

Regional **FAST FACTS**

A fortnightly fax of news from Environment Canterbury

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- **Environment Canterbury working collaboratively on Government review:** Chair Alec Neill has welcomed the review announced by Environment Minister Nick Smith and Local Government Minister Rodney Hide this week into consent processing procedures. A second, non-statutory review, will examine governance and management issues. Environment Canterbury will provide the necessary information to the review team as quickly as possible. Cr Neill said that while some areas within the organisation need improvement, an external review will help Environment Canterbury fix those problems.
- **Council portfolio committee chair changes:** Following the election of the new chair, changes were this week made to some council portfolio committees. Cr Alec Neill will chair Democratic Process, Crs Eugenie Sage and Angus McKay will chair Water Quality, Quantity and Ecosystems, Crs Bronwen Murray and Angus McKay will chair the two Regulation Hearing Committees and Regulation Overview Committee and Cr Sir Kerry Burke will chair the Air portfolio.
- **Clean Heat reaches Kaiapoi, Rangiora and Timaru:** Environment Canterbury representatives began promoting the Clean Heat Project to households in Kaiapoi, Rangiora and Timaru last week. Residents will be offered a free, no-obligation assessment. www.cleanheat.org.nz
- **Proposed by-law changes for Lake Ruataniwha:** Environment Canterbury is proposing to trial short term navigation safety regulations for Lake Ruataniwha near Twizel over the summer. The proposals include restricting areas for powered craft, all craft to travel at five knots or less when within 50 metres of shore (currently 200 metres), new zones for launching and landing of water skiers and the removal of the jetski only area. Public submissions are invited until Friday November 6. For information go to <http://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/pages/lake-ruataniwha-by-law-change.aspx>
- **New Metro routes for Christchurch:** New bus services start on Monday in parts of Christchurch following Metro Service Review. All of the new routes and timetable changes can be found at <http://www.metroinfo.co.nz/metro-service-improvements-09.html> or call 03 366 88 55 for information.
- **Digger school award:** Luke Fitzsimmons of Amberley has won the Environmental Awareness Award from Environment Canterbury and the Tai Poutini Digger School-Christchurch for his project on sediment control and environmental impacts onsite.
- **Environment Canterbury Annual Report 2008/09:** The Annual Report, which gives a detailed view of Environment Canterbury's achievements over the past year, is available at <http://ecan.govt.nz/publications/Pages/AnnualReport2008-09.aspx>
- **Aquaculture Management report:** Environment Canterbury has released a report outlining the statutory framework for how the Invited Private Plan Change process can be used for the creation of Aquaculture Management Areas and obtaining coastal permits for aquaculture activities. The report is available online at <http://ecan.govt.nz/our-responsibilities/Coast/Pages/Aquacultureproject.aspx>
- **Willow clearing along Twizel River:** Environment Canterbury, working collaboratively with the Twizel Community Board and the local river rating group, has carried out extensive willow clearing along the Twizel River upstream from the State Highway 8 bridge. The work will have positive spin-offs for residents and holidaymakers over summer.
- **Ashburton A & P Shows:** Environment Canterbury will have a display at the Ashburton A & P Show today and tomorrow at the Ashburton Showgrounds. www.ashburtonshow.co.nz