

The continuing burden imposed on the health and social services by the high road toll must be viewed with deep concern. You will be asked to consider a comprehensive package of measures which are designed to make our roads safer for all users.

In response to growing public concern at the offence of rape and the plight of victims, a major study has been completed and reforms will follow. Work will continue on developing penal policy with a view to introducing a Criminal Justice Bill this year.

Of recent times much attention has focussed on the care of children and the Government will introduce legislation to amend the Children and Young Persons Act which will be designed to protect further the interests of children and enhance the quality of their care.

You will be asked to consider legislation that will update the law on commissions of inquiry, licensing trusts and extradition. Decisions in the Courts have demonstrated the need for immigration legislation which is relevant to our changing society and which can be enforced. A review of the legislation has accordingly commenced and a Bill will be introduced this session.

The Government has completed its review of competition policy, and amending legislation will be introduced early in this session. The principal changes will be to the law relating to mergers, takeovers and monopolies, and restrictive trade practices. A Bill to continue the process of amending the Companies Act will also be introduced.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government will continue to meet the special needs of the Maori people in housing, land ownership and land use. Legislation will be introduced this session to incorporate many of the recommendations of the New Zealand Maori Council, which has undertaken a comprehensive review of the law particularly on rural issues concerning Maori people.

The Land Act 1948 has been reviewed during the past two years. It is probable that the review will be completed this year thus enabling a Bill to be introduced towards the end of the session. Recommendations relating to leases of Crown pastoral land, arising