



RMLA Conference 2010
30 September - 2 October 2010
Christchurch Convention Centre

Sustainable fresh water management – Are we there yet?

Taking a “hard look” at the issues impacting on sustainable management of our fresh water resource.

Fresh water is the great integrator, connecting sky to sea and flowing through our lands, lakes and rivers. It crosses territorial boundaries and defies traditional zoning techniques. Through principally managed by Regional Councils, water can be critically impacted by change in land use authorised by district and city councils. Water also sits at the centre of competing demands for its cultural, recreational, aesthetic and economic values.

The strong linkage between water abstraction for agricultural use, electricity generation and economic growth has led to unprecedented demand for water in Canterbury and elsewhere in New Zealand. This has caused a raft of issues including water quality and quantity, priority, allocation and ownership, cultural values and governance structures to come sharply into focus. In response to widespread concern about management of our water resource, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has released the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and the Government has established the Land and Water Forum. Ideas resulting from these initiatives may lead to significant re-shaping of governance structures relating to fresh water management at a regional and national level.

Against this context, the 2010 RMLA Annual Conference will explore these issues and consider possible responses to better achieve integrated and sustainable management of our fresh water resource.

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