



8 August 2013

Media Release

EDS supports new environmental reporting regime

The Environmental Defence Society has welcomed the announcement that the Government intends to establish a comprehensive environmental reporting system in New Zealand.

The announcement was made this morning by Environment Minister Amy Adams at the EDS national conference.

“The proposal is that the Ministry for the Environment and the government Statistician will jointly prepare six monthly reports looking at a particular environmental domain and a synthesised report across the whole environment every 3 years,” said EDS Chairman Gary Taylor.

“The reports will examine air, climate and atmosphere, freshwater, marine and land, with biodiversity as a theme across all domains.

“The civil servants who will do the work are part of the independent civil service but to ensure the exercise remains free from political influence, the proposal envisages the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment will perform an unfettered audit-type function.

“It will be important that the Ministry for the Environment, the Government Statistician and the Commissioner for the Environment are properly resourced for their respective roles.

“We think that having systematic and ordered environmental reporting is very important for New Zealand and will help build integrity around our environmental performance. Regular reporting will enable policy interventions to be made when deteriorating environmental quality is detected.

“There will be some challenges in working up the right indicators and making sure they are representative. We look forward to seeing more detail when it is available,” Mr Taylor concluded.