

## **Environment Canterbury – Representation Review**

Environment Canterbury is currently reviewing their Councillor/ constituency (ward) representation through a representation review. Currently they have 12 councillors, seven elected and five government appointed. Two of the five appointed Councillors are Ngāi Tahu as mana whenua.

Legally ECAN is required to complete a representation review for the 2019 election, and return Environment Canterbury to a fully elected Council.

Their proposal is to:

- increase the number of elected members from 7 to 13
- maintain the 3 Canterbury constituencies in place now – with 2 councillors each in North and Mid Canterbury and 1 Councillor in South Canterbury
- allocate Christchurch City into 4 constituencies of North, West, Central and South Christchurch (with 2 Councillors each, total 8 Councillors)

INZ's initial view of the proposal is that we support keeping the current rural constituencies the same. These align with territorial council boundaries. We consider changes to boundaries could potentially be disruptive to local zone committees work and it makes sense to align boundaries with local council areas.

We also support ECAN's proposal to have slightly less people per Councillor for the North and South Canterbury areas than the standard person to Councillor ratio for the region. As ECAN deals with land and water governance the land area of a constituency and its waterways are relevant as well as the number of people inside it and rural areas need adequate representation.

We are interested in hearing any thoughts our members have to inform our submission. You can also make your own submission. Submissions close at 4pm on 30 July.

More information is online here - <https://haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/representation-review>