

SANITATION COUNTRY PROFILE

NEW ZEALAND

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Decision-Making: In terms of international agreements, the New Zealand Government has ratified or is in the process of ratifying the Basel, Rotterdam, Montreal and Stockholm Conventions related to chemicals and waste chemicals. New Zealand implemented the globally harmonized system (GHS) for the classification and labelling of chemicals in advance of its finalisation and is now making the minor amendments needed to regulations to reflect to final GHS decisions.

In terms of domestic legislation, both central and local government in New Zealand have important and complementary responsibilities in implementing sustainable resource management through their planning and management responsibilities under New Zealand's Resource Management Act 1991. Other relevant legislation includes: the Forests Amendment Act 1993, the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Fisheries Act 1996, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, Local Government Act 2002 and the Ozone Layer Protection Act 1996. Along with this legislation, the Government has developed a number of strategies and policies that contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. These include: the Environment 2010 Strategy, The Green Package announced in the 1996 Budget, the Research Science and Technology 2010 Strategy, the New Zealand Waste Strategy (2002), the Sustainable Development for New Zealand Programme of Action (2003) and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS), among others.

The Resource Management Act 1991 is the main tool for managing natural resources and safeguarding the life-carrying capacity of the air, water, soil and eco-systems. Resource users are required to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment. This law, and the complementary Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, allow for public participation in decision making. Over the decade it became increasingly unpopular with business because of costs and delays created by its implementation.

Regional government has a significant and key role in implementing the Resource Management Act. In planning for resource management, regional councils must prepare policy statements specifying policies and objectives for the management of resources in the region and the methods by which these will be achieved. Regional councils may also prepare regional plans which further detail the use of specific resources. Central to the development of the plans is consultation with regional government's constituent stakeholders. Territorial authorities must prepare district plans, which include controlling the effects of land use, controlling noise, and protecting rivers and lakes. The Treaty of Waitangi, signed in 1840 between Maori tribes and the British Crown, provides the basis from which Maori interests are expressed and can be realised. Existing mechanisms for resolving claims by Maori include the Waitangi Tribunal. The Minister of Maori Affairs is required to report to Parliament on an annual basis on progress made by the Government on implementation of Waitangi Tribunal recommendations. Quality decision making practice obliges Government to consult widely when making decisions affecting the environment and, more particularly, the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi require that iwi (Maori tribes) are consulted.

There is no government policy on assistance to major group but major groups participate in follow-up through their own specific networks, and those that they have with relevant government agencies. Several of the major groups have their own coordination networks. Major groups participate in the design of national policies through the open consultative process of policy formulation. This includes the use of discussion papers on the development of policies, which are open to public submissions. It also includes the opportunity to make submissions to local government on the formulation of their statutory planning documents (e.g. District Plans), and to government during the development of legislation. New Zealand's preparation for CSD meetings is an open process. Delegations to CSD meetings have generally been small, often including both industry and environmental NGO representatives. The Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment attended the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.

A. Basic Sanitation: Sewage discharges must meet minimum standards set in the Resource Management Act and relevant regional plans. Nearly all cities, towns and most smaller communities treat sewage to at least secondary standards.

Management of sewage has progressed since 1990. The Resource Management Act required sewage treatment plants to gain consent to discharge effluent into the environment. Controls were placed on industrial discharges into the sewerage network. In 1992 trade waste provisions were introduced into local government legislation allowing cities and towns to monitor the volumes and characteristics of waste from commercial and industrial sources. Since then about 80 per cent of local authorities use these provisions and collect information on the waste discharged by their industries. Sewage discharge limits and measures affecting sewage constituents have been tightened.

B. Solid Wastes: The Ministry for the Environment is most concerned with solid waste issues from a policy perspective. The Resource Management Act provides part of the framework for dealing with waste issues. Many regional and local councils are developing policies and plans for waste management with advice from the Ministry for the Environment. The Ministry has endorsed the “Landfill Guidelines” developed by Canterbury University’s Centre for Advanced Engineering in consultation with local government and industry for use by local governments and industry. This provides advice on landfill siting, design, operation, and aftercare. The Department of Internal Affairs and the Ministry for the Environment promoted an amendment to the Local Government Act 1974 to clarify the powers of territorial authorities to promote and implement waste minimisation. In 1996 the Local Government Act No 4 was passed. This legislation incorporates the hierarchy of waste management (reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal), requires the development of waste management plans by district and city councils; allows the regulation of collection of waste, and provides the ability to levy fees and disposal charges for waste management. The Ministry for the Environment is developing regulations for the disposal of sewage from ships within New Zealand’s territorial waters. At the individual level, the aim of New Zealand’s waste management strategy is to minimise waste, reuse resources, and adopt alternative means of disposal (e.g. making compost). At the industry level, the objective is to “ensure that, wherever practicable, waste generators meet the costs of waste management.”

There are several strategies, policies, and pieces of legislation that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns including: Resource Management Act 1991, NZ Waste Strategy, Energy Efficiency Strategy, Fisheries Act 1996, Sustainable Land Management Strategy, and Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. In addition, the following codes of practice, standards and guidelines apply: The ISO 14001 series environmental standard, the European Union’s Eco-management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), and the British Standard Specification for EMS (BS 7750), Cleaner production guidelines and Packaging industry code of practice. Consumer protection is provided through legislation such as the Fair Trading Act, Commerce Act, Consumer Guarantees Act and the Unsolicited Goods and Services Act. Among the specific policy and economic instruments in this area is the principle of ‘polluter pays’.

C. Hazardous Wastes: The New Zealand Waste Strategy was released in 2002 to provide integrated management of solid, liquid and gaseous waste, including hazardous waste. It sets targets for best practice management over the next 15 years. Local government continues to be a key player in hazardous waste management, building on the development of hazardous waste management programmes since 1974. Since 1991 the Resource Management Act has given regional councils a strong role in monitoring and licensing hazardous facilities. Parliament is currently considering amendments to clarify responsibilities around the long-term management of environmental effects of sites used for long-term storage of mine tailings.

The Environmental Risk Management Authority is the principal hazardous substances agency - it determines whether substances can be introduced and manages environmental, and public health and

safety risks from their manufacture, use and disposal. The hazardous substances part of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act came into force in July 2001 and the process of transferring substances already in New Zealand to the new controls is under way. HSNO covers waste hazardous substances only, a subset of hazardous wastes.

A risk-based approach for the assessment and management of contaminated sites has been implemented based on the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) guidelines. Specific disposal agreements with other OECD countries are in place for the disposal of certain hazardous wastes. The Ministry for the Environment will release a guideline Landfill Waste Acceptance Criteria and Landfill Classification System in April 2004.

Central government's role in pest control has been through legislation, developing national strategies, establishing a national landcover database, and funding. High priority was accorded to pest control (animal pests, weeds, diseases etc.) in the Biosecurity Act. It seeks to decentralise pest control, make agencies more accountable, and increase the transparency of funding. A Biosecurity Strategy was completed in 2003.

D. Radioactive Wastes: Radioactive waste is managed, transported, stored and disposed of in accordance with national legislation contained in the Radiation Protection Act 1965 and the Radiation Protection Regulations 1982, which are based on the International Atomic Energy Agency's safety standards. Dumping of radioactive waste at sea is prohibited under the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone Act 1987.

Programmes and Projects :

A. Basic Sanitation: There is an increasing trend to dispose treated sewage onto land, rather than into water. Three communities, having witnessed major problems with nutrient enrichment in local lakes, have developed land-based treatment schemes. Two of these were constructed with government assistance. The other was community funded. There are now no significant discharges of sewage to lakes.

In May 2002 the Minister of Health announced a new sanitary works subsidy scheme (SWSS) to help small to medium sized communities to upgrade or build new sewerage systems or sewage treatment plants.

In Auckland, substantial progress is being made towards treating storm water to reduce adverse effects in estuaries, harbours, and coastal waters. Industries are reducing the quantity of waste discharged. Geothermal and pulp mill discharges into the Waikato River have halved in the last decade.

Contaminated Land: In 1992 it was estimated that 7,800 urban and industrial sites may have been contaminated by past land use such as timber treatment, chemical manufacturing, waste disposal and other activities. About 1,500 sites were thought to have been seriously contaminated. In 2000 there were 653 confirmed contaminated sites and 481 managed and/or remediated sites. Guidance was issued to local bodies and land users responsible for managing sites. In the late 1990s a fund was established to support the clean up of the most seriously damaged areas, such as the Mapua site. The 2002 Budget contained further funding provisions cleaning up contaminated sites: \$3.1 million was assigned to an Orphan Sites Remediation Fund.

B. Solid Wastes: The Government is currently negotiating an updated accord with the packaged goods industry, and working with the oil and tire industries to support national, industry backed management solutions for these important wastes. Regulatory and economic mechanisms are also being considered to back up voluntary initiatives. The Packaged Goods Accord encourages the adoption of technologies that

help reduce packaging waste. Environmental Hotels of Auckland was a successful pilot study that looked at waste minimization in selected Auckland Hotels.

The last decades have seen improvements in traditionally rudimentary and poorly managed rural rubbish dump sites. The number of operating landfills in New Zealand reduced from over 300 in 1995 to 100 (approx) in 2004. There is a general trend away from smaller, lower standard sites. These are being replaced by transfer stations with final disposal of solid waste to high standard, often large scale regional landfills. The Ministry for the Environment has: produced a series of guidance documents on aspects of landfill management; considered licensing processes; assisted in data collection on waste volumes and composition; and, undertaken a screening risk assessment of landfills to identify environmental threats.

C. Hazardous Wastes: Over the last few years there has been wide consultation on waste management proposals. These have led to the development of a national definition of hazardous waste, information on business and industrial processes that generate hazardous wastes, hazardous waste minimisation, and landfill waste acceptance criteria.

The Ministry for the Environment supports seven demonstration projects on cleaner production techniques, in cooperation with industry and local governments. A "Cleaner Production" booklet, which outlines a range of industry case studies, has been published. The Ministry also promotes the establishment of further cleaner production projects by local governments and sector groups, and provides advice to councils involved in cleaner production programmes.

Industry has also assumed a critical role in the handling of chemical and hazardous wastes. For example, the Chemical Industry Council has introduced a 'Responsible Care' programme for the management of hazardous wastes and chemicals. The oil industry, in conjunction with the relevant government agencies, has produced a guide to the installation of underground storage tanks. This work will be extended to address the removal of old tanks, site remediation, and sampling standards.

D. Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Status: *Socio-economic aspects*: New Zealand is fortunate that absolute poverty, as defined in the Programme of Action of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development 1995, is not part of its economic and social environment. Consequently, the Government has stated that there has been no need to develop a plan and a target date for the eradication of absolute poverty. However, New Zealand experienced a rise in the proportion of people with low incomes from 1990 to 1994, reflecting unemployment trends and reductions in the rates of social welfare assistance. From 1994 to 1998 the trend reversed - associated with a general improvement in New Zealand's economic performance over the latter part of the 1990s. Direct measures of poverty confirm that people aged 65 years or over are less likely to experience material restrictions or difficulties than working aged people. Approximately 5% of older people experienced marked material hardship and a further 5-10% had some difficulties. However, Maori and Pacific peoples and families with children are more likely to be at risk. In 1997, 13% of surveyed households said they could only afford to eat properly "sometimes". In 2000, 8% of the population rated their own standard of living as either "low" or "fairly low" on a 5 point scale.

At the time of the 2001 Census there were 3.7 million people living in New Zealand, an increase of 10.8% since 1991. New Zealand is highly urbanised – 86% of its residents live in urban areas. Most New Zealanders live in the North Island (76%) with almost one in three people living in the Auckland region. New Zealand's population is ageing - the median age is now almost 35 years compared with 31 years in 1991. The population is also becoming more diverse, with only 70% identifying as European. Maori make up almost 15% of the population (526,000 people). Almost 1 in 5 New Zealand residents were born overseas compared with 1 in 6 in 1991. New migrants from Africa and the Middle East also contributed

to the growing ethnic mix of the population. By the beginning of the 20th century, the Maori population had suffered a dramatic decrease in size. Within 100 years the situation had been reversed. In 2001 those identifying as Maori comprised 15% of the population and are projected to reach 21% by 2051. The Maori population is comparatively young, with a median age of 22 years. It is also increasingly urban.

Ecosystem aspects: New Zealand comprises two main and a number of smaller islands. Its combined area is 270,500 square kilometres. New Zealand is 1,600 kilometres long and 450 kilometres wide at its widest point. It has a long coastline that is indented in places and has many natural harbours. Many major population centres are located on the coast, as are a variety of industries. New Zealand's forests cover about 28% (or 7.5 million hectares) of the country's land area. Of this, 6.2 million hectares is natural forest, and 1.3 million hectares, planted forest. The area of planted forest is, however, currently increasing. If this happens, New Zealand's planted forests would account for more than 4 million hectares by 2020. The State owns 4.9 million hectares of the country's natural forest. Most of this is managed for conservation values. Only 164,000 hectares of it is managed for wood production.

As prolonged droughts are relatively uncommon in New Zealand, there is no specific legislation related to desertification and drought. Climate is influenced by the country's latitude, shape, geographical isolation, and topography, resulting in mild temperatures and year-round wind and rainfall in most areas. Two areas of New Zealand, the east coast of the North Island and the South Island high country, however, are prone to drought. The dry tussock grasslands of the South Island high country, characterized by high rugged mountains, extensive basins and river flats, have a "continental", highly variable climate, with extremes of heat and cold, and some parts are in danger of becoming a desert. This is due to a combination of factors including climate, the invasion of hawkweeds, high rabbit populations, and the inappropriate use of some land. This area is classified as semi-arid.

As part of New Zealand's preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Hon Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment, and the Ministry for the Environment consulted the community about progress in dealing with environmental issues and priorities for the future. More than 3500 responses were received from a wide range of New Zealanders, including young people. More than three-quarters of those people said that New Zealand's environment was not as healthy as they would like it to be. Two-thirds felt that New Zealand had not made enough progress in dealing with environmental issues over the past decade, especially with climate change, healthy waterways, clean air, and clean beaches and coastal waters. People said that central and local government, business and households all needed to do more.

A. Basic Sanitation: Pollution of rivers and coastal waters from point sources (i.e. specific sites such as dairy sheds, factories, sewer pipes) has declined over the last 20 to 30 years as treatment systems have been upgraded and alternative disposal methods are developed. Pollution from non-point sources (i.e. diffuse sites such as roads and paddocks) is still a major problem, particularly on pastoral and horticultural land where organic matter, and sediments wash into waterways or nitrates leach into ground water.

While pollution from point sources has declined since the 1970s, non-point or diffuse sources are now a major source of freshwater pollution, exacerbated by land use intensification. The dairy industry's expansion, both through greater intensification in traditional dairying areas and expansion into new areas, is one example of potentially higher risks of enrichment of surface waters, degradation of riparian margins, nitrate contamination of shallow groundwater, and contamination by pathogens. The industry is proactive in researching and promoting best management practices to ensure that this does not happen. Few traces of pesticide or herbicide contaminants have been found in groundwater and most are at very low levels. The major industry player (Fonterra) has signed an accord with central government and

regional councils aimed at addressing impacts on water quality (the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord, 2003).

Virtually all waste water in New Zealand undergoes at least primary treatment. In situations where this is not so actions are either being planned or implemented to achieve it. Some local authorities and private sector operations recycle and reuse waste water, but in general there is little use made of recycled waste water. Almost all of New Zealand's urban sewerage is also treated. In terms of specific targets for coverage of water supply and sanitation, with 90% coverage achieved for public reticulated supplies, it is generally considered that New Zealand has attained maximum coverage.

Problems persist with the unscheduled discharge of sewage effluent into the environment. These are normally due to sewer blockages, extraordinary rainfall and/or treatment plant failure. Regulation of these events is likely to be developed in the form of guidelines and best management practices.

Most of sewage discharged goes into the sea, often through long outfalls. In the case of inland cities, such as Palmerston North and Hamilton, discharges are to local rivers.

Some urban estuaries are heavily contaminated by the ongoing discharge of untreated stormwater.

Following concerns expressed by "in-stream" users (swimmers, kayakers, fishers etc.) who have witnessed major problems with nutrient enrichment in lakes, land-based treatment schemes have been developed. Two of these were constructed with government assistance. The other was community funded. There are now no significant discharges of sewage into lakes.

The Manawatu Plains: This is a traditional dairying area. In the last 10-15 years the number of dairy farms in the Manawatu increased from about 800 to 1,000. At the same time dairy cattle numbers are estimated to have doubled to about 250,000. Expansion has been accompanied by improved treatment of point source discharges of dairy waste:

- 10 years ago about only one-third of farm dairy sheds discharged to land. Now almost three-quarters do;
- community sewage treatment has similarly improved;
- farmers have taken steps to keep cattle out of watercourses by fencing and riparian management, with support of the local regional council.

B. Solid Wastes: In 2001, over 3 million tonnes of waste was sent to landfills and an unknown quantity dumped illegally. The volume of waste is increasing. New Zealanders currently dispose of over 3.4 million tons of solid wastes in landfills annually. Around 500 billion liters of wastewater flow annually into approximately 250 treatment plants. Treatment generates around 700,000 – 1,000,000 tons of sewage sludge each year. There is strong community support for recycling, diverting up to 5-12% of the total waste stream. The New Zealand Waste Strategy was developed in response to the growing waste problem and to stimulate recycling initiatives. It aims to shift investment and resources away from managing waste disposal to more efficient use of materials and resource recovery.

C. Hazardous Wastes: Legislative controls on waste hazardous substances have been improved since 1992. Up until 1996 their management was achieved through four different Acts, one dating back to 1957 and the others from the 1970s. The boundaries between regulatory agencies were unclear. All that began to change in 1996 with the passing of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act. It replaced outdated legislation to form an integrated control framework based on assessments and approval processes for the introduction of hazardous substances. It regulates the life cycle management of hazardous substances, including waste by-products, and implements international agreements on the classification of hazardous substances.

D. Radioactive Wastes: New Zealand does not have any nuclear power facilities or research reactors. The small amount of radioactive waste created in New Zealand comes from medical, industrial and agricultural applications and is generally of a low hazard level.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Government's environmental education strategy provides the framework for educating the community to take up environmentally sound behaviour, including that relating to production and consumption. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has provided materials (including displays, papers and videos) for teachers on subjects associated with sustainable resource and land use. These materials are designed to promote sustainable agriculture in educational institutions. The packaging industry has developed an education strategy. Various non-governmental organisations in New Zealand promote sustainable consumption and production. An example is The Natural Step Environment Foundation Aotearoa New Zealand, a charitable trust and a subsidiary of Natural Step International. The Natural Step outlines four system conditions required for sustainable production and use of resources, and recognises that sustainability must be achieved by building consensus between all sectors of the community: government; industry; environmental organisations; the scientific community; households and individuals. Some awareness campaigns are operating at the local government level. An example is the Wellington Regional Council's water conservation awareness campaign. The Ministry for the Environment recently collaborated with regional councils on the successful Reduce Your Rubbish public awareness campaign.

A. Basic Sanitation: No information available.

B. Solid Wastes: Since Agenda 21 defined consumption and production objectives, the major policy emphasis in this area in New Zealand has been on energy efficiency and minimising waste. See also under Decision-Making.

C. Hazardous Wastes: See Solid Wastes.

D. Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Information: The electronic-government ("E-govt") project is the main overarching strategy driver (see www.ssc.govt.nz) for information systems. One objective of E-govt is to strengthen electronic network capabilities. While the project does not contain a specific section on sustainable development, the infusing work stream of the Sustainable Development Programme of Action has an information aspect – including the development of an interdepartmental Intranet. There are also general programmes (such as Computers in Schools), which will lead to strengthening electronic networking capabilities. Major initiatives in this area include: publication of a report on the state of public health in New Zealand; publication of a report called "Measuring Up" (which presents information of New Zealand's atmosphere and climate and other environmental areas); publication of the first State of the Environment Report for New Zealand; the development of a set of National Environmental Indicators; publication of "Community Help" (which provides information to rural and urban people on services provided by government departments, state owned enterprises, and non-government agencies); expansion of the "Rural Bulletin" (which provides information on government policies and programmes and on rural development initiatives to over 1,500 rural networks); publication of a Community Development Resource Kit by the Department of Internal Affairs (which provides information on legal structures and entities needed for sustainable community development activities) and the development of Link Centres which provide information on government activities.

Existing information to assist policy makers, industry and the general public is available from disparate sources. A variety of Ministry for the Environment publications are generally available on its website.

New Zealand has developed, with a local government body (the Auckland Regional Council) a national on-line database of cleaner production case studies.

National indicators of the state of New Zealand's environment are currently being developed. The Ministry for the Environment is working with local government to develop a small set of core indicators that focus on key environmental issues for New Zealand. New Zealand's national environmental reporting programme aims to provide useful information to inform policy development, track progress and report on environmental quality.

The Ministry for the Environment has recently completed a national landcover database that utilises satellite images and GIS technology to map landcover at the hectare scale. It is a key tool in monitoring the state of the environment, including sustainable land use practices.

A. Basic Sanitation: See Solid Wastes.

B. Solid Wastes: Until 2000, national data collection on solid and sewage-related waste remained weak. Data from different regional councils was not consistent when compared at the national level. There were no data linking quantities and types of waste with disposal and environmental effects. Notwithstanding these shortcomings, it is known that the volume of waste sent to landfills increased by 30% from 1982-1995.

The State of New Zealand's Environment report included information on consumption and production patterns, which were revealing in terms of waste production. Since 2000 commitments have been made to improve management of all forms of waste including solid, liquid and gaseous. Comprehensive waste data has begun to be gathered at a national level. The issue of the environmental effects of waste types and quantities is being addressed.

The Ministry for the Environment is focussed on working with industry and local government to ensure that the data collected is fit for purpose, able to be collected at reasonable cost and useful for all stakeholders.

C. Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

D. Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

A. Basic Sanitation: No information available.

B. Solid Wastes: The Sustainable Management Fund (SMF), administered by the Ministry for the Environment, has supported several cleaner production projects to encourage innovation and adoption of cleaner production methods and technologies by industries and sectors such as pip fruit, fishing, and hospitals.

The private sector is investing significant resources into developing innovative technologies, particular for the treatment (for on-sale) of organic wastes. Examples include Vertical Composting Units and Hot Rot and Rotocom rotary composting units. There is also a strong element of appropriate technology development for smaller communities looking at simple and robust equipment for bailing recyclables and composting.

C. Hazardous Wastes: A study by the Ministry for the Environment has identified a range of sites which, based on past uses, could be contaminated with hazardous substances that may pose a risk to the health of

people and ecosystems. These sites cover a wide range of activities, including uses such as service stations. Regional councils, assisted by subsidies from central government, are currently following up this study by carrying out extensive surveys of potentially contaminated sites in their regions. These surveys will help identify specific sites, evaluate risks and develop appropriate containment, remediation and “clean-up” responses.

D. Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Financing: The Sustainable Management Fund was established in 1995 to support a broad range of resource management activities, with available funding of around \$5 million a year. The water and soil component is aimed specifically at community projects for sustainable land use and reducing non-point source water pollution. The Sustainable Farming Fund, introduced in 2000, supports community-driven programmes tackling barriers to environmental, social and economic viability.

A. Basic Sanitation: The 2002 Budget made provision to allow the upgrading of some small community sewage treatment plants to enhance their performance.

B. Solid Wastes: No information available.

C. Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

D. Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Cooperation: New Zealand is an active participant in international legal fora, including those developing environmental law. It is party to over a 1000 multilateral treaties including a large number of environmental treaties. Twenty treaties to which New Zealand is party have been identified by the UN Secretary-General as “core treaties”. It endorsed seven United Nations treaties at the Millennium Summit.

New Zealand makes a major contribution to building a better world that reflects the nation’s commitment to be a good international citizen and New Zealanders’ humanitarian concerns. The New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), formed on 1 July 2002 as a semi-autonomous agency within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is the primary agency for New Zealand’s international development policy and programming. NZAID has as its central focus the elimination of poverty in developing countries through working with partners to achieve sustainable and equitable development for those most in need. Its total budget for 2002/03 was NZ\$230 million. NZAID has a core geographical focus on New Zealand’s immediate neighbourhood, the Pacific region, with which we have close historical and cultural links. Within the region, the development assistance programme supports New Zealand’s special relationships with the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.

NZAID continues the work of its former incarnation, the New Zealand Official Development Agency (NZODA), to meet the principles of Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action. This is achieved through technical assistance and co-operation across the board.

A. Basic Sanitation: Rural Water and Sanitation Schools Project: Solomon Islands - design and training project in the use of water and sanitation teaching resources for primary school and kindergarten teachers as part of a joint SIGOV/NZODA/AusAID Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project. Its objective is to increase access to drinkable water, sanitary facilities and information about sanitation for rural men and women.

B. Solid Wastes: NZAID is looking to fund a project developing a waste strategy for Uzbekistan and is keeping an eye on international developments in solid waste policy and technologies.

C. Hazardous Wastes: International and regional actions to address hazardous substances and wastes have received strong New Zealand support. New Zealand ratified the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in 1994. New Zealand ratified the Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in 1993, and ratified the Waigani Convention to control the movement of hazardous wastes within the South Pacific region in November 2000. We have signed and ratified the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in September 2003 and have signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. New Zealand has also implemented the globally harmonized system (GHS) for the classification and labelling of chemicals in advance of its finalisation and is now making the minor amendments needed to regulations to reflect to final GHS decisions.

D. Radioactive Wastes: New Zealand ratified the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and protocols in 1986.

New Zealand continues to seek better arrangements for the safe transport of radioactive materials. New Zealand is a long-standing member of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In 2000, New Zealand was the lead sponsor of a consensus resolution in the Agency's general conference on this subject. New Zealand seeks adequate liability and compensation arrangements in the event of an accident and, along with other members of the Pacific Forum, continue to discuss these issues with states that transport nuclear materials through the Pacific. As a member of the Agency, New Zealand participates in regional and international co-operation and information sharing about the management of radioactive waste. New Zealand scientists have been active in helping others in the Asia Pacific region to develop national regulations and systems for the safe management of radioactive waste.
