

The Government is committed to promoting the development and growth of the agriculture, forestry, horticulture, fisheries, energy, mineral, and tourism sectors.

This year you will be asked to approve a Bill consolidating and amending the Fertilisers Act 1960. The Bill will improve consumer protection.

The horticultural sector will receive encouragement from the revision of the Plant Varieties Act 1973 which will permit the introduction of overseas plant varieties protected by patents and ensure better reciprocal protection of varieties developed in this country.

There is a need to modernise the 1908 fisheries legislation and its numerous amendments. You will, therefore, be asked to consider a Fisheries Bill which will regulate the industry and provide for conservation and protection.

The Government's policies in the energy sector will continue to aim at reducing dependence on imported oil and make the maximum use of indigenous energy resources. Gas from the Maui field remains the key to the implementation of these policies.

You will be asked to consider the revision of existing gas legislation in order to incorporate LPG, CNG, and provide for the needs of the expanding natural gas industry. Amendments to the Petroleum Act 1937 are also required in order to clarify the legislation relating to the pipeline network. In addition a Bill will be introduced to provide for the updating of the Quarries Act 1944 to bring that legislation into line with current mining practice.

The Government will continue with its policy of ensuring that New Zealand goods and services are used to the fullest possible extent in the major development projects. This will provide further opportunities to increase levels of skills and provide for more employment.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, in maintaining its commitment to ensuring the highest possible level of employment the Government recognises that this largely depends on a sound economy and a rate of economic growth that is adequate to provide jobs for an expanding workforce. It also depends on wage rates that are not excessive in relation to the level