

ECan Act Powers Extended to 2016

The Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Amendment Bill was tabled in Parliament today, 7 September. The Bill extends all of the substantive powers contained in the original ECan Act of 2010. The ECan Act 2010 was set to expire in 2013. The Canterbury region will therefore not have elections in 2013 for the Canterbury Regional councillors but instead the government appointed Commissioners will continue to govern.

Regional plans, policy statements and water conservation orders will continue to be decided with specific reference to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and decisions on these instruments will not be able to be appealed to the Environment Court. Rights of appeal will only be available to the High Court on points of law.

The Commissioners will retain the power to impose moratoria on the granting of resource consents for water takes in ground water zones and catchments that are near or beyond full allocation.

It is not yet clear when the Bill will receive its first reading and whether or not it will be referred to the Select Committee.

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2012/0063/latest/DLM4718906.html>



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