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1. Contents of email from Dr Marc Rands, External Affairs Manager, Royal Society of New Zealand on topics potentially of relevance to NZFSS

One of the key functions of the Royal Society of New Zealand is to provide expert advice on important public issues to the Government and the community, drawing upon the full range of New Zealand's research expertise, from across all disciplines. In order to capitalize on the Society's multidisciplinary expertise we would welcome perspectives on a topic from every discipline so that the advice the Society gives can be comprehensive and address the issue from as wide a perspective as possible. There is, of course, no need to respond to every question/issue and you would only need to comment on those which you had relevant information to provide.

Yours sincerely

Marc Rands

Dr Marc Rands
External Affairs Manager

2. Comments sought on addressing competing demands on land from agriculture, forestry, housing, recreation, tourism, and renewable energy

Title: Competition for Land Use

Organisation: Royal Society of New Zealand

Description: An Emerging Issues paper being developed by the RSNZ Biological and Life Sciences Advisory Panel. The paper is based on the Royal Society of New Zealand conference "Collision of Land Use Forum" held in 2010 and looks to identify how to address competing demands on land from agriculture, forestry, housing, recreation, tourism, and renewable energy can be met, as well as providing wildlife habitats, clean water, iconic landscapes, and land for cultural and spiritual purposes.

Deadline for submissions: 18 March 2011

Further information: In developing this paper, we are keen to hear from experts and interested parties on the following topics:

- Land use trends
- National land use planning
- Resolving conflicts
- Issues around land use conflicts in agriculture/forestry; environment/wildlife; landscape, tourism and cultural value; urban/economic development

Fellows and members interested in contributing to this paper should contact Dr Marc Rands (marc.rands@royalsociety.org.nz).

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Yours sincerely

Marc Rands

Dr Marc Rands

External Affairs Manager

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3. Information: New Zealand's 2050 Emissions Target Minister's Position Paper

Title: Gazetting New Zealand's 2050 Emissions Target Minister's Position Paper

Organisation: Ministry for the Environment

Description: The Government is committed to implementing an economically sound and environmentally effective climate change policy. A part of this will be a credible long-term emissions reduction target. To provide certainty for business over the long-term direction of climate change policy, the Government proposes to notify in the New Zealand Gazette a long-term emissions reduction target for New Zealand. The 2050 emissions reduction target, which follows the current Kyoto Protocol approach, is on the basis of net emissions in the future, relative to gross emissions in 1990.

Deadline for submissions: 23 February 2011

Further information: the RSNZ Climate Expert Panel is leading the response. If you would like to contribute, contact Dr Jez Weston (jez.weston@royalsociety.org.nz).

4. Charles Fleming Fund – Call for Applications

We are now calling for applications for the following awards:

- * Charles Fleming Fund - Travel Award
- * Charles Fleming Fund - Senior Scientist Award
- * Charles Fleming Fund - Publishing Award

The closing date for applications is **31 March 2011**.

Information on these awards, and application forms are available on the Society's website:
<http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/fleming/>

All applications will be acknowledged via email, within a fortnight of receipt of the applications.

Judy Lyons
Executive Assistant, Academy

Judy Lyons
Executive Assistant, Academy, Corporate Affairs


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5. National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

Organisation: Ministry for the Environment

Description: The proposed NPS is intended to provide clearer direction to local authorities on their responsibilities for managing indigenous biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991. It outlines policies and decision-making frameworks for the identification and management of indigenous biodiversity found outside the public conservation estate. The proposed NPS contains a list of criteria for identifying areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous animals that have been recognised as being rare and/or threatened at a national level. These criteria are based on the Government's Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land. The proposed NPS requires district and relevant regional plans to identify these areas of significant biodiversity within five years of the NPS taking effect. Local authorities would be required to manage the effects of activities through district and regional plans and resource consent decisions (or be satisfied that effects are managed by other methods) to ensure there is no net loss of significant indigenous biodiversity. The proposed NPS seeks to promote the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity while recognising the rights and responsibilities of landowners and the interests of Māori.

Deadline for submissions: 15 March 2011

Further Information: the RSNZ Biological and Life Sciences Advisory Panel is leading the response. If you would like to contribute, a copy of the consultation paper can be found at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/biodiversity/indigenous-biodiversity/index.html>, and responses should be sent to Dr Marc Rands (marc.rands@royalsociety.org.uk)

N.B. NZFSS has responded to this.

6. Emerging Issues: Ecosystem Services

Organisation: Royal Society of New Zealand

Description: The Society's next Emerging Issues paper will cover ecosystem services. This is a concept that is rapidly growing in importance, with the UN agreed to create the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in December 2010 to make ecosystems services research more available to policy makers. The paper will summarise the state of knowledge about ecosystem services, the social factors behind the concept, the research underway in New Zealand, and the relevance of the ecosystem services approach to New Zealand-specific resource management issues. The key focus of the paper is the steps being taken to move ecosystem services from a research concept to a useful tool for policy-makers.

Deadline for submissions: 11 March 2011

Further information: In developing this paper, we are keen to hear from experts and interested parties on the following topics:

- Defining ecosystem services both as a concept and a set of practices
- Understanding the value of ecosystem services from both an economic and social perspective
- Measuring value – modelling, valuation, and understanding scale & bundling
- Capturing value, informing adaptive natural resource management, and comparability between different ecosystem services
- New Zealand research on ecosystems services across the New Zealand landscape, from conservation areas to agro-ecological systems, marine environments, and urban areas
- Thinking on New Zealand-specific issues in ecosystem services and existing domestic policy issues recast with an ecosystem services framework

Fellows and members interested in contributing to this paper should contact Dr Jez Weston (jez.weston@royalsociety.org.nz).

Competition for Land Use

Organisation: Royal Society of New Zealand

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Deadline for submissions: 18 March 2011

Further information: In developing this paper, we are keen to hear from experts and interested parties on the following topics:

- Land use trends
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