



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Status Report

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Week beginning 2 November 2009



Seen by Hon Dr Nick Smith

Date _____

5. Major Media Items from the past week

- 5.6 The Press published an article on 23 October about Environment Canterbury's investigation into a proposal to introduce a partial user-pays charge for water management and monitoring, which will mostly affect rural water consent holders. The proposal was shelved for a year in June to allow more work to be done on the scheme and for more consultation.
- 5.8 Your announcement of a performance review into ECan was the subject of a Radio NZ Checkpoint item on 28 October. The item interviewed you and Minister Hide and offered straightforward background about the reasons for the review. ECan's Chair and the Christchurch Mayor were also interviewed. The programme unsuccessfully attempted to interview former ECan Chair Sir Kerry Burke. TVNZ also focused on ECan, with only a brief reference to Far North DC, and put the story in the context of Sir Kerry's ousting. The Press provided Page 1 coverage of the ECan review, taking the angle that a commissioner could run the council if it doesn't improve its performance. It interviewed numerous players, including Opposition MPs who suggested ECan was being reviewed for standing in the way of big business. No mention was made of Far North District Council.