

**From:** Gavin James  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Representation Review Appeals and Objections  
**Date:** Friday, 28 September 2018 9:49:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [Appeal against ECan Representation Review decision of 23 August 2018.docx](#)

---

Please find attached my appeal against ECan's decision of 23 August on Representation.

Gavin James

## **Appeal against ECan Representation Review decision of 23 August 2018.**

**Submitted by Gavin James**

I made a submission in favour of the original ECan decision on representation, namely the proposal to have 13 councillors from seven wards. However, ECan's subsequent decision on 23 August to increase this to 14 councillors makes representation considerably less fair than under the original proposal, and I am opposed to this.

My appeal is based on the principle that democracy means that individuals have fair representation on governing bodies. The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires that electoral representation (councillor to resident ratio) within a ward should be within +/- 10% of other wards. Although there was some under- and over-representation in the original proposal, this is now worse. The consequences of the 23 August decision mean that Christchurch North East is now under-represented by 15%, and Christchurch Central by 18%. On the other hand North Canterbury is now over-represented by 13%, and South Canterbury by 30%. The remaining 3 wards are within the recommended 10% rule.

This means that in general, Christchurch residents will have an average councillor to resident ratio of 1:47,715, while the rest of Canterbury will have 1:38,426. Thus each Christchurch resident's vote is worth about 0.8 (or 20% less than) the votes of other Canterbury residents. In the most extreme case, the councillor;resident ratio in Christchurch Central will be 1:51,000 while South Canterbury will be 1:30,000, meaning a vote in Christchurch Central is worth approximately 0.58 of a vote in South Canterbury. The comparison of Christchurch North East with South Canterbury is almost as unbalanced at 0.59.

To me, fair representation means every person in Canterbury is represented equally, or as close to equally as possible. The decision of 23 August does not result in fair representation and another solution should be found. Possibilities include either increasing the representation within Christchurch or rearranging the non-Christchurch wards so that there is no need for an extra councillor as proposed by ECan.

Gavin James