

**From:** [Julie Downard](#)  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Representation Proposal 2019  
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Hi there,

I wish to make my views known on the proposal for representation for the 2019 elections. I strongly object to the proposal on the grounds that it is extremely unbalanced and anti-democratic. We here in Christchurch have put up with a lack of democracy for many years now (since 2010) at ECAN, and it is time that the authority returned to the voters to decide. Heavily weighing votes towards rural voters and against urban voters is not democracy in my view. The power of a vote in Central Christchurch (where I live) is 40% less than a vote in South Canterbury. Every vote must count for the same.

Fair representation is a critical pillar of democracy, guaranteed by the NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Local Electoral Act 2001. This representation proposal is so unbalanced that it breaches section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act (the +/- 1-% rule) in four out of the seven constituencies. It is therefore an illegal proposal.

The proposal needs to be rewritten to ensure a fair spreading of the power across all interested parties, not just rural parties.

Let's see a return to democracy please. It has been too unfair for too long.

Regards  
Julie Downard