaco); 8 Per Se (USA); 9 Arzak (Spain), and 10 Mugaritz (Spain).

The list is at <http://www.theworlds50best.com/bestlist.aspx>

Pacific Provider Development Fund

Pacific community groups who want to strengthen their organisations' capability and capacity are invited to apply to the Lottery Pacific Provider Development Fund (PPDF) 2006/07 funding round. The PPDF is designed to strengthen Pacific community groups' ability to operate effectively, and to improve their access to lottery funding. Lottery advisors would work closely with these groups to help them strengthen their management, governance, and financial skills and resources. Applications close 16 March 2007.

Further information is a www.cdgo.govt.nz or contact the Department of Internal Affairs on freephone 0800 824 824.

Community Internship Programme

The Community Internship Programme is a skill-sharing and capacity-building scheme through which the Local Government and Community Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) provides grants for placing experienced and skilled people from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors on short or medium term internships with host community organisations. It aims to benefit community organisations by importing new, and otherwise inaccessible, skills and knowledge to a host organisation, leaving it stronger and more effective.

The grants are each for \$33,499, the equivalent of six months full time employment.

Round two of the 2006-07 funding round is now open. Applications must be received by Friday 23 March 2007 at 4pm. For more information please see our website www.govt.nz

Social Policy Conference 2007

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is hosting the 2007 Social Policy, Research and Evaluation conference at the Wellington Convention Centre on 3-5 April. This conference will provide a forum for policy analysts, non-government organisations, researchers, evaluators and the wider public to discuss and debate social policy. Note: there are some subsidised places for NGO people.

More information is at www.msd.govt.nz/social-policy-conference, or telephone freephone 0800 559 009

Race Relations Day

Race Relations Day, is on 21 March and this year's theme is "Youth and Diversity". The Human Rights Commission (HRC) is promoting the day as an opportunity to focus on diversity and harmonious race relations at school, in the workplace, in organisations, and in the community.

Details of activities are on the HRC website at www.hrc.co.nz

Fletcher Trust: Applications Open

The Fletcher Trust funds a wide range of groups including historical; arts and culture; community; education; and youth organisations.

Applications close 21 April. Contact: the Fletcher Trust, Private Bag 92-114, Auckland. Ph. (09) 525 9250, fax 525 9021

National Climate Summary - February 2007

- **Rainfall:** Well below normal in most regions, flood producing rainfall in Northland.
- **Soil moisture:** Severe deficits in eastern regions from Gisborne to Otago, as well as Auckland, Waikato, Eastern Bay of Plenty, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington, and Nelson.
- **Temperature:** Above average in western and inland South Island regions, below average in many northern and eastern regions.
- **Sunshine:** Extremely sunny in the west of the South Island.

February was very dry with 50 percent (half) or less of normal rainfall in many regions of New Zealand. Ranfurly (North Otago) had no measurable rainfall in February.

Rainfall totalled only 0.4 mm (1% of normal) at Lake Tekapo, making it the driest February there in over 80 years. Mt Cook Village recorded its driest February in over 75 years. Less than 10 mm of rain occurred in parts of Auckland, Nelson, Tekapo, and in North and Central Otago. Severe soil moisture deficits (of at least 130 mm) occurred in February in all eastern regions from Gisborne to Central Otago, as well as Auckland, Waikato, Eastern Bay of Plenty, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington, and Nelson (all more severe than normal for the time of year).

Significant soil moisture deficits (at least 110 mm) affected many other North Island regions. Only in Northland was rainfall well above normal. Temperatures were also above average in Buller and Nelson. However, temperatures were below average in many northern and eastern regions, and in north Canterbury they were below average for the third consecutive month.

The national average temperature of 17.0 °C was 0.2 °C below normal.

Sunshine hours were well above normal in the west of the South Island, Hokitika recording its sunniest February in 93 years of measurement, and more February sunshine than most other major towns and cities. Anticyclones ("highs") were very much more frequent than normal southwest of the South Island, extending ridges of high pressure onto New Zealand. This pattern produced more frequent southeasterlies than usual over much of the country.

Appointments

Whangarei lawyer Noel Douglas Cocurullo has been appointed a *District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant*. NZ's next *Ambassador to Saudi Arabia* will be career diplomat Trevor Matheson. The Solomon Islands government has appointed Assistant Commissioner Peter Marshall of NZ Police to the position of *Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Solomon Islands Police*.

Senior leadership positions in the newly-structured *Tertiary Education Commission* have been filled by Janice Shiner (Chief Executive), Colin Webb (Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Advisor), Susan Shipley (Director Policy Advice and Government Services), David Nicholson (Director Tertiary Network), Carolyn Murphy (Director Tertiary Providers and Service Centre), Barbara Tebbs (Director Stakeholder Engagement and Investment Guidance), Pauline Barnes (Director Strategic Services) and Geoff Williamson (Director Corporate Services). Announcements on appointments to the other senior roles of *Stakeholder Engagement Managers* and *Investment Managers* are expected by the end of March.

Christopher Doig, Chair of Creative NZ's Arts Council, is leaving to take up a position as *Executive Chairperson* of a new opera company. Alick Shaw will be the *Acting Chair of the Arts Council* until a new appointment is made. Grant Spencer has been appointed *Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank*. Tony Marryatt is the *Chief Executive Officer* at *Christchurch City Council*.

Lesley Soper from Invercargill has been elected to *Parliament from the Labour Party's list* (the vacancy arose from the resignation from Parliament of Georgina Beyer).

Craig Matthews and Paddy Twist
Editors
Rural Bulletin

Rural Bulletin is a free publication produced by Rural Women New Zealand. Its aim is to build community capacity by circulating relevant information, so people in rural and other communities have an opportunity to make informed decisions about, and have their say on, issues and changes that may affect them.

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