



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Status Report

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Week beginning 12 October 2009



Seen by Hon Dr Nick Smith

Date _____

5. Major Media Items from the past week

- 5.1 Environment Canterbury (ECan) continues to receive media coverage, particularly in local papers. Farmers Weekly (5 October) reported that the new chairman, Alec Neill, has outlined the priorities for the organisation. These priorities include ECan playing a leadership role in setting up water storage for farm irrigation in Canterbury. The Otago Daily Times (6 October) published an article about Neill's plans to improve ECan's relationship with central South Island Mayors and The Press (6 October) printed an article about the Friday 9 October deadline for three ECan councillors to explain any potential conflicts of interest in water use. This follows a request from the Auditor-General's Office to South Canterbury councillors Mark Oldfield and Bronwen Murray and to Christchurch West representative Pat Harrow after a complaint was made on this issue by Christchurch Central Labour MP Brendon Burns in July.