


## LG Policy Documents

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**Subject : ECan talking points**

Here are some ECan talking points on the topics you've requested.

Regards

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Converted Attachments

Attachment Environment Canterbury Review talking points (2).doc converted to managed file Environment Canterb (2).doc

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## **Environment Canterbury Review – Talking Points**

### **Issue: capacity and structural issues within ECan.**

The report identified:

- major failings in the way ECan is managing water in Canterbury;
- lack of an operative resource management policy and planning framework;
- long running institutional problems;
- a major gap between ECan's capability and what needs to be done to manage the region's complex freshwater resources;
- that ECan's Planning and Consenting Division has not performed effectively; and
- that there should be a fundamental reform of the structure of decision-making within the region for all freshwater related matters.

### **Issue: replacing elected representatives with Commissioners for a time**

- The Government is carefully considering the Review Group's recommendation to appoint Commissioners to replace ECan's elected representatives for a specified length of time.

### **Issue: structural reorganisation of ECan**

- The review recommended establishing a Regional Water Authority to take over ECan's water management functions.
- Ministers consider that the importance of getting the institutional frameworks correct is too critical to rush to such a conclusion.
- If Commissioners are appointed, Ministers would expect them to be able to make recommendations to the Government about this in due course.

### **Issue – why not use the Minister for the Environment's powers under the RMA?**

- The problems are wider than ECan's activities under the Resource Management Act. Therefore a wider intervention is needed.