

From: [Scott Hobson](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Voting rights
Date: Thursday, 4 October 2018 2:49:54 PM

Dear Ecan,

I have been informed that you are proposing to have different weights on voting rights for our rivers and streams.

Greenpeace point out the following and I wish to add the following.

I am a rural person with a rural business. I have been fighting to clean up our farming practices for over 18 years. I have for 16 years had technology to do just that but both Can and most farmers have turned a deaf ear to common sense and in talking with people in Ecan that has come from the commissioners. I have listened too farmers say that they will keep doing known bad practices until they are stopped. I have watched and witnessed farm consultants tell farmer show to beat the rules Ecan has proposed ever since they came out. When agents of Ecan were told of these things they didn't want to believe it. I have witnessed farmers say they didn't care how they leave the land they just want to make their money and get out. In truth their have been so few responsible people in agriculture thats its been a disgrace to all other New Zealanders. Farms are businesses and many have been purchased at unrealistic prices with zero cash profitability. They have justified environmental degradation in order to make money. Well if you can show me another industry where that is accepted then please tell me. Why should a farmer have that right over a tourism operator or a restaurant owner. Restaurants in Chch even pay for the water they use now in spite of many of them being uneconomic.

I recently talked to Environment Southland and it is clear that the greatest blockage to change is the number of farmers on the commissioners board. The staff indicated they are frustrated and powerless to change things. Tickets to the Rugby matches in the corporate boxes of the fertiliser companies was mentioned in passing.

Its time for this shit to stop! It is time to get the peoples views without bias towards farm businesses. There can be no bias on votes. So far the commissioners have been bloody pathetic in dealing with the water issues. We've had the answers for 17 years and not one Ecan representative has taken up our offer to see what we are doing and to promote it as solutions. The same blindness from different people in agriculture is totally not needed. Give each person the same vote and stop acting in non democratic ways.

Yours Sincerely,
Scott Hobson
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- I object to the proposal for Representation for the 2019 elections.
- It is an unbalanced and anti-democratic proposal that greatly over represents rural voters and under represents urban voters.
- The power of a vote in Central Christchurch is 40% less than a vote in South Canterbury.
- Fair representation is a critical pillar of democracy, guaranteed by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Local Electoral Act 2001.
- This representation proposed is so unbalanced that it breaches

section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act (the +/- 1-% rule) in four out of the seven constituencies.