



Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Minister for ACC

24 MAR 2011

ENV 6532

David Hamilton
davidh@waikato.ac.nz

Dear Mr Hamilton *David,*

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2011 regarding the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS).

I appreciate the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society's support for the NPS for Freshwater Management. Officials are working on amendments to the version recommended by the Board of Inquiry to ensure it is legally viable under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Under the RMA, the NPS also requires an analysis of the costs and benefits to ensure the Government has adequate information to make an informed decision. Once this is complete I plan to get the revised NPS before Cabinet as soon as possible.

I agree that it is important to maintain the momentum that the Land and Water Forum (the Forum) have generated through their public engagements. Once the Forum completes its process, the Government expects to make some critical decisions on the future direction of water reform in response to Forum's recommendations. I expect a decision on the NPS to be an early step in a staged reform process over the next few years.

Decisions will be based not only on the Forum's recommendations and public engagement process but also on engagement with iwi and an officials' work programme.

I assure you the Government is committed to finding durable solutions to issues of water quality, allocation and storage which are essential to a healthy environment and economic growth.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment