

Commissions of inquiry, 1909–2011

Matter before the commission	Date of appointment	Date of report	Type
Native lands and native land tenure	January 1909		Commission of inquiry
Timber and timber building industries	March 1909	June 1909	Commission
Police force in New Zealand	June 1909	October 1909	Royal commission
Hamilton Domain	May 1910		Commission
Waihou and Ohinemuri rivers	May 1910	July 1910	Commission
Auckland city and suburban electric tramways	May 1910		Royal commission
Whangarei abattoir site	March 1911		Commission
Kaiapoi reserve	April 1911		Commission
Mines – prevention of accidents, etc.	July 1911	December 1911	Royal commission
West Coast settlement reserves	April 1912		Commission
Hawera and New Plymouth railway	April 1912		Commission
Public service in New Zealand	May 1912	August 1912	Commission
Cost of living in New Zealand	May 1912	August 1912	Royal commission
Education	May 1912	July 1912	Commission
St Helens Maternity Hospital, Auckland	December 1912	April 1913	Commission
Public Trust Office	December 1912	April 1913	Commission
Westport Harbour Board	September 1913	November 1913	Commission
Sunnyside Mental Hospital	September 1913	October 1913	Commission
Kauri-gum reserves	March 1914	July 1914	Commission

Care and carriage of explosives in New Zealand Matter before the commission	May 1914 Date of appointment	July 1914 Date of report	royal commission type
Mining districts in Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland	May 1914	August 1914	Royal commission
Transport improvements in Auckland	May 1914		Commission
Reserves for landless natives	June 1914	August 1914	Commission
Hauraki mining district and Te Aroha township	July 1914	August 1914	Royal commission
Regulation of trade and commerce	August 1914	June 1915	Royal commission
Rotorua tenures	September 1914	October 1914	Commission
Huntly mining accident	September 1914	October 1914	Royal commission
Valuation of land	November 1914	February 1915	Commission
Gaming	December 1914	April 1915	Commission
Education districts	April 1915	June 1915	Commission
Trentham camp	July 1915	August 1915	Commission
Waiau reserve	October 1915	November 1915	Commission
Foxton wharf and main trunk deviation	January 1916	June 1916	Commission
Hihianu block	November 1916	February 1917	Commission
Municipal leases	January 1917	May 1917	Commission
Railway rolling-stock	February 1917	March 1917	Commission
Wairau River	April 1917	June 1917	Commission
Auckland Post Office	July 1917	September 1917	Commission
Waikato River	September 1917	October 1917	Commission
Rangi Kerehoma	December 1917	February 1918	Commission

Defence Department expenditure Matter before the commission	January 1918 Date of appointment	June 1918 Date of report	Royal commission Type
Mangata blocks nos. 1, 3, 4	January 1918	April 1918	Commission
Waterside accidents		July 1918	Commission
Fisheries	October 1918		Commission
Influenza epidemic	January 1919	May 1919	Commission
Rivers Commission covering Maerewhenua, Waihou, Clutha, Aparima, Taieri, Rangitata, Waimakariri, Wairau, Wainu-uha, Orari, Ashley, Waihi	April 1919	December 1919 – March 1921	Commission
Samoa epidemic	May 1919	July 1919	Commission
Railway timetable	September 1919	October 1919	Commission
Trade between NZ and the Pacific Islands	February 1920	May 1920	Commission
Southern pastoral lands	April 1920	June 1920	Commission
Native land claims	June 1920	November 1920	Commission
Taupo tramway lands and timber	October 1920	December 1920	Commission
North Auckland railway routes	October 1920	January 1921	Commission
Racing	November 1920	June 1921	Commission
System of lands and inland waterways and other transport improvements in the Auckland District	December 1920		Commission
Hospitals	January 1921	March 1921	Commission
Customs tariffs in New Zealand	February 1921		Commission
Palmerston North railway facilities	February 1921	April 1921	Commission
Kauri-gum industry	February 1921	June 1921	Commission
Thames Harbour	March 1921	July 1921	Commission
Waihou and Ohinemuri rivers	July 1921	September 1921	Commission
Production, distribution, importation and prices of		November	

Production, distribution, importation and price of Matter before the commission	October 1921 Date of appointment	November Date of report	Commission Type
Rotorua-Taupo railway	May 1922		Royal commission
War pensions	September 1922	October 1922	Commission
Timber royalties	May 1923	August 1923	Commission
Kelvin Hospital	February 1924	April 1924	Commission
Land and income tax	April 1924	May 1924	Royal commission
Railways	October 1924	December 1924	Commission
Sale of Poverty Bay Farmers meat company to Messrs Vestry Bros	January 1925	July 1925	Royal commission
University education in New Zealand	April 1925	August 1925	Royal commission
Rangitaiki land drainage	April 1925	June 1925	Commission
Wharf in Tryphena Harbour	August 1925		Commission
Agricultural banks and rural credits	August 1925	July 1926	Royal commission
Maori model villages	May 1926	July 1926	Commission
Confiscated Maori lands and other grievances	September 1926	June 1927	Royal commission
Customs tariffs	November 1926	August 1927	Commission
Dobson Colliery	June 1927	June 1927	Royal commission
Napier Harbour Board	July 1927	September 1927	Royal commission
Western Samoa	September 1927	November 1927	Royal commission
Borough of Otaki	March 1928	June 1928	Commission
Auckland transport	April 1928	June 1928	Commission
Rating of farm lands in boroughs	July 1928	August 1928	Commission

Ex-Soldiers rehabilitation	October 1929	January 1930	Commission
Waitemata Harbour transit facilities	October 1929	April 1930	Royal commission
Special land-tax	December 1929	May 1930	Royal commission
Workers' compensation	April 1930		Commission
Railways	June 1930	September 1930	Commission
National expenditure	January 1932	March 1932	Commission
Ohai Railway Board	September 1932		Commission
Tariffs	May 1933	March 1934	Commission
Company promotion methods etc.	January 1934	October 1934	Commission
Native affairs	February 1934	October 1934	Commission
Dairy industry	April 1934	October 1934	Commission
Reconstruction of hospital districts – area I	October 1936		Commission
Reconstruction of hospital districts – area II	October 1936		Commission
Napier Hospital	May 1937		Royal commission
Care and treatment of patients by Wellington Hospital Board	April 1938		Royal commission
Orakei lands	June 1938	November 1938	Royal commission
Sheep-farming industry	July 1939	September 1939	Commission
Glen Afton collieries	October 1939	February 1940	Royal commission
Kaye's mine	December 1940	February 1941	Royal commission
Loss of shipping by enemy action	January 1941		Commission

Matters referred to the four metropolitan areas	Date of appointment	Date of report	Commission type
Works near the mouth of the Hutt River	March 1944		Commission
Apprenticeship and related matters	April 1944	November 1944	Commission
Licensing	January 1945	August 1946	Royal commission
Dairy industry stabilisation Account	January 1946	July 1946	Commission
Gaming and racing	March 1946	December 1947	Royal commission
Trans-harbour facilities in the Auckland metropolitan area	March 1946	July 1946	Royal commission
Surplus war assets	July 1946	September 1946	Royal commission
Surplus lands of the Crown – claims by Maori	October 1946	October 1948	Royal commission
Sheep-farming industry	August 1947	June 1948	Royal commission
Assessment of rentals under leases of the West Coast settlement reserves; Maori claims to Mokau, Mahia, Pukerou-orua Whata blocks	August 1947	March 1948 to July 1948	Royal commission
Ballantyne fire	December 1947	August 1948	Royal commission
Fresh meat supplies	April 1948	July 1948	Commission
Patents, designs and trade marks	April 1948		Commission
Treatment of press – Kaka air disaster	December 1948	November 1949	Commission
Auckland drainage	March 1949	June 1949	Commission
Leases of Maori land vested in the Maori land boards	November 1949	June 1951	Royal commission
Payments by Aotea District Maori Land Board – West Taupo timber lands, Tarawera and Tatarakaikina, Mohaka and Upouturi Blocks	December 1949	July 1951 to October 1951	Royal commission
Wanganui River – Maori claims to land	January 1950	July 1950	Royal commission
Death of aircraftsman W. H. Momo	February 1950		Commission
Waterfront industry	September 1950	July 1952	Royal commission

Matter before the commission	Date of appointment	Date of report	Type Commission
War pensions acts and regulations	October 1950		
Meat export slaughterhouse in Southland	July 1951	September 1951	Royal commission
Auckland Harbour Bridge	August 1951		Commission
Railways	March 1952	June 1952	Royal commission
Edgecumbe township	March 1952		Commission
Prosecution of D. S. J. Weir	March 1952		Commission
Law relating to taxation of Maori authorities	May 1952	August 1952	Commission
Supply and sale of intoxicating liquor in Western Samoa	August 1952	March 1953	Commission
Foxton and Manawatu rivers	February 1953		Commission
Conduct of members of the police force	October 1953	November 1954	Commission
Deaths of J. W. McClymont and K. A. C. Belworthy	February 1954		Commission
Tuberculin testing in town milk-supply herds	March 1954		Commission
Monetary, banking and credit systems in NZ	March 1955	March 1956	Royal commission
Accident on board HMNZS Black Prince	April 1955	May 1955	Commission
Alleged nuisances from fumes in the South Auckland metropolitan area	July 1955	August 1955	Commission
Prosecution of D. J. Ruku and M. C. Harris	July 1955	September 1955	Commission
Accident at Renown colliery	September 1955	February 1956	Commission
M. V. "Joyita"	December 1955	February 1956	Commission
Fluoridation of public water supplies	November 1956	July 1957	Commission
DIC scaffolding collapse	May 1957	September 1957	Royal commission
Local authority finance	October 1957	September 1958	Royal commission
Alteration of boundaries - Auckland metropolitan	February		

Alteration of boundaries – Auckland metropolitan Water Board and the commission	February 1958 Date of appointment	Date of report	Commission Type
Accident at Westhaven coal mine	March 1958	July 1958	Commission
Meat industry	January 1959	August 1959	Commission
Distribution of electricity	February 1959		Commission
Compensation from the Auckland Harbour Bridge Authority	May 1959		Commission
Public service salary and wage scales – Western Samoa	July 1959		Commission
Accident at Auckland Farmers Freezing Co. Ltd., King's Wharf	October 1959		Commission
Purchase of Canberra aircraft	August 1960	October 1960	Commission
State services in New Zealand	July 1961	June 1962	Royal commission
Improved access by land to the port of Tauranga and Bay of Plenty	August 1962	February 1963	Commission
Lower Waikato and Waipu rivers control	March 1963		Commission
Return of butter sold for consumption within New Zealand	April 1963	July 1963	Commission
Proposed transmission of electricity from Otahuhu to Henderson	May 1963	August 1963	Commission
Alleged nuisances in the Auckland metropolitan drainage district	December 1963	January 1965	Commission
Vocational training	December 1964		Commission
Explosive fire at Masterton	May 1965		Commission
Riot at Auckland Prison	July 1965		Commission
Riot at Christchurch Prison	July 1965		Commission
Security service	June 1966	August 1966	Commission
Accident compensation	September 1966		Royal commission
Strongman mine disaster	February 1967	October 1967	Commission
Colony and wage fixing procedures in the state	February	August	Royal

Salary and wage fixing procedures in the state Matters before the commission	February Date of appointment	August Date of report	Royal commission Type
Organisation of wildlife management	June 1968		Commission
Scientology	February 1969	June 1969	Commission
Horse racing, trotting and dog racing	August 1969		Royal commission
Social security	September 1969	December 1971	Royal commission
Housing	April 1970	April 1971	Commission
Lake Manapouri	April 1970	October 1970	Commission
Kaimai tunnel disaster	April 1970	June 1970	Commission
Shipping	May 1970	June 1971	Commission
Equal pay	January 1971	September 1971	Commission
Containerisation	May 1971	June 1972	Royal commission
Oakley Psychiatric Hospital	July 1971	September 1971	Commission
Salary and wage fixing procedures in the NZ state services	February 1972	June 1972	Royal commission
Hospitals and related services	February 1972		Royal commission
Dismissal of the editor of the New Zealand Listener	August 1972	October 1972	Commission
Parliamentary salaries and allowances	1973	1973	Royal commission
Auckland civil defence emergency	1973	1973	Commission
Meat industry	1973	1974	Commission
Sale of liquor in New Zealand	1973	1975	Royal commission
Maori reserved land	1973	1975	Commission
Future use of Rangatira B and Rangatira C blocks	1974	1974	Royal commission
Distribution of motor spirits and ancillary products	1974	1976	Commission

Matter before the commission Harbour pilotage	Date of appointment 1974	Date of report 1975	Type Commission
Certain allegations	1974	February 1975	Commission
Explosion and fire at Seaview, Hutt Valley	1974	July 1975	Commission
Contraception, sterilisation and abortion	1975	1977	Royal commission
New Zealand Electricity Department house rents	1976	1976	Commission
Nuclear power generation	1976	1978	Royal commission
The courts	1976	1978	Royal commission
Heavy engineering industry	1976	1978	Commission
Alleged breach of confidentiality of the police file on the Honourable Colin James Moyle, MP	1976	1978	Commission
Discharge by the Director-General of Social Welfare and other officers of the Department of Social Welfare of their respective responsibilities in respect of a 13-year-old Niuean boy	1977	1977	Commission
Distribution of motor vehicle parts	1977	1977	Commission
Social facilities in the Waiouru camp community	1977	1978	Commission
Maori courts	1978	1980	Royal commission
Chiropractic	1978	1979	Commission
Wage relativities on New Zealand vessels	1979	1979	Commission
Abbotsford landslip disaster	1979	1980	Commission
Rescue and fire services at international airports	1979	1980	Commission
Taxation of travelling allowances	1979	1980	Commission
Freight forwarding industry	1980	1980	Commission
Crash on Mount Erebus, Antarctica, of a DC-10 aircraft operated by Air New Zealand Limited	1980	1981	Royal commission
Allegations of impropriety in respect of approval by the Marginal Lands Board of an application by James Maurice Fitzgerald and Audrey Fitzgerald	1980	1980	Commission
Circumstances of the convictions of Arthur Allan Thomas for the murders of David Harvey Crewe and Jeanette Lenore Crewe	1980	1980	Royal commission

Matter before the commission Administration of the District Court at Wellington	Date of appointment 1982	Date of report 1983	Type Commission
Air traffic control services	1982		Commission
Certain matters related to drug trafficking	1982	1983	Royal commission
Circumstances of the release of Ian David Donaldson from a psychiatric hospital and of his subsequent arrest and release on bail	1983	1983	Commission
Contractual arrangements entered into by the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand with its employees and into certain matters related to advertising	1983	1984	Commission
Industrial relations on the Whangarei refinery expansion project construction site	1984	1984	Commission
Broadcasting and related telecommunications	1985	1986	Royal commission
Electoral system	1985	1986	Royal commission
Social policy	1986	1988	Royal commission
Certain matters relating to taxation	1994	1997	Commission
Collapse of a viewing platform at Cave Creek near Punakaiki on the West Coast	1995	1995	Commission
Provision of computer system Known as the Integrated National Crime Information (INCIS)	1999		Commission
Genetic modification	May 2000	July 2002	Royal commission
Police conduct	February 2004	March 2007	Commission
Auckland governance	October 2007	March 2009	Royal commission
Pike River coal mine tragedy	December 2010		Royal commission
Building failure caused by the Canterbury earthquakes	April 2011		Royal commission

This table lists all commissions of inquiry and royal commissions from 1909 until 2011. Commissions were held from 1855, but in 1908 the Commissions of Inquiry Act consolidated all previous legislation governing their operations. From that time, commissions were used to investigate a very wide range of issues.

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