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I am pleased to see the number of constituencies and representatives has been returned to the pre 2010 levels but I am also aware of the concern many Christchurch City residents have about the apparent lack of democracy in this allocation. They feel that the rural areas potentially have too much/ too loud a voice. For most of these people water is the principal area of concern and the impact that irrigation and particularly dairy farming has on the quality and access to water for all citizens of Canterbury is paramount.

I feel that if the best candidates are elected for every constituency the best results will be achieved irrespective of who they represent. That is the perfect solution and it does not always happen.

I am pleased to see that more people are being encouraged to become involved with the Water Zone committees and would encourage even more advertising of this opportunity. They do allow community involvement and the more this is encouraged and taken up the better the understanding of what ECAN is doing and can do will be recognised. It is not all about water but that and transport become the focus areas in the public mind.

How much of the water issue is under the control of ECAN and how much in the city area is the responsibility of CCC?

So not an objection but an appeal for even more publicity of what the responsibilities and the roles of the ECAN councillors will be and much more information about what the Water Zone Committees do and how they have an impact. Especially the Christchurch West Melton, Waimakariri, Selwyn-Waihora and Banks Peninsula ones.

Is the Water Zone committee model the best one?

Is resourcing for those on these committees adequate to allow equality of input? Are the goals of the Water Management Strategy appropriate and how do these support Bio-Diversity in Canterbury.

Sincerely

Wendy Butcher