



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Status Report

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Week beginning 16 November 2009



Seen by Hon Dr Nick Smith

Date _____

5. Major Media Items from the past week

- 5.2 Coverage of ECan has continued, with Dairy Newz (10 November) saying the investigation was prompted by 'desperate pleas' from the region's mayors and MPs. The Timaru Herald and Stuff (7 November) reported on the paper's OIA request for correspondence between ECan Chief Executive Bryan Jenkins and the ministries of Local Government and Environment. This follows a letter that was sent to Minister Hide, which was signed by all ten Canterbury mayors, expressing concerns about ECan's performance. The letter's release coincided with Alec Neill's selection as chairman. Dr Jenkins said that, as Chief Executive, he took the mayors' complaints very seriously.
- 5.3 The Press (6 November) ran a report on the release of ECan's proposed Canterbury Water Management Strategy being backed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. The article said that the programme (titled 'Immediate Steps') could cost up to \$20 million in the first five years and would be geared towards restoring waterways affected by intensive land use, fencing, planting, pest control and willow removal. ECan chairman Alec Neill was quoted as saying the extra responsibilities under the strategy would cost up to four percent more in general rates, with an increase of up to two percent in the