

From: Marnie Prickett | Choose Clean Water NZ
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Re: Representation Review
Date: Tuesday, 2 October 2018 4:01:38 PM
Attachments: [CCW ECan democracy submission.docx](#)

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this submission on the Representation Review with my apologies for it being a day late.

Kind regards,
Marnie Prickett

022 161 2634

Thursday 27 September 2018

Dear Environment Canterbury,

Re: Representation Review Objection

Choose Clean Water NZ objects to the Proposal for Representation for the 2019 elections notified by Environment Canterbury.

Choose Clean Water NZ objects to the proposal on the basis that it is undemocratic and a denial of the rights of all Cantabrians to fair representation.

Cantabrians have been in the incredible and unjust position of having no elected officials on their regional council for a number of years and full democracy has yet to be returned.

Now, as full democratic representation appears on the horizon, Environment Canterbury has put forward a representation proposal that would mean the vote of people in Central Christchurch will count for 40% less than the votes of people in South Canterbury.

It has been calculated that under the proposed structure:

- The vote of a citizen in Christchurch Central is worth 40.6% less than that of a South Cantabrian
- The vote of a citizen in North East Christchurch is worth 38.9% less than that of a South Cantabrians vote.

Why this would be proposed is a question of speculation. However, whatever the reason, it must not go ahead as it would continue the injustice of past years, set a precedent of unfairness for local government in Aotearoa New Zealand and undermine the work needed to create resilience and adapt to the disruptions associated with climate change.

All New Zealanders have a right to have an equal say on what happens in their region as well as on the direction the country takes. As the saying goes, no man is an island. Likewise, no community is an island. Rural voters have a stake in what happens in our towns and cities and urban voters have a stake in what happens in our rural areas. No community should be given more power than another through a skewed voting structure.

As climate change develops, our social, economic and political structures will be under increasing strain, along with our environment. Our communities will need to pull together to adapt and build resilience to this disruption. It is vital, therefore, that we embed deeply into these structures the foundation of fairness, as this will be key to communities being able to work together to achieve the change we urgently need.

Because our people and future would be fundamentally better served through a fair system, because fairness is a foundation of democracy and because this proposal is fundamentally unfair, Choose Clean Water NZ asks that this proposal is rejected.

We suggest a revised voting structure that addresses this imbalance of representation, one in which the value of individual votes across Canterbury is close to equal (+/-10%).

Regards,

Marnie Prickett
Spokesperson
Choose Clean Water NZ

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