



## Policies for the management of Environment Canterbury lands



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# Introduction

Environment Canterbury has approximately 25,000 hectares of reserve land managed by the Council primarily for the purposes of soil conservation, drainage and river control. Approximately half of this land is leased out for revenue production to fund river control works.

The lands cover a diverse range of habitats, from the mountains to the sea and sustain an array of biodiversity.

Much of the unleased land is accessed by the public for a range of recreation and leisure activities.

There are a number of Acts which govern Environment Canterbury's use and management of these lands including:

- Resource Management Act 1991
- Biodiversity Act 1993
- Ashley River Improvement Act 1925
- Ellesmere Lands Drainage Act 1905
- Local Government Act 2002
- Public Bodies Leases Act 1969
- Reserves Act 1977
- Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
- Waimakariri River Improvement Act 1922

There are also a number of regional policies, plans and strategies which identify additional responsibilities for managing land within the region, for example the Regional Policy Statement, including Change 1 Development of Greater Christchurch, the Natural Resources Regional Plan, the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy, A Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury Region and the Waimakariri River Regional Plan.

# Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a policy framework for the effective management of the Environment Canterbury land network. It is non-statutory however the policies conform to legislation and Environment Canterbury's own policy documents governing Environment Canterbury's land management.

Additionally the document will provide information to external stakeholders on Environment Canterbury's land use objectives.

The document also provides the basis for developing detailed policy and conditions through site specific reserves management plans, strategies, leases, licenses and permits.

This Policies for the Management of Environment Canterbury Lands document will be reviewed every nine years in conjunction with the LTCCP cycle.



# 1. Interpretation of Policies

This document is non-statutory and interpretation of these policies will not derogate from the provisions of any relevant legislation, policy, plan or strategy.

Generally no policy is mutually exclusive and reference needs to be made to other policies within this document to provide an integrated approach to management.

## 1.1 Interpretation of Policies

1.1 (a) The policies in this document will apply to all of Environment Canterbury's lands.

1.1 (b) The words 'will', 'should' and 'may' have the following meanings;

Will means that the policy is the requirement of an act or adopted policy, plan or strategy.

Should means there is a strong expectation that the policy will be followed.

May means that there is some flexibility permitted in decision making.

1.1 (c) All policies in this document will be applied consistently for the statutory purposes for which the land is held.



## 2. Land Use

Land managed by Environment Canterbury has a primary legislative function of soil conservation, drainage or river control. As a secondary function the land serves as an endowment with revenue generated assisting with funding of river control works, and thus reducing rating requirements.

Environment Canterbury is in a somewhat unique position in that some of the land that it manages is significant in terms of other organisational objectives, including the protection of groundwater and aquifer recharge zones, indigenous biodiversity, the provision of public access and the maintenance of open landscapes.

Lease terms, ranging from short term to perpetuity, influence Environment Canterbury's land management practices. However opportunities to work collaboratively with lessees to achieve sustainable land management practices are actively pursued.

In managing its land for its primary and secondary purposes, Environment Canterbury has the opportunity to include these other objectives in its land management where appropriate.

## 2.1 Statutory Function

### Objective

To ensure Environment Canterbury lands are available for their primary statutory function.

### Policies

2.1 (a) Land use will be consistent with the statutory purpose for which Environment Canterbury holds the land.

2.1 (b) Leases will allow Environment Canterbury to resume its land from any activity for its primary soil conservation or river control function.

## 2.2 Endowment

### Objective

To develop endowment opportunities to support soil conservation and river control.

### Policies

2.2 (a) Opportunities to generate income to assist the funding of soil conservation or river control works should be actively pursued.

2.2 (b) Commercial use of Environment Canterbury lands will be consistent with the purpose for which Environment Canterbury holds the land.

## 2.3 Natural Values

### Objective

To protect significant natural values.

### Policies

2.3 (a) Consideration of significant natural values will be made before determining land use.

2.3 (b) Land containing significant natural values will be protected from activities which detract from these values.

2.3 (c) Land containing regionally significant natural features may be managed as an Environment Canterbury regional park.

2.3 (d) Where pre-existing lease conditions apply, Environment Canterbury will work with the lessee to minimise adverse affects.

## 2.4 Recreation Values

### Objective

To provide regional recreation and leisure opportunities.

### Policies

2.4 (a) Environment Canterbury will encourage and promote access to its lands for public recreation, leisure and education where it is compatible with its statutory function.

2.4 (b) Land containing regionally significant recreation and leisure values may be managed as an Environment Canterbury Regional Park.



### 3. Strategies and Plans

Land management strategies and management plans are tools for providing consistency in the planning and management of Environment Canterbury lands.

They are essential for coordinating the implementation of policies and objectives throughout Environment Canterbury.

Strategies identify the desired outcomes while management plans determine how they will be achieved.

Strategies and plans also provide information to external stakeholders on Environment Canterbury's land use objectives.



### 3.1 Land Management Strategies

#### Objective

To plan for the future use and development of Environment Canterbury lands.

#### Policies

3.1 (a) Land management strategies should be developed for Environment Canterbury lands that are compatible with Environment Canterbury legislative responsibilities for the future sustainable management of land parcels.

3.1 (b) Land management strategies will identify clear outcomes and set priorities for the development or sustainable use of Environment Canterbury lands.

### 3.2 Management Plans

#### Objective

To manage Environment Canterbury lands in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the land is held and consistent with the outcomes and priorities set out in the land strategies.

#### Policies

3.2 (a) Management plans should be developed for Environment Canterbury lands, where site specific detailed policy is required to achieve identified outcomes and minimise conflict between competing interests.

3.2 (b) Management plans will identify outcomes in relation to endowment, ecology, biodiversity, recreation and the community and how they will be achieved.

3.2 (c) Management plans will identify how public access is to be enabled, and what types of recreational opportunities, activities, information, facilities and services are suitable in different places and to what extent.

3.2 (d) Management plans will be reviewed every ten years of operations.



## 4. Relationships

Developing community relationships ensures environmental and recreational land management needs are understood and supported; while the participation of individuals, businesses, community groups and trusts can provide skills and resources that add value to or supplement a wide range of Environment Canterbury land operations.

A number of broad principles have been established in regards to the relationship between Mana Whenua and government agencies such as Environment Canterbury. Essentially they incorporate obligations on both parties for their reasonable cooperation and acting in good faith.



## 4.1 Community

### Objective

To increase community understanding of and support for the sustainable management of Environment Canterbury land, through involving individuals and groups in environmental and recreational land management.

### Policies

4.1 (a) Relationships should be developed with people and organisations interested in Environment Canterbury lands for public environmental and recreational management. These relationships should be based on mutual good faith, cooperation and respect.

4.1 (b) Partnerships may be developed with people and organisations to protect and enhance the natural and recreational values of Environment Canterbury lands.

4.1 (c) Education and information should be provided to promote awareness of the environmental and recreational values of Environment Canterbury lands and the requirements for their long term management.

4.1 (d) Opportunities should be provided for volunteers to become involved in activities which fulfill the needs of both the land and the volunteers.

## 4.2 Ngai Tahu

### Objective

To involve Ngai Tahu / Papatipu Runanga in environmental and recreational land management processes in ways which:

- take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi; and
- recognise and provide for the traditional guardianship role of Ngai Tahu Papatipu Runanga.

### Policies

4.2 (a) Relationships will be sought and maintained with Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and Papatipu Runanga thereby;

Ensuring Ngai Tahu / Papatipu Runanga input into the development of education material, and approval of interpretation material relating to their ancestral land, sites, and taonga within Environment Canterbury lands and associated waterways.

Having regard to the customary use of natural resources within Environment Canterbury lands and associated waterways by Papatipu Runanga;

Providing for Ngai Tahu / Papatipu Runanga to contribute to decisions in any major developments within Environment Canterbury lands, where these activities may affect heritage values or the relationship of Ngai Tahu / Papatipu Runanga with that land and associated waterways.

4.2 (b) Environment Canterbury will recognise the principles of mauri / life force, tikanga / best practice, kaitiakitanga / stewardship and rangatiratanga / control of resources and destiny.

## 4.3 Other Land Managers

### Objective

To work collaboratively with other land managers and land owners for sustainable land management.

### Policies

4.3 (a) Effective relationships should be developed with other land owners to work cooperatively to protect natural resources.

4.3 (b) Environment Canterbury should work cooperatively with its neighbours to seek mutually satisfactory solutions to cross-boundary issues.

4.3 (c) Environment Canterbury will liaise with agencies with responsibilities for the provision of open space to ensure that, where Environment Canterbury land links with adjoining open space that Environment Canterbury identifies opportunities to contribute to the enjoyment of that open space.



## 5. Resource Management

Environment Canterbury lands and associated waterways cover a diverse range of habitats right across the Canterbury region, from the mountains to the sea.

Much of the land and associated waterways support national and in some cases internationally significant landscapes and ecosystems, for example the regions major braided river systems.

Through its responsibilities under the Resource Management Act (RMA) and as a signatory of A Biodiversity Strategy for Canterbury, Environment Canterbury acknowledges the importance of Canterbury's biodiversity and its role in protecting and maintaining what remains and restoring what has been lost.

Environment Canterbury, as a significant regional land manager, is committed to achieving positive environmental outcomes for the Canterbury region.

### 5.1 Sustainable Management

#### Objective

To manage Environment Canterbury land resources and associated waterways through the use of environmental best practice.

#### Policies

5.1 (a) Environment Canterbury in developing and managing its lands will seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment by following environmental best practices.

5.1 (b) Environment Canterbury will be a role model for the implementation of best practice methods for the sustainable management of its lands.

### 5.2 Groundwater

#### Objective

To protect groundwater quality.

#### Policies

5.2 (a) Environment Canterbury in developing and managing its lands will seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on groundwater quality.

5.2 (b) Environment Canterbury will work to safeguard the Christchurch groundwater recharge zone consistent with Variation 6 of the NRRP.

5.2 (c) Environment Canterbury will work with its lessees to protect and/or improve groundwater quality.

5.2 (d) Site specific Management Plans will include details of how groundwater recharge zones will be protected.

### 5.3. Biodiversity

#### Objective

To protect and maintain, and where appropriate restore the health and diversity of indigenous ecosystems, and manage semi-natural and modified ecosystems within Environment Canterbury lands so they are healthy and life sustaining.

#### Policies

5.3 (a) Management of indigenous biodiversity within Environment Canterbury lands and associated waterways will be consistent with the obligations of the Resource Management Act and desired outcomes of A Biodiversity Strategy for Canterbury.

5.3 (b) Management Plans will include details of how existing indigenous ecosystems will be protected.

5.3 (c) Semi-natural ecosystems will be managed to maintain and where practical restore their indigenous biodiversity component.

5.3 (d) Links with existing native habitat remnants, protected areas of habitat, riparian margins and ecological corridors within and outside of Environment Canterbury lands will be enhanced where practicable.

5.3 (e) An inventory of High Value Environmental Areas (HVEA) will be included in a Land Management Plan.

#### 5.3.1 Introduced Plants and Animals

#### Objective

To implement management programmes for introduced plants and animals consistent with the objectives of the Regional Pest Management Strategy or which pose a significant risk to the biodiversity of Environment Canterbury land ecosystems.

#### Policies

5.3.1 (a) The control of plant and animal pests that are identified in the Regional Pest Management Strategy will be, as a minimum level of control, in accordance with the strategy rules.

5.3.1 (b) Plant and Animal pest control programmes will be carried out to best industry standards.

### 5.4 Geological Features

#### Objective

To protect significant geological features on Environment Canterbury lands from inappropriate development and use.

#### Policies

5.4 (a) An inventory of significant geological features will be included in a Land Management Plan.

5.4 (b) Management plans will include details of how significant geological features will be protected.

### 5.5 Cultural Heritage

#### Objective

To record, protect and enhance significant cultural sites.

#### Policies

5.5 (a) An inventory of known cultural heritage resources will be included in Land Management Plan.

5.5 (b) Where archaeological features or structures are discovered on Environment Canterbury land, they will be managed in accordance with nationally established procedures and Environment Canterbury policy outlined in Chapter 6 of the Regional Policy Statement.

### 5.6 Natural Hazards

#### Objective

To manage the environment, the public and land assets in relation the risk of flooding, wind and fire.

#### Policies

5.6 (a) Land developments and activities will only be permitted where the risks of damage from natural hazards are minor and where there are no cumulative or precedent effects.

5.6 (b) Information will be provided to assist visitors to understand the risks that exist from natural hazards in Environment Canterbury lands.

5.6 (c) Environment Canterbury staff will actively manage hazards to the public, assets and biodiversity values and have authority to close, evacuate and exclude.

5.6 (d) A rural fire-fighting capability will be maintained by Environment Canterbury.

5.6 (e) Fire prevention and control procedures for Environment Canterbury lands and forests will be set out in a Fire Management Plan.

5.6 (f) Fires will only be used for operational purposes where the necessary fire permits and consents have been obtained.

5.6 (g) Public use of open fires must comply with the current fire restrictions and have the approval of Environment Canterbury.



## 6. People and their enjoyment

People are attracted to Environment Canterbury's lands for their semi wilderness nature and in many cases distinctive character, to enjoy the outdoors, engage with nature and to make use of the recreation and leisure opportunities they provide.

Recreation and leisure activities now take many forms and these provide a means of assisting people appreciate the natural environment.

However as the number of visitors to Environment Canterbury lands increases so too does the conflict between other visitors, the environment and essential land and river control infrastructure. Careful planning and management is required to minimise any adverse effects.

## 6.1 Planning for Peoples Enjoyment

### Objective

To ensure that recreation and leisure uses within Environment Canterbury lands are compatible with one another, the environment and its natural values and; consistent with the purpose for which the land is held.

### Policies

6.1 (a) Recreational and leisure opportunities will be provided on Environment Canterbury lands provided they are consistent with Environment Canterbury's primary responsibilities and the values of and the outcomes planned for places.

6.1 (b) The recreational and leisure opportunities planned for different places will be identified in land management plans.

6.1 (c) Management plans will identify how public access is to be enabled, and what types of recreational opportunities, activities, information, facilities and services are suitable in different places and to what extent.

6.1 (e) Where public access is provided to Environment Canterbury land, it shall be without charge.

## 6.2 Information Including Interpretation

### Objective

To enhance visitors enjoyment, awareness and understanding of resources, values and risks.

### Policies

6.2 (a) A range of information should be provided to encourage and assist people in understanding, appreciating, enjoying and protecting Environment Canterbury lands; and to enable people to assess the risks from hazards that may occur on Environment Canterbury lands.

## 6.3 Hazards to People

### Objective

To ensure all reasonable steps are taken to protect the health and safety of the public while visiting Environment Canterbury lands.

### Policies

6.3 (a) Environment Canterbury will provide information to enable people to assess the risks from hazards that may occur on its lands and waters.

6.3 (b) Recreational activities that create hazards for other people will be managed to reduce the risk of harm.

6.3 (c) People will be responsible for their own decisions on risks they are prepared to take on Environment Canterbury lands and associated waterways and for ensuring that they and, generally, those in their care, have the level of skill and competence and the equipment required to cope with those risks.

## 6.4 Recreational Fishing and Game Bird Hunting

### Objective

To allow licensed anglers and hunters access into or across Environment Canterbury lands.

### Policies

6.4 (a) Access to recreational fishing in public waterways will be provided where it is consistent with the purposes for which the land is held.

6.4 (b) The hunting of game birds on Environment Canterbury lands will be allowed where,

- it is consistent with the purposes for which the land is held,
- it is provided for in a land management plan,
- the safety of people is not compromised,
- it does not have adverse effects on populations of threatened indigenous species,
- a valid licence is held; and only shotguns are used.

## 6.5 Horses

### Objective

To allow horses within Environment Canterbury lands provided they are kept under control and they do not have an adverse effect on the environment or public enjoyment

### Policies

6.5 (a) Horse access and conditions will be detailed in site specific land management plans.

## 6.6 Dogs

### Objective

To allow people to bring dogs onto Environment Canterbury lands while minimising any nuisance to the public, wildlife or stock.

### Policies

6.6 (a) Dog access and conditions will be detailed in site specific land management plans.

6.6 (b) Dog owners will be required to comply with relevant Territorial Authority dog control bylaws.

6.6 (c) Environment Canterbury will seek to have its rangers warranted as Dog Rangers under the Dog Control Act 1996 by the relevant Territorial Authority.

## 6.7 Freedom Camping

### Objective

To allow a low level of freedom camping for individuals and organised groups at designated locations.

### Policies

6.7 (a) Freedom camping access and conditions will be detailed in site specific land management plans.

6.7 (b) Considerations for including freedom camping in a land management plan include; likely impact upon the environment and other people

- accessibility by conventional vehicles
- provision of toilets; and
- proximity to commercial camping grounds.

6.7 (c) Freedom camping will be limited to a maximum of two weeks in any three month period without the prior approval of Environment Canterbury.

## 6.8 Motor Vehicles and Other Forms of Transport

### Objective

To ensure the use of motorised and non-motorised vehicles on and across Environment Canterbury lands are consistent with the purpose for which the land is held and do not have an adverse affect on the environment.

### Policies

6.8 (a) The use of vehicles and any other forms of transport should be compatible with the statutory purposes for which the place is held and its natural values, or be necessary to enable Environment Canterbury to perform its functions.

6.8 (b) Land management plans will identify where the use of specified types of vehicles and other forms of transport may and may not be allowed and will establish any conditions for use.

6.8 (c) Environment Canterbury should work to avoid or otherwise minimise the adverse effects of specified types of vehicles on Environment Canterbury lands and waterways and the public enjoyment of those places.

## 6.9 Litter

### Objective

To reduce the level of rubbish and promote a cared for environment in and across Environment Canterbury lands and associated waterways.

### Policies

6.9 (a) Rubbish bins will not be provided by Environment Canterbury on its lands.

6.9 (b) Visitors to Environment Canterbury lands will be required to take their rubbish away with them.

6.9 (c) Commercial activities and organised events generating rubbish in and across Environment Canterbury lands will be required to supply and service recycling and rubbish bins for the duration of their operation.

6.9 (d) Environment Canterbury will seek to have its rangers warranted as Litter Control Officers under the Litter Act 1979 by the relevant Territorial Authority.

6.9 (e) Persons identified as littering on or across Environment Canterbury lands or associated waterways will be issued with litter infringement notices and charged for its removal.

## 6.10 Influencing Behaviour

### Objective

To reduce adverse effects upon Environment Canterbury lands and associated waterways and; visitors from ongoing unacceptable activities.

### Policies

6.10 (a) Visitor behaviour will be influenced through education, publicity and signage.

6.10 (b) Environment Canterbury may establish bylaws under the Local Government Act 2002 to address problems relating to the ongoing misuse of its lands.

6.10 (c) Awareness of bylaw controls will be raised through education, publicity and signage.unacceptable activities.



## 7. Commercial activities

Environment Canterbury generates revenue from a variety of commercial activities occurring on its lands including leasing, forestry, industry, small business and to a lesser extent events.

Additionally with the establishment of Regional Parks opportunities exist to enhance the public's experiences by allowing appropriate commercial recreation and leisure operations.

Policies in this section reflect that, wherever possible, Environment Canterbury will utilise its land for the best use and highest value, subject to any constraints related to the purpose for which the reserve is vested (primarily soil conservation and river control), or environmental and recreation considerations.

### 7.1 Leases and Licenses

#### Objective

To grant leases or licences for the purposes of revenue production or reduction of land management liabilities i.e. pest control

#### Policies

7.1 (a) Environment Canterbury will consider leasing its land; taking into consideration statutory obligations,

protection of special features including but not limited to groundwater recharge zones, biodiversity, environmental, social, natural and recreational values.

7.1 (b) Leases and licences will be negotiated on an individual basis.

7.1 (c) Environment Canterbury will lease its land at market rentals to reflect highest and best use.

7.1 (d) Leases and licences will be issued for the minimum term deemed appropriate to attract a suitable tenant for the purposes the land is leased.

7.1 (e) Environment Canterbury and its tenants in developing and managing Environment Canterbury lands will follow best environmental practices, this includes ensuring stock do not access waterways or wetlands and there is no clearance of areas of indigenous vegetation without the consent of Environment Canterbury.



## 7.2 Permits

### Objective

To grant permits for the purposes of allowing appropriate commercial activities, events or restricted activities on Environment Canterbury's lands and associated waterways.

### Policies

7.2 (a) Permits will be required for ongoing commercial activities being carried out on Environment Canterbury lands where a lease or license is not held.

7.2 (b) Permits will be required for significant one-off events or normally restricted activities to be held on Environment Canterbury land.

7.2 (c) Permit charges will reflect market values, the degree of exclusivity to be gained by the activity and include administrative costs.

7.2 (d) Permit fees may be waived for non-commercial events at the discretion of the Manager Property Parks and Forests.

7.2 (e) A bond may be applied at the discretion of the Manager Property Parks and Forests.

## 7.3 Criteria for Determining Activity Approval

### Objective

To ensure that permits are approved or declined in a fair and consistent manner weighing the benefits against the negative impact upon the environment and public.

### Policies

7.3 (a) Applications may be declined, approved, or approved with conditions depending on:

- the location;
- the duration;
- the time of day the activity may be undertaken;
- the time of year the activity may be undertaken;
- the likely impact upon environment and natural resources;
- the likely impact upon other peoples enjoyment;
- measures for monitoring the effects of the activity;
- the number of people who may participate;
- the use of park facilities or services;
- health and safety factors;
- the imposition of a trial period to assess the effects of the activity on the park;
- any previous history of breaching conditions; and
- any other matter the Manager Property, Parks & Forests considers relevant to ensure the activity is compatible with the objectives of this document.

## 7.4 Partnerships

### Objective

To progress land development and management partnership opportunities.

### Policies

7.4 (a) Partnerships for the purposes of land development or management may be entered into provided they are consistent with the policies set out in this document.

## 7.5 Sponsorship/Naming

### Objective

To provide opportunities for organisations to support Environment Canterbury environmental and recreational initiatives.

### Policies

7.5 (a) Sponsorship will only be considered from organisations whose values are not incompatible with those of Environment Canterbury.

7.5 (b) Revenue from sponsorship or naming rights will accrue to the Canterbury Region for targeted environmental or recreational purposes.

## 8. Regional parks

Regional Parks provide opportunities to protect Environment Canterbury land containing significant regional natural and recreation values in a manner which conveys the importance of these values to the wider community. Access to these lands also provides people with a greater understanding of their importance and link a wide range of recreation, leisure and educational activities with the natural environment.



## 8.1 Regional Parks

### Objective

For the protection, enhancement and provision of access to lands managed by Environment Canterbury which contain regionally significant natural and recreational values.

### Policies

8.1 (a) Environment Canterbury land which contains regionally significant natural or recreation values should be investigated to determine whether it meets criteria to be managed as a regional park.

8.1 (b) Criteria set out in Regional Parks Criteria 2009 or subsequent issues will be used to determine whether an area meets the requirements to be established and managed as a regional park.

8.1 (c) Only lands which conform to the criteria policy may be established and managed as regional parks.





## 9. Forests

Environment Canterbury owns, as part of its soil conservation and river control functions in most of the major Canterbury rivers, approximately 2700 ha of semi-commercial forests.

The forests serve multiple objectives. Their principal function, being located primarily adjacent to rivers, is river control. In addition they have soil conservation, noxious weed prevention, shelter and recreation functions. Exotic forests also provide habitat for indigenous biota.

Whilst fulfilling these functions, in most instances after taking into consideration Environment Canterbury's other land management objectives, a commercial tree crop can also be produced.

## 9.1 Protection

### Objective

To ensure the management of forest on Environment Canterbury land is undertaken in a way that meets its primary role of helping communities reduce flood risk and soil conservation.

### Policies

9.1 (a) A balance of forest will be maintained in key areas to provide the protection sought by river managers.

9.1 (b) Forests will be managed to industry recognised best practice.

9.1 (c) Financial performance will be reported in a transparent and meaningful manner that can guide management decision-making.

## 9.2 Benefits

### Objective

Forests on Environment Canterbury lands are managed to provide a balance of economic, environmental and recreation benefits to the community

### Policies

9.2 (a) Returns from harvesting should be maximised within the principal restraints of river control, indigenous biota, habitat protection and community recreation.

9.2 (b) Increased recreation opportunities should be identified and provided for where this is practical and compatible with the primary objective for the land.

## 9.3 Risk Management

### Objective

To minimise exposure to risks in the management and use of forested land.

### Policies

9.3 (a) An even age spread should be maintained to minimise exposure to wind risk.

9.3 (b) Growing costs should be minimised.

9.3 (c) Fire risk will be managed to ensure fire hazard levels are as low as possible.

9.4 (d) Recreation opportunities will be managed to minimise the risk of fire or damage to trees.

## 9.4 Future Considerations

### Objective

To develop Environment Canterbury's' future opportunities and minimise exposure to liabilities.

### Policies

9.4 (a) The development of forest certification in New Zealand will be monitored.

9.4 (b) A carbon trading policy will be developed and managed in accordance with national policy direction.

