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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**CHANGE OF CHAIR OF THE LAND AND WATER FORUM**

Alastair Bisley has stood down as the Land and Water Forum’s Chair after seven years in the role.

Soon after the Forum was establishment in late 2008, Alastair was appointed its Chairman to moderate a multi-stakeholder consensus on the challenging issue of freshwater policy reform.

The Forum’s recommendations have formed the basis for decisions by Government and regional councils that are progressively deploying its recommendations.

“Alastair put enormous effort and skill into helping the many stakeholders with different perspectives and interests to find their common ground and then articulate that as agreed policy recommendations to the Government in various reports”, said Land and Water Trustee, Kevin Hackwell.

“Everyone who has been associated with the Land and Water Forum process has developed a huge respect for the skill and commitment with which Alastair has actively chaired and shepherded such a diverse group through such a difficult process.”

At the Plenary meeting in late June the Forum members farewelled Alastair and presented him with a carved tokotoko (talking stick) in recognition of his service.

The incoming Chair has been announced by Land and Water Trustees as Dr Hugh Logan.

Hugh Logan is a lecturer and research associate at Lincoln University and has had leadership roles in the public service, including being a previous Secretary for the Environment.

“His membership of the Canterbury Regional Water Committee for the last six years means that he is very conversant with the difficult issues that the Forum is dealing with.”

“We are very pleased that Hugh will be able to bring his extensive skills and experience to his new role as the Forum’s Chair”, said Kevin Hackwell.

**NOTES TO EDITOR**

The Land and Water Forum brings together over 50 stakeholders consisting of industry groups, electricity generators, environmental and recreational NGOs, iwi, scientists, and other organisations with a stake in freshwater and land management. They are joined by central and local government participants in developing a common direction through collaboration for freshwater management in New Zealand and provide advice to the Government.  The Forum operates under a mandate from the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Primary Industries.

The Land and Water Forum is the trading name for the Land and Water Trust.

A Small Group, with around 30 participants, meets on a monthly basis and reports to the Plenary, which has a membership of nearly 70 organisations. More information can be found at: [www.landandwater.org.nz](http://www.landandwater.org.nz/).

**Alastair Bisley** has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant, including as Secretary of Transport and New Zealand’s Principal Trade Negotiator.   

**Hugh Logan** is a lecturer and research associate at Lincoln University. He has been a member of the Canterbury Regional Water Committee for the last six years. In the 2000s and 1990s Hugh headed the Ministry for the Environment, the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Antarctic programme. Hugh has a PhD in environmental policy. Hugh was awarded a Queen’s Service Medal (QSM) for public services at the crash site of the Air New Zealand DC 10 on Mt. Erebus, Antarctica 1979.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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