

**Submitter Number:** 4  
**Response ID:** 1374917  
**First Name:** Matthew  
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Mathew just submitted the survey 'Representation Review Submission' with the responses below.

### **Submission on Proposal to the Environment Canterbury Representation Review 2018**

Please note that this form is only for submissions on the Proposal to the Environment Canterbury Representation Review 2018.

#### **Public Information**

All information contained in a submission under section 19M of the Local Electoral Act 2001, including names and addresses for service, becomes public information. Your information is held and administered by Environment Canterbury in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Privacy Act 1993. This means that your information may be disclosed to other people who request it in accordance with the terms of these Acts. It is therefore important you let us know if your form includes any information you consider should not be disclosed.

#### **1. The proposal is for 7 constituencies. Do you consider that the number of constituencies provides effective representation for communities of interest?**

No

#### **Please provide your comments below (optional)**

Using population to set boundaries and constituencies provides urban areas with a disproportionate voice. South Canterbury is a vast and diverse landscape with complex and critical environmental issues. We have a comparatively small population so as a consequence our representation, one Councillor, does not afford us a fair go at the Council table. Our environment, landscape and catchments should determine representation, not population. How can we possibly tackle the big environmental challenges with urban Councillors debating dog poo and run-off from car washing.

#### **2. Do you consider the proposed names of each constituency and the boundaries of each constituency are clear and appropriate for representation purposes?**

No

#### **Please provide any comments below (optional)**

The Upper Waitaki zone will never have representation at the ECAN table under this model, as we do now, we will be represented by a Councillor from another area. This population based model disadvantages rural communities and as a consequence is manifestly undemocratic.

#### **3. Do you consider that the number of councillors proposed to be elected from each constituency is appropriate to provide fair representation for electors in each constituency?**

No

**Please provide any comments below (optional)**

A population based model does not reflect the diversity of environmental problems and opportunities. The 4 Christchurch City constituencies share similar values and issues, the 4 rural ones are large and diverse yet have less representation. This is a fundamentally flawed model for the diverse environmental stakeholders in rural communities which may explain why the South Canterbury Councillor was elected unopposed, rural South Canterbury opting out due to the urban bias.

**4. If you have any suggestions for changes to the proposal, please provide them below.**

Retain appointed commissioners for the South Canterbury, Mid Canterbury and North Canterbury areas, make them accountable for ensuring issues important to rural communities and the large and complex landscapes they live in are fairly represented in Council. Reduce the City Councillors to 2, reallocate these positions to commissioners for South and Mid Canterbury.

**Public Hearings**

**Please tick those that apply**

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission;