

Submitter Number: 11
Response ID: C18C/96490
First Name: Bern
Last Name: Sommerfeld
Organisation: St Andrews Ratepayers Association

Good Morning, Our submission on the representation review for Environment Canterbury is submitted for consideration. It is our wish to speak on this submission. Full contact details below.

Regards
Bern Sommerfeld
SECRETARY St Andrews Ratepayers Association.
1 Thackeray Street
St Andrews 7988
South Canterbury

Phone 036126292
Email lynbern@xnet.co.nz
JULY 12, 2018

July 11, 2018
1 Thackery Street
St Andrews 7988
South Canterbury

**Submission to
Environment Canterbury Representation Review**

Environment Canterbury CE
Minister for Local Government, Hon Nanaia Mahuta

The rural people of South Canterbury were disenfranchised when the elected Canterbury Regional Council was dismissed in 2010 and replaced by commissioners who have taken little notice of our many submissions on environmental matters since.

At that time we had two elected representatives for South Canterbury and we were expecting to have two representatives when full democracy is returned for the 2019 local body elections. However Ecan is now suggesting that, based on population density alone, we should only have one representative and that Christchurch City should have eight. It is our considered view that population density on its own is an inadequate criteria and there must be proper recognition of the location and intensity of critical ecological and environmental issues beyond Christchurch City.

Christchurch City has very different environmental and public transport requirements to those in the vast rural area of Canterbury which, although sparsely populated by comparison, is facing significant increases in major ecological issues at an unprecedented level which do not exist in an urban setting.

These include, but are not limited to, increasing degradation of surface water and aquifers due to the intensification of pastoral and arable farming of free draining soils, the demands of meeting new air quality and drinking water quality standards and the impact of incursion by agricultural pathogens such as M.bovis. The ecology is also under some pressure from increased tourism with little so far in the way of effective mitigation measures.

These issues must be addressed primarily at a political level and secondarily at a staff level and that will require at least two, and probably three, elected councillors with a thorough understanding of, and ideally first-hand experience in, the practical realities of living and working in rural South Canterbury today.

With only one councillor much of the political work will fall to senior un-mandated staff, as it does now, and that is not ideal or acceptable in a proper democracy. Without proper representation rural South Canterbury will remain disenfranchised.

Submission

Christchurch City has three representatives with three each from North, Mid-Canterbury South Canterbury.

Bern Sommerfeld

Secretary St Andrews Ratepayers Association. I WISH to speak on this submission