

**From:** Annette Hamblett  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Representation Review Appeals and Objections  
**Date:** Friday, 28 September 2018 4:50:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [ECan Representation Review objection.docx](#)

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Attached is an objection to the ECan Representation Review from:

Annette and Michael Hamblett  
11 Hewitts Road  
Christchurch 8014

Thank you.



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## **Our objection**

### General

We object to the Environment Canterbury Council approving the final proposal for representation Review for the 2019 elections.

In Canterbury we have gone without a democratically elected regional council for 8 years. We want a return to full democracy. The Council vote of 23 August did not provide for this.

We note the majority of submissions opposed the amended proposal.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Local Electoral Act 2001 give all citizens the right to fair representation. The current council has voted to remove this right from a large number of its voters.

### In specific

We object to Council breaching the Local Electoral Act 2001 requirement to comply with the percentage deviation from regional average requirement of +/-10 percent rule, as is the case in four out of the seven constituencies.

Council has voted for an imbalance favouring rural voters over urban voters. This is unfair representation for more than 200,000 urban voters.

South Canterbury now has one councillor per 30,600 ratepayers, well above the percentage deviation from regional average requirement of plus or minus 10 per cent. This has created a basic unfairness and an undemocratic situation.

We note Christchurch North East and Christchurch Central wards have not be granted additional councillors.

One of the key tenets of a democracy is one-person-one-vote. We object to our vote in the regional council elections being worth less than other voters. In comparison with a South Canterbury person's vote, it is now worth 40 % less.

We have seen no coherent rationale for this unjust arrangement.

Councillors are clearly telling voters in Christchurch North East and Christchurch Central wards that they matter less than South Canterbury voters.

Action sought:

That Council act promptly to return full democracy to Canterbury by ensuring none of the constituencies breach the Local Electoral Act 2001 requirement to comply with the +/-10% rule, and thereby, ensuring all votes for regional council elections across Canterbury are of equal value.

Thank you.