

17TH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT-NEW ZEALAND

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY

WORKING MEETING

NEW ZEALAND BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Prepared by the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Secretariat Office of the Clerk New Zealand House of Representatives

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Areas of interest

- Agriculture
 - Livestock industry and climate change
- Climate change issues
 - Research and impact of live stock industry
 - Impact of the financial crisis on efforts
 - Risk management in the agricultural sector and price volatillity
- New-Zealand-Europe relations, especially trade
- New-Zelaand Asia relations
- Partner political parties
- Energy issues
- Political scene from external perspectives (commentaters/media)

GUIDE TO THE NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT

The Parliament of New Zealand is based on the Westminster model. It has a constitutional monarch, a sovereign Parliament and the fundamental business of government is distributed among three separate bodies. This principle is known as the separation of powers.

The separation of powers refers to the **legislative**, comprising of the House of Representatives; the **executive**, comprising of the Governor-General, Ministers of the Crown and government departments and agencies; and the **judiciary**, comprising the judges and courts, which are free from political decision. This separation exists to ensure that the fundamental principles of government are not concentrated in one entity.

The Electoral System

General elections are held every three years. New Zealand's electoral system is known as MMP (Mixed Member Proportional). Under MMP, members of Parliament are elected as either electorate members of Parliament (representing a geographical area and their party) or as list members of Parliament (representing their party only). New Zealand is divided into 63 general electorates and 7 Maori electorates i.e. specifically for Maori representation. There are more electorate members of Parliament than lists members.

Under MMP, a voter is entitled to two votes – an electorate vote and a party vote. The party vote determines the number of seats each party gets in Parliament. The number of seats is proportional to the number of party votes the party obtains in the election. For example, if a party gets 45% of all party votes, that then translates to 45% of the seats in the House.

A party must get a minimum of 5% of the party vote or win one electorate seat in order to secure a seat in Parliament. If a party doesn't get a clear majority on its own, it has to form a coalition with like-minded parties or become a minority government. Coalition between parties is formed through several different agreements, the most common of these are: Coalition agreements; Confidence and Supply agreements, and Cooperation agreements.

Parliamentary Questions

Written and oral questions are two of the ways the New Zealand unicameral Parliament holds the Executive to account.

Question Time - Oral Questions

Oral questions are dealt with as the first substantive item of business transacted by the House each day during Question Time, which is held shortly after 2pm every sitting day. There are 12 questions for oral answer during Question Time. The questions are allocated to all parties including the government based on the proportional party membership in the House and are directed to Ministers. For a question to a Minister to be admissible, there must be ministerial responsibility for the subject matter of the question. The vetting of questions is managed by the Office of the Clerk.

The 12 primary questions are given on notice, which means the Minister is told what the question will be prior to Question Time. Oral questions must be lodged with the Deputy Clerk of the House by 10.30am on a House sitting day and notice is sent to Ministers offices by 11am.

During Question Time, once a Minister has replied to the primary oral question, members then have the opportunity to ask a supplementary question. Supplementary questions are not questions on notice, which means that the Minister does not have advance knowledge of the content of the question. Supplementaries must be relevant to the subject of the original question asked.

The Speaker allows each party a 'quota' of supplementaries, again, based on their proportional membership within the House, a member does not have to ask a primary question in order to ask a supplementary, however the first supplementary question is allocated to the Member who asked the primary questions. Question Time concludes only when all 12 questions, and accompanying supplementary questions, have been answered by the Minister responsible.

Written Questions

Members may submit an unlimited number of written questions to a Government Minister on a topic for which they have Ministerial responsibility. These questions are submitted electronically to Ministers who then have a period of six working days in which to answer the member's question. The electronic management of lodging and replying to written questions is done through the Office of the Clerk.



Key People In Parliament

Members of Parliament

The current House of Representatives has 122 Members; however there are normally 120 seats. Of the current 122 Members, 70 of those were electorate members, 52 of those are list members. All members of Parliament are entitled to an electorate office, even if they are not the electorate representative.

Ministers are members of Parliament who form the Executive. They hold responsibility for one or more government department or ministry. Ministers are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Only members of Parliament may be appointed as Ministers.

Cabinet is the Government's most senior committee. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and is made up of the 20 most senior Ministers. It is this body of members that decides on government policy, approves the content of government legislation and decides how the Government is going to spend its money. They can not create legislation and have no legal relationships with the other arms of government. Decisions from Cabinet are made by way of 'minutes', these minutes are used by Ministers to discuss with their officials. Cabinet is bound by their own rules and procedures; these rules of behavior are documented in the Cabinet Manual. In the current Government, not all Ministers are included in Cabinet.

The Speaker

At its first meeting following a General Election, the House elects an MP to chair its meetings impartially. The Speaker's role is to apply the rules of the House (Standing Orders) and to maintain order. The Speaker decides which members will be called to speak in a debate or ask supplementary questions at Question Time. The Speaker is the channel of communication between the Governor-General and the House. The House also appoints a Deputy Speaker and up to two Assistant Speakers.

Clerk of the House

The principal advisor to the Speaker and members of Parliament on parliamentary procedure is the Clerk of the House. The Clerk is responsible for the publication of all parliamentary documents and for recording ever decision made by the House. The Clerk is also responsible for presenting all the bills passed by the house to the Governor-General for the Royal assent.

Serjeant-At-Arms

Appointed by the Crown on the Speaker's recommendation, the Serjeant-at-Arms is an Officer of the House of Representatives. The Serjeant carries the mace in the Speaker's procession when the House begins each day and announces the Speaker's arrival in the House to members. The Sergeant's role in England dates back to 1415. However the title can be traced back further to 1192 when Phillip II of France formed a special corps to guard him in the Holy Land. The Serjeant-at-Arms maintains order in the galleries and controls access to areas near the Chamber reserved for members of Parliament.

The Mace

The Mace symbolizes the Speaker's authority. Positioned on the Table while the House sits, it is placed on brackets under the table when the House moves into a committee of the whole House (ie while the Speaker is not chairing that part of parliamentary business). The New Zealand Mace, dating back to 1909, is made of sterling silver gilded with 18 carat gold. It is 1.49 meters long and weights about 8kg.

<u>Hansard</u>

Hansard reporters record all proceedings in the House, using digital audio recorders. Until recently they wrote everything in shorthand. Now notes made in the Chamber supplement digital recordings of the speeches. Proceedings are then prepared and delivered to members for correction. Members may make only minor changes to what they were reported as saying and must not change the meaning or substance of what they said. An advance copy is produced approximately four days after a sitting, and this is the first official report of the debate. Hansard is published on the internet and in printed form.

The Media

The parliamentary Press Galley reports parliamentary and political news from within the parliamentary complex. Members of the Press Gallery have their own gallery in the House (above the Speaker's seat) where they note the daily events of the House. About 50 fully accredited journalists work in the press gallery. House proceedings are broadcast live on TV and radio. Television cameras also record items for TV news bulletins from the public galleries on each side of the House.

THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT

Party	# of MPs	General Electorate MPs	Maori Electorate MPs	List MPs
ACT NZ	5	1	-	4
Green Party	9	-	-	9
Labour Party	43	19	2	22
Maori Party	5	-	5	-
National Party	58	41	-	17
Progressive	1	1	-	-
United Future	1	1	-	-
Total	122	63	7	52

% of women in Parliament = 38 or 31.14%

New Zealand National Party

National

Leader: Hon John Key Deputy Leader: Hon Bill English

The National Party is a centre-right, socially conservative party. Their leader is the present Prime Minister. It supports a free market economy, lower taxation, and less legislative interference. The National Party has been in five Governments for varying lengths of time. Currently the National Party leads a Government with confidence and supply agreements with ACT New Zealand, the Maori Party and United Future.

NEW ZEALAND **a**Labour

New Zealand Labour Party

Leader: Hon Phil Goff Deputy Leader: Hon Annette King

The Labour Party is a centre-left, socially progressive party. The leader serves as the current Leader of the Opposition. The Labour Party has been in Government on five separate occasions for varying lengths of time.

Green

Green Party

Co- Leaders: Metiria Turei and Russel Norman

The Green Party is a left-wing environmentalist party. The Green Party had a co-operation agreement with the previous Labour-led Government, but has not formally been in government.

ACT New Zealand

Leader: Hon Rodney Hide Deputy Leader: Hon Heather Roy

ACT is a classically liberal party, whose core platform focuses on the promotion of free market economics, low taxation, reduced government expenditure, and increased punishments for crime. It sees itself as promoting accountability and transparency in government. ACT has a formal confidence and supply agreement with the present National-led Government with two Ministers outside Cabinet.

Maori Party

māsri

Co-Leaders: Hon Tariana Turia and Hon Pita Sharples

The Māori party promotes what it sees as the rights and interests of Māori. The party sees their role centering on the development of relationship between Māori and the Crown. The Maori Party has a formal confidence and supply agreement with the present Nationalled Government with two Ministers outside Cabinet.

United Future United Future Leader: Hon Peter Dunne

United Future is a moderately centre-right party formerly with a strong Christian background: it describes itself as being based around "common sense". It has a particular focus on policies concerning the family and social issues. United Future has a confidence and supply agreement with the current National-led Government, with the Party Leader serving as a Minister outside Cabinet.

Progressive

Progressive Party

Leader: Hon Jim Anderton

The Progressive Party is a left-wing party. The party's recent focus has been on job creation and regional development.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS IN ORDER OF MEETINGS



Dr Kennedy Graham List member, Green Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Musterer
- Member, Business Committee
- Member, Officers of Parliament Committee
- Member, Privileges Committee
- Member, Standing Orders Committee
- Member, Justice and Electoral Committee

Education/qualifications

- BCom, Accounting, University of Auckland
- MA, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Boston
- PhD, Victoria University of Wellington

- Senior Adjunct Fellow, School of Law, University of Canterbury, Christchurch 2006-2009
- Visiting Professor, College of Europe, Bruges 2005-2007
- Senior Consultant, United Nations Department of Political Affairs, New York 2004-2006
- Senior Research Fellow, United Nations University 2002-2007
- Director, United Nations University Leadership Academy, Jordan 1999-2002
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Stockholm 1996-1998
- Quarter-centenary Fellow, Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge, 1995
- Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action 1989-1994
- New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wellington, Ottawa, Bangkok, Geneva) 1972-1978



Hon Clayton Cosgrove Member for Waimakariri, Labour Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Deputy-Chairperson, Law and Order Committee
- Spokesperson, Law and Order (including Police and Corrections)
- Spokesperson, State Owned Enterprises
- Associate Spokesperson, Finance

Former parliamentary roles

- Chairperson, Finance and Expenditure Caucus Committee 1999-2002
- Member, Finance and Expenditure Committee 1999- 2002
- Member, Primary Production Committee 1999-2005
- Chairperson, Finance and Expenditure Committee 2002-2005
- Member, Government's E-Commerce Action Team
- Member, Economic Caucus Committee
- Member, Social Services Caucus Committee
- Member, Justice and Electoral Caucus Committee
- Member, Primary Production Caucus Committee
- Member, Local Government Caucus Committee
- Associate Minister for Immigration 2005-2007
- Minister of Statistics 2005-2007
- Associate Minister of Finance 2005-2008
- Associate Minister of Justice 2005-2008
- Minister for Building and Construction 2006-2007
- Minister of Immigration 2007-2008
- Minister for the Rugby World Cup 2007-2008
- Minister for Small Business 2007-2008
- Minister for Sport and Recreation 2007-2008

Education/qualifications

- BA triple major, University of Canterbury 1992
- MBA 1996

Career

- Member, New Zealand Lotteries Board 1988-1991

- Business owner providing strategic advice to companies regarding government, communications and public relations 1991-1992
- Senior Parliamentary Adviser to former Prime Minister the Rt Hon Mike Moore 1991-1993
- Corporate Affairs Manager, Churchill Group 1996-1999
- Public Affairs Manager, Clear Communications Limited 1999-1999
- Lecturer, MBA Programme, University of Canterbury 2005



Dr. Therese Arseneau Senior Fellow, University of Canterbury

Dr. Therese Arseneau is a political scientist with expertise in the political and electoral systems of New Zealand, Canada, Australia and the United States. A Canadian by birth, she completed a BA Honours (First Class) at St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, and a DPhil and MPhil in Politics at Oxford University, UK which she attended as a Commonwealth Scholar. She lectures in New Zealand politics and is a Senior Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch.

Dr. Arseneau has been a political and election night analyst for CBC TV and Radio in Canada, for TV3 in New Zealand, and is currently a political analyst for TVNZ. In 2006 she was selected by the US State Department to participate in their International Visitor Leadership Program and to observe the Congressional Elections. Therese is also Chair of the New Zealand branch of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group, President of the New Zealand Political Studies Association and Vice-Chair of the Rangi Ruru Girls' School Board of Governors.



Nicky Wagner List member, National Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Member, Health Committee
- Deputy-Chairperson, Local Government and Environment Committee

Former parliamentary roles

- Member, Justice and Electoral Committee 2005-2008
- Member, Local Government and Environment Committee 2007-2008

Education/qualifications

- Institute of Directors Certificate in Company Direction
- MBA in Marketing and Strategic Planning, Massey University
- Dip Tchg, Christchurch College of Education
- BA, Canterbury University

- CEO, E-Marketing Ltd
- Chairperson, Christchurch Area Committee, Environment Canterbury
- Chairperson, Finance and Audit Committee, Environment Canterbury
- Chairperson, Passenger Transport Portfolio, Environment Canterbury
- Regional Councillor, Environment Canterbury
- Director, www.fashionz.co.nz Ltd
- Director, www.gardenz.co.nz Ltd
- Lecturer, Business Studies Department, Christchurch Polytechnic
- Director, Eco Technology International Ltd
- Owner/Operator of two retail stores
- Teacher, Hagley High School and Hornby High School



Hon Dr Lockwood Smith Member for Rodney, National Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Speaker
- Chairperson, Business Committee
- Chairperson, Officers of Parliament Committee

Former parliamentary roles

- Minister of Education 1990-1996
- Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office 1990-1996
- Minister Responsible for the National Library 1990-1996
- Minister of Agriculture 1996-1998
- Minister Responsible for Contact Energy 1996-1999
- Deputy Minister of Finance 1996
- Minister of Forestry 1996-1999
- Minister for International Trade 1996-1999
- Associate Minister of Finance 1998-1999
- Minister of Tourism 1999
- Associate Minister of Immigration 1999
- Spokesperson, Commerce 1999-2002
- Spokesperson, Communications 1999-2002
- Associate Spokesperson, Finance 1999-2002
- Spokesperson, Statistics 1999-2002
- Spokesperson, Revenue 2002-2003
- Spokesperson, Trade 2002-2003
- Member, Finance and Expenditure Committee 2002-2003
- Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee 2002-2005
- Spokesperson, Foreign Affairs and Trade 2003-2005
- Associate Spokesperson, Revenue 2003-2004
- Spokesperson, Tourism 2004-2005
- Liaison with Ex-pats 2005-2006
- Deputy Chairperson, Finance and Expenditure Committee 2005-2008

Education/qualifications

- BAgSc, Massey University
- MAgSc, Massey University
- PhD in Animal science, University of Adelaide

- Junior Lecturer, Massey University 1970-1972
- Television Presenter 1976-1983
- Marketing Manager, NZ Dairy Board 1980-1980
- Central and South East Asian Area Marketing Manager, NZ Dairy Board 1981-1983
- Manager, Research and Development Powder Division, NZ Dairy Board 1983-1983
- Beef farmer, Northland



Charles Chauvel List member, Labour Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Member, Commerce Committee
- Chairperson, Privileges Committee
- Chairperson, Regulations Review Committee
- Spokesperson, Climate Change
- Spokesperson, Energy
- Associate Spokesperson, Commerce
- Associate Spokesperson, Justice

Former parliamentary roles

- Member, Commerce Committee 2006-2007
- Member, Government Administration Committee 2006-2007
- Member, Officers of Parliament Committee 2007-2007
- Member, Regulations Review Committee 2006-2007
- Member, Justice and Electoral Committee 2007-2008
- Chairperson, Finance and Expenditure Committee 2007-2008
- Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Attorney-General 2008
- Member, Emissions Trading Scheme Review Committee 2008-2009
- Member, Commerce Committee 2008-2009
- Member, Finance and Expenditure Committee 2009

Education/qualifications

- LLB (Hons), Victoria University 1989
- Certificate of Health Economics (Merit), Victoria University 1993
- MJuris (Distinction), University of Auckland 1994
- Certificate in Public International Law, Hague Academy of International Law 1995
- Diploma in International Labour Standards, International Training Centre, International Labour Organisation, Turin 2001

- Barrister and Solicitor, High Court of New Zealand
- Legal Practitioner, Supreme Court of New South Wales

- Clerk, Chief Justice 1988
- Legal Officer, Northern Hotel Workers' Union 1989
- Crown Counsel, Crown Law Office 1994
- Partner, Minter Ellison Rudd Watts Lawyers 2000



Hon Chris Carter Member for Te Atatu, Labour Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
- Spokesperson, Ethnic Affairs
- Spokesperson, Foreign Affairs

Former parliamentary roles

- Spokesperson, Ethnic Affairs 1993-1996
- Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee 1993-1996
- Junior Whip 1999-2002
- Deputy Chairperson, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee 1999-2002
- Chairperson, Labour Caucus Foreign Affairs Committee 1999-2002
- Chairperson, Labour Caucus Immigration Committee 1999-2002
- Minister of Conservation 2002-2007
- Minister for Ethnic Affairs 2002-2008
- Minister of Local Government 2002-2005
- Minister for Building Issues 2004-2005
- Minister of Housing 2005-2007
- Minister of Education 2007-2008
- Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office 2007-2008
- Spokesperson, Education 2008-2009
- Deputy-Chairperson, Education and Science Committee 2008-2009

Education/qualifications

- MA (Hons) in History
- Teaching qualification

- Former Secondary school teacher
- Former Poultry farmer
- Former Government Representative, New Zealand Poultry Board
- Director, New Zealand Egg Marketing Corporation 1986-1990
- Member, Film and Video Board of Review 1990-1993



Hon Anne Tolley Member for East Coast, National Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Minister of Education
- Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office

Former parliamentary roles

- Deputy Chairperson, Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Group for Population and Development
- Spokesperson, Early Childhood 1999-2002
- Spokesperson, Women's Affairs 1999-2002
- Junior Whip 2005- 2006
- Member, Social Services Committee 2005-2007
- Senior Whip 2006-2008
- Member, Officers of parliament Committee 2005-2008
- Member, Standing Orders Committee 2006-2008
- Member, Privileges Committee 2006-2008
- Member, Business Committee 2006-2008
- Member, Education and Science Committee 2008
- Minister for Tertiary Education 2008-2010

Education/qualifications

- Current student, Graduate Diploma in Business Studies
- Diploma in Computer Programming

- Bed and Breakfast operator, Annaleigh Heights 1992-1999
- Computer programmer



Hon Murray McCully Member for East Coast Bays, National Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Minister for Sport and Recreation
- Minister for the Rugby World Cup
- Member, Privileges Committee

Former parliamentary roles

- Minister of Customs 1991-1996
- Associate Minister of Tourism 1991-1996
- Minister of Housing 1993-1998
- Minister of Tourism 1996-1999
- Minister for Sport, Fitness and Leisure, including responsibility for America's Cup and Millennium Celebrations 1996-1999
- Minister for Accident Rehabilitation and Compensation Insurance 1997-1999
- Minister Responsible for Housing Corporation 1998-1999
- Minister Responsible for Housing New Zealand 1998-1999
- Associate Minister of Immigration 1998-1999
- Spokesperson, Infrastructure (including Auckland) 1999-2002
- Spokesperson, Local Government 1999-2002
- Spokesperson, Sport, Fitness and Leisure 1999-2002
- Minister for Accident Insurance 1999-1999
- Spokesperson, Immigration 2002-2003
- National Member Responsible for Auckland 2002-2003
- Spokesperson, State Services 2002-2005
- Spokesperson, Sport, Fitness and Leisure 2002-2005
- Member, Māori affairs select committee 2002-2003
- Parliamentary Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition 2003-2005
- Spokesperson, Conservation 2005-2006
- Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee 2005-2008

Education/qualifications

- LLB

- Qualified Barrister and Solicitor

Career

- Principal, Public Relations Company



Hon Jim Anderton Member for Wigram, Progressive

Current parliamentary roles

- Leader
- Member, Business Committee
- Member, Primary Production Committee
- Member, Standing Orders Committee
- Opposition Spokesperson, Agriculture

Former parliamentary roles

- Alliance Spokesperson, Finance and Revenue 1996-1999
- Alliance Spokesperson, Senior Citizens 1996-1999
- Alliance Spokesperson, Superannuation 1996-1999
- Alliance Spokesperson, Treaty Issues 1996-1999
- Minister Responsible for the Public Trust Office 1999-2002
- Minister Responsible for the Audit Department 1999-2002
- Deputy Prime Minister 1999-2002
- Minister for Economic Development 1999-2005
- Minister for Industry and Regional Development 1999-2005
- Acting Minister of Consumer Affairs 2001-2002
- Acting Minister of Customs 2001-2002
- Minister Responsible for the Public Trust 2002-2008
- Associate Minister of Health 2002-2008
- Member, Standing orders committee 2002-2005
- Minister of Forestry 2004-2008
- Minister of Agriculture 2005-2008
- Minister for Biosecurity 2005-2008
- Minister of Fisheries 2005-2008
- Associate Minister for Tertiary Education 2005-2008

Education/qualifications

- Seddon Memorial Technical College
- Auckland Teacher's College

Career

- Teacher for two years

- Former Child Welfare officer, Education Department, Wanganui
- Councillor, Manukau City 1965-1968
- Secretary, Catholic Diocesan Office, Auckland 1967-1969
- Export Manager, UEB Textiles 1969-1970
- Managing Director, Anderton Holdings 1971-1984
- Councillor, Auckland City 1974-1977
- Member, Auckland Regional Authority 1977-1980



Damien O'Connor List member, Labour Party

Current parliamentary roles

- Member, Primary Production Committee
- Spokesperson, Rural Affairs
- Spokesperson, Biosecurity
- Associate Spokesperson, Agriculture

Former parliamentary roles

- Chairperson, Primary Production Committee 1999-2002
- Member, Justice and Electoral Committee 2000-2001
- Member, Primary Production Committee 2002-2003
- Minister of State 2002-2003
- Associate Minister for Racing 2002-2003
- Associate Minister for Rural Affairs 2002-2004
- Associate Minister of Agriculture 2002-2005
- Associate Minister of Immigration 2002-2005
- Minister for Racing 2003-2005
- Associate Minister of Health 2002-2008
- Member, Local Government and Environment Committee 2003-2004
- Member, Commerce Committee 2004-2005
- Minister for Rural Affairs 2004-2008
- Minister for Corrections 2005-2007
- Minister of Tourism 2005-2008

Education/qualifications

- Lincoln University

- Former Adventure Tourism Operator
- Former Contract Fencer
- Former Dairy Farmer
- Former Machine Operator
- Former Senior River Guide
- Former Truck Driver

CLIMATE CHANGE ROUND TABLE BREAKFAST

hosted by Dr Jan Wright Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment



Dr Jan Wright Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

In March 2007 Dr Jan Wright was appointed as New Zealand's third Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

Dr Jan Wright was sworn in as Commissioner for a five-year term on 5 March 2007.

She originally trained as a scientist and graduated from the University of Canterbury as a senior scholar in physics. A developing interest in policy applications of science led her to the University of California at Berkeley where she gained a Masters degree in Energy and Resources, and was involved in pioneering energy efficiency analysis at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory.

She continued working on energy research on her return to New Zealand, and began to broaden her interests to environment and transport issues.

Her next move was to Harvard University where she gained her doctorate in public policy, focusing on medical and environmental decision-making. Her dissertation led to faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health unanimously selecting her as Outstanding Student in Risk and Decision Sciences.

On her return to New Zealand, Jan worked as an independent policy and economic consultant, undertaking work for a wide variety of government agencies. She taught policy analysis at Victoria University and was a member of the Independent Biotechnology Advisory Council.

More latterly she has been active in Crown Entity directorship as chair of Land Transport NZ and Transfund NZ, and as a board member of Transit

New Zealand, the Accident Compensation Corporation, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

A skilled communicator, Jan can apply intellectual rigour to complex matters affecting ordinary people. She enjoys thinking about big picture and long-term problems, while being focused on achieving change through small practical steps.

She comes to the position of Commissioner at a time of escalating public and political interest in environmental issues, and is particularly interested in the growing alignment between environmental and economic interests.

Participating Members of Parliament



Craig Foss MP National Party



Charles Chauvel MP Labour Party



Dr Kennedy Graham MP Green Party



John Boscawen MP ACT Party

Members of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee



John Hayes MP National Party, Wairarapa Chair



Jacqui Dean MP National Party, Waitaki

Deputy Chair



Hon Chris Carter MP Labour Party, Te Atatu



Hone Harawira MP Maori Party, Te Tai Tokerau (Non-voting member)



Hon Pete Hodgson MP Labour Party, Dunedin North



Paul Hutchison MP National Party, Hunua



Keith Locke MP Green Party, List



Todd McClay MP National Party, Rotorua



Hon Maryan Street MP Labour Party, List



Colin James Political commentator, journalist

Colin James is a political journalist of more than 35 years experience and political columnist of the year in 2003. He has correctly forecast which party would be or would lead the government after 13 of the past 14 elections. He writes weekly columns in the Dominion Post, the Press, the Otago Daily Times and the Waikato Times and a monthly column in Management Magazine. He is New Zealand correspondent for Oxford Analytica.

He is a senior associate of the Institute of Policy Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. He is managing director of The Hugo Group, a forecasting panel with a membership of around 100 medium to large corporates and also makes presentations on the strategic environment to companies, industry associations, government departments and other groups. He has written six books plus several editions of a guide to journalists covering elections and many chapters in books and has written or edited six books or monographs for the Institute of Policy Studies. He has contributed many papers to seminars, conferences and symposiums in New Zealand, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States and has held several university fellowships, including JD Stout Research Fellow at Victoria University of Wellington in 1991 and inaugural New Zealand Fellow at the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies at Melbourne University in 1993.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Victoria University in 2008. He is chair of Motu Economic and Public Policy Research. He is a fellow of the Institute of Public Administration and a life member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Members of the Primary Production Committee



Shane Ardern MP National Party, Taranaki-King Country

Chairperson



Colin King MP National Party, Kaikoura

Deputy Chair



Hon Jim Anderton MP Progressive, Wigram



Brendon Burns MP Labour Party, Christchurch Central



Dr Ashraf Choudhary MP Labour Party, List



Craig Foss MP National Party, Tukituki



Sandra Goudie MP National Party, Coromandel



Damien O'Connor MP Labour Party, List

Members of Parliament attending the Whips' Lunch



Chris Tremain MP Senior Government Whip National Party

Hon Steve Chadwick MP Junior Opposition Whip Labour Party



Dr Kennedy Graham MP Musterer Green Party



Te Ururoa Flavell MP Whip Maori Party