

Rural Bulletin

September 2009



Rural
Women
NEW ZEALAND

www.ruralwomen.org.nz

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Consultation

Legal Aid in NZ

A recently released discussion looks at how the legal aid system can best deliver services to those who need them most, in a way that is cost-effective and sustainable. Issues include:

- whether there are legal needs in the community that are not being met by existing services;
- how well the system responds to people's underlying problems, not just the presenting legal problem;
- whether legal advice and information services would work better if they were co-located with other social services;
- payment, and its effect on lawyers' willingness to participate in the legal aid system;
- whether performance monitoring and setting quality standards would improve the quality of services and whether the preferred lawyer policy is distorting the allocation of criminal legal aid cases;
- the role of duty solicitors; and
- whether part or all of the legal aid budget should be capped.

Submissions close on 9 October 2009. They go to Dame Margaret Bazley, Legal Aid Review, c/o Ministry of Justice, PO Box 180, Wellington, email legalaidreview@justice.govt.nz. The discussion paper is at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy-and-consultation/legal-aid-review>

Blocking Objectionable Websites

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is inviting your feedback on a draft code of practice for blocking objectionable websites that host child sexual abuse images. The Digital Child Exploitation Filtering System will be available voluntarily to Internet service providers (ISPs) in the next two months. It will focus solely on websites offering clearly objectionable images of child sexual abuse. The filter will be operated by DIA in partnership with internet service providers.

Submissions close on 28 September 2009. Email your comments on the code to Lloyd.Bezett@dia.govt.nz. You can download the draft code from http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Censorship-Compliance-Digital-Child-Exploitation-Filtering-System?OpenDocument. ECPAT NZ (part of a global organisation which focuses on elimination of child prostitution and pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purpose) has a hotline website at www.childalert.org.nz through which the public can report suspect sites

Road Safety Strategy

A draft road safety strategy/discussion paper called "Safer Journeys" has been released for comment. It lists NZ's key road safety challenges as:

- **Areas of high priority** including: reducing alcohol/drug impaired driving; increasing the safety of young drivers; safer roads and roadsides; safer speeds; and increasing the safety of motorcycling;

- **Areas of medium concern** including: improving the safety of the light vehicle fleet; safer walking and cycling; improving the safety of heavy vehicles; reducing the impact of fatigue; and addressing distraction; and
- **Areas for continued focus/emerging issues** including: increasing the level of restraint use; reducing the impact of high-risk drivers; and increasing the safety of older NZers.

The paper outlines 60 possible ways to address the issues and submitters are asked to rank the 10-20 initiatives they see as the most important.

Submissions close on 2 October 2009. There is an online submission form, or you can post your comments to Safer Journeys, PO Box 3175, Wellington 6140, email saferjourneys@transport.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.transport.govt.nz/saferjourneys/Documents/Safer%20Journeys%20SummaryGuide.pdf>

Search and Surveillance Bill

Currently, Police search powers are contained in statutes that are up to 50 years old, and search powers developed in a piecemeal way have been granted to non-Police law enforcement and regulatory agencies. The aim of this Bill is to update the law relating to search and surveillance by Police and other enforcement agencies. Amongst other things it provides for law enforcement and regulatory agencies to extract electronic information and use surveillance equipment when they are investigating criminal activity.

Submissions close on 18 September 2009. Two copies go to the Justice and Electoral Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0045/19.0/versions.aspx>

Draft Standard for Pharmacy Services

A new draft standard for pharmacy services is available for public feedback. The standard will cover community and hospital-based pharmacy services, and clinical pharmacy services provided outside pharmacies. The proposed standard aims to ensure the consumers receive safe, timely, well-planned services that comply with consumer rights legislation.

Submissions close on 7 October 2009. Click on the "Public comment" tab and select DZ8134.7. More is at <http://www.standards.co.nz/news/Media+releases/Draft+Pharmacy+services+Standard.htm>

Licensed Building Practitioner Scheme

The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) is reviewing the Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) Scheme, and (among other things) has proposed:

- giving trade-qualified builders more recognition;
- simplifying building categories for Site and Design; and
- not licensing groups of practitioners where cost outweighs benefits.

Submissions closer on 25 September 2009. They go to Operational Policy and Regulatory Services Sector Capability Branch, Department of Building and Housing, PO Box 10-729, Wellington, email lbpcconsultation@dbh.govt.nz, fax 04 494 0290, freephone 0800 60 60 50. The consultation paper is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/UserFiles/File/Consulting/pdf/2009/Streamlining-the-Licensed-Building-Practitioner-Scheme.pdf>

Electricity Market Performance Review

The Electricity Technical Advisory Group (ETAG) has developed proposals aimed at improving performance of the electricity market so NZ has a reliable supply of electricity at competitive prices. The ETAG says that the rate at which retail prices have risen, especially for residential consumers, appears excessive, that the way in which dry years are managed can be substantially improved, and that the transmission system could also be more reliable. The reviewers offer a range of recommendations, including:

- the Electricity Commission being replaced with an Electricity Market Authority;
- line companies being allowed back into retailing;
- compensation payments being made to consumers if they face conservation campaigns; and
- a reallocation of assets among SOE generator-retailers to increase competition in wholesale and retail markets.

Submissions close on 16 September 2009. Email them to electricity@med.govt.nz, or post them to Electricity Market Review, Energy and Communications Branch, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, fax (04) 473 7010. More is at www.med.govt.nz/electricity-market-review

Planning for Digital Television

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) have released a discussion paper relating to the coming switch-over of television broadcasting to digital-only transmission. The paper includes proposals for changes to the VHF and UHF radio spectrum bands, and it also looks at options for the way regional television will switch over to digital transmission. Views are sought on:

- one-third of the UHF band being allocated as the core reservation for digital television on a nationwide basis;
- one-third being allocated on a geographic basis to meet television licence commitments in urban areas and allow new uses like broadband wireless services in less populated areas; and
- the remaining third - approximately the frequency range 694-806 MHz - being allocated nationwide for new uses like new cellular mobile technologies.

The switchover is expected to occur between 2013 and 2015.

Submissions close on 30 September 2009. Email them to radiospectrum@med.govt.nz, or post them to Digital Futures Discussion Document, Radio Spectrum Policy and Planning, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington. For more go to <http://www.rsm.govt.nz/cms> and click on "Digital futures - Planning for Television and New Uses" under the "What's New" section

Education (Polytechnics) Amendment Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to allow the Crown to more effectively respond to the risks posed by polytechnics with educational or financial performance issues. It provides for four ministerial appointees to polytechnic councils, which would also include the chief executive and one member each from the student body, the academic board, and the community served by the polytechnic. The Minister for Tertiary Education would appoint the chair and deputy chair of each polytechnic council. The Bill also provides for collaborative governance arrangements such as enabling individuals to sit on more than one polytechnic council and allowing two or more councils to combine.

Submissions close on 30 September 2009. Two copies go to the Education and Science Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0070/12.0/DLM2294208.html>

Infrastructure Bill

The aim of this Bill is to speed up the way that infrastructure is provided, and to reduce the cost of infrastructure development, by streamlining governance arrangements, and removing regulatory barriers.

Submissions close on 18 September 2009. Two copies go to the Transport and Industrial Relations Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0063/9.0/versions.aspx>

Inquiries Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to modernise the law relating to inquiries by:

- establishing both public and government inquiries to inquire into matters of public importance; and
- recognising and providing for Royal commissions appointed under the Royal prerogative.

Submissions close on 18 September 2009. Two copies go to the Government Administration Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2008/0283/latest/versions.aspx>

Student Loan Scheme Bill

The Student Loan Scheme (Exemptions and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill amends the Student Loan Scheme Act 1992 by extending interest-free loans. It also makes other technical amendments.

Submissions close on 02 October 2009. Two copies go to the Education and Science Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0059/18.0/versions.aspx>

SILNA Forests: Discussion Paper

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is reviewing the 2002 South Island Landless Natives Act 1906 (SILNA) forests policy, and it has released a discussion paper for comment. SILNA dates back to land purchases in the South Island during the 1840s and 1850s, and subsequent calls by South Island

Maori for economic redress over land purchase agreements that left sections of the Maori population with insufficient, or no, land to support themselves. The SILNA Act provided for 57,500 hectares of land to be transferred to 4000 people. Amongst other things, the 2002 SILNA policy extended the halting of logging (set up in 1999); provided funding for conservation protection; provided for development of sustainable forest management plans (SFMs); enabled voluntary limiting of milling; and introduced controls on the export of unsustainably harvested timber from SILNA forests.

Submissions close on 25 September 2009. They go to SILNA Review, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, email silnareview@maf.govt.nz. The discussion paper is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/silnareview/SILNA.pdf>

Protecting Antarctica's Environment

The Antarctica (Environmental Protection: Liability Annex) Amendment Bill deals with NZ's international treaty obligations in respect of liability for environmental emergencies in Antarctica. Under it NZ operators would have to notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade if they cause or discover an environmental emergency, deal with it, or pay the costs of others who have to do so.

Submissions close on 15 October 2009. Two copies go to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0037/8.0/versions.aspx>

Support for Former Timber Workers?

A consultation paper sets out ideas for a possible support service for former timber workers who were historically exposed to pentachlorophenol (PCP*). Former timber workers are being asked for their advice on what health – and other – support needs they have and what services they believe should be provided to those who were exposed. *PCP is a timber preservative that was used between 1950 and the 1980s.

Written submissions close on 2 October 2009. More information is at <http://www.allenandclarke.co.nz/database2/p-news-editions.php?edition=20090814>, or contact Allen & Clarke, tel 04 890 7300, email pcps@allenandclarke.co.nz

A Thai-NZ Economic Partnership?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is inviting submissions on possible negotiations on services and government procurement under the Thailand - NZ Closer Economic Partnership Agreement. It is particularly interested in comments on potential benefits and risks to NZ of such an agreement; the importance of the Thai market; and Thai government agencies people want to do business with.

Submissions close on 30 September 2009. Email them to steve.mccombie@mfat.govt.nz, or post them to Thailand CEP Submissions, Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Private Bag 18901, Wellington. More is at <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Media-and-publications/Features/845-Call-for-submissions-on-the-Thai-CEP.php>

Te Araroa Trail: Extension?

Te Araroa - The Long Pathway is to be a continuous 3000 km walking track from Cape Reinga to Bluff connecting various settlements, towns and cities en route. Feedback is sought on forming a track linking the Te Araroa trail from Poads Road, Levin, to Otaki Forks (approximately 37.5 km), extending the trail through the western side of the Tararua Forest Park.

Submissions close on 18 September 2009. They go to C Hill, Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy, PO Box 5086, Wellington 6145, or submit online at www.doc.govt.nz (go to "getting involved" then to "consultations - current"). More is at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/proposal-to-extend-te-araroa-trail/>

Fisheries Ministry Consultations

These are (closing date are in brackets):

- **North Island West Coast Finfish Plan:** Key issues are making sure that: the harvest levels and fishing practices are sustainable; people are involved in decisions that affect their fisheries; everyone understands and respects each others' rights; and the impacts of fishing, and impacts on the fishery are minimised (16 October 2009). The position paper is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/enz/Consultations/NI+West+Coast+Finfish+Plan/default.htm>
- **Introduction of Bladder Kelp:** The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) is proposing to introduce bladder kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) in Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) 3 and 4 into the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 2010. MFish believes there is growing demand for bladder kelp in FMAs 3 and 4 and this need to be carefully managed for sustainable use (21 September 2009). The paper is at http://www.fish.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/CB8AA08E-CED8-455F-A941-88A05F88B9D2/0/IPP_Bladder_Kelp_Seaweed.pdf

Submissions on both go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington email tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz

IRD Consultations

Current Inland Revenue consultations include (closing dates for comments are in brackets, where supplied):

- **Extension of time applications from taxpayers without tax agents** (25 September 2009);
- **Non-resident contractor schedular payments** - replaces "Non-Resident Contractor's Withholding Tax - Who is Affected by the Withholding Tax Rules";
- **"Cost price of the motor vehicle"** - meaning of the term for fringe benefit tax purposes (25 September 2009); and
- **Car parks provided by employers** - fringe benefit tax exemption; and **Car parks provided by a company that is part of the same group of companies as the employer of the employee** - fringe benefit tax exemption (2 October 2009).

Email comments to public.consultation@ird.govt.nz, or post them to Team Manager, Technical Services, Office of the Chief Tax Counsel, National Office, IRD, PO Box 2198, Wellington. More is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/public-consultation/>

NZFSA Consultations

The NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) is currently consulting on (closing dates are in brackets):

- **NZ Codex Strategy: NZ's Strategic Objectives in Codex:** the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) deals with international consumer health protection and international trade standards and related texts for use by member countries for (18 September 2009). More is at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consultation/codex-strategy-2010-2013/index.htm>
- **Maximum Residue Limits of Agricultural Compounds: Food Standards 2009:** this discussion paper deals with the maximum legal limits for residues of agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines in food for sale in NZ (28 September 2009). More is at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consultation/mrl-2009/index.htm> [Red meat at stalls](#)
- **"A Proposed Template Food Safety Programme: Sale of Pre-packaged Red Meat at Stalls":** this covers the transport receipt, storage, display, and sale of pre-packaged red meat at a stall (28 September 2009). More is at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consultation/red-meat-at-stalls/discussion-paper/page-03.htm>

You can email your submissions to policy@nzfsa.govt.nz (name the consultation in the subject line), or send them to NZ Food Safety Authority, PO Box 2835, Wellington

MAF Biosecurity Consultations

MAF Biosecurity is currently consulting on (closing dates are in brackets):

- **Draft Import Risk Analysis: Psittacine* Hatching Eggs** (*a bird belonging to the parrot family): more is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ra-psittacine-hatching-eggs> (24 September 2009);
- **Draft Import Risk Analysis: Pig semen from Australia, the USA, Canada, the European Union, and Norway:** more is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ira-pig-semen-us> (07 October 2009); and
- **Draft Import Risk Analysis: Tasmanian devils* from Australia** (*Tasmanian devil: A burrowing, pouched mammal living in the wild only in Tasmania): more is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ira-tasmanian-devils-us> (07 October 2009).

Submissions go to MAF Biosecurity NZ, attn. Risk Analysis Team Support Officer, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, email risk.analysis@maf.govt.nz, tel 04 894 0310

ERMA Consultations

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is currently consulting on (closing dates are in brackets):

- **IV 64 WB Timber Concentrate**, as an anti-sapstain and timber preservative (5 October 2009);
- **L2036PR**, as a veterinary medicine for production animals (5 October 2009);
- **Derquantel**, for use in the manufacture and release of Derquantel-Abamectin Combination Formulation, an anthelmintic for use in ruminants, in the form of an oral drench (25 September 2009);

- (for commercial use) **the granular formulation of cymoxanil as Curfew 450 WDG**, for the control of specific diseases of potato, onion and garlic crops (16 September 2009); and
- **Nirvana**, as a herbicide containing the active ingredient glufosinate-ammonium for the control of weeds in various crops (14 September 2009).

Send submissions to ERMA NZ, PO Box 131, Wellington, 6140, email submissions@ermanız.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.ermanız.govt.nz/consultations/consult-apps.html>

Rural

Rural Communities and Broadband: US report

A new United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) economic analysis has found that rural communities in the United States with greater broadband internet access had greater economic growth than areas with less access. The study, "Broadband Internet's Value for Rural America," by economists at USDA's Economic Research Service, compared counties that had broadband access relatively early - by 2000 - with similarly situated counties that had little or no broadband access. It considered:

- rural broadband use by consumers, the community-at-large, and businesses;
- rural broadband availability; and
- broadband's social and economic effects on rural areas.

It found that employment growth was higher and non-farm private earnings greater in counties with a longer history of broadband availability. It also noted that most employment growth in the US over the last several decades has been in the service sector, for which broadband applications are particularly useful.

Broadband allows rural areas to compete for low-and high-end service jobs, from call centres to software development. The farm sector is also increasingly comprised of farm businesses that buy inputs and make sales online, the study found.

Download the report from <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err78/>

Crown Pastoral Land Plan

Under the Government's new plan for Crown Pastoral land, lakeside leases will now be considered on a case-by-case basis, with significant inherent values protected as necessary, and promotion of public access to the high country remains part of the tenure review programme.

"Crown Pastoral Land - 2009 and beyond" is at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/crown-property/pastoral-land-tenure-review/high-country-policy-update/govt-objectives/index.aspx>

NZ Wine: Growth & Challenges

This country's wine industry grew strongly for the June year-end 2009, but winemakers and grape growers are also facing some big challenges according to the NZ Winegrowers' Annual Report. Highlight of the year was the 24% lift in the value of wine exports to \$992 million, up \$194 million on the previous year. Export growth was driven by the availability of wine following the 2008 vintage and strong in-market demand for NZ wine in key markets notably Australia, the UK, and the USA.

However, those increased supplies also delivered increased competition and downward price pressure, and the situation was made worse by the global recession. As a result lower profits were the reality for many in the industry this year. In a nutshell:

- NZ wine exports grew 24% (\$194 million) to \$992 million;
- the number of wineries lifted from 58 to 643;
- domestic sales of NZ wine grew 29% to 60 million litres;
- wine imports fell 18.5% to 33.3 million litres; and
- membership in Sustainable Winegrowing NZ now covers 85% of production capacity.

Raw Milk Cheese: Green Light

Cheesemakers are to be allowed to craft a range of raw or unpasteurised milk products for sale in domestic and international markets under new standards to be introduced in October. Previously, only a small range of raw milk cheeses has been allowed to be imported into NZ, but could not be made here.

The level of bacteria in cheeses made from raw milk means they are not suitable for at-risk people such as pregnant women, young children, and the elderly.

Renewing Agrichemical Handler Certificates

To make renewing your Agrichemical Approved Handler Certificates simple and convenient, FarmSafe has come up with a new online renewal service, "ChemSafe" (available from 1 October 2009).

Those of you with broadband can complete your renewal entirely on-line. If you have dial-up, you can order a homepack online. Or, a homepack containing all the relevant material required for renewal can be ordered by phoning toll-free on 0800 545 747. The homepack has a workbook and video clip with information on changes in legislation, approved codes of practice, and workplace practices. A questionnaire follows.

More information at www.farmsafe.co.nz

Calling Rural Journalists/Broadcasters...

Entries are now open for the Rural Women NZ Journalism Award 2009, which is being run in conjunction with the NZ Guild of Agricultural Journalists. Entries must be of two articles/broadcasts based on the theme of "rural women making a difference". This could be in the sense of community involvement or in business. Any NZ-based journalist or communicator is eligible to enter the Award. The Award can also be made to a group or team.

Entries close on Monday 21 September at 5pm. Entry forms and further details are available on the RWNZ website at www.ruralwomen.org.nz

...& International Day of Rural Women

The International of Rural Women is on 15 October. Its theme is "Rural Women at the Heart of Innovation". Events and workshops are being held around the country of everything from flax creativity to wildlife rescue, fashion parades, and "hot rot" (nappy composting).

For more information about events happening in your neck of the woods go to <http://www.ruralwomen.org/calendar.htm>

More Bus Shelters for Kids

The Totalspan Undercover Kids Bus Shelter Programme has announced another 71 shelters will be erected over the coming months on rural school bus routes. The company were originally planning to allocate 50 bus shelters in this round. But due to the quality and need identified in the applications, an additional 21 bus shelters have been allocated (for a list of the successful schools go the Supporters Page near the end of this issue). Totalspan established a charitable trust to manage a major programme to protect children waiting for buses on rural school routes. The Undercover Kids Bus Shelter Programme is a nationwide initiative and a long-term programme which has resulted in 120 bus shelters being allocated in 2008, the programme's first year of operation.

The trust is aiming to provide additional shelters in the second round of applications in 2009 and to keep increasing the number supplied in the following years.

For more details on the programme go to http://www.totalspan.co.nz/undercover_kids.html

NZ Farming & Climate Change...

The Carbon Farming Group was set up to provide farmers with impartial information on issues surrounding climate change. The group's website has been recently updated to include:

- a more detailed forestry carbon calculator;
- soil carbon farming, an explanation and the latest thinking explored;
- carbon trading information;
- Emissions Trading Scheme updates;
- international agreements explained;
- greenhouse gases and farming livestock information; and
- an explanation of the risks and liabilities for farmers.

The website is at www.carbonfarming.org.nz

Meat and Wool NZ

Following its referendum (held in August) Meat and Wool NZ (M&WNZ) is to be re-structured after farmers voted down the organisation's wool levy proposal for the next five years. M&WNZ (which is industry-funded) will now focus on sheepmeat and beef promotion and development.

The result means that MWNZ will no longer fund shearer training or wool handling instruction and the organisation's economic services division will no longer have funding for preparation of wool marketing information. The new levy arrangement is to come into force on 1 April 2010.

Environment

NZ's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target

The Government has announced that NZ will take on a responsibility target for greenhouse gas emissions reductions of between 10% and 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, if there is a comprehensive global agreement, i.e., if:

- a global agreement sets the world on a pathway to limit temperature rise to not more than 2°C;
- developed countries make comparable efforts to those of NZ;
- advanced and major emitting developing countries take action fully commensurate with their respective capabilities;
- there is an effective set of rules for land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF); and
- there is full recourse to a broad and efficient international carbon market.

The move comes in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.

More is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/climate/emissions-target-2020/index.html>

NZ Environmental Health Indicators: 2008

A recently-released report from the Ministry of Health (MoH) covering water quality, air quality, and biosecurity in 2008 indicates that:

- the majority of drinking-water is safe to drink, although there is room for improvement as a sizeable proportion of drinking-water supplies do not meet the drinking-water standards;
- there are similar findings with regard to air quality, with a large number of airsheds exceeding air quality guidelines at least once during the year; and
- biosecurity is an emerging issue for NZ: globalisation is resulting in increased numbers of tourists and vessels visiting NZ each year, and this increases the risk of a border incursion of a pest or disease that has the potential for affecting health in NZ.

The report is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/environmental-health-indicators-for-nz-2008>

Resource Management Amendment Bill

Following the public submission process the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Bill has been reported back to Parliament, and passed, with most, but not all, of the 167 changes proceeding. Amongst the changes:

- not proceeding with the removal of the non-complying activity class;
- not limiting the rights of appeal on plans;
- strengthening provisions ensuring timely and efficient processing of resource consents;
- limiting rather than removing further rounds of submissions on plan changes; and
- strengthening the process for national consenting and national environmental standards.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/streamlined+resource+management+law+passed>

Conservation Week: 13-20 September

The Department of Conservation and TVNZ 6 are encouraging NZers to take part in conservation at home, at school, and in the community during Conservation Week. TVNZ 6 will be screening conservation programmes, and volunteer opportunities, and the projects community groups are doing all over the country, will be publicised.

To find out what's happening in your area go to <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation-week/events/>

Tourism

Tourism Spending

International visitors to NZ spent \$6.0 billion in the year to June 2009, down 2.6% on the previous year, according to data released by the Ministry of Tourism. This decline closely matched the 2.8% fall in international arrivals over the period. But not all tourist markets behaved in exactly the same way. While Australia provided strong arrivals growth, many Aussies were visiting friends and family, and the overall spending by this market fell by 3.3% to \$1.6 billion. UK arrivals fell across all travel types and UK spending here fell 18.6% to \$826 million. US arrivals to NZ have been soft, but spending fell by just 1.7% to \$608 million over the year to June 2009. Chinese spending increased by 28% to \$334 million (mostly due to a recent boost in the number of long-stay education travellers), despite fewer in arrivals (down 13.2%). Germany recorded good growth in spending of 18.8% to \$285 million, based on a 3.2% increase in German arrivals and more holiday travellers.

International Travel/Migration: July

According to Statistics NZ, in July 2009:

- visitor arrivals (176,200) were up less than 1% from July 2008 (175,700);
- there were more visitors from Australia (up 15,800), but fewer visitors from Japan (down 5,000), Korea (down 3,000), and China (down 2,700);
- departures of NZ residents (198,400) were down 2% from July 2008 (202,200);
- NZ residents departed on fewer trips to Australia (down 2,800) and Fiji (down 1,200); and
- permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 2,500.

Tourism Research Funding

NZ's tourism industry has received \$2 million from the Government for research to:

- understand the potential options for NZ tourism (Victoria University of Wellington, \$792,000 over three years);
- identify how the physical effects of climate change will impact on tourism in NZ regions (Lincoln University, \$617,000 over three years); and
- develop a better understanding of the economic and political variables affecting international and domestic air travel (University of Otago, \$704,000).

Health and Welfare

Health Review Group Recommendations

A Ministerial Health Review Group has published 170 recommendations about how NZ could improve the quality and performance of its public health system. Amongst these, it is recommended that:

- planning and funding of national services be transferred from DHBs and the Ministry of Health to a National Health Board (NHB);
- the NHB be responsible for monitoring of DHBs;
- activities associated with strategic planning and funding future capacity (IT, facilities and workforce) be brought together into the NHB;
- DHBs plan on a regional basis;
- a new Crown Entity be created to provide shared services to DHBs;
- Ministry of Health review the \$2.5 billion in funding it manages;
- the National Health Committee be strengthened;

- the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) be replaced with an independent national quality agency; and
- the number of health committees be reduced from the original 157 identified six months ago to 54.

The report is at

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MRG%20Report%20Meeting%20the%20C%20challenge.pdf>

ACC Review Terms of Reference

The terms of reference and membership of the steering group for the stocktake of ACC have been announced. The stocktake will examine all ACC accounts covering motor vehicles, earners, employers, non-earners, treatment injury, and residual claims. It will investigate cost increases, alternative options for service provision and funding, the potential for experience rating, management of risks, and monitoring of ACC. It will also examine the governance and oversight of ACC's \$10 billion investment portfolio.

A related Cabinet paper is at

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/initiatives/workplace/acc/index.asp>

OECD Report #1: Child Welfare

One of the key findings from a recently released Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report (involving 30 countries) is that NZ spends less on child welfare, particularly for younger disadvantaged children, compared with other member countries. According to the report "material conditions for Kiwi kids are relatively poor". NZ also does not do well on a number of other health indicators like youth suicide, immunisation rates, and child mortality.

However, NZ children score well when it comes to educational achievement.

Highlights from the NZ section of the OECD report are at

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/20/42/43589854.pdf>

Web-Cam Depression Support Service...

In a world first, Lifeline Aotearoa has developed a web-cam support service to help young people with depression. By using basic counselling techniques, providing resources and information and helping with strategies to deal with individual problems, the new web-cam support will help young people experiencing mild to moderate depression. More serious cases are directed to appropriate local support services.

It's believed that because NZ has a large rural community, this service may be particularly useful for young people in more remote areas.

The web-cam support sessions can be either two-way, where the participant and thelowdown.co.nz team member can see each other, or one-way, where only the team member is visible. Sessions can be done with a standard internet connection, with dial-up. The web-cam can be turned off and text chat can be used if no microphone is available, to accommodate all levels of internet connection.

Simply email thelowdown.co.nz team on webcam@thelowdown.co.nz to book into a session, currently available between 5pm – 9pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. They will then email an invitation link before the session. Note you can also use the current online, phone and text-based support linked to the interactive website www.thelowdown.co.nz

...Self-harm Rates Continue Declining...

"Intentional Self-Harm Hospitalisations 2007 (Provisional)", published by the Ministry of Health, showed that 2678 people were admitted to hospitals longer than 48 hours for intentional self-harm, compared with 3030 in 1996. This drop is consistent with long-term trends. Self-harm hospitalisation rates have dropped by 25.6% for the total population and 40.1% for those aged 15 to 24 years old since 1996.

... & Mental Health Awareness Week

The theme of Mental Health Awareness Week 2009, which is from 5-11 October is "wellbeing". According to the Foresight Project, the five winning ways to wellbeing are: keep learning, connect, be active, take notice, and give.

The Foresight Reports, which provide more information about wellbeing, are at http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/well-being_fiveways.aspx

Quitting Smoking Cheaper

Nicotine patches, gum and lozenges are being made cheaper for smokers wanting to quit. The three forms of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) can now also be prescribed by general practitioners (GPs).

Quit Cards will continue to be available from registered Quit Card providers, including the publicly-funded free Quitline 0800 778 798

NZ Food: No Residue Concerns

Tests on locally produced food show the average kiwi diet presents no chemical residue food safety concerns. The NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) recently released the first quarter results for the Total Diet Study (TDS). The five-yearly study tests more than 120 commonly eaten foods as a way of estimating NZers' dietary exposure to chemical residues, contaminants, and selected nutrients.

From 60,000 analyses, there were just two areas NZFSA had another look at, and neither issue was found to be a health concern.

For the 2009 Total Diet Study first quarter results see www.nzfsa.govt.nz/science/research-projects/total-diet-survey/2009.htm

Clinical Training: New Board

A Clinical Training Agency (CTA) Board is to be set up to work on the funding and planning of health workforce training for nurses, doctors and other health professionals, and four related reports have been released. These recommend a single agency be set up to ensure coordination of workforce training, planning and funding. The current Medical Training Board is being disestablished

The reports are at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/health-and-disability-workforce-reports-aug09>

Maternal Fetal Specialists Network

A new national Maternal Fetal Medicine Network is being set up to: act as a resource for GPs, and provide an education programme for existing and prospective fetal specialists*, midwives and clinical associates. The Network will also be setting up a website to provide a central contact point for health professionals and also offer information for women and their families.

*Fetal specialists, also called perinatologists, are obstetricians who specialise in the diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing care of expectant mothers and their unborn babies who may be at high risk for special health problems.

Education/Training

Special Education Review Underway

A review of special education is being carried and its first phase will look at:

- how special education funding and services are allocated for children with high and very high needs;
- the schooling choices parents have for children with high and very high needs; and
- how the performance and accountability of providers of services is measured.

Phase two will be underway later on this year. It will look at:

- how to make sure there is a confident and capable workforce of people supporting parents and teachers, and working directly with children with special education needs;
- how young people transitioning from school to life after school are supported;
- where improvements could be made to the Ministry of Education's processes and whether they can reduce administration and be more responsive; and
- how agencies can work better together to give children and families what they need when they need it.

A discussion document that will be released in early November. More is at <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/Consultation/ReviewOfSpecialEducation.asp>
[X](#)

Break-Away School Holiday Programmes

A recently-announced "Break-Away Package for School Holidays" will provide funding for what will build to be 30,000 places a year, in holiday programmes for youth aged 11-17. It will be targeted at deprived communities and families under stress.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/young+kiwis+%E2%80%99Cbreak+away%E2%80%9D+school+holidays>

Scholarships for Private Schooling

A new scholarship programme will enable students from low-income families to attend independent secondary schools that their families would previously not have been able to afford. Around \$7.4 million is to be allocated directly to independent schools and \$2.6 million used to provide 250 scholarships to students from low socio-economic backgrounds from 2010.

English Language Providers Survey

According to a recent English Language Providers survey, international students studying at English language schools spent an estimated \$284 million in the March 2009 year, \$41 million more than in the March 2008 year (this total includes expenditure on accommodation and other living costs, as well as on tuition and related fees).

Students from Saudi Arabia accounted for the largest increase in expenditure on tuition and related fees in the March 2009 year (as they did in the March 2008 year); and China was the largest overall spender. The estimated total value of expenditure by all international students studying in NZ was \$1,335 million for the year ended March 2009, down \$128 million from the previous year.

More is at http://www.stats.govt.nz/methods_and_services/information-releases/survey-of-english-language-providers.aspx

Training for Pacific Seasonal Workers

A pilot programme is to be set up to deliver skills training to visiting Pacific workers taking part in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme. Up to 300 RSE workers across the Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, and Marlborough will participate in the pilot over the next two years. The training will be conducted outside of work hours, and will focus on literacy, numeracy, and financial understanding.

Science/Technology

OECD Report #2: The Bioeconomy

A new Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report called "The Bioeconomy* to 2030: Designing a Policy Agenda", examines the role of biotechnology in the global economy over the next two decades and outlines policies that could maximise its benefits. Here are some of the predictions about where the bioeconomy could be by 2015:

- about half of global production of the major food, feed, and industrial feedstock crops is likely to come from plant varieties developed using one or more types of biotechnology;
- biotechnologies, other than GM, will be used to improve livestock for dairy and meat;
- GM will be increasingly used to develop animal varieties that can produce valuable pharmaceuticals or other compounds in milk;
- in health, biotechnological knowledge will play a role in the development of all types of therapies; and
- the value of biochemicals (other than pharmaceuticals) could increase from 1.8% of all chemical production in 2005 to between 12% and 20% by 2015.

*The term "bioeconomy" refers to economic activity relating to the invention, development, production, and use of biological products and processes.

The full report has to be purchased, but you can view chapter excerpts at http://www.oecd.org/document/48/0,3343,en_2649_36831301_42864368_1_1_1_1_00.html

NZ-Oz Joint Mega Science Bid

The Australian and NZ Governments have agreed to join forces to bid for the A\$2.5 billion (NZ\$3.1 billion) international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project. The SKA is a large-scale, new-generation radio-telescope that will be by far the most powerful of its type in the world, with a discovery potential 10,000 times greater than current instruments. It is made up of up to four thousand antennas spread over a five thousand kilometre baseline that create a single deep space listening device. The telescope – able to see back to the formation of the first stars – is one of the world's most significant mega-science projects – on a par with the Large Hadron Collider in Europe. Australia and NZ are one of the two shortlisted sites – the other is in Southern Africa.

MacDiarmid Young Scientist Award

John Watt has been named the 2009 MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year for research which could result in a cheap and effective way of removing toxic pollutants from vehicle emissions. The runner-up is Amy Whitehead for research (entitled "Get more ducks for your bucks") on conservation strategies that will help save the threatened native whio or blue duck.

Employment

Unemployment & Work Participation

In seasonally adjusted terms, the unemployment rate rose to 6.0% during the June 2009 quarter, according to Statistics NZ. The female unemployment rate increased by 1.5 percentage points to 6.3% during the June 2009 quarter, while the male unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points to 5.7%. During the June 2009 quarter, the number of people unemployed went up by 20.6% to reach 138,000, largely driven by a 15,000 rise in the number of females unemployed (the number of unemployed males also went up by 8,000 in the same period). In the latest quarter, the labour force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 68.4%. The female participation rate fell to 62.1%, while the male participation rate rose to 75.2%.

Employee Survey Results

A recent Hudson report looks at the three generations in the workforce (X, Y and Baby Boomers) and found that Baby Boomers are the most worried about the recession, with almost half (42%) registering heightened concern about their future. Other findings include:

- 32% of employees genuinely concerned about losing their jobs;
- 54% of employees say that the workplace has become far more stressful since the downturn;
- 32% of employees agreed with the statement "management thinks it doesn't have to reward and recognise our work anymore because we should feel lucky to have a job right now"; and
- almost half of the workforce is seeking a new role (47%) and 56% say they would consider roles they previously would not have looked at.

The full report is not available online until October, when the client presentation period concludes. To download the Executive Summary in the meantime, go to <http://nz.hudson.com/node.asp?kwd=2020-executive-summary> and fill out the registration form

Community Max

A new Government programme called "Community Max" targets unskilled 16 to 24 year olds with low or no qualifications whose chances of getting work are limited. Under the scheme, up to 3000 places will be available on community projects. communities, through local councils, iwi and Pacific groups are being asked to identify regional projects for local young people to work on. The young person's wage will subsidised at the minimum wage for 30 hours a week for 26 weeks. There is also a training component of up to \$1250 for each young person. Two Community Max advisors will be appointed in each region to liaise with organisations to broker projects for young people to work on. The programme also provides funding for a project supervisor for every four workers.

Community Max will be managed by Work and Income. Organisations can call 0800 778 008 if they would like to take part in the programme (which will finish in December 2010)

Importance of Older Workers

Older workers (aged 55+) are increasingly important in the NZ labour market both in numbers and in terms of their skills and knowledge. This is according to a Department of Labour (DOL) report called "Understanding the Job Mobility and Employability of Older Workers". Older workers now comprise one sixth of the labour force and are expected to represent nearly one in four of the workforce by 2020.

The report goes on to say that, collectively, older workers are productive and valued, but their knowledge may be specific to their current jobs. This may hinder their job mobility, making it difficult for them to change jobs and transfer their skills to other work areas.

The current downturn therefore presents challenges to mature-aged workers – because their skills are harder to transfer, they are more at risk of being long-term unemployed or finishing work altogether if they lose their jobs.

More at

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/LMI/workforce2020/ageing/understanding/index.asp>

Transport

1 October Fuel Tax Increases

A 3 cent per litre increase in fuel excise duty (FED) for all vehicles is to take effect from 1 October 2009.

Road user charges (RUC) increases will vary depending on the size of the vehicle. For an average two tonne diesel car the October 1 RUC increases will result in an average additional cost of \$3.61 per 1,000 kilometres driven. A larger vehicle such as a 3 tonne SUV will cost an extra \$3.70 to drive 1,000 kilometres, or 0.37 cents per kilometre. For heavy vehicles the exact RUC increase will depend on vehicle size and axle configuration.

Typical large truck and trailer combinations will pay between 3 and 6% more in RUC. The maximum increase for any diesel vehicle is 10%, and the average is 7%.

The new Road User Charges Amendment Act requires 42 days notice to be given for road user charges increases, allowing transport operators time to budget for increased costs. RUC licences for vehicles over 3.5 tonnes bought at the old rate will expire a month after the new rate takes effect. Refunds of road user charges for unused kilometres will be automatically provided at the time a new licence is purchased.

The money goes into the National Land Transport Fund for transport projects throughout the country.

No Using Cellphones in Cars

From 1 November 2009 it will be against the road rules for drivers to text or talk on a handheld cell phone while driving, though drivers will still be able to use hands-free devices and two-way radio in the car. There will also be an exemption for 111 calls made for emergencies.

The change is part of the Land Transport (Road User) Amendment Rule and it will see drivers using handheld mobile phones receive a \$80 fine and 20 demerit points.

The Rule also includes a requirement for motorcyclists and moped riders to operate headlights during daylight hours.

Car Sales Up/Commercials Down...

New passenger vehicle sales for July 2009 saw a modest increase of 3.8% over the registration figures for June (4,473 new passenger vehicles were registered in July, compared to 4,306 units in June). However, countering the optimistic trend seen in passenger vehicles, sales of commercial vehicles decreased 30% in July compared to June's figures.

...Honey I Shrunk the Car...

According to the 2009 AA Insurance Drivers Index, 16% of people said they recently downsized their main vehicle, with 52% citing fuel economy as the main reason. Other reasons people gave for reducing the size of the main car included managing the household budget (14%), no longer needing a large car (14%), and reducing maintenance costs (12%). Furthermore, 30% of those who had not already downsized their car said they would consider doing so, with half giving fuel economy as the reason. According to the index, Wellington has more one-car households (36%) and fewer multiple car households (only 7% of households have four cars or more) than other cities around NZ. In comparison, Christchurch has fewer one-car households (23%) and more multiple car households (11% of households have four or more cars). This may reflect the higher rates of public transport use in Wellington.

... & Some Very Safe Cars

A record number of five-star new car safety ratings have been released by the Australasian New Car Assessment Programme (ANCAP).

These top occupant protection ratings go to the Toyota Aurion, Holden Statesman and Commodore (all models built from August 2009), Subaru Outback, Subaru Legacy, Alfa Romeo Mito Hatch, Peugeot 308CC sports, Mercedes-Benz Viano and NZ's first five-star light commercial van - the Mercedes-Benz Vito (when equipped with optional side curtain airbags).

Housing

Building Act Review

The Government is to review the Building Act to:

- remove building regulation that adds cost and little benefit;
- focus on consents that reflect the risk and complexity of the construction (a simple three-bedroom house needs to be treated differently from a complex building);
- shift responsibility back towards builders, away from councils;
- provide better information for consumers about who they might employ to do the job, and about how to resolve disputes; and
- streamline building consent functions across the country, and reduce the number of consenting authorities.

Consultation on the review is timed for the first half of 2010, and a Sector Reference Group will be established to make sure that the sector's issues are being addressed and provide advice on the recommendations of the review.

Welcome Home Loans Increased

There has been an increase in the amount that can be borrowed under the government-funded Welcome Home Loan mortgage insurance scheme: first home buyers can now borrow up to \$350,000, up from the previous cap of \$280,000. Other changes to the scheme include extending it make it available for new buildings, for houses to be built on land already owned by the first home buyer, and for buying a first home on multiple-owned Maori land.

Borrowers will still need to prove their ability to service loans.

For more on the Welcome Home Loan go to www.welcomehomeloan.co.nz

August Property Market...

An easing of listing shortages and green shoots in the mid-priced residential market punctuated a relatively quiet August, First National Groups monthly survey shows. Listings shortages were reported as severe in some Auckland suburbs, Nelson and Taranaki but were easing overall. For the first time in a year, signs of life appeared in mid-priced properties (\$300 - \$400,000), while activity at the lower priced end of the residential market (under \$250,000) continued strongly but was less marked. However, demand for higher priced property (over \$600,000) continued to dawdle, on par with the previous two months.

... Housing Consents...

The trend for the number of new housing units authorised, excluding apartment units, has been increasing in recent months, although it remains at a low level, according to recent figures from Statistics NZ. When apartments are included, the trend for the number of new housing units has increased for the last six months. In July 2009, the seasonally adjusted number of new housing units authorised, excluding apartments, rose 11.2%, following a 3.8% rise in June 2009. Although the level is still low, it is at its highest since September 2008. Consents were authorised for 1,214 new housing units in July 2009, including 55 apartments.

... & Will Home Renovations Boom?

The Building Research Association of NZ (BRANZ) is predicting an increase in retrofit and renovation work to upgrade our aging housing stock. Currently consented renovation work is about \$1.2 billion per year. However, BRANZ has forecasted, in its "Housing Life Cycle and Sustainability" report, that this will rise as over 480,000 homes built from 1940-1960 now require major improvements. This could create more jobs and add an additional \$2.4 billion per year to the NZ economy.

Renovating Smarter

When renovating, BRANZ recommends that homeowners use that work as an opportunity to install measures that will improve sustainable performance of the home, including:

- replacement of wall linings: this can enable insulation and cabling (power, communications) to be placed, as well as improving the wall finish appearance;
- re-piling work: which may be an opportunity to install under-floor insulation;
- windows replacement: think about double-glazed windows;
- replacement of major appliances such as heaters or hot water cylinders: consider efficient solid fuel burners or heat pumps, and solar water panels; and
- renovation of the bathroom and laundry areas: this may be the time to consider installation of rainwater collection for servicing these areas.

Download the full report at
http://www.branz.co.nz/cms_show_download.php?id=1118

Energy

Fewer Global Oil Reserves

In an Interview with UK-based paper "The Independent", the chief economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA) has indicated the public and many governments do not appear to be aware that the oil on which modern civilisation depends is running out faster than previously predicted. His view is that global production is likely to peak in about 10 years – a decade earlier than most governments had estimated.

The first detailed assessment of more than 800 oil fields in the world, covering three quarters of global reserves, has found that most of the biggest fields have already peaked and that the rate of decline in oil production is now running at nearly twice the pace as calculated just two years ago. There is also a problem of chronic under-investment by oil-producing countries. There could therefore be a crunch in the oil supply after next year when demand picks up.

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/warning-oil-supplies-are-running-out-fast-1766585.html>

NZ's Gas Resources: Update

Oil production is becoming a fourth pillar of the NZ economy, behind dairy, meat and tourism. The latest figures show that in 2008 oil export earnings ranked third behind dairy and meat exports in merchandise trade. Crude oil and condensate production rose 57% to 2.5m tonnes in the year to December 2008 from 1.6m tonnes in 2007. The value of oil exports jumped 103% to \$2.8bn from \$1.4bn in 2007, thanks in part to the peak prices for crude in international markets. Although global oil prices have since slumped, oil production still looks set to be a significant factor in NZ's trading future.

Justice/the Law

Young Offenders: Fresh Start?

A recently-announced Fresh Start package for Young Offenders includes funding for:

- community youth programmes led by police or community organisations for lower-level youth offenders yet to come before the courts;
- Structured Activity Programmes that help young people learn new skills;
- Mentoring, Parenting, and Drug & Alcohol Orders (to tackle root causes of offending);
- court-supervised Intensive Adventure Camps (up to 10 days);
- greater Youth Court powers including electronic-monitoring of offenders under Intensive Supervision Orders;
- places in innovative programmes led by organisations with a proven track record;
- Supervision with Activity Orders; and
- military-style Activity Camps for more serious young offenders.

More is at
http://img.scoop.co.nz/media/pdfs/0908/Fresh_Start_Package_for_Young_Offenders.pdf

Abolishing Defence of Provocation

A Bill that abolishing the partial defence of provocation has passed its first reading on a unanimous vote in Parliament, and is due to be reported back to the House on 19 October 2009. The repeal of provocation would not preclude self-defence being raised in appropriate cases.

Legal Information for Pregnant Teenagers

The Wellington Community Law Centre recently released a new booklet called "Legal Information for Pregnant Teenagers". The 48-page brochure covers 16 major topics, providing easy-to-read information on everything from guardianship, adoption and abortion to employment, education and financial issues. Although written for pregnant teenagers and their family/whanau, the booklet also provides legal information for all pregnant women and their families.

The booklet can be ordered in hard copy from the Wellington Community Law Centre, but can also be downloaded as a PDF at
<http://www.communitylaw.org.nz/Free-Downloads.43.0.html>

Public Sector/Local Govt

Sustainable Government Purchasing?

A new report, published by the NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development, says the Government can save enough each year to fund another round of tax cuts by altering the way it buys goods and services. The report estimates that savings of up to \$1.6 billion a year could result if the Government extends its practice of buying goods and service based on their actual whole-of-life cost*, not just day-one price which might initially be cheaper. The report says businesses and governments in other countries that have introduced sustainable procurement report between 8% and 30% efficiency improvements.

"Public procurement" spending on goods and services amounts to as much as 15% of NZ's gross domestic product (GDP) - worth between \$14 and \$20 billion a year. *Whole-life cost refers to the total cost of ownership over the life of an asset.

"Sustainable Procurement in Government: New Opportunities for Business", is at <http://www.nzbcscd.org.nz/project.asp?ProjectID=47>

HRC Measuring Pay Equity Progress

A monitoring system is to be developed by the Human Rights Commission to make sure public sector organisations take action on delivering pay and employment equity for all workers. Each year it will measure: the overall pay gap between men and women in each organisation; the number of women in senior management; the starting rate pay gaps between men and women; progress on pay and employment equity response plans; and other employment equity initiatives.

More is at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/newsandissues/legalopinionfirmonchiefexecsequalemploymentrole.php>

MFAT Releases Files

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has recently released over 1500 previously restricted files for public access, as part of its ongoing programme of reviewing and releasing classified material. All the newly released files can be found at Archives NZ's Wellington office.

The material being released includes reports on 1970s Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings; negotiations on special arrangements with the European Economic Community on agricultural products; apartheid and sport files; conferences on trade, development, the law of the sea and whaling; 1960s proposals on the Omega Navigation System; and attitudes of Indonesia and the Philippines to the formation of Malaysia. Files returned from overseas posts such as Apia, Bonn, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, London, and New York are also being released.

The Archives NZ website is at <http://www.archives.govt.nz/>

Not-for-Profits

2009 N-f-P Remuneration Survey

This survey was based on an analysis of 6,811 employees representing 225 organisations. It provides detailed analyses of 91 job categories, providing base salary, fixed and total remuneration breakdowns by location and organisation size (employee numbers).

The researchers' main finding is the size of the pay gap between the sector and the broader employment market. On average, the difference in median base salaries between the not-for-profit sector and the public sector as at 1 May 2009 was 14.6%. On average, the difference in the median base salaries between the not-for-profit sector and the general market as at 1 May was 16.8%.

The survey also shows that a significant number of staff in the sector are contracted to work less than a full-time week: 48.2% work part-time. When factored against overall salary levels that are notably below the broader public sector and general market, this indicates a large part of our sector is both underpaid and underemployed.

To obtain a survey data-pack or further information about the survey, email D Shannon at david@strategicpay.co.nz

Building Strong N-f-P Boards

A recent report from New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) says that 95% of people in the UK are unaware that they can support a charity by becoming a trustee, and that this helps explain why nearly half of charities have vacancies on their boards. The report highlights a number of improvements that could help to strengthen trusteeship, including:

- more action on recruitment from charities, funders and government, to build people's interest in trusteeship as a way of supporting charities and to increase the diversity of boards;
- better support once boards are established, such as more thorough inductions for new trustees and increased opportunities for trustees to learn from each other;
- setting up a body responsible for trusteeship, which could co-ordinate efforts to improve standards, put information about charity governance in one accessible place, and encourage networking; and
- a stronger focus on boards evaluating their own performance (particularly those of large organisations).

The free report is available at: www.philanthropycapital.org/download/default.aspx?id=994

NGOs' Political Decision Making: Survey

A research team at Victoria University has started work surveying NGOs on how they go about making sure the voices of their organisations and constituencies are represented to policy-makers and politicians. It is also collecting information about the successes and failures that have to be coped with when NGOs actively participate in political decision-making.

Organisations who wish to contribute to this research can complete the survey "The role of NGOs in political decision-making" online at: www.victoria.ac.nz/sandragrey, or email Sandra.grey@vuw.ac.nz for a hard copy

Business

Imports and Exports Down

The value of both merchandise imports and exports fell in July 2009 compared with July 2008, down 20.9% and 7.3%, respectively, Statistics NZ said recently. This is the second largest monthly decrease in imports since February 1993. The \$252 million decrease in export values in July 2009 was led by a price-driven decrease in crude oil exports, down \$119 million (37.8%). Meat and edible offal exports were down \$50 million (11.5%), due to lower quantities.

The trade balance for July 2009 was a deficit of \$163 million, or 5.1% of the value of exports. This compares with an average July deficit of 23.6% of exports for the previous five years.

Manufacturing & Service Sectors Expanding

The seasonally adjusted BNZ Capital - Business NZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) for July stood at 49.7*. This was up 3.2 points from June, and followed an identical improvement from May to June. The last time activity was higher than July 2009 was April 2008 (50.9).

The Bank of NZ - Business NZ Performance of Services Index (PSI) rose 5.1 points to 50.1* in July, up from 45 in June. The index was at 45.6 in July 2008. The significance of this result is because one of the first sectors to feel the pinch in a recession is the service industry.

*Note: A PMI reading above 50.0 indicates that manufacturing is generally expanding; below 50.0 that it is declining.

NZ Commodity Prices Rise

NZ commodity prices rose for a sixth straight month (the ANZ Commodity Price Index rose 4.3% in August and has gained 12% from its low in February), posting the largest gain since November 2007 as aluminium, pelts, lumber, wool, and dairy advanced. Specifically, prices rose for seven of the commodities monitored, four fell and two were unchanged. In August, milk powder jumped 24%, aluminium and pelts rose 15%, lumber gained 8%, wool rose 7%, dairy gained 5%, logs rose 4%, and seafood gained 1%. Among decliners, kiwifruit fell 3% and apples dropped 1%. Beef fell 0.3% and lamb prices declined 0.5%. Wood pulp and venison were unchanged.

Report on Small Business

The 2009 "SMEs in NZ: Structure and Dynamics" report reconfirms the strong contribution made to the NZ economy by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It shows:

- 97% of enterprises employ 19 or fewer people;
- 89% of enterprises employ 5 or fewer people;
- SMEs account for 31% of all employees;
- self-employed people comprise 11 % of the labour force; and
- the number of SMEs increased by 1.4 % in the year to February 2008, and the total number of people employed by SMEs increased to 605,340.

The report is at <http://www.med.govt.nz/templates>

Maori/non-Maori Leadership Differences

A three-year study by Victoria University has identified some differences between the language of leaders in Maori and Pakeha organisations. Victoria's Language in the Workplace team focused on understanding what drives different styles of leadership in the workplace, particularly the language of leadership in Maori and Pakeha organisations.

Four organisations were used as case studies – two oriented to creative media-type outputs, the other two oriented to knowledge work and negotiation. One in each industry was defined as having Maori goals, working for Maori people with tikanga (traditional customs and values) playing a key role in everyday operations.

The research, which recorded and analysed the daily communication processes and strategies used by leaders, showed similarities based on ethnicity and sector. For instance, interactions in the two Maori organisations indicated an awareness of the importance of humility, and a tendency to emphasise the group over the individual.

The team's research and findings will be published next year by Oxford University Press in a book entitled "Leadership, Discourse and Ethnicity".

How Well Boards Report

The Securities Commission's latest review of the way that corporates report indicates that many boards clearly disclosed:

- their remuneration policies for directors and executives;
- the independence, expertise and experience of board members;
- processes for ensuring the quality and independence of external auditors; and
- risk management policies and practices.

Areas where issuers can improve their disclosures relate to how boards:

- observe and foster high ethical standards, for example, compliance with a code of ethics;
- build constructive relationships with shareholders; and
- consider and respect the interests of stakeholders.

The Commission will publish a more detailed report of its findings after concluding its next review of disclosures. Its website is at <http://www.seccom.govt.nz/>

Securities Regulations 2009

These regulations come into effect on 1 October. They are aimed at improving the quality of information given to investors, improving flexibility for issuers, and reducing compliance costs. Under them listed issuers who are already subject to continuous disclosure requirements will only be required to produce one disclosure document for a securities offering, instead of a full prospectus and an investment statement.

The regulations are at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2009/0230/18.0/viewpdf.aspx>

Business Mentoring in the Pacific

A new Pacific Business Mentoring Programme is to be set up to provide practical support for Pacific businesses. The programme will help small and medium sized businesses in the Pacific grow by identifying business training needs, creating opportunities for partnerships and joint ventures, and increasing Pacific exports to NZ.

More is at <http://enews.nzaid.govt.nz/index.php?id=223#1228>

Report: "Next Stop Japan"

A new report to assist kiwi businesses with key advice on how to do business in Japan is now available from the Asia NZ Foundation. The report "Next Stop Japan: A Guide to Doing Business in Japan" explores the factors that ensure success in building business relationships in our fourth largest export market.

The report is at http://www.asianz.org.nz/files/Next_Stop_Japan.pdf

Money Matters

Lotteries: A Record Year

Lottery grants provide vital backing for a range of social, community, arts, heritage, sports, recreation, and health research activities which have a positive impact on NZ's communities. Last year, almost 5,500 community groups and individuals received funding from Lottery committees to help build strong, sustainable communities in NZ. In July, the NZ Lottery Grants Board announced that over \$163 million would be pumped back into the community and to the statutory bodies that serve the creative arts, NZ film, and community sports and recreation. Then, thanks to a further record jackpot right at the end of the financial year, an extra \$14.2 million is to be distributed to the community through increased grants to all Lottery community committees, from small, grassroots organisation to big, national projects. The statutory bodies - Creative NZ, the NZ Film Commission and Sport and Recreation (SPARC) - will also benefit. They had recently been allocated nearly \$65 million from the Lottery Grants Board for the new financial year. However, SPARC will

now receive an extra \$2.84 million, Creative NZ \$2.1million, and the NZ Film Commission will receive \$994,000 - which includes \$71,000 for the NZ Film Archive.

The balance of the \$14.2 million will be distributed by the Board's funding committees to community causes over the coming year. Note, though, that profits are forecast to drop over the next two years and allocations may revert to earlier lower levels.

Food Prices: July 2009

Statistics NZ says that in July 2009, compared with June 2009:

- food prices rose 0.6%;
- fruit and vegetable prices rose 3.1% driven by higher vegetable prices;
- grocery food prices rose 0.5%;
- restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food prices rose 0.3%;
- non-alcoholic beverage prices rose 0.3%; and
- meat, poultry and fish prices fell 0.7%.

From July 2008 to July 2009 food prices increased 8.4%.

Rise in Retail Spending

Sales volumes grew a seasonally adjusted 0.4% in the three months ended 30 June 2009, following a record fall of 2.7% in the previous quarter, according to data released by Statistics NZ (economists had predicted the quarterly figure wouldn't change from the previous period). Sales grew 0.1% in June from a month earlier, against forecasts for a 0.3% decline.

Paymark* figures for July showed a slight increase in spending. A total of \$3.48 billion was spent across the Paymark network during the month, up 1.1% year-on-year. Paymark says this could be evidence of some economic "green shoots" emerging at the end of what has been a fairly static few months, spending-wise.

*Paymark processes more than 60% of all retail electronic transactions in NZ.

Entitled to a Tax Refund?

When a more simplified tax system was introduced into NZ in the late 1990s, many wage and salary earners no longer needed to file an income tax return, simplifying things for many taxpayers. However, there are potential downsides. For example, many taxpayers do not claim their refunds or family tax credits because they don't know they are owed money, or they find completing a tax return too time-consuming or complicated. In effect, these taxpayers are overpaying their tax.

Anyone employed on casual, part time, shift, seasonal, and/or part of a tax year should check what tax refunds they may be owed, as well as those in salaried or full time work.

There are a number of specialist companies that have been set up to do this kind of work, the largest and first fully-automated of these being TaxRefunds.co.nz

How NZ's Tax Rate Compares...

NZ has the 24th highest top personal tax rate in the world, according to the latest survey by KPMG measuring global individual income tax and social security rates. Our top personal income tax rate was compared against 83 countries listed in the 2009 Individual Income Tax and Social Security Rate Survey. Last year NZ ranked 18th.

Globally, personal income tax rates have declined over the past seven years since the study began. For example, average rates in Asia Pacific have declined from 36.1% in 2003 to 33.9% in 2009. In 2009 the top average personal income tax rate dropped 0.3% worldwide from 29.2% in 2008 to 28.9% in 2009.

The survey is at

<http://www.kpmg.com/Global/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesAndPublications/Pages/income-tax-social-security-survey-2009.aspx>

NZ Venture Capital: Review

A review of this country's venture capital* industry has recommended continued government involvement in the sector to build on the "encouraging but modest" growth in venture capital activity. The NZ Venture Investment Fund commissioned international consultancy firm LECG to review venture capital development in NZ. Among the report's conclusions are:

- venture capital has the potential to contribute very significantly to NZ's economic growth, and to the level of innovation and efficiency of its young and emerging businesses;
- venture capital is an important complement to publicly and privately funded R&D, university and CRI research programmes;
- developing a viable venture capital industry requires prolonged commitment from those involved directly and from policy makers; and
- venture capital fund managers may find it challenging to raise further funds without government assistance.

*Venture capital is a type of private equity capital i.e., money provided by non-public, usually institutional, investors. This sort of investment typically goes to early-stage, high-potential, growth companies in the interest of generating a longer-term return through an event such as a public share float or sale of the company.

Find out more at <http://www.nzvif.com/documents/whats-new/LECG-Jul09.pdf>

Angel Investment at Record Levels

"Angel investors**" have invested a record \$30 million into young NZ companies over the first six months of 2009, taking the amount invested over the past three-and-a-half years to over \$100 million. The \$30 million invested in the first half of this year is more than was invested throughout all of 2008.

That \$100 million can be broken down by region as follows: 58% has been invested in Auckland, 13% in Dunedin, 12% in Christchurch, 8% in Wellington, and 5% in Palmerston North. Software and services have received 29% of the amount invested, followed by pharmaceuticals (20%), technology hardware and equipment (11%), and food and beverage (10%).

*An angel investor or angel is a person who provides capital for a business start-up, usually in exchange for convertible debt or ownership equity. An increasing number have developed angel networks to share research and pool their investment capital.

US/NZ Accountancy Agreement

Following the signing of a Mutual Recognition Agreement, NZ has become just the fifth country in the world whose chartered accountants are recognised as on a par with their US counterparts. The Agreement smoothes the way for NZ accountants to practice in the US. In return, the NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants now recognises the qualifications of US accountants and will license them to practice in this country.

New Bank Registered

Baroda (NZ) Limited has been registered as a bank in this country. The bank, which is a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (the third-largest public-sector bank in India), will be changing its name to Bank of Baroda (NZ) Limited before it commences operations. There are now 19 registered banks in NZ.

The banks are listed on the Reserve Bank website at <http://www.rbnz.govt.nz>

More Tax Information Agreements

NZ and Singapore have signed a new double-tax agreement allowing for full exchange of information on tax matters between our two countries. Business between the two countries is worth nearly \$700 million a year to NZ exporters, while goods worth \$1.9 billion are imported from Singapore. Singapore is also an important source of investment for NZ, with recent direct investment from Singapore totalling \$1.6 billion. Other tax agreements have also been signed with the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Gibraltar.

More is at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz

Internet/ICT

Digital TV Transition Group

A new Digital Switchover Steering Group to help with the transition to digital television is made up of Kordia, SKY, Television NZ, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, and the Ministry of Economic Development. Digital television offers better reception including high definition where this is available and greater content choice with more channels. There are also economic benefits associated with early and efficient digital switchover, estimated to be over \$300 million if digital switchover happens by 2015. Moving to digital television will free up analogue spectrum allowing it to be used for other purposes.

The Government will set a final date for switchover when digital uptake has reached 75%, or in 2012, whichever occurs first.

Internet Industry Awards 2009 winners

The winners are:

- **Best Business Application on the Internet:** Xero Limited (Finalists were Xero Limited, Pinnacle Life, Kiwibank, and Liverton Ltd);
- **Best Education Product or Service on the Internet:** Digital NZ (Finalists were Digital NZ, Hector's World Limited, and PocketSmith); and
- **Positive Societal Impact Award:** TheLowdown.co.nz (Finalists were TheLowdown.co.nz, Inland Revenue, Health TV Ltd, and Deaf Aotearoa NZ).

More at <http://www.ldtf.org.nz/index.html>

Firefox: Growing in Popularity

According to results from the Nielsen Company SiteCensus service Firefox, a free open-source product, now attracts just over 20% of NZ web surfers. Microsoft's Internet Explorer is still the dominant player in the web browser market, but its market share has declined from 72% in July 2006 to just over 60% in July 2009. Other findings include:

- Google's Chrome browser, another free offering, is also steadily rising, now up to 3.2% of the market;
- Apple's Safari browser is quietly gaining ground, from 1.2% of the market in 2006 to 5.1% this year; and
- AOL's once-dominant Netscape browser has continued its steady decline since 2006, now down to 13.5% of the market.

New.health.nz Domain

Health providers can now use the suffix.health.nz for health websites and email addresses, for example www.abcmedicalcentre.health.nz or drb@abcmedicalcentre.health.nz. Only organisations with registered health practitioners, ambulances, selected Government agencies, and approved health sector support organisations will be able to use the domain.

A Handful of Websites

- **A new version of "If Visitors to my Farm are Injured, am I Liable?"** is at <http://www.osh.govt.nz/publications/factsheets/farm-visitors.html>. This replaces the one written in 1999 to outline farmer responsibilities when non-farm workers or visitors visit their workplace. These vary depending on whether the visitor is there with or without permission or authorisation, if there are any work-related, out of the ordinary hazards present, and/or if the visitor has legal authority to access the premises;
- **Information about archaeological sites in NZ** is at <http://www.archsite.org.nz/>. This is the NZ Archaeological Association's Archaeological Site Recording Scheme website and it features news and an interactive map of site locations;

- **If you want to look at thousands of stunning 360 degrees images from across the globe** go to <http://www.360cities.net/> Take a look at the editor's picks and the most popular posts on the site's homepage. To find a more specific destination, click on the world map which has an interface similar to Google Earth;
- **The latest news headlines are presented visually** at <http://newsmap.jp/> The relationships between stories are shown using a bold colour-coded tree map. Users who register can customise the homepage to always open with their preferences set;
- **If you would like a library of smart things to say** go to <http://www.thequoteblog.com/>;
- **All about economics** is at <http://www.economyprofessor.com/>. The site has a comprehensive dictionary of terms and phrases, a library of economic theories, as well as information about the key theorists of our times;
- **NZers can find out how to reduce their power bills** through a new website at www.rightlight.govt.nz. The Electricity Commission teamed up with Consumer NZ, the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority, Master Electricians and the Green Building Council to launch the RightLight programme, which provides information to help families and businesses reduce their power bills and choose the right light for a specific application;
- If you are interested in **an application that helps you monitor the temperature, voltage and fan speeds inside your PC** go to <http://www.almico.com/speedfan.php>; and
- **The updated Fertiliser Quality Council's website** is at <http://www.fertqual.co.nz/page.php?5>. The (FQC) website covers fertiliser and its application, and lists ethical Fertmark tested fertilisers, the nearest store to provide the product, and Spreadmark-accredited ground and aerial spreaders. You can also download DVD presentations such as "Four Steps to Sustainable Farming," and presentations from the 2009 Massey Fertiliser and Lime Research Centre conference.

Treaty Matters

Crown Apology: Te Arawa Iwi/Hapu

The Crown has formally apologised to Affiliate Te Arawa iwi and hapu for breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi. The apology was given at Owahata Marae in Rotorua to Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa, which represents around 24,000 iwi and hapu members, who have a land interest covering over 500,000 hectares around the Rotorua region. The apology noted "the failure to adequately protect tribal structures following the impact of the native land laws, the failure to actively protect the interests of Affiliate Te Arawa when purchasing land, and the failure to ensure that some iwi and hapu were left with sufficient land for their present and future needs."

The CNI Settlement Process

On 1 July, under the Central North Island (CNI) Treaty Settlement nine central North Island forests and the back rental from them became the property of the Central North Island Iwi Holdings Company (CNIHC). The process for deciding where the 90% of the forests the CNI Collective own lie, how much of these each member iwi own, and what proportion of the other 10% of forests will be used to settle the claims of non Collective claimant groups is:

- **Stage one:** by 1 October 2009 the holdings company Board will know the areas where an iwi has exclusive mana whenua* interests; where iwi agree on allocation of areas; and where agreement has not been reached. It will also know which areas are subject to claims by other CNI claimants;
- **Stage two:** kanohi-ki-te-kanohi (face to face) negotiation between participants (no advisors, lawyers or historians will be present) on areas that have not been agreed on will start on 1 October 2009 and be completed by 30 June 2010; and
- **Stage three:** any areas not agreed after the negotiations will be decided by mediation or adjudication before 25 June 2011. The final agreement will be completed by 1 July 2011.

*Mana whenua: the authority that iwi traditionally exercised over the land)

A CNI numbers snapshot:

- \$475,000,000: the total value of the CNI Iwi Settlement;
- \$280,000,000: the total amount of accumulated rentals that CFRT will transfer to CNI Iwi on 1 July 2009;
- \$195,000,000: the value of Crown forest land that will be returned to CNI iwi;
- 176,000: the number of hectares of Crown Forest Licensed Land that will be returned; and
- 100,000: the number of people in the CNI iwi collective who will benefit from the settlement.

Arts & Culture

NZ's Top Tables...

Wellington restaurant Logan Brown was named the Supreme Winner of the latest Cuisine NZ Restaurant of the Year Awards. Logan Brown was awarded the supreme title out of 39 finalist restaurants judged by 21 leading food experts. It is the fourth time a Wellington restaurant has won the title in the five years the awards have run.

Other major awards include:

- Best Smart Dining – Metropolitan: Logan Brown (its second award this year);
- Best Smart Dining – Metropolitan Runner-up: Clooney, Auckland;
- Best Smart Dining – Regional: Bouterey's at 251, Richmond, Nelson (A new category);
- Best Smart Dining – Regional Runner-up: Pacifica, Napier;

- Best Casual Dining – Metropolitan: Soul Bar & Bistro, Auckland;
- Best Casual Dining – Metropolitan Runner-up: Saggio di Vino, Christchurch;
- Best Casual Dining – Regional: Hopgood's Restaurant & Bar, Nelson;
- Best Casual Dining – Regional Runner-up: Wendy Campbell's French Bistro, Martinborough;
- Best Neighbourhood Restaurant: Molten, Mt Eden, Auckland (A new category); and
- Best Winery Restaurant, First Equal: Terrôir at Craggy Range, Hawke's Bay, and Pegasus Bay Winery Restaurant, Waipara.

Full details of the winners and finalists in the 2009 Cuisine NZ Restaurant of the Year Awards are in the September issue of Cuisine.

Top Maori Artists

Witi Ihimaera has been awarded the premiere Maori arts award at the Creative NZ Te Waka Toi Awards, which celebrate all artforms.

Maori film maker Merata Mita was among those also honoured. She was awarded Te Tohu Toi Ke, the making a difference award, alongside Te Reo expert Te Wharehuia Milroy.

Who's Dressed Best?

Vanity Fair has released their annual best-dressed list, and world leaders' and their partners have topped the charts. Among the sartorially superior are Barrack and Michelle Obama, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Sheikha Mozah of Qatar, Diana Taylor (girlfriend of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg), and Princess Letizia of Spain, plus celebrities like Penelope Cruz, Brad Pitt, and Anne Hathaway.

Enjoy a slideshow at <http://www.vanityfair.com/style/features/2009/09/best-dressed-slideshow200909?slide=1#globalNav>

15 Worst Movie Titles

A sample of the world's worst titles includes:

- The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies (1963);
- Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter (1966);
- Can Hieronymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness? (1969);
- Eegah (1962);
- Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964);
- The Ghost in the Invisible Bikini (1966);
- Manos, the Hands of Fate (1966) – Note: 'Manos' is Spanish for hands;
- Ssssss (1973);
- Phfft (1954);
- Rat Ppink a Boo Boo (1966); and

- Fat Guy Goes Nutzoid (1986).

To find out more about these movies go to http://www.oddee.com/item_96786.aspx

Fishing

1 October Fishing Rules Changes

New fishing rules for gathering rock lobster (crayfish), paua and flatfish coming into affect on 1 October 2009 are aimed at improving the sustainability of NZ's fisheries. Applying to recreational fishers, they include:

- **Rock lobster:** recreational fishers will be able to use hand-operated lassoes ("cray-loops"), which cause fewer injuries to both soft and hard shell lobsters than hand gathering. However, spring-loaded lassoes will be banned because they can reduce the chances of lobsters surviving if they are released. Daily bag limits are six lobsters per fisher per day per amateur fisher; and
- **Taranaki paua:** a new minimum legal size of 85mm in paua shell length will apply to paua between Awakino and Wanganui rivers because this region's stocks never reach the minimum legal standard of 125mm that continues in place for paua gathered in the rest of the country. The new size limit will be trialled for the next five years because this measure has never been applied before in NZ. A daily bag limit of 10 paua per fisher per day will apply.

Regional fishing rules changes include:

- **Fiordland:** recreational fishers within the Fiordland Marine Area will be able to use one rock lobster holding pot per person or a maximum of two holding pots per vessel where there are two or more people to store their live catch; holding pots in the Fiordland area will no longer be counted against rock lobster catching pot limits and will not be required to have escape gaps;
- **Pukerua Bay:** the current temporary ban on all fishing methods in Pukerua Bay except hand-held line fishing is extended;
- **Akaroa Taiapure** (near Banks Peninsula). The new rules include daily limits on finfish, the prohibition of taking or possessing any seahorse from the Taiapure or the taking or possessing of shellfish from the Onawe Peninsula area of the Akaroa Taiapure; and
- **Nelson, Marlborough and the West Coast:** the minimum legal size of sand flounder will be 25cm instead of 23cm; the amateur set net minimum mesh size for red moki will go from 115mm to 114mm; and the amateur set net minimum mesh size for butterfish will go from 108mm to 100mm (in line with nets for the majority of other finfish species).

More is at www.fish.govt.nz

General

Climate Outlook: September – November

Basically, a windy spring lies ahead with drier than normal conditions in many regions. A warm August has followed two cold months at the start of winter. While September is also expected to be warmer than average, a change is likely later in the season.

Regional predictions for the next three months:

- **Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty:** temperatures equally likely to be in the near average or below average categories. Three-month rainfall totals are equally likely to be in the near normal or below normal ranges, as are soil moisture levels and streamflows.
- **Central North Island, Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu and Wellington:** temperatures are most likely to be near average. Three-month rainfall totals and streamflows are equally likely to be near normal or below normal. Soil moisture levels are likely to be near average.
- **Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa:** temperatures are equally likely to be near average or below average. Three-month rainfall totals, soil moisture levels and streamflows are all likely to be near normal or below normal.
- **Nelson, Marlborough, Buller:** temperatures are most likely to be near average. Rainfall, soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely to be below normal or near normal; it is very unlikely that any of these will be in the above normal range over the season as a whole.
- **West Coast, Alps and Foothills, Inland Otago, Southland:** temperatures are most likely to be near average. Rainfall is most likely to be near normal. Soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely to be near normal or above normal.
- **Coastal Canterbury, East Otago:** temperatures are most likely to be near average. Three-month rainfall totals are equally likely to be near normal or below normal. Soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely to be below normal range, with above normal values very unlikely.

New Topo50 Maps

Later on this month Land Information NZ (LINZ) will be introducing a new Topo50 map series for NZ, and these 1:50,000 maps will replace the current NZMS260 map series. The geographic features portrayed on the Topo50 Map Series won't change, but the coordinates of the features will. The maps will be compatible with international mapping systems and navigational technology such as GPS.

NZ's emergency services will be switching their base mapping and 111 systems to NZTM2000, and using Topo50 maps from late September as well.

It is recommended that people using the current map series also switch to a Topo50 map at this time.

For more information see the Topo50 project pages at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/topography/projects-programmes/topo50-project/index.aspx>

Migrant Carers for Elderly?

Two new reports from Victoria University's Institute of Policy Studies say NZ and Australia need to develop programmes to bring in migrants if they are to care for their growing elderly populations. Migrants, many from the Pacific and Asia, already form a significant part of NZ's elderly caregiving workforce (especially, over the last 2 years, from the Philippines). Both studies argue that policymakers on both sides of the Tasman need to carefully consider where future workers might come from and what models of migration might be appropriate for the host country, the country sending migrants and the migrants themselves.

The two reports are "Low skill temporary migration in NZ: Labour market and human rights law as a framework for managing future migration" and "Ageing NZ: The growing reliance on migrant caregivers." You can access them from <http://ips.ac.nz/publications/publications/list/7>

Diwali Festival NZ Style

In India Diwali takes place at the new moon, on the 15th day of the Hindu month of Kartik or Karthika (October/November). This is at the beginning of the winter season and is called the "darkest night of the year", so lamps are lit to brighten this moonless night. The Diwali Festival is a celebration of the sights, sounds, fashion and food of India. Diwali is celebrated for five days, each day having its own significance, rituals and myths. Diwali was originally a Hindu festival, but it has now crossed the bounds of religion and signifies many different things in different areas of India. Generally speaking, though, Diwali signifies the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and renewal of life.

**The Diwali Festival of Lights is being celebrated Auckland on 10-11 October at the Eastern Viaduct and Te Wero Island, Viaduct Harbour, and in Wellington on 17-18 October at the TSB Arena, Queens Wharf. More about the Diwali Festival is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/diwali>

A Racial Harassment Reporting System?

A recently-published report called "Towards a Reporting System for Racist Incidents in Nelson/Tasman - Diverse Communities Speak" makes a number of recommendations about setting up an easy-to-use reporting system for people who have experienced racial harassment. Reporting systems are internationally recognised as an important way of challenging racism. The information also contributes to public awareness, which, in turn, increases community support for those experiencing racism.

The report is at http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/05-Aug-2009_15-45-39_Diverse_Communities_Speak_-_final.pdf

...& Host your own Tea Party!

Save the Children is calling on all NZers to get together and host a Tea Party during Save the Children Week, held 28 September to 4 October. Raising money from every cup of tea poured means that more can be done through development programmes in NZ and around the world.

To become a Tea Party host sign up at www.teaparty.co.nz, or nominate a friend to be a host instead. Everyone who signs up to host a Tea Party will receive a free party pack with some helpful ideas - and helpful supplies from Twinings and Chelsea Sugar, too, to get you started.

Some Conferences/Events

Small Town Conference '09

This is being held in Kaiapoi from 16-18 September by Small Town NZ. Its theme is "Riding the River of Change".

For more information/registration go to http://www.smalltown.org.nz/conference_invitation.php

Carers NZ Conference

Carers NZ is holding this at Auckland's Waipuna Events Centre on 24 and 25 September. New CarePlanning tools are to be launched, and the conference will also feature Learning and Wellbeing events for carers.

The full programme is at www.carers.co.nz/files/ConferenceProgramme.pdf. For more information/to register email sara@carers.net.nz or freephone 0800 777 797

NZ Association of Gerontology

This conference on ageing will be held in the Wellington Town Hall and the Michael Fowler Centre on 7-9 October. It will cover population ageing, health and resilience, elder care and cultural difference.

For more information/to register go to <http://www.confer.co.nz/ageing2009/index.html>

NZ Council of Social Services (NZCOSS) Biennial Training

This is being held at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington from 6-7 October. Its theme is "Navigating through a stormy sea: strengthening our organisations".

Email nzcooss@nzcooss.org.nz for more information.

Making Inclusive Education Happen Conference

This is being held from 28-30 September at Te Papa, Cable Street, Wellington. It is hosted by Standards Plus and the Inclusive Education Action Group.

More is at http://www.imaginebetter.co.nz/ie2009_index.php

NZ Hindu Elders Conference

This conference, being held by the Hindu Elders Foundation (a division of Hindu Council of NZ Inc) is on 3 October. The venue is the Heritage Centre, Mangere, Auckland.

More is at <http://www.interfaith.org.nz/Lists/Events/DispForm.aspx?ID=157>. To register contact Guna.Magesan@scionresearch.com

Te Puawaitanga O Te Kakano Social Service Providers' Conference

This conference is being held in Whangarei on 17-18 September. Its theme is "Sowing Seeds of Change"

For more information/to register go to www.theorganisation.org.nz/

Funding/Awards

Lottery Significant Projects Fund

The Lottery Significant Projects Fund provides grants large enough to enable the completion of capital expenditure community projects with a project cost of at least \$1 million. The projects must be for community purposes and benefit on or more of arts, culture and heritage; sport and recreation; conservation and environment; economic development; and/or visitor services and tourism. A total of \$9.8 million is available this year.

Applications close on 17 September 2009. To make an electronic submission/obtain more information visit http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_23

Rural Women NZ Secondary School Boarding Bursaries

Applications are now open for Rural Women NZ's secondary school boarding bursaries. The bursary is open to years nine and 10 students who are NZ citizens and have to live away from home to attend secondary school. It is payable for a maximum of four years.

Applications close on 30 September 2009. For more information go to www.ruralwomen.org.nz/bursaries.htm

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Entries are now open for the 2010 Ballance Farm Environment Awards. Operating in eight regions, the annual contest promotes sustainable land management by showcasing the work of people farming in an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable way.

Entries for the Bay of Plenty, Horizons, Canterbury and Northland regions opened on 1 September, entries for Wellington on 7 September, and the Otago, Southland and Waikato regions open on 1 October. There are also different closing dates according to region, and different addresses for more information. For more email info@bfea.org.nz or visit <http://www.nzfeatrust.org.nz/content/1/default.aspx>

Kiwi-Asian Journalism Scholarship...

The Asia NZ Foundation is launching a scholarship to attract more Asian Kiwis into journalism. The scholarship will apply to the 2010 calendar year, and \$5000 will be paid on completion of the successful candidate's course of journalism study.

Applications close on 30 November 2009. For more information contact C Mabbett, Media Adviser, Asia NZ Foundation, email cmabbett@asianz.org.nz

... & AsiaNZ Young Journalists' Internships

The Asia NZ Foundation is offering three journalism internships at Asia-based news media organisations in 2010. The three host media organisations are the Philippine Star in Manila, CNBC Asia in Singapore, and the International Herald Tribune in Hong Kong.

Applications close on 30 October 2009. More information: C Mabbett, Media Adviser, Asia NZ Foundation, Email: cmabbett@asianz.org.nz

Got NZ's Favourite Recipe?

Entries are now open in a new national on-line competition to find NZ's favourite recipe. The competition is open to amateur home cooks of all ages to enter their best recipe and have the NZ public vote for their favourites. Entrants can compete in four categories: Baking & Desserts, Main Meals, Snacks & Light Meals, and Starters and Extras.

Entries close on 25 October 2009. More is at www.nzfavouriterecipe.co.nz. Note: votes for recipes close on 8 November

2010 Writers' Residencies

The Michael King Writers' Centre is calling for applications for two eight-week residencies at the Michael King Writers' Centre in Devonport in early 2010. A stipend of \$8,000 will be paid for each residency. The first residency runs from January to mid-March, the second from March to May.

Applications close on 30 September 2009. More information, including how to apply, is at www.writerscentre.org.nz

Community Response Fund

Applications are now open for the second round of the Community Response Fund. This is a short-term fund supporting community-based, critical social services that provide support directly to families, children, young people or older people. To be eligible for the funding, these services must be experiencing severe negative impacts from the economic downturn.

More including application forms, is at <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/funding-resources/community-response/application.html>

Appointments

Graeme Waters has been named as the next *Ambassador to Egypt*. Douglas White QC has been appointed a *Judge of the High Court*.

The Hon Hugh Templeton, Major-General (ret'd) Louis Gardiner, and Brigadier (ret'd) Timothy Brewer have been appointed to *lead three "Companion Studies" that run parallel with the current Defence Review*. Michele Embling, Simon Carey, and Graeme Mitchell have been appointed to the *Accounting Standards Review Board*. Dr Don Brash is the *chair of the 2025 Taskforce* investigating reasons for the decline in NZ's productivity performance over recent years. *Members of this taskforce* are: Hon David Caygill, Jeremy Moon, Judith Sloan and Dr Bryce Wilkinson. Professor Des Gorman has been appointed *head of the Clinical Training Agency Board*.

Sue Sutherland is the new *Director of the National Digital Library*. Richard Westlake and Dr Sharon Kletchko have been reappointed to the *Standards Council*. Kevin O'Connor has been reappointed to the *Takeovers Panel* for nine months. Dr John Angus has been re-appointed as *Children's Commissioner* through to December 2010. The *ACC stocktake Steering Committee* will be *chaired* by David Caygill and will include *advisors* Dr Neil Quigley and Gordon Smith. *Other members* include John Judge, senior officials from Treasury, Department of Labour, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Gary Hewlett has been appointed *National Director of Portrait Photography for the NZ Institute of Professional Photography*. Tenby Powell has been appointed to *Antarctica NZ's management board*, and Jo Breese, Graham Fortune, Janice Molloy, and John Montgomery have all been reappointed to the board. Darrin Haimona (Tainui), *chair of the Te Waka Toi board*, has been reappointed to the board for three years. Also appointed to *this board* are Nathan Gray (Ngai Tahu, Rangitaane, and Waikato whangai, and Matanuku Mahuika (Ngati Porou and Ngati Raukawa). Lindsay Gow and Dr William Lee have been appointed to *review Government conservation funding of private land*.

The *National Beekeepers Association (NBA)* of NZ have appointed Daniel Paul and Gemma Collier as *joint chief executive officers*. David Wright has been appointed to the *.nz Registry Services Board* (this board manages the registration of .nz domain names, and operates the .nz domain name system). Paul Chaplow has been appointed *General Manager of Outdoors NZ (ONZ)*. Andrew Barrie has been appointed *Professor of Design at The University of Auckland's School of Architecture and Planning*.



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.

Rural Bulletin may be copied in full and circulated, and individual items may be reproduced providing the source is acknowledged. If you would like more information about Rural Bulletin or its contents, please contact:

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Membership of Rural Women New Zealand is open to all people who are interested in issues affecting rural communities. To become a member, contact Belinda Hunt at enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the information in Rural Bulletin is accurate, Rural Women New Zealand does not accept liability for error of fact or opinion which may be present, nor for the consequences of any financial decision based on the information. Any views or opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of Rural Women New Zealand.

Together Rural Women NZ, the Lottery Grants Board, and Rural Bulletin's other generous supporters make it possible to provide timely information to people in rural and other communities so they have the opportunity to make informed decisions about, and have their say on, issues and changes that may affect them.

Messages from Our Supporters

Telecom: Communication in NZ

The history behind Telecom and NZ telecommunication services, dates back to when the first NZ Post office was established in 1840. Some of the key highlights along the way are outlined below.

- **1840.** NZ's first Postmaster appointed at the Bay of Islands Post Office. (Six months later he was suspended due to neglect of duty and consistent drunkenness!).
- **1860's.** The "postie" and private boxes established,¹ and the Post Office Savings bank opened.
- **1881.** Electric Telegraphs Department merged with the Post Office creating the NZ Post Office.
- **1900's.** NZPO operating over 1,700 branches nationwide.
- **1930's.** NZPO services introduced, including a savings bank, telephone exchanges, home telephones, and airmail.
- **1960's.** NZ's first mechanical mail sorting machine installed in the Auckland parcel depot, and postal codes introduced. Services now include births, deaths, marriage and car registration; electoral vote enrolments; television and fishing licenses; pension administration; and weather forecasting. (Post Masters could also perform marriage ceremonies)
- **1985.** NZPO struggling to meet demands and losing money. Government review results in a report calling for separating the three core businesses.
- **1987.** On 1 April, NZPO split into three companies - Telecom, Post Bank and NZ Post. Each company set up as a State-Owned Enterprise.
- **1989.** Following deregulation in April, anyone can compete with Telecom.
- **1990.** Telecom sold to wholly owned subsidiaries of Bell Atlantic Corporation and Ameritech Corporation for NZ\$4,250 million.
- **1992.** Telecom switches on the NZ\$200 million fibre optic cable between Australia and NZ.
- **1996.** Telecom launches Internet service provider XTRA.
- **1998.** Telecom celebrates 500,000 mobile customers.
- **1999.** Telecom acquires AAPT Pty - Australia's third largest telco.
- **2000.** Xtra has 300,000 customers, Telecom Mobile celebrates 1,000,000 customers. Southern Cross cable links NZ with Australia and North America.
- **2001.** Telecom invests NZ\$38 million in a submarine cable between the North and South Islands. CDMA wireless network switched on, giving mobile coverage to more than 98% of NZ's populated areas.
- **2003.** Telecom has 508,000 customers on the 027 network.
- **2004.** Telecom acquires Gen-i and Computerland, and launches NZ's first Third Generation (3G) mobile phone network.
- **2005.** Telecom has 250,000 residential broadband customers.
- **2006.** Telecom announces new partnership with Yahoo!7 to form Yahoo! Xtra
- **2007.** Telecom's Yellow Pages Group is sold for NZ\$2.24 billion.
- **2008.** Telecom operationally separated on 31 March into three core businesses. Telecom undertakes its nationwide broadband project.
- **2009 so far...** Telecom responds to the Government's Broadband Investment Initiative. XT mobile network launched in May with 165,000 XT customers by August. Telecom celebrates its 1000 cabinet installation as part of the broadband rollout.

¹ source www.nzpost.co.nz

Totalspan: Successful Bus Shelter Applicants

Totalspan is pleased to announce that the successful applicants to our Undercover Kids Bus Shelter Programme are:

- *Blenheim:* Koromiko School, Wairau Valley School.
- *Canterbury:* Kirwee Model School; Mt Hutt College.
- *Central Otago:* Cromwell Primary School.
- *Chatham Islands:* Te One School.
- *Coromandel:* Mercury Bay Area School; Puriri Primary School; Whenuakite School; Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp.
- *Counties /Pukekohe:* Puni Primary School; Glenbrook School.
- *East Waikato:* TTKMO Te Hiringa.
- *Far North:* Okaihau Primary School; Pompallier Catholic School; Totara North School; Oromahoe Primary School; Kaikohe East School; Te Hapua School.
- *Gisborne:* Tikitiki School; Patutahi School; Te Waha O Rerekohu Area School; Te Kura O te Muriwai.
- *Hamilton:* Waingaro School; St Pauls Catholic School; Tauwhare School; Ohaupo Primary School.
- *Hawkes Bay:* Elsthorpe School; Te Pohue School; Sherwood Primary School.
- *Manawatu:* Aokautere School; Tokamaru School; Manawatu College; Awahou School; Longburn Primary.
- *Nelson:* Motueka High School; Appleby School.
- *North Canterbury:* North Loburn School; Kaikoura Suburban School; Waipara School; Oxford Area School; Amuri Area School.
- *Northland:* Glenbervie School; Matarau School; Maungatapere School; Waipu Primary School.
- *Otago:* Waiwera South School.
- *Rodney:* Maungaturoto Primary School; Tomarata School.
- *Rotorua:* Marotiri School; Taupo District Council on behalf of Tirohanga Primary School and other schools.
- *Southland:* Tisbury School; Hauroko Valley Primary School; Longford Intermediate; St Marys Primary School; Rimu School.
- *Taranaki:* Kaimata School; Tikorangi School.
- *Timaru:* Oamaru Schools (Waitaki Girls & Boys High, Pembroke, St Josephs, Oamaru Intermediate); Pleasant Point Primary School.
- *Tauranga:* Pyes Pa Road School; Rangiuru School.
- *Wairarapa:* Alfredton School; Wainuioru School.
- *Wanganui:* Whangaehu School; Kakaramea School; Upokongaro School; Westmere Primary School.
- *Wellington:* St Joseph's School.
- *Westland:* Granity School.

Totalspan established a charitable trust to manage this programme which is aimed at protecting children waiting for buses on rural school routes. The Undercover Kids Bus Shelter Programme is a nationwide initiative and a long-term programme which resulted in 120 bus shelters being allocated in 2008, the programme's first year of operation (for more on the Programme see the article in the "Rural" section of this issue). Totalspan is NZ's leading supplier of steel buildings in the rural, commercial and residential markets. It is part of Spanbild NZ Ltd, which has been operating in this country for more than 30 years.

For further information contact: Leon Skylakis, National Sales Manager, Totalspan, tel (03) 349 5700 / 027 216 0960, and for more information on the programme itself go to http://www.totalspan.co.nz/undercover_kids.html

About TaxRefunds.co.nz

We set up the country's first fully automated tax refunds system and in the process became the biggest tax agent in NZ. Already over \$63 million of overpaid taxes resting with the IRD has been returned back to taxpayers through our website. We have processed over 1 million applications, and initial results for the 2009 tax year indicate that more workers are receiving tax refunds than previous years, and that overall, tax refunds are going up in value every year. Our online service provides free, no risk estimates of tax refunds owed to salary and wage earners for any of the previous 5 tax years (and anyone employed on casual, part time, shift, seasonal and/or part of a tax year). Claims can be made from anywhere in the world. We will inform you if you are due a tax refund or not. You need only file claims for the years where refunds are owed, meaning there are no unwanted bills. You can also claim family tax credits through the site.

Our services are fast, simple, and risk free. Check out the website at www.taxrefunds.co.nz and for free material for your staff contact M Thompson on 0276663543 or email margot@taxrefunds.co.nz

Access Homehealth

Access Homehealth supports kiwis of all ages with personalised quality healthcare – at home and in the community. Established in 1927 by Rural Women New Zealand, we are now a national provider (Whangarei to Invercargill) of home and community health services - and we pride ourselves on our commitment to New Zealand's rural communities. Our aim is to help people maintain their independence so that they can live successfully in their own home and within their local community. Our skilled professional team supports more than 13,000 people nationwide with healthcare services including:

- aged and disability support;
- rehabilitation and recovery;
- long-term condition management;
- clinical and assessment services; and
- respite care.

We specialise in providing personalised care and support that's relevant and based on an individual's particular health needs. This includes short- and long-term assistance with daily living activities such as showering and grooming, household assistance, meal preparation, skilled and qualified nursing, socialisation, and general companionship.

You can find out more by phoning 0800 161 444, emailing us at info@access.org.nz faxing (0)3 366-0344, or by visiting our website, www.access.org.nz