



Electoral Commission
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Annual Report of the
Electoral Commission
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri
for the year ended
30 June 2004

Presented to the House of Representatives under section 15 of the Electoral Act 1993
and sections 41(1) and 44A of the Public Finance Act 1989

Electoral Commission

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Electoral Commission
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

9 August 2004

Associate Minister of Justice
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

I have the honour to transmit to you the report of the Electoral Commission for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

This report is prepared under section 15 of the Electoral Act 1993 and section 41(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anthony Ellis'.

The Hon Anthony Ellis, CNZM, QC
President

Part 1: Report for the year ended 30 June 2004

The Commission's statutory functions

The Electoral Commission is a Crown entity established under the Electoral Act 1993. Section 5 of that Act states the Commission's principal functions as follows:

- (a) to carry out such duties in relation to the registration of political parties and political party logos as are prescribed by Part 4:
- (b) to supervise political parties' compliance with the financial disclosure requirements of this Act:
- (ba) to carry out such duties in relation to Parliamentary election programmes as are prescribed by Part 6 of the Broadcasting Act 1989:
- (c) to supervise political parties' compliance with the requirements of this Act relating to the filing of returns of election expenses:
- (d) to promote public awareness of electoral matters by means of the conduct of education and information programmes or by other means:
- (e) to consider and report to the Minister or to the House of Representatives on electoral matters referred to the Electoral Commission by the Minister or the House of Representatives.

Under section 7 of the Electoral Act 1993, and except as otherwise provided in that Act or in any other Act, the Commission is not responsible to any minister in the performance of its statutory functions but must act independently.

No legislative changes were made to the Commission's statutory functions in 2003/2004.

Details of the Commission's activities in 2003/2004 relating to each of its statutory functions are given below.

Electoral Law and Administration

The Commission looks forward to a Government announcement on a proposed fundamental review of electoral law and administration, and to contributing to any review process. The Justice and Electoral Committee recommended a fundamental review in its report of its Inquiry into the 2002 General Election that was presented to Parliament on 11 March 2004. The Commission was an advisor to the Committee in its Inquiry.

The possible reform of electoral organisational structures headed the Committee's list of matters for review and possible reform. Early in August 2003 the Government advised that the 2001 Electoral Framework Task Force proposal to establish a single electoral agency combining the activities of the Commission, the Chief Electoral Office, and the Electoral Enrolment Centre would not proceed during the term of the Parliament.

This Taskforce was unanimous in recommending that a single electoral agency should be responsible for all matters relating to parliamentary elections (except the setting of electorate boundaries), but was divided on the form such a single agency should take.

The majority of Commissioners remain of the view that any new electoral agency taking over merged functions should be an independent entity rather than a departmental business unit. The majority believes this form of establishment is essential to ensure that electoral administration is independent of the government of the day in both

appearance and practice, impartial in the execution of its functions, and substantively accountable to the people of New Zealand through their Parliament for doing so.

The Commission notes that the Public Finance (State Sector Management) Bill currently before Parliament would categorise the Commission as an Independent Crown Entity, and is pleased that the Bill makes specific provision for the Commission to ensure that its current independence is not compromised.

While any review and its outcomes are awaited, the Commission is planning and operating on the tentative assumption of having been disestablished, with its activities transferred to a new entity, no later than 30 June 2007.

The Commission was pleased to see the Electoral Matters Bill introduced to Parliament on 22 June 2004. This Bill includes provisions to tidy up some technical aspects of the broadcasting regime relating to general elections, which have been of long-standing concern.

The Justice and Electoral Committee made two recommendations to the Electoral Commission in its report of its Inquiry into the 2002 General Election: to address specifically the position relating to community access radio programmes when next reviewing the *Guide to Broadcasting at Parliamentary Elections*; and to review guidance provided on election expenses and advertising rules to see if it can be simplified. The Commission will follow these recommendations.

Resourcing

Public education on electoral matters is a statutory responsibility, and the Commission's tracking research (see table, opposite) shows that pre-election public understanding of key aspects of MMP is unlikely to exceed pre-2002 General Election measures.

The public education project for the 2002 General Election cost \$858,000 across two financial years, of which \$500,000 was provided from a triennial appropriation for the purpose and \$358,000 from operating and reserve funds. To deliver a similar campaign in 2005 would cost \$1,139,000 due to television advertising placement and other cost increases. As its reserves are nearly spent, the Commission can make only \$119,000 available additional to the \$500,000 appropriation, meaning a total 2005 election education budget of \$619,000, or just 54% of the 2002-equivalent figure for 2005. (All figures in this paragraph are GST exclusive where relevant.)

Following a closed tender process the Commission appointed, in May 2004, the same advertising agency as that which services the Electoral Enrolment Centre and the Chief Electoral Office. In addition to the commercial, strategic, and creative merits which justified the appointment, it is hoped that a stronger integration of the electoral agencies' enrolment, polling day, and MMP campaigns will improve cost effectiveness and thus make up for some of the funding shortfall.

Commission management have been reviewing general activities and expenditure, and rationalising and reprioritising these where possible to release budget for election and general education purposes. Late in the year the Commission sought and was finalising arrangements with a suitable tenant for some under-utilised space in an effort to increase budget available for education purposes.

The Commission is concerned that, with its current funding, it will be unable to deliver MMP public education for the 2005 General Election of a similar scale to that for 2002. This will mean that levels of public understanding are unlikely to return to previous election year levels.

Understanding of MMP, 1995- 2003 (%)

	Nov 1995	Pre-election 1996	Post-election 1996	Oct 1997	Oct 1998	Pre-election 1999	Post-election 1999	Oct/ Dec 2000	Oct/ Nov 2001	Pre-election 2002	Post-election 2002	Oct 2003
Two votes under MMP	58	88	97	76	61	76	66#	70	55	67	92	56
– Party Vote	31	85	95	78	62	77	90	75	66	74	91	61
– Electorate Vote	23	80	94	78	64	75	86	72	61	70	88	62
Party Votes decide shares of seats	31	70*	77*	55*	47*	58*	70*	58*	49*	55*	79*	50
Threshold criteria												
– 5% of Party Votes	43	51	54	35	30	42	57	39	41	49	54	33
– win electorate seat	33	36	38	28	31	31	43	35	32	34	42	30
– both criteria	19	28	31	18	18	20	37	26	21	27	34	21
Party list tops up electorate seats	35	41	46	55	51	48	49	45	48	49	46	37

#Two citizens initiated referendums were held with the 1999 general election and an additional 22% stated they had four votes.

*Includes correct response from additional probe.

The following table shows knowledge of the function of the Party Vote since 1999 among all respondents and among the Commission's target groups:

Party Votes decide parties' shares of seats	1999 pre-election %	1999 post-election %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 pre-election %	2002 post-election %	2003
All respondents	58	70	58	49	55	79	50
18-24 year olds	40	70	54	34	47	71	37
women	44	62	52	44	48	74	48
Māori	43	64	42	37	34	63	39
Pacific peoples	–	–	20	16	19	58	30

Surveys have generally been conducted by telephone (face-to-face for Pacific peoples), with samples of 5-600 people each year, with an up-weighting of Māori and Pacific respondent numbers to allow separate analysis.

Promotion of public awareness of electoral matters

The intensity of the Commission's efforts to promote public awareness of electoral matters has generally followed the electoral cycle, with MMP education campaigns implemented and increased public relations activities undertaken as general elections near. This approach has been based on the natural ebb and flow in levels of interest and understanding of the technical aspects of MMP demonstrated by the preceding table.

The Commission began planning in the last six months of the year to expand its MMP education focus from an understanding of the purpose of the two ticks to understanding how to cast an effective vote that best reflects the individual voter's intent.

It is also looking to encourage more learning about and participation in democratic activity at community, regional and national levels, particularly via schools of all year levels. The Commission believes that building general interest and skills in active social participation will make it easier to deliver the MMP-specific education, as well as entrench higher levels of understanding about the latter. (This is discussed in more depth under Resource Development, below.)

Research

The Commission conducted annual market research into levels of public understanding of aspects of MMP in October. Key results are summarised in the preceding table. The full report is available on the electoral website.

The research reconfirmed the established pattern of understanding levels rising and falling with the electoral cycle, but it also showed statistically significant lower levels of understanding in 2003 than 2000, the previous equivalent year, and continuing a downward trend overall. Also reconfirmed were the lower levels of understanding about MMP among Māori, Pacific peoples, women and young adults – and particularly those belonging to two or more of these categories – than the general population.

In addition to tracking MMP understanding, the Commission also asked questions relating to: interest, knowledge and confidence in politics, and donations disclosure by political parties.

In 2004/2005 the Commission intends increasing and reprioritising its annual research budget from tracking (with a now predictable quantitative result) to developing a richer qualitative understanding of the barriers and opportunities to increase understanding and participation of MMP and electoral matters among those audiences with lower overall understanding and participation. The general quantitative studies are likely to become less frequent.

Competitions

The Commission has resolved to restructure the Wallace Awards, named after inaugural President Sir John Wallace, and designed to reward and encourage work and activities promoting understanding of electoral matters. Instead of an annual Wellington ceremony offering prizes in various categories such as academic work or journalism, the awards will be broken into schemes with different time lines and entry requirements more suited to the different entrant communities, and with winners awarded and celebrated more in those communities. New categories are likely to recognise relevant school teaching practice, school student achievement, and trainee journalism.

In June, the Commission announced a competition for secondary school students to mark 2004 as the 30th anniversary of the lowering of the voting age from 20 to 18. A prize pool of \$5,000 will be awarded to meritorious individual and group projects concerned with an aspect of young adults' participation in democratic affairs in any setting. The competition has been designed to complement other 2004 anniversaries of the 150th year since the first meeting of the New Zealand Parliament and the 10th year since the first Youth Parliament; as well as work in with the October local and district health board elections.

Resource Development

In August 2003 an illustrated book entitled *Adventures in Democracy: A History of the Vote in New Zealand* authored by Neill Atkinson of the History Group in the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and commissioned by the Commission to mark the 150th anniversary of New Zealand's first general election was published in association with the University of Otago Press. The Commission also received funding support for the project from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Justice, the Electoral Enrolment Centre, and Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development). An educational resource, "Vote!", derived from the book was also published on the electoral website.

In the latter half of the year the Commission began to strengthen networks with the compulsory schooling sector and journalism education providers. Following Commission contact regarding resource development projects, it was invited by the Ministry of Education to participate in the review of the Social Sciences curriculum. The Commission also began preparing specifications, engaging a resource writer, and assembling a teacher reference group, for the development of primary-level teaching units for online publishing in early 2005 to encourage and support general election-based school activities.

The Commission's Manager Communications has been leading a tri-electoral agency review of the design and information organisation aspects of the shared electoral website with the intention of improving the website in both these areas in the coming year.

The Commission has continued to include an information sheet on MMP in the enrolment confirmation letters that the Electoral Enrolment Centre sends to newly-enrolled electors and to those who change their enrolment details. By this means, the Commission was able to distribute MMP information directly to 607,984 registered electors during 2003/2004.

New publications in 2003/2004

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2003 (August 2003)

Electoral Brief newsletter (issue 26, September 2003; issue 27, April 2004)

Guide to Disclosure of Donations made to Political Parties, sixth edition (March 2004)

Statutory functions with respect to Political Parties

Registration of political parties and logos

There were 18 parties registered with the Commission at 30 June 2004, compared with 19 at 30 June 2003. During the year:

- one party had its party registration cancelled at its own request,
- applications for the registration of one party and its logo were received,
- no new parties were registered,
- three registered parties made changes to their names (3), abbreviated names (3) or logos (2).

The same 32 political parties had registered logos throughout the entire year.

A table summarising registration and compliance activity is presented opposite.

Donations disclosure

The Commission issued a revised *Guide to Disclosure of Donations made to Political Parties* in March 2004 with its annual reminder of the return due by 30 April.

Ten of 18 parties filed their returns of party donations by the due date. Of the late parties, seven filed in May, and the last in June. The Commission was disappointed by the apparent lack of planning by some parties in order to meet this annual statutory obligation.

All returns received were made available for public inspection within the statutorily required three working days of receipt, except for three which were two days late in going on display. Images of returns were also posted to the electoral website for the first time, in addition to the usual summary table.

The Commission did not make any reports to the Police concerning disclosure of party donations for the 2003 calendar year.

Annual statutory declaration

Section 71A of the Electoral Act 1993 requires the secretary of each registered party to provide the Commission with a statutory declaration by 30 April each year which must:

- (a) state that the party intends, at general elections,
 - (i) to submit a list of candidates under section 127; or
 - (ii) to have 1 or more constituency candidates stand for the party or for a related political party; or
 - (iii) both; and
- (b) state whether the party has at least 500 current financial members who are eligible to enrol as electors.

Parties were reminded in March 2004 of the need to file these annual returns by 30 April.

Twelve parties filed these declarations by the due date. Of the late parties, three provided their declarations in May. The Commission expects parties to meet their statutory obligation on time in the future.

Summary of activity relating to political parties

Party Name	Abbreviation	Registration Activity 2003/2004	Component Party/ies at 30 June 2004	Date party registered	Date of registration of current logo	Donations due 30-Apr-04 - dated received	Total of party donations >\$10,000 (all were known donors)	Publication date of party's membership rules and candidate selection rules held by Comm.	S71A statutory declarations due 30-Apr-04; to stand at election; have 500+ members - date received
ACT New Zealand	None		None	17-Feb-95	13-Jun-03	30-Apr-04	\$0	Mar-02	20-Apr-04
Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Society	None		None	30-May-96	12-Dec-96	30-Apr-04	\$0	Dec-03	29-Apr-04
Christian Heritage New Zealand	Christian Heritage NZ	Name, Abbrev Name changes registered 14-Nov-03	None	6-Mar-95	8-Feb-02	28-Apr-04	\$0	2002	17-Mar-04
Destiny New Zealand	Destiny NZ		None	13-Jun-03	13-Jun-03	30-Apr-04	\$0	Apr-03	30-Apr-04
Libertarianz	None		None	11-Sep-96	9-Jul-99	31-May-04	\$0	Apr-98	4-May-04
Mana Māori Motuhake	Mana Motuhake	Name change registered 14-Feb-04	None	10-Jul-98		13-May-04	\$0	Nov-80	Not rcvd
Mana Māori Movement	Mana Māori		None	11-Sep-96	11-Sep-96	10-May-04	\$0	Undated	28-Apr-04
Māori Party									
New Zealand First Party	NZ First	Party and Logo registration applications received 9-Jun-04	None	20-Dec-94	13-Jun-96	30-Apr-04	\$10,000	Nov-98	30-Apr-04
New Zealand Labour Party	Labour Party		None	17-Feb-95	24-Jun-02	27-Apr-04	\$54,000	Dec-03	21-Apr-04
One New Zealand Party	OneNZ Party		None	8-Oct-99	14-Jun-02	10-May-04	\$0	Undated	10-May-04
OUTDOOR RECREATION NZ	ORNZ	Abbrev Name and substitute Logo registered 11-Jul-03	None	8-Mar-02	11-Jul-03	14-May-04	\$0	Undated	12-May-04
Progressive Party	Progressive	Name, Abbrev Name and Logo changes registered 15-Apr-04	None	24-Jun-02	15-Apr-02	14-May-04	\$15,000	M'ship Undated / Selection Apr-03	3-May-04
Te Tawharau	None		None	10-Aug-95	-	26-Apr-04	\$0	Undated	30-Apr-04
The Alliance	Alliance		New Labour Party	17-Mar-95	24-Jun-02	27-Apr-04	\$0	May-02	5-Jul-04
The Greens, The Green Party of Aotearoa/New Zealand	Green Party		None	17-Aug-95	12-Mar-99	23-Apr-04	\$42,657.18	Jun-03	23-Apr-04
The New Zealand Democratic Party	Democrats		None	10-Aug-95	12-Feb-99	3-May-04	\$0	Undated	28-Apr-04
The New Zealand National Party	National Party		None	2-Dec-94	8-Feb-02	29-Apr-04	\$35,000	May-03	29-Apr-04
The People's Republic of Aotearoa/New Zealand		Party registration cancelled at party's request 11-Jul-03							
UNITED FUTURE NEW ZEALAND	UNITED FUTURE		United New Zealand Party / Future New Zealand	13-Dec-01	12-Apr-02	4-Jun-04	\$0	Undated	9-Mar-04

Broadcasting matters relating to electoral events

The Commission reminded broadcasters in June 2004 of statutory requirements relating to election programmes. This was prompted by the Te Tai Hauāuru by-election.

Documentation available for public inspection

The Commission is required to make the following documentation available for public inspection at any time between 9am and 4pm on days that its office is open:

- The Register of Political Parties*
- Registered logos of political parties
- Registered parties' returns of party donations and auditors' reports*
- Registered parties' membership rules and candidate selection rules
- Registered parties' returns of election expenses and auditors' reports*
- Returns of constituency candidates' election expenses received by the Commission from the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Commission's offices were open for at least the required hours every weekday during the year except for public holidays, 24 and 29-31 December 2003. In addition, the records marked above with an * were provided in full or summary form on the electoral website.

Advice to the Minister of Justice and the House of Representatives

The Commission provided information to assist Ministerial response to eight parliamentary questions in 2003/2004.

The Commission acted as an adviser in relation to the Justice and Electoral Committee's inquiry into the 2002 General Election. It also provided seven reports or papers to the Committee during 2003/2004.

The Commission provided advice to the Associate Minister of Justice, including five reports or papers.

International

The Commission welcomed a number of overseas visitors during the year, including: Members of the Australian Political Exchange, Members of Indonesia's National Resilience Institute, Members of the Electoral Commission of Thailand, A delegation from Wuhan (China), Mr Bernard Colas of the Canadian Law Commission, Professor Paul Burton of the University of Bristol, and a Parliamentary Delegation from Trinidad and Tobago.

In February the Manager Communications joined the incoming Chief Executive, then working in Canberra, for familiarisation visits to the Australian Electoral Commission and the Discovering Democracy programme of the Commonwealth Department of Education Science and Training. The Manager Communications also visited the Commonwealth and New South Wales Parliaments' education services, as well as the Sydney office of the Australian Electoral Commission.

In March the Chief Executive attended a week-long meeting and workshop in Canberra of Pacific Island, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrators (PIANZEA) as a guest of the organisation.

Commissioners and staff

There were no changes in Commissioners during 2003/2004 other than the Chief Executive, reported below.

The Commission welcomed Dr Helena Catt as Chief Executive and as a Commissioner in March 2004, and Peter Northcote as Manager Communications in December 2003.

The Commission records its sincere thanks and best wishes to Dr Paul Harris and Douglas Eckhoff, the previous Chief Executive and Manager Communications respectively, who both retired from the Commission in December 2003, and to David Flux OBE who retired as Executive Officer in October 2003.

The Commission also records its thanks to Don Hunn for being Acting Chief Executive and a Deputy Commissioner during the interregnum of chief executives.

Members of the Electoral Commission at 30 June 2004

The Honourable Anthony Ellis, CNZM, QC (President)
Dr Helena Catt (Chief Executive)
Ms Belinda Clark (Secretary for Justice)
Chief Judge Joe Williams (Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court)

Staff of the Electoral Commission at 30 June 2004

Chief Executive	Dr Helena Catt
Senior Legal Adviser	Mr Geoff Barnett
Secretary	Mrs Evelyn Dawson (part time)
Manager, Administration	Mr John Dawson (part time)
Manager, Communications	Mr Peter Northcote

Part 2: Finance

Introduction

The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2004 follow.

For the year under review appropriations were provided by Parliament to meet the operating costs of the Commission.

Overall the Commission had a surplus of income over expenditure for the year of \$84,709 (excluding GST).

In the 2004/2005 financial year the Electoral Commission has budgeted for total operating expenditure of not more than \$945,676 (excluding GST). These expenditures will be funded by payments on behalf of the Crown from Vote: Justice and by using all of the Commission's cash reserves.

Electoral Commission Statement of Responsibility

In the financial year ended on 30 June 2004 the management of the Electoral Commission was responsible for:

- the preparation of the annual financial statements and for the judgements used herein;
- establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the Commission's financial reporting.

In the opinion of the management of the Electoral Commission, the annual financial statements for the financial year fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Electoral Commission.



**The Hon Anthony Ellis, CNZM, QC
President**



**Dr Helena Catt
Chief Executive**

Electoral Commission Statement of Accounting Policies

for the year ended 30 June 2004

Reporting entity

These are the financial statements of the Electoral Commission, a Crown entity in terms of the Public Finance Act 1989.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with section 41 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Measurement system

The financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis.

Accounting policies

The following accounting policies, which materially affect the measurement of financial performance and financial position, have been applied.

Budget figures

The budget figures are those approved by the Commission at the beginning of the financial year. The budget figures have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and are consistent with the accounting policies adopted by the Commission for the preparation of the financial statements.

Revenue

The Electoral Commission derives revenue through the provision of outputs to the Crown, from cost recovery for the provision of services to third parties and from investment income. Such revenue is recognised when earned and is reported in the financial period to which it relates.

Fixed assets

All fixed assets are recorded at historical cost.

Depreciation

Fixed assets are depreciated at rates that will write off the cost of the assets to their estimated residual value over their useful life. The useful lives and associated depreciation rates used in the preparation of these statements are as follows:

Furniture and fittings	5 years	20% straight line
Computer equipment	3 years	33% straight line
Office equipment	5 years	20% straight line

Employee entitlements

Provision is made in respect of the Electoral Commission's liability for annual leave. Annual leave has been calculated on an actual entitlement basis at current rates of pay.

Goods and Services Tax

The financial statements are prepared on a GST exclusive basis.

Taxation

The Electoral Commission is a public authority in terms of the Income Tax Act 1994 and consequently is exempt from income tax.

Leases

Operating leases

Operating lease payments, where the lessor effectively retains substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the leased items, are charged as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

Financial Instruments

The Electoral Commission is party to financial instruments as part of its normal operations. These financial instruments include bank accounts, short-term deposits and creditors. All financial instruments are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position and all revenues and expenses in relation to financial instruments are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Changes in accounting policy

There have been no changes in accounting policies since the date of the last audited financial statements. The policies have been applied on bases consistent with other years.

**Electoral Commission
Statement of Financial Performance**

for the year ended 30 June 2004

2004 Budget		Note	2004 Actual	2003 Actual
\$			\$	\$
INCOME				
734,000	Government Grant	1	734,000	1,234,667
o	Broadcasting Grant	2	o	2,081,000
o	Other Income		17,436	38,148
o	Gain on Sale of Assets		o	o
<u>15,000</u>	Interest		<u>22,247</u>	<u>41,205</u>
<u>749,000</u>	Total Income		<u>773,683</u>	<u>3,395,020</u>
EXPENDITURE				
184,881	Operating Costs		138,367	771,396
7,100	Audit Fee		6,967	7,100
19,000	Depreciation	4	17,538	17,767
o	Loss on Sale of Assets		o	o
68,478	Rent		67,545	64,347
6,600	Leasing		7,530	6,924
o	Broadcasting Allocation	2	o	2,081,000
o	Refund of broadcasting allocation		o	o
<u>468,396</u>	Personnel	9	<u>451,027</u>	<u>450,236</u>
<u>754,455</u>	Total Expenditure		<u>688,974</u>	<u>3,398,770</u>
<u>(5,455)</u>	Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year		<u>84,709</u>	<u>(3,750)</u>

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Electoral Commission
Statement of Movements in Equity**

for the year ended 30 June 2004

2004 Budget		Note	2004 Actual	2003 Actual
\$			\$	\$
229,499	Crown Equity at start of financial year		229,499	233,249
(5,455)	Operating surplus (deficit) for the year		84,709	(3,750)
(5,455)	Total recognised revenues and expenses for the year		84,709	(3,750)
<u>224,044</u>	Crown Equity at the end of the financial year		<u>314,208</u>	<u>229,499</u>

**Electoral Commission
Statement of Financial Position**

as at 30 June 2004

2004 Budget		Note	2004 Actual	2003 Actual
\$			\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS				
292,396	Cash at Bank	3	395,717	343,772
o	Sundry Debtors		5,056	o
<u>2,000</u>	GST Receivable		<u>3,549</u>	<u>9,175</u>
294,396			404,322	352,947
48,070	FIXED ASSETS	4	12,371	23,146
<u>342,466</u>	TOTAL ASSETS		<u>416,693</u>	<u>376,093</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
118,422	Accounts Payable & Accruals	5	102,485	146,594
<u>224,044</u>	CROWN EQUITY		<u>314,208</u>	<u>229,499</u>
<u>342,466</u>	TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED		<u>416,693</u>	<u>376,093</u>

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Electoral Commission Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2004

2004 Budget \$	Note	2004 Actual \$	2003 Actual \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was provided from:			
734,000		734,000	1,234,667
			o
		0	2,081,000
		14,579	38,148
15,000		20,729	41,376
2,500		5,626	20,453
751,500		774,934	3,415,644
Cash was applied to:			
461,596		479,466	454,045
297,280		236,760	894,627
		o	2,057,942
758,876		716,226	3,406,614
(7,376)	6	58,708	9,030
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
		o	0
		0	0
Cash was applied to:			
44,000		6,763	6,572
(44,000)		(6,763)	(6,572)
(51,376)		51,945	2,458
343,772		343,772	341,314
292,396		395,717	343,772

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Electoral Commission
Notes to the Financial Statements**

for the year ended 30 June 2004

1. Government Grant

Funding was received quarterly from the Ministry of Justice.

2. Broadcasting Grant and Allocations

Prior to a general election, the Commission is required to allocate election broadcasting time and funds to political parties.

As at 30 June 2004, \$66,669 of funds allocated for the 1996, 1999 and 2002 general elections remained undrawn by parties (refer to Note 5).

3. Cash at Bank and On Hand

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Cheque Account	14,018	23,992
Term Deposits	381,639	319,609
Petty Cash	60	171
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<u>395,717</u>	<u>343,772</u>

4. Fixed Assets

	2004	Net	Depreciation
	Cost	Accumulated	Book
	\$	Depreciation	Value
	\$	\$	\$
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Computer equipment	19,652	17,035	2,617
Furniture and fittings	16,044	9,386	6,658
Office equipment	7,160	4,064	3,096
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>42,856</u>	<u>30,485</u>	<u>12,371</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>42,856</u>	<u>30,485</u>	<u>12,371</u>

	2003	Net	Depreciation
	Cost	Accumulated	Book
	\$	Depreciation	Value
	\$	\$	\$
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Computer equipment	43,766	30,713	13,053
Furniture and fittings	14,442	6,498	7,944
Office equipment	4,997	2,848	2,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>63,205</u>	<u>40,059</u>	<u>23,146</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>63,205</u>	<u>40,059</u>	<u>23,146</u>

5. Accounts Payable and Accruals

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Trade Creditors	9,909	83
Accruals	13,768	45,491
Undrawn Broadcasting Allocation	66,669	66,669
Provision for employee entitlements	12,139	34,351
	<u>102,485</u>	<u>146,594</u>

6. Reconciliation of the Net Surplus from Operations with the Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Reported Surplus (Deficit)	84,709	(3,750)
Add non-cash items:		
Depreciation	17,538	17,767
GST write-back	4,177	0
	<u>21,715</u>	<u>17,767</u>
Total non-cash items	21,715	17,767
Add/(Less) movements in working capital items:		
Decrease / (Increase) in accounts receivable	(2,856)	20,453
Increase / (Decrease) in operating accounts payable	(22,580)	(20,972)
Increase / (Decrease) in provision for employee entitlements	(22,212)	(4,745)
Decrease / (Increase) in provision for interest accrual	(1,517)	171
Decrease / (Increase) in GST Receivable	1,449	0
Increase (Decrease) in petty cash	0	106
	<u>(47,716)</u>	<u>(4,987)</u>
Working Capital Movements (Net)	(47,716)	(4,987)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	<u>58,708</u>	<u>9,030</u>

7. Commitments

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	72,380	21,526
Later than one year and not later than two years	72,380	2,229
Later than two years and not later than three years	22,546	0

Lease Commitments

The lease for premises occupied by the Electoral Commission was renewed with effect from 7 October 2003 for a term of three years.

8. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at balance date (2003 Nil).

9. Remuneration

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Remuneration paid to members of the Commission	152,935	165,962
Remuneration paid to employees of the Commission	295,539	282,165
ACC and other levies	<u>2,553</u>	<u>2,109</u>
Total	<u><u>451,027</u></u>	<u><u>450,236</u></u>

10. Related Party Transactions

The Electoral Commission is a wholly owned entity of the Crown. Revenue derived from the Crown is the Commission's main source of revenue as set out in the Statement of Financial Performance.

11. Financial Instruments

a) Credit Risk

Financial Instruments that potentially subject the Commission to credit risk consist of Bank Balances.

b) Fair Values

All Financial Instruments are recognised in the Statements of Financial Position and are stated at fair values.

c) Currency Risk and Interest Rate Risk

The Commission has no exposure to currency risk and no significant interest rate exposure.

Electoral Commission Statement of objectives and service performance

for the year ended 30 June 2004

Funding provision was made for policy advice and operation covering registration of political parties and political party logos, disclosure of party donations to registered political parties, disclosure of registered political parties' election expenses, the allocation of election broadcasting time and funds, the conduct of education and information campaigns to promote public awareness of electoral matters, and advisory services on electoral matters.

The Commission's total income for the 2003/2004 year was \$773,683 (excluding GST), and its total expenditure for the year was \$688,974 (excluding GST).

The following report of service performance for each output states the quantitative targets agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding for 2003/2004 for which funding was provided to the Commission, the performance measures for each of the agreed objectives in that Memorandum of Understanding, and the Commission's performance in 2003/2004 for each objective.

General objectives

The Commission's general objectives for 2003/2004 were to:

- carry out its statutory functions according to the highest standards of independence; neutrality; service to voters, candidates and parties; professionalism; and responsibility and accountability in accordance with the requirements of the law and established constitutional principles;
- be a recognised authority on electoral matters which is approachable, courteous, responsive and inclusive in catering to members of the public, to Māori as the tangata whenua, and to other groups within New Zealand society;
- respond promptly and courteously to enquiries and requests for information by providing clear and accurate information at a level appropriate to the needs of the enquirer;
- provide in a suitable form information that must be made available for public inspection;
- make efficient and effective use of financial and other resources in ways that are accountable and transparent;
- foster effective and co-operative relationships as appropriate with other electoral agencies in New Zealand and overseas, the Ministry of Justice, other public sector organisations, Parliament, political parties, the media, community organisations and members of the public;
- seek feedback as appropriate from the recipients of the services provided by the Commission on the quality and timeliness of those services;
- keep up-to-date with practice in comparable countries in relation to the Commission's statutory responsibilities; and
- keep its internal procedures and its procedures relating to its statutory functions under review in the light of changes to legislation, technology, experience and circumstances and recommend legislative changes where appropriate.

Output 1: Application of the provisions of the Electoral Act 1993 relating to political parties

The Commission proposed to carry out its functions under this output in 2003/2004 by:

- maintaining and disseminating clear, transparent and equitable procedures for registering political parties and political party logos in accordance with the provisions of Part 4 of the Electoral Act 1993, and for full disclosure of donations made to registered political parties and registered parties' election expenses in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act 1993;
- processing as expeditiously as practicable on the basis of information supplied by applicants, applications for registration of parties and party logos, applications for changes to registered parties' details and to registered party logos, and applications for cancellation of the registration of a political party or of a registered party logo;
- maintaining an accurate Register of Political Parties;
- providing party secretaries and auditors with information about their obligations in relation to disclosure of donations and, if a general election is held in 2003/2004, about their obligations in relation to disclosure of election expenses at that general election;
- processing returns of donations and auditors' reports and, if a general election is held in 2003/2004, returns of election expenses and auditors' reports as expeditiously as practicable; and
- inquiring into any omissions or ambiguities arising out of any return of donations or return of election expenses and reporting the facts to the Police where the Commission believes that any person has committed an offence under sections 214C, 214G or 214L of the Electoral Act 1993.

Quantity

Performance Indicator	Projected	Actual
Number of applications for political party registration processed	3-6	1 (part)
Number of political parties for which registration details are maintained and updated, annual declarations received, and membership rules and candidate selection rules are made available for public inspection	21-27	18
Number of applications for the registration of new or revised political party logos processed	5-10	2
Number of political party logos for which registration details are maintained and updated	28-38	32
Projected number of duly completed returns of party donations and auditors' reports received	42-54	36
Projected number of duly completed political party election expense returns and auditors' reports received after a general election (assuming no general election is held in 2003/04)	0	0
Projected number of days during which the Register of Political Parties and registered logos, returns of party donations and auditors' reports, and returns of election expenses and auditors' reports are available for public inspection	242	248
Projected number of requests responded to for information about registration of parties or logos, registered parties' annual declarations, registered parties' membership rules and candidate selection rules, registered parties' election expenses, or party donations to registered parties	200-250	123
Projected number of projects seeking assessments of the Commission's services relating to registering a party or a logo, disclosing political party election expenses, and disclosing donations to political parties	1	0

Quality/Timeliness

Performance Indicator	Actual
All processes relating to registration of political parties and logos and to disclosure of parties' election expenses and donations conform with the provisions of the Electoral Act 1993 and the Commission's internal quality assurance standards.	Achieved
All details contained in the Register of Political Parties and on registered political party logos are accurate and up to date and are available for public inspection.	Achieved
Clear and comprehensive guidelines on the procedures for registering political parties and logos and for disclosing parties' election expenses and donations are freely available to all interested parties.	Achieved
All documents relating to Output 1 which must be available for public inspection are made available for public inspection within the statutory timeframes.	3 donations returns were 2 days late on display

Output 2: Promotion of public awareness of electoral matters

The Commission proposed to carry out its functions under this output in 2003/2004 by:

- using appropriate methods to promote general public awareness of electoral matters according to the resources made available for the purpose;
- developing education and information materials and programmes to promote understanding of electoral matters among target groups;
- being a recognised authority on electoral matters which is readily accessible, transparent and helpful;
- providing relevant education and information programmes for the 2005 general election according to the resources made available for the purpose;
- maintaining a state of readiness to conduct an information campaign in the event of an unscheduled general election;
- assisting the Department of Internal Affairs as required in its public education and information campaigns about the use of STV for local authority and district health board elections in 2004;
- periodically evaluating the effectiveness of its education and information programmes; and
- completing all work related to public awareness activities within budget and in ways that represent good use of resources.

Quantity

Performance Indicator	Projected	Actual
Projected number of requests for information responded to	2,000-2,500	1027
Projected number of information resources designed for Māori (ongoing availability)	1	1
Projected number of information resources designed for young people, women and Pacific Island people (ongoing availability)	3	3
Projected number of information resources designed for other groups (ongoing availability)	4	4
Projected number of quantitative and qualitative research projects commissioned	1	1
Projected number of academic and other activities supported	40-50	25
Projected number of media, academic and other awards sponsored	6	0
Projected number of projects seeking assessments of the Commission's services relating to promotion of public awareness of electoral matters	1	2

Quality

Performance Indicator	Actual
Quality assurance processes are applied to ensure that all responses to information requests comply with the Commission's standards. These quality standards include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear unambiguous language• Courteous and helpful• Accessible and approachable• Independence and political impartiality.	Achieved

Timeliness

Performance Indicator	Actual
Responses to written requests for information about electoral matters are provided within 2 working days of their receipt by the Commission. The Commission responds promptly to requests for information made by telephone or in person according to their nature and the means by which they are received.	95% response within 2 working days.
All Commission information resources and research projects will be completed in accordance with contracted standards and timeframes.	Achieved

Output 3: Allocation of election broadcasting time and funds

The Commission proposed to carry out its functions under this output in 2003/2004 by:

- maintaining and disseminating clear, transparent and equitable procedures for allocating election broadcasting time and funds to eligible political parties in accordance with the provisions of Part 6 of the Broadcasting Act 1989 and of the Electoral Act 1993;
- if a general election is held in 2003/2004, allocating election broadcasting time and funds to eligible political parties as expeditiously as practicable and in accordance with statutory provisions; and
- reporting the facts to the Police where the Commission believes that any person has committed an offence under section 80 of the Broadcasting Act 1989.

Quantity

Performance Indicator	Projected	Actual
Projected number of political parties receiving an allocation of election broadcasting time or funds (assuming no general election is held in 2003/04)	0	0
Projected number of broadcasters, broadcasting stations and broadcasting industry associations for which details must be maintained	260-280	283
Projected number of election programme payments to be processed (assuming no general election is held in 2003/04)	0	0
Projected number of broadcasters' returns of election programmes processed (assuming no general election is held in 2003/04)	0	0
Projected number of projects seeking assessments of the Commission's services relating to allocation of election broadcasting time and funds (assuming no general election is held in 2003/04)	0	0

Quality/Timeliness

Performance Indicator	Actual
All processes for the administration of broadcasting time and funds conform to the timeframes and provisions specified in the Broadcasting Act 1989 and related legislation.	No processes run
Clear and comprehensive guidelines on the procedures for allocating election broadcasting time and funds are freely available to all interested parties.	Achieved

Output 4: Provision of advice on electoral matters

The Commission proposed to carry out its functions under this output in 2003/2004 by:

- maintaining an appropriate capacity to respond to requests for advice on electoral matters having regard to the Commission's resources;
- providing advice on electoral matters that is based on accurate information, exhibits a logical structure, presents options where appropriate, follows consultations where appropriate and considers resource implications where appropriate; and
- providing advice on electoral matters by the mutually agreed deadline.

Quantity

Performance Indicator	Projected	Actual
Projected number of reports or papers produced, parliamentary questions answered	10-15	20
Projected number of projects seeking assessments of the Commission's services relating to advice on electoral matters	1	0

Quality/Timeliness

Performance Indicator	
Quality assurance processes are applied to ensure that all advice on electoral matters complies with the Commission's internal standards. These standards include: Accurate information Logical structure Conclusions based on sound reasoning Options presented where appropriate Consultation carried out where appropriate Resource implications considered where appropriate Responses provided by mutually agreed deadlines.	Achieved

Output 5: Publicity in connection with the next general election

No output due to it being a non-election year. A contingency plan was held ready in the event of an unscheduled general election.



**AUDIT REPORT
TO THE READERS OF
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

The Auditor-General is the auditor of the Electoral Commission. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Jo Smaill, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Electoral Commission, on his behalf, for the year ended 30 June 2004.

Unqualified opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of the Electoral Commission on pages 15 to 29:

- △ comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- △ fairly reflect:
 - the Electoral Commission's financial position as at 30 June 2004;
 - the results of its operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
 - its service performance achievements measured against the performance targets adopted for the year ended on that date.

The audit was completed on 9 August 2004, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of the opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Commissioners and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

Basis of opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards.

We planned and performed our audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements did not have material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in the opinion.

Our audit involved performing procedures to test the information presented in the financial statements. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

Audit procedures generally include:

- △ determining whether significant financial and management controls are working and can be relied on to produce complete and accurate data;
- △ verifying samples of transactions and account balances;
- △ performing analyses to identify anomalies in the reported data;
- △ reviewing significant estimates and judgements made by the Commissioners;
- △ confirming year-end balances;
- △ determining whether accounting policies are appropriate and consistently applied; and
- △ determining whether all financial statement disclosures are adequate.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support the opinion above.

Responsibilities of the Commissioners and the Auditor

The Commissioners are responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Those financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the Electoral Commission as at 30 June 2004. They must also fairly reflect the results of its operations and cash flows and service performance achievements for the year ended on that date. The Commissioner's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989 and the Electoral Act 1993.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and Section 43(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Independence

When carrying out the audit we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with or interests in the Electoral Commission.



Jo Smail
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand

Part 3: Statement of objectives for the year ending 30 June 2005

Vision

New Zealand's electoral framework and processes are widely used, understood, trusted and valued.

Organisational Objectives for 2004/2005

- I. Review our business processes in light of changing contexts. Ensuring that our processes adhere to the Guiding Principles of Electoral Administration (see pages 34-35) and have practical monitoring components. Incorporating greater utilisation of electronic media.
- II. Consolidate our position as the recognised authority for education on electoral matters and information about the electoral system. To be the first port of call for all those seeking information and data about the workings of MMP, the wider electoral context and related debates and practices overseas.
- III. Achieve certainty of the funding stream given that by the end of this financial year the Commission's reserves will have been spent.

Output 1: Application of the provisions of the Electoral Act 1993 relating to political parties

A Register of Political Parties (including party logos) is kept and made available for public inspection. Involved in this process is receiving and considering applications to register or to change registration details and responding to inquiries about the register and process of registration. Statutory requirements relating to political parties also cover disclosure of election expenses and donations

Objectives for 2004/2005

- I. Continue to respond to requests and to process applications in a professional manner.

Output 2: Promotion of public awareness of electoral matters

Between general election campaigns education on electoral matters serves a broad purpose of maintaining public awareness of, and interest in, New Zealand's democratic processes. The range of activities and materials utilised recognises the range of audiences that include parties, journalists, the education sector and politicians as well as voters and recognises the diversity of the electorate and their different levels of interest and prior understanding.

Objectives for 2004/2005

- I. Start to make an impact on levels of use, understanding, trust and value of the electoral framework and processes amongst those who currently have the lowest levels. In particular to make an impact amongst Māori, Pacific peoples and youth.
- II. Understand our audiences and develop programmes to meet their needs.
- III. Deliver resources and programmes that encourage and enable civic, particularly electoral, participation.

- IV. Promote and facilitate study, discussion, education and communication on New Zealand electoral matters by academics, journalists and other commentators.
- V. Build and maintain a tool that, over time, identifies, describes and measures audiences' electoral participation.

Output 3: Allocation of election broadcasting time and funds in accordance with the provisions of the Broadcasting Act 1989

Most of the activity takes place once in each election cycle. In the year prior to an expected election, the Commission follows a process of checking and consultation culminating in allocation of broadcast time and money amongst eligible political parties. The Commission processes the payment of allocated money and supervises compliance with Part 6 of the Act. In between these periods the Commission responds to inquiries, maintains all systems in readiness for the next cycle and remains abreast of related debates and processes in other democracies.

Objectives for 2004/2005

- I. Continue to carry out all aspects of the administration of these allocations in accordance with the Act and in a professional manner.

Output 4: Provision of advice on electoral matters

Advice to the Minister of Justice and Parliament on a range of electoral matters primarily takes the form of providing reports to the Justice and Electoral Committee; participating in the Officials Committee on Electoral Matters; and responding to Ministerial and Parliamentary questions.

Objectives for 2004/2005

- I. Continue to respond in a professional manner.
- II. Maintain a capacity to respond to questions on all election matters, including practice and debate overseas.
- III. Review the regular channels of communication with the Minister, the Ministry and Select Committees.

Output 5: Publicity in connection with the next general election

Voters should have the information necessary in order to cast an effective vote at a general election. Whilst much of the education around electoral matters will happen between elections, there is a concentrated information campaign immediately preceding each election. In planning the campaign the needs of different audiences are taken into consideration. At all times there is a contingency plan for an information campaign should an early election be called.

Objectives for 2004/2005

- I. Plan an election information campaign that delivers credibly and cost effectively given available funds are half that spent on the previous campaign and real costs of advertising are escalating.
- II. Ensure cohesion with activities in output 2 so that the broader education campaign supplements the specific information material for the general election.
- III. Determine the ways in which we can measure how many people were able to 'cast an effective vote'.

Guiding Principles of Electoral Administration

The Justice and Electoral Committee's *Report on its Inquiry into the 1999 General Election* (I.7C, 2001, pages 18-20) recommended that the Government encourage all electoral agencies and officials to observe the following five electoral principles:

Principles	Scope of the principles
Independence	Electoral agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must maintain the confidence of voters, candidates, political parties and Parliament in the integrity of the electoral process by being legally and in practice independent of all political parties and interest groups • are not subject to ministerial direction in carrying out their statutory functions, except as provided by law.
Neutrality	Electoral agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carry out their statutory functions in a politically neutral and non-partisan manner • treat all voters, candidates and political parties fairly and impartially and in accordance with the law.
Service to voters, candidates, and parties	Electoral agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide the highest quality electoral services to all voters, candidates and political parties in accordance with the law • provide electoral services to voters, candidates and political parties in ways which are as simple as possible, consistent with the law and minimise compliance costs • ensure that all sections of the community have ready access to the electoral process in accordance with their needs • provide an effective service to electors on the Māori roll • make easily-understood information about the electoral process available to all sections of the community in accordance with their needs • respond promptly and accurately to requests for information about electoral matters • make information on their activities readily available to the public and the media • have transparent and fair procedures in place to deal promptly with complaints of impropriety.

Principles	Scope of the principles
Professionalism	<p>Electoral agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are committed to ensuring the integrity of the electoral process in accordance with the law • carry out their statutory functions in a fair, accurate, secure and timely manner • ensure that their members and employees behave in their public and private lives in ways which are consistent with the highest standards of independence and political neutrality • keep electoral legislation under review and report to Parliament on desirable changes to electoral legislation • continually evaluate their provision of electoral services and their internal and external procedures to ensure they are in accordance with the law, are meeting users' needs, are as simple, efficient and effective as possible, and use appropriate information technology • keep up to date with best international democratic electoral practice.
Responsibility accountability	<p>Electoral agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make efficient and effective use of financial and other resources to carry out their statutory functions • have clear financial and operational responsibilities and accountabilities under appropriate governance structures • set budgets according to objectives and regularly measure performance against objectives • are subject to regular independent auditing of financial and operational performance • provide Parliament with comprehensive, accurate and timely reports on their activities, including their capacity to conduct electoral events and their conduct of electoral events.

The Electoral Commission adopted these principles at its meeting on 8 March 2002.



Electoral Commission
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri