

From: [STEVE](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Save our rivers
Date: Friday, 28 September 2018 7:04:54 AM
Importance: High

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a 45 year old Cantabrian, I can remember as a kid swimming, rafting and fishing in the rivers and lakes that populate our region.

These natural assets were a point of pride when hosting visitors from elsewhere and provided locals from all walks of life with the opportunity to embrace the outdoors and live a healthier lifestyle.

Sadly these assets are now an embarrassment to us as a region.

I don't believe this is what the majority of Cantabrians want moving into the future.

In a democracy with fair representation, the will of the people should be represented accurately. It should not be manipulated and skewed to represent those with short sighted, selfish financial and political objectives.

As a result of this I am very concerned about the proposed allocation of councillors.

- 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.

Sustainability is NOT about money. We need to stop assuming we have to make it worthwhile for the business community to get buy in from them. We have to insist as a nation that anyone generating income from our

natural resources or using them for recreation, contributes to their maintenance and protection in a manner relative to the benefit they receive from these resources.

If this imposes extra cost on certain industries, reduces our GDP and I have to live in a smaller house and drive a smaller car, I'm 100% ok with that if it means my kids get to swim in our rivers and lakes. I would hope that we can lead by example and educate our children on what real democracy and environmental stewardship is all about.

regards

Steve Gay (concerned Cantabrian)