

Exercise 1: Answers

1. The Earthquake Recovery Minister is calling for the Christchurch City Council to urgently fix its social housing.
2. More than a thousand protesters have marched noisily in the Hawke's Bay against Government asset sales.
3. New research from Canterbury University shows young children need to drink a cup of milk a day.
4. A car's hit a pedestrian on State Highway One near Kaikoura.
5. Bad weather is being blamed for Christmas in the Park crowd numbers being down by half this year.
6. The Government is closing all of the country's intermediate schools.

Exercise 2: Answers

There are a number of different cuts that could be taken from the interview and numerous ways of writing it. The key things to think about:

- 1) Is the cut a suitable duration (around 10 seconds, three words per second)
- 2) Does the story adhere to the principles of good radio writing? Does it grab the ear and is it easily understood?
- 3) Is it structured correctly and does the head flow nicely into the cut without repetition?

Sample One

Environment Canterbury is investigating an outbreak of a pest plant that can destroy crops.

Small patches of Chilean Needle Grass were found on a vineyard just north of Cheviot two days ago.

Those plants have now been removed and residents are being asked to keep a look out for the grass that has unusual, corkscrew-shaped seed heads.

Environment Canterbury councillor Ross Big says the grass's spread is very concerning.

CART: Grass

IN: It's the first

OUT: get rid of

DUR: 14 seconds

Ross Big says Environment Canterbury is investigating the source of the outbreak.

Clip Transcript:

“It's the first time it's been found in this area. It's a major problem for farmers in Marlborough and the Hawke's Bay, where it has completely destroyed some crops. It can literally take over land and is very difficult to get rid of.”

Sample Two

Environment Canterbury says the outbreak of an invasive pest plant could have come from any number of sources.

Small patches of Chilean Needle Grass were found on a vineyard just north of Cheviot two days ago.

The grass has destroyed crops in the Hawke's Bay and Marlborough – this is the first time it has been found outside those areas.

Environment Canterbury Councillor Ross Big says the plants on the vineyard have been destroyed and officials are now looking into how they came to be there.

CART: Grassy

IN: Our investigators and

OUT: in the future

DUR: 15 seconds

Ross Big says no other Chilean Needle Grass plants have been found in the area but locals are being asked to keep a look out for the plant, which has corkscrew-shaped seed heads.

Clip Transcript:

“Our investigators and those from the Ministry are working together to find out how it got there. It could have come from any number of sources: contaminated seed, equipment, etc. We’re taking this seriously and are confident we’ll find the source so we can avoid similar outbreaks in the future.”