



## Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

**MP for Nelson**

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Minister for ACC

Dame Margaret Bazley  
Chairperson of the Commissioners  
Environment Canterbury  
58 Kilmore Street  
PO Box 345  
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

**23 NOV 2010**

Dear Dame Margaret

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2010 regarding a proposed moratorium on the Waiau River.

I have considered your proposal for a moratorium on the Waiau River and its tributaries against the criteria set out in section 34(2) of the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010.

I am satisfied the proposed moratorium is appropriate, when assessed against the criteria described in the Act. I therefore grant my approval for the Environment Canterbury Commissioners to consider placing a moratorium on consent applications made under s.14 of the Resource Management Act to take, dam, divert or use water (including connected groundwater) from the Waiau River and its tributaries until 1 October 2011.

I anticipate, as with the Hurunui moratorium, you will use the breathing space provided by the moratorium as an opportunity to work closely with the Waiau community on a balanced plan for the river. This plan should strike the appropriate balance between protecting the environment and economic development. I wish you well in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Nick Smith  
**Minister for the Environment**