



# Cabinet

CAB Min (10) 7/14

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## Minute of Decision

- 3 MAR 2010

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### Review of Environment Canterbury

Portfolio: Environment

On 1 March 2010, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that on 15 February 2010, Cabinet:
  - 1.1 noted the briefing from the Minister for the Environment on the report "Investigation of the Performance of Environment Canterbury under the Resource Management Act and Local Government Act";
  - 1.2 noted that the report would be publicly released on Friday 19 February 2010;
  - 1.3 noted that the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Local Government both have an interest in the report and the performance of Environment Canterbury, under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2002 respectively;
  - 1.4 invited the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Local Government, in consultation with the Minister for Economic Development, Minister of Agriculture, and Minister of Conservation, to develop the government's response to the report, and submit a paper to Cabinet on 1 March 2010 addressing the government response and next steps;
  - 1.5 noted that the Minister for the Environment and Minister of Local Government would consult with Canterbury mayors, and others as appropriate, on the implications of the report and the proposed government response;
  - 1.6 noted that urgent legislation may be required to give effect to the government's response;
  - 1.7 invited the Minister for the Environment to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office at the earliest opportunity;
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- 2 **noted** that the report and recommendations of the review of Environment Canterbury was released on 19 February 2010;
- 3 **noted** that on 24 February 2010, the Minister of Local Government and Minister for the Environment met with Environment Canterbury, Canterbury Mayors and Chief Executives, stakeholders and Ngai Tahu in Christchurch to discuss the report and recommendations of the review of Environment Canterbury;

- 4 **noted** that stakeholder response to the report indicates broad consensus in support of the review group's findings in relation to the institutional governance of Environment Canterbury and almost unanimous support for strong central government leadership on this issue;
- 5 **noted** that Environment Canterbury and Ngai Tahu will provide a formal response to the report and recommendations of the review of Environment Canterbury on 3 March 2010;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment considers that the situation in Canterbury is unlikely to improve without some form of central government intervention;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment considers that the fresh water management issues in Canterbury are nationally significant;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment has directed the Ministry for the Environment to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to develop options for immediately addressing pressing fresh water management issues in Canterbury as part of any government response to the review of Environment Canterbury;
- 9 **invited** the Minister for the Environment to report to Cabinet by 8 March 2010 with a proposed government response to the review of Environment Canterbury;
- 10 **agreed** that it is important that the government responds rapidly to the review of Environment Canterbury and that any special legislation necessary to enable a timely and effective government response to the review of Environment Canterbury should be enacted before the end of March 2010.

*Rebecca Kitteridge*  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (10) 75

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