

**From:** [Lisa Beardsley](#)  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** ECAN's new plan for what democracy will look like in Canterbury  
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Kia ora

I do not agree with the new ECAN plan for what democracy will look like in Canterbury. Why does the proposal on Canterbury local elections recommend that votes from Christchurch residents will generally count for much less than votes for rural residents? All voters in Canterbury should have the same value – there should not be any weighting of votes. This sounds like the ‘rotten boroughs’ of 18<sup>th</sup> century Britain – we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Aotearoa – surely we can do better than such a slanted system?

I am thoroughly disgusted with this last-ditch approach to minimise democracy in Canterbury. We have put up with a long period of commissioners appointed by the National government, who have proved themselves to be untrustworthy and unreliable. These commissioners have genuflected to the desires of farmers for grotesque quantities of water for irrigation. These commissioners have presided over changes which have made Canterbury’s waterways horribly polluted in many cases. Christchurch residents are having to pay for upgrades to our wells due to the danger of water-borne diseases caused by effluent from farms making its way into water supplies. ECAN has a significant responsibility for participating in the degradation of Canterbury waterways, lakes and streams.

I object to the proposal for Representation for the 2019 elections.

- The proposal 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.

ECAN will never be respected or valued by Canterbury residents if it collectively continues to act to pervert democratic processes.

Your sincerely

Lisa

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