

New Zealand's environment at a glance



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Key findings from *New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: Environment Aotearoa 2015*

ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE

Our climate shapes and supports our environment, economy, and way of life, but it is slowly changing.

UV light



high rates of melanoma due to UV exposure

Carbon dioxide



CO₂ concentrations over NZ since 1972

Temperature



over the past 100 years

Global emissions



global greenhouse gas emissions since 1990

AIR

We enjoy good air quality in most places most of the time. Air quality problems can occur, usually in winter in specific locations.

Airborne particles



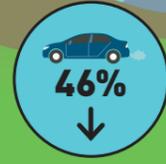
since 2006, leading to improved air quality

Home heating



human-made airborne particles in 2013 were from burning wood and coal

Transport emissions



carbon monoxide since 2001

FRESH WATER

It is poorer in urban and agricultural areas, and very good in national parks, native bush, and tussock.

Nitrogen on land



since 1990, from livestock and fertiliser

Nitrogen in rivers



since 1989, increasing the likelihood of slime and weeds

Water clarity



improvement since 1989

LAND

Our land has undergone dramatic change since people arrived 700–800 years ago, affecting our biodiversity and land productivity.

Land use



used for farming and forestry in 2012

Erosion



tonnes of eroded soil entering NZ waterways each year affecting water quality and productivity

Soil compaction



soils under dairy farming badly affected by compaction in 2013

Pests



area affected by possums, rats, and stoats in 2014

MARINE

Our marine environment is diverse, but changes are affecting our native seabirds and marine mammals.

Seabirds



threatened with extinction in 2012

Marine mammals



threatened with extinction in 2009

Oceans



coastal sea levels and acidity are rising

Overfishing



overfishing has declined since 2009