

From: [Alexandra Blair](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: further proposal for Representation for the 2019 ECAN elections.
Date: Thursday, 27 September 2018 11:59:35 AM
Importance: High

Hi ECAN

I also would like to add to my below submission a little more history so that you completely understand how long we as ratepayers have been watching over your actions

My grandfather -Lived and worked and contributed hugely to environment research in Canterbury. He was Dr Ian Blair - a Dr of microbiology lecturing at Lincoln - he was very highly regarded and contributed hugely over his career to research on long term sustainability of crops + to help farmers maximise CROPS back then largely for drought resistance and sheep farming, and engineering for that (not cows)

He was also a really keen fisherman and his favorite spot was the Selwyn river - which in my lifetime has never existed as a spot for my families generation to enjoy as it has now completely dried up as a result of Dairy farming.....Now when ever I drive over its gravelly remains remind me firstly of how much damage humans can do to the environment if we don't make good informed decisions based on history and science. I think of the work my Grandfather contributed and feel sadness that work he did then has not helped us now in protecting these resources. I cannot help but imagine what he would have to say about this and wish he was alive to have a say!

What happened to the Selwyn river shows us how wrong it is to imagine we have this unlimited water resource - we aren't paying attention to the huge long term cost of this for short term gain and yes our grandchildren will be paying the price.. I also believe most younger generation pass this old river not even knowing what it once was so are not aware of what we have caused by our actions.

We need to be mindful of the consequences of our actions

You must keep one eye on history while you make decisions for our future

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From: Alexandra Blair [mailto:alexandra_blair@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 27 September 2018 11:26 a.m.
To: 'mailroom@ecan.govt.nz' <mailroom@ecan.govt.nz>
Subject: proposal for Representation for the 2019 ECAN elections.
Importance: High

To Whom it may concern

I wish to formally lodge my objection to proposal for Representation for the 2019 ECAN elections. My main concerns are outlined below

- 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.

I note in 2010 the National Government sacked democratically elected Councillors and replaced them with Government appointed commissioners. Full democracy has still not been returned, and I am hugely concerned about the future direction of Christchurch - so much so that I feel it will not be a city I wish to live in beyond the education of my children in 5 years time. I am considering a move to Wanaka or Queenstown long term. I have MANY many friends and families thinking the same.

Water use and mainly abuse as I notice the Council doing recently is my main issue in Christchurch. It is our greatest resource, not unlimited and must be protected.

Yet all I see is council giving it away to dairy farming at such a rate that cannot be sustained long term

The recent announcement that we find Council has also sold at very small cost the rights for a Chinese company to draw billions of litres of our water to bottle and sell back to countries where water to drink is not available

If the council carries on we too will be having to buy our water from other areas and very long term we cannot survive without our water - neither humans, now cows.

I am continually horrified at the stupidity of decisions proving time and again the Council are not smart and should not be able to make such decisions without consultation to the wider community - the ratepayer. EQUAL weight should be given to city residents as is given to Dairy farm residents as decisions cannot be made by Dairy farms alone.

When will you sit up and listen council and ECAN?....the smart ratepayers who feed you currently are all planning an exodus.

I personally am aware that you have had other letters from your ratepayers mirroring my sentiments
Me personally - I CHOSE to return here after the earthquakes because I believed in the city ...however I always said the length of time I would stay depends entirely on how the council chooses to develop the city....I can say that thus far - its not looking good and clean chlorine free drinking water is a top reason I am here - for HEALTH....not Dairy Farming. Too much dairy farming in areas not climatically natural for such farming will be the downfall of us is the long term - not sustainable for our land or our waterways

I'm not prepared to spend my rates on a city who doesn't get on board with long term thinking for the health of its residents rather than the immediate and short term cash cow. A start in the right direction would be ECAN listening to and valuing the thoughts of the residents and ALL ratepayers equally

yours sincerely

Alexandra Blair

Currently a Christchurch Business owner of 15 years, Homeowner, Ratepayer + mum

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