



## Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Minister for ACC

8 FEB 2010

Alastair Bisley,  
Chair, Land and Water Forum  
Level 8, CMC Building, 89 Courtenay Place, Te Aro,  
**Wellington 6011**

Dear Alastair

I enclosed a copy of the report from the Board of Inquiry into the proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

You will have noted that National's pre-election policy was for this work to be put on hold until conclusion of Land and Water Forum process. This proved to not to be possible as it could have been misconstrued as interference in the independent process of the Board. Instead, I decided to allow the process to conclude but hold off any final decisions on it until the Land and Water Forum reports back to Government.

I am not looking to make any national level decisions on fresh water until the Land and Water Forum reports back. I am providing the Board's report to the Land and Water Forum, Iwi Leaders and Officials. The Board's report and recommendations provide useful material for further debate and discussion.

I see the National Policy Statement as one matter that the Land and Water Forum may consider in your report to me in June. I want you to consider in finalising your report how an National Policy Statement of this kind would fit into any frameworks you are considering.

As you are also aware Hon Rodney Hide and I appointed a Review Group last year to undertake a performance review of Environment Canterbury. That Review Group has now reported their findings to us, which I have also attached for your information. Please note that this report is under strict embargo until **10:00am Friday 19 February 2010**.

This report proposes significant changes to the governance arrangements for water in Canterbury and also recommends urgent intervention by Government. The Government has yet to make decisions on how to respond to this report but is mindful of the need not to make long term policy changes until the Land and Water Forum has reported back.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Nick Smith  
**Minister for the Environment**