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Cc: cynthia.roberts@xtra.co.nz; [Megan WoodsMP](#); duncan.webb@parliament.govt.nz; ruth.dyson@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: ECan Voter Representation
Date: Thursday, 27 September 2018 10:00:44 AM

To ECan Councillors ~ I object to the ECan proposal for Representation for the 2019 elections because;

- It is an unbalanced and anti-democratic proposal that greatly over represents rural voters and under represents urban voters.
- It essentially reduces the value of my vote in Christchurch to be 60% of 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.

Essentially what you propose is a return to the country quota that disenfranchised urban voters before 1945 and values the concerns of those with a commercial interest well above those with an interest in the wellbeing of the environment.

I have seen it argued by those in South Canterbury that the district is too big for only one representative to canvas the concerns of the locals. OK meet that concern by letting them have 2 representatives around the council table but devalue their vote count to being ½ vote each with half the speaking time allowance.

But the principal of one person – one vote and equal representation should prevail and not be compromised! This is fundamental to the integrity of our Democracy.

Imagine the outcry if the argument of larger areas needing more representation was applied to the Maori Electorates!! If it does not make sense in that case it does not make sense for ECan.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,
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