

ET

Priority Urgent



THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

# Local Government Briefing

**Hon Rodney Hide**  
**Minister of Local Government**

**Copy to:** Hon John Carter  
Associate Minister of Local Government

**Title:** Draft letter notifying Environment Canterbury of investigation into Ministerial intervention

**Date:** 24 September 2009

<b>Key issues</b>
This briefing attaches a letter, for your approval, which notifies Environment Canterbury of why Ministerial intervention in this council is being considered.

<b>Action sought</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Sign the attached letter, if you agree.	As soon as possible.

### Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone		Suggested first contact
		direct line	after hours	
Antony Moss	Manager (Regulatory Policy)	(04) 494 0636	027 476 0361	✓
Danny Shaw	Policy Analyst	(04) 494 5703		

Return to: Danny Shaw  
DMS file reference: PLG-2500-3\_4\_020018DB  
Ministerial database reference: LGC200903184

**Purpose of briefing**

1. This briefing attaches a letter, for your approval, which notifies Environment Canterbury of why Ministerial intervention in this council is being considered.

**Background information**

2. On 18 September 2009, Canterbury Mayors wrote to the Minister of Local Government outlining a number of serious concerns about Environment Canterbury. We are investigating whether their concerns, and other issues relating to Environment Canterbury, meet the threshold for appointment of a review authority under section 254 of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. The letter invites Environment Canterbury to provide the Department with information in response to the concerns raised by Canterbury Mayors, and attaches the Mayors' initial complaint letter. The letter is not part of the formal legal process but gives Environment Canterbury an early opportunity to comment.

**Recommendation**

4. The recommendation is that you **sign** the attached letter, if you agree. **Yes/No**

Marilyn Little  
Director Policy  
Local Government and Community Policy

PP Hon Rodney Hide  
Minister of Local Government

24/9/2009



## Office of Hon Rodney Hide

MP for Epsom  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister for Regulatory Reform  
Associate Minister of Commerce

01 OCT 2009

Alec Neill  
Chair  
Canterbury Regional Council  
PO Box 345  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Alec

### Concerns by Canterbury Mayors regarding the Canterbury Regional Council

As you may be aware I have received a letter, signed by all the Mayors of territorial authorities in Canterbury, which sets out a number of concerns about the Canterbury Regional Council. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information.

In their letter, the Mayors have not asked for any specific action from me as Minister. However, I think it is in the public interest that I consider what has been sent to me and determine whether further investigation, or formal intervention, is required.

To that end, I have referred the letter to the Department of Internal Affairs to investigate whether the concerns raised meet the threshold for the appointment of a review authority under section 254 of the Local Government Act 2002. I invite the Canterbury Regional Council to provide the Department with any information that is considered relevant to the concerns raised by the Mayors. I believe it would best serve all interests to act quickly in this matter and I ask that any information be provided to the Department no later than 2 October 2009. Correspondence can be sent to the Secretary for Local Government, PO Box 805, Wellington.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

  
PP Hon Rodney Hide  
Minister of Local Government