

sented in a professional manner, some lacked important details such as quotes. The area of most concern, however, was that a quarter of the requests were for projects stated as not eligible for funding, such as venture capital for commercial activities, research projects already rejected by Government, and conservation works for specific sites.

Projects eligible for grants, priorities, criteria and forms for applications are contained in the Ministry's *Guide for Applicants*.

The Guide will be updated and reprinted annually, as priorities and categories are expected to change.

There are three funding rounds each financial year. Applications for the first round in the year 1995/96 closed on June 30, 1995. The second round closes on December 15, 1995.

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## Environmental indicator development receives Budget funding boost

The Government has allocated an additional \$1 million over three years to further develop an information base on the state of the environment.

The extra funding was included in this year's Budget announcements.

Environment Minister Simon Upton said the funding will allow New Zealand to develop indicators of the state of the environment that can aid decisions on the protection and sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

**The Minister explained that an indicator is something that can be measured to act as a sign of a particular environmental condition.**

"An indicator could be an animal or plant that is particularly sensitive to an environmental change, a chemical or a pollutant in water, soil or air, or simply a measure of the physical quantity of a resource," he said.

In developing these indicators, special emphasis will be placed on key environmental issues identified in the *Environment 2010 Strategy*, such as water quality, biodiversity, pollution and waste, Mr Upton said.

"Environmental indicators are potentially powerful tools to assess the state of the environment. They help us to synthesise and simplify information about the environment to give a credible, but simple and understandable, statement on the quality of the environment."

## New DOC Director of Science and Research

The Department of Conservation has appointed a new director of its science and research division.

Mr John Holloway, of Wellington, replaces Richard Sadleir who retired in June.

The appointment was announced by Department of Conservation Director General Bill Mansfield, who said Mr Holloway was an experienced conservation manager with an impressive background of research-based work in environmental management. Prior to his new appointment, Mr Holloway was director of the department's estate protection division at head office from DOC's inception in 1987. He has 30 years' experience in conservation-related management.

"John Holloway's record of achievement is considerable with a lifetime of contribution to conservation policy," Mr Mansfield said. "He is well respected in New Zealand for his considered approach to conservation policy issues and has established a close working relationship with key groups such as research agencies, local authorities and government departments. He brings this wide experience to the development of policy and to the resolution of conflicting issues."

Mr Mansfield said Mr Holloway's experience would be invaluable as the science and research work of the department focused on improving research transfer and communication. "There are growing opportunities for expanding conservation science through research alliances and partnerships with other science providers and

John's connections in the wider community will help promote this development.

"Management of the science and research directorate in the rapidly changing climate of contract research and increasing government funding for research presents exciting challenges that I am confident John will meet very effectively."

## Forestry jobs growth

The forestry industry continues to expand job opportunities in New Zealand.

The number of people employed in forestry and wood processing increased by almost 2000, or 8.2%, in the year to mid-February 1995.

"Forestry is a major employer and growing rapidly - 25,415 people this year, compared with 23,486 at the same time last year. That's good news by anybody's standards," said the Minister of Forestry, John Falloon.

With the exception of pulp, paper and paperboard, all sectors of the industry showed significant gains in employment: Forestry and logging, up 10.2% (from 8993 to 9912 people); logging haulage, up 10.7% (1197 to 1325); sawmills, up 5% (5865 to 6159); planing, preserving and seasoning timber, up 2.3% (1550 to 1585); plywood, veneer and board, up 37.2% (2016 to 2766); chipmills, up 44.4% (27 to 39); pulp, paper and paperboard, down 5.4% (3838 to 3629).

### Early detection

"Monitoring indicators of the state of the environment also allows the environmental outcomes of policy to be assessed, permits the early detection of adverse environmental trends, and facilitates the integration of environmental, social and economic aspects of resource management."

The Minister said New Zealand could expect its environmental performance to come under increasing scrutiny in the years ahead.

The additional funding will develop indicators that can demonstrate both nationally and internationally New Zealand's environmental performance to allow the country to maintain its trade competitiveness using its 'clean, green' image.

The Ministry for the Environment will release a discussion paper on environmental indicators by the end of the year, project coordinator Peter Cochrane says. The paper will set out a proposed framework and timetable from which to develop a core set of environmental indicators.

The involvement of bodies such as local authorities, research institutions and other government departments will also be discussed in the paper.

For more information on environmental indicators, contact Peter Cochrane on (04) 498 7477.

Copies of the discussion paper are available from the Ministry's Public Affairs Directorate, phone (04) 498 7493.