



Office of Hon Rodney Hide

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

24 MAR 2010

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Nick

Thank you for the opportunity to further comment on the draft Cabinet paper "Response to Review of Environment Canterbury".

As noted in my letter to you of 4 March 2010, it is important the paper identifies that the high threshold for intervention in local government has been met for Environment Canterbury, which it does, particularly noting the failure of ECan's elected council in relation to freshwater management. The need for reviewing water conservation orders may be a symptom of ECan's failure to manage freshwater.

I also reiterate that, because of the potentially high workload for commissioners, it is important that there are a sufficient number of members on the commission, and that some can work full-time, or at least devote a considerable amount of time to the task. Some commissioners should also have extensive experience of local government affairs in either governance or senior management roles. Finding the right person to lead the panel of commissioners will also be vital to the success of this intervention.

I look forward to our continued collaboration in implementing the proposals set out in the paper.

Yours sincerely

Hon Rodney Hide
Minister of Local Government