

Submission Number: 27
Response ID: C18C/103204
First Name: Jo
Last Name: Luxton

Afternoon,

Please find attached a submission on ECan's Representation Review from Jo Luxton, Member of Parliament.

It would be appreciated if, at your convenience, you could acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Nga mihi

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Authorised by Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



29 July 2018

Submission on the: Representation Review – Community Feedback

Made to the: Environment Canterbury Regional Council

From: Jo Luxton, Member of Parliament

- 1 As a Member of Parliament based in the Rangitata electorate, I welcome the opportunity to make a submission on Environment Canterbury Regional Council's (ECan) review on representation.
- 2 I do not wish to be heard in support of this submission, however I am happy to be contacted regarding my submission.

Overview

- 3 I am pleased to see Environment Canterbury returning to a full democratically elected Council. This is an important restoration of our democracy and, while many years too late, I am glad we are finally able to have this conversation.
- 4 I commend ECan for the work it has undertaken to ensure Māori representation. I believe the conclusion reached is the correct one, provided the 2 representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu continue to be at the council table and that council continues its work, "that ensures mana whenua is represented."

Representation for *South Canterbury - Ōtuhituhi*

- 5 While I support the boundaries for the seven constituencies as proposed, I have a serious objection to the proposal for only a single councillor to represent the constituency of *South Canterbury – Ōtuhituhi* given its population, land mass, and biodiversity.
- 6 I agree with Timaru, Waitaki, Waimate, and Mackenzie District Councils in stressing that this constituency should be represented by two councillors.
- 7 Serious consideration needs to be given to the fact that this constituency covers four different territorial authorities, as well as a significant land mass. Two councillors can be reasonably justified to ensure proper representation of a significantly large constituency.
- 8 Due to the sheer size and diversity of our district, extra representation is crucial for our environment, local industries and a better quality of life of the people of our region.

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9 The arguments made by Council against including a second councillor in this constituency are inconsistent with the *Local Electoral Act*.

- As section 19D of the *Local Electoral Act 2001* allows for regional councils to consist of up to 14 members, and the current proposal suggest 13 members, there is no statutory impediment to the addition of a second representative for *South Canterbury – Ōtuhituhi*.
- Furthermore, there is no issue with being in breach of the $\pm 10\%$ rule, as this constituency is already in breach and the proposal acknowledges this without objection. It would be far better to have non-compliance with this principle for the sake of strengthening representation, rather than leaving it to be under represented.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss this submission.

Ngā mihi nui



Jo Luxton
Member of Parliament