

**Submission Number:** 39

**Response ID:** C18C/104696

**First Name:** Andrew

**Last Name:** Curtis

**Organisation:** Irrigation New Zealand

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## **SUBMISSION: Environment Canterbury – Representation Review**

*Date:* 30 July 2018

*Name of submitter:* IrrigationNZ

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Curtis".

**(Andrew Curtis, CEO Irrigation NZ)**

### **About INZ**

1. IrrigationNZ represents over 3,500 irrigator members nationally, including irrigation schemes and individual irrigators. Around 60% of our members are based in Canterbury.
2. Our members include a wide range of farmers/ growers – dairy, sheep and beef and cropping farmers, horticulturalists and winegrowers. We also represent over 120 irrigation service industries – manufacturers, distributors, irrigation design and install companies, and irrigation decision support services.
3. As an organisation we actively promote best practice irrigation and carry out a range of training and education activities. Over the last 5 years we have trained over 3,000 irrigators on different aspects of irrigation best practice to improve water use efficiency.
4. INZ members share the same goals as other New Zealanders:
  - to contribute to improvements to our environment
  - to make a contribution to their communities
  - to make a living for themselves and their families.

## **Our Submission**

5. We thank Environment Canterbury for the opportunity to make a submission.
6. We support Environment Canterbury's proposal to maintain the 3 Canterbury constituencies in place now – with 2 councillors each in North and Mid Canterbury and 1 Councillor in South Canterbury, and represent Christchurch City through 4 constituencies of North, West, Central and South Christchurch with 2 Councillors each, totalling 8 Councillors).
7. We consider changes to rural constituency boundaries could potentially be disruptive to local zone committees work and it makes sense to align boundaries with local council areas.
8. North, South and Mid Canterbury are large geographic areas where populations are more sparsely distributed than in other areas of Canterbury. The land area and waterways within a constituency also need to be taken into account when deciding on representation given that a constituency Councillor must be familiar with their local landscape and waterways.
9. As South Canterbury is a large constituency in terms of area with only one Councillor to represent it, we would also be supportive of options which would increase the representation in this area.
10. We would like to see newly elected Councillors receive a thorough briefing on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and an opportunity for all Councillors to meet with all local Zone Committees to understand their work.
11. IrrigationNZ would also like to facilitate a meeting opportunity between Councillors and Irrigation Schemes for all Councillors in the term of the new Council.