



Review of progress with sustainable development in New Zealand

Introduction

A review of New Zealand's progress on sustainable development since the Earth Summit in 1992 was undertaken by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. This resulted in the report *Creating our future: Sustainable development for New Zealand*.

Noting the importance of maintaining the momentum built up for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the PCE signalled his intention in *Creating our future* to undertake another review of New Zealand's progress towards sustainable development during 2006/07.

Overview of purpose

The main purpose of the project is:

- to evaluate New Zealand's progress towards sustainable development, with emphasis on environmental sustainability
- to explore current and future opportunities for enhancing environmental sustainability in New Zealand.

Emphasis will be on how we are achieving environmental sustainability and maintaining the natural capital that underpins our quality of life and our biotic economy, which is essential to sustainable development.

Scope

The project will broadly involve:

1. Assessing trends in environmental sustainability in New Zealand including economic, social, cultural, and environmental factors, and assessing the quality of data available.
2. Analysing factors affecting environmental sustainability (positive and negative) in New Zealand including but not limited to:
 - increasing demand for ecosystem services as our economy, energy, and transport demands expand and our population grows
 - the impacts of pollution and waste
 - the impacts of a changing climate
 - our institutional framework
 - the demands on and management of some of New Zealand's natural capital, including freshwater, soils, and oceans
 - changing land use and cover within New Zealand
 - biodiversity and biosecurity.
3. Reviewing progress toward sustainable development including policies, education, legislation and actions by central government, local government, business, Maori, and civil society.
4. Identifying the key priorities for action in order to enhance New Zealand's environmental sustainability and progress sustainable development.

Timing

The project will run through to early 2007.

For further information contact the project team:

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