

## **AWA Questionnaire for ECan Candidates**

Please **follow the format below** and write your answer to each question in no more than 50 words unless otherwise stated.

**Name:** Axel Wilke

**Ward:** Christchurch Central-Ōhoko constituency

**Occupation/role in community:** Senior transport engineer / director

1. In what ways do you believe that ECan has succeeded in protecting and enhancing our natural environment?

ECan has managed to improve air quality. The current council has given biodiversity a higher importance. Declaring a climate emergency is a good start. That's a slim record given that the natural environment covers much broader areas than that.

2. In what ways do you believe that ECan has failed?

Excessive water allocation, land use intensification, conversion of industrial consents for water bottling, the state of drinking water and water bodies. Refusal to incorporate ecological emergency as part of the climate emergency. Declining public transport service levels. Human and ecological health takes a backseat.

3. What specific things do you intend to achieve if you are elected to Ecan? List your 3 main priorities.

- Make the climate and ecological emergency the overarching priority for all we do
- Transformative changes to our public transport system that people will want to use
- Safe, secure drinking water and swimmable rivers

4. How do you intend to achieve these priorities? List specifically the policies or rules you intend to change or implement (no more than 50 words per priority)

### **Make the climate and ecological emergency the overarching priority for all we do**

Our society needs to become aware of the immediacy and depth of the problem, and I would put ECan resources towards understanding the situation we face. This would empower the public to call for the change we need. I would engage the wider population in decision-making through a citizen's assembly.

### **Transformative changes to our public transport system that people will want to use**

A public transport system that people will want to use. I will work with local councils, NZTA and central government on structural changes to funding and prioritisation. Fare system review, and the introduction of passenger rail. Free bus services within the four Aves. Initiatives to turn irregular users into regulars.

### **Safe, secure drinking water and swimmable rivers**

I want swimmable rivers; for that we need tougher limits based on ecosystem (and human) health. This requires de-intensification and best practice farming management. We got ourselves

into a deep problem and it will take us all to get out of this; we need to work with farmers on this.

5. Do you believe we need to reduce cow numbers on the Canterbury Plains, in order to regenerate our waterways and protect our drinking water supplies?

Definitely. ECan cannot stipulate the number of cows but ought to use planning rules that achieve the desired outcomes (i.e. less pollution) than the means of getting there (e.g. by fewer cows). Otherwise, we may just see cows replaced with another source of pollution.

6. Would you commit to changing ECan's planning documents to prevent or substantially impede the taking of water from Christchurch's aquifers for export water bottling?

That's the public's expectation and will need to happen. But the scope needs to include all commercial water takes. Water is overallocated and we need to reign this in. Water bottling is a particular problem as it directly draws from the city aquifers.

7. Please state (in no more than 75 words) what, in your background, your achievements or your world view) qualifies you to represent the people of Canterbury as an elected member of Ecan.

Nearly half of ECan's budget is spent on public transport, and there has never been a transport specialist on council. That's my area of expertise. We are doing poorly in this area and I know what needs to be done.

My world view aligns with ECan's stated values: "people first, collaboration, stewardship, integrity, can do." Those are mostly not met, and I will refocus the organisation to meet those values.