



28 September 2018

Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Dear Environment Canterbury

REPRESENTATION REVIEW OBJECTION

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council objects to the Proposal for Representation for the 2019 elections as approved by Environment Canterbury (ECan) in August 2018 and depicted in Figure 1.

The Representation Review proposal exceeds the +/- 10% fair representation criteria by a large margin in several proposed wards, resulting in aggregate, in a rural representation of 1 Councillor per 38,426 voters and in the city, 1 Councillor per 47,715 voters.

The specific apportionment of two Councillors to the South Canterbury Ward, is well outside the +/- 10% at a 29.9% deviation from the regional average, under this 14 Councillor model. This revised model does not solve the high deviation problem in South Canterbury and creates a distinct disadvantage for urban voters.

BACKGROUND

On June 21 of this year Environment Canterbury proposed to the citizens of Canterbury a 13-member council elected from 7 wards across Canterbury. During the submission period strong submissions from South Canterbury appealed for another councillor for South Canterbury - the majority of ECan Council agreed and on August 23rd the total number of councillors was increased to 14.

The consequence of that decision means an under representation of Christchurch citizens, while both North and South Canterbury are now over-represented by 13% and 29% respectively:

Christchurch residents will have an average councillor to resident ratio of 1:47,715, while the rest of Canterbury will be 1:38,426. This means each Christchurch resident's vote is worth about 0.8 of (or 20% less than) the votes of other Canterbury residents.

13 COUNCILLOR MODEL

Fish and Game supports the original model proposed in June 2018, for 13 Councillors, as shown in Figure 2. In this model, when the rural ward seats are totalled, the average representation across the 5 councillor seats is 46,112. In comparison, the urban seats have 47,715 across the 8 councillor seats.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Level 2, Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011

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This means both rural and urban areas are very closely aligned with the average representation of 47,098 when the total Canterbury population is divided by 13.

Figure 1

Assessment of the final representation arrangements

Total estimated population (June 2017) 612,280 / 14 Councillors = 43,734

Range +/- 10% = 39,361 to 48,107

7 Constituencies	Population	No. of Councillors per constituency	Population per councillor	Deviation from region average (43,734)	Percentage deviation from region average	+/-10%
North Canterbury-Ōpukepuke	75,800	2	37,900	-5,834	-13.34	No
Mid-Canterbury-Ōpākihi	93,440	2	46,720	+2,986	+6.83	Yes
South Canterbury-Ōtuhituhi	61,320	2	30,660	-13,074	-29.90	No
Christchurch North East-Ōrei	100,400	2	50,200	+6,466	+14.79	No
Christchurch West-Ōpuna	95,700	2	47,850	+4,116	+9.41	Yes
Christchurch Central-Ōhoko	103,300	2	51,650	+7,916	+18.10	No
Christchurch South-Ōwhanga	82,320	2	41,160	-2,574	-5.89	Yes
	612,280	14				

Figure 2

13 Councillors from 7 constituencies (3 Canterbury, 4 Christchurch (2-2-1-2-2-2-2))

Total Canterbury population: 612,280 / 13 = 47,098

Range +/- 10% = 42,389 to 51,807

7 Constituencies	Population	No. of Councillors per constituency	Population per councillor	Deviation from region average (47,098)	Percentage deviation from region average	+/-10%
North Canterbury	75,800	2	37,900	-9,198	-19.53	No
Mid-Canterbury	93,440	2	46,720	-378	-0.80	Yes
South Canterbury	61,320	1	61,320	+14,222	+30.20	No
Christchurch North	100,400	2	50,200	+3,102	+6.59	Yes
Christchurch West	95,000	2	47,500	+402	+0.86	Yes
Christchurch Central	104,400	2	52,200	+5,102	+10.83	No
Christchurch South	81,920	2	40,960	-6,138	-13.03	No
	612,280	13				

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Fish and Game wishes to see the current 'appeal' proposal declined, with a recommendation to return to the previous June 2018 model, or to seek an alternative option which continues to provide a fair and representative ratio between rural and urban voters.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Martin Taylor
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

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