

From: Stephen Howard
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Objection /appeal to the Representation proposal 2019
Date: Tuesday, 2 October 2018 10:29:31 AM
Attachments: [Ecan Representation 2018.docx](#)

Stephen Howard

406 Main Race Road

RD 6 Rangiora

02/10/2018

Environment Canterbury

Christchurch

Re Objection to the proposal for representation for the 2019 election of Canterbury Regional Council (ECAN)

Kia ora katoa

At the very foundation of our concept of democracy is the idea that each and every adult owns the right to have one vote in an election. This right is independent of property ownership or income, and has been since 1893. The idea of impacting male voters (i.e. voters with more than one vote) was discarded earlier in 1889. That was the beginning of the end for squiracracy, and we must not allow it to rear its ugly head. Democracy is a core value of Aotearoa. Democracy is an asset which has been undermined during the period of neoliberalism. Democracy is an ideal and asset we demand to take back at ECAN in the next election, if not sooner.

We objected in our thousands to the removal of democracy from ECAN, when the National government removed democratic representation in the interests of landholders and their greed for water. We still demand ECAN councillors be elected with the concept of each and every vote having the same value (within +/-1%) as set out in section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act

It appears that after loud lobbying by farming interests with a greed to grab water for irrigation has led to a recommendation that we return this repugnant concept; to a concept of the impacting voter where some people's votes have more impact than the great unwashed working class in Otautahi. This is not acceptable. One person, one vote is the core value of democracy.

The people of Christchurch want a fair vote, not a vote where for some reason they are less than rural dwellers.

Representation at the 2019 Local body elections should preserve democracy with one vote for each and every person.

Naku noa , na Stephen Howard

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