

The Government is aware that programmes of development will need to be managed carefully if the unique qualities of our country are to be preserved. We can learn much from other nations which have had to deal with the effects of industry on the environment; the OECD report on New Zealand's policies in this area was a timely document. An amendment to the Water and Soil Conservation Act 1967 will be introduced to protect further the natural state of our rivers and streams where appropriate.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, an essential component of national and regional development is an efficient transport system. To this end the Railways Department is to be re-established as a corporation and legislation will be introduced this year to effect this change.

A Bill will also be submitted for your consideration to amend the Transport Act 1962 to provide for more effective enforcement of the 150 kilometre rail restriction. The Shipping and Seamen Act 1952 will be revised.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, 1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons. One issue of major concern to disabled people is that of their legal rights. The Government is currently giving consideration to introducing legislation which will define the legal rights of the disabled.

In the general field of community health a Bill will be introduced to replace the Chiropractors Act 1960 with comprehensive legislation defining clear qualifications for the registration of chiropractors and an improved structure for disciplinary proceedings. The Government also intends to submit for your consideration a Hospitals Amendment Bill which will clarify certain staffing matters.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government's housing policies are designed to give a greater freedom of choice for low-income, first-home seekers and to encourage a shift in lending from the Housing Corporation to the private sector.

In recognition of the need to foster the savings scheme for home ownership, legislation will be introduced to amend the Home Ownership Savings Act 1974 to improve the benefits of the scheme and to make them available earlier than at present. Substantial funds will continue to be made available to the Housing Corporation to support its role as the provider of finance for low-income first-home purchasers.