

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: Bill Dowle

Ward: North Canterbury.

Occupation/role in community:

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

There are some examples of where ECan has got along side landowners and enhanced wetland areas. Many of our riverside areas have been enhanced to encourage recreational use, although some members of the public do not help by dumping rubbish and destroying plantings etc. Generally river improvements have been undertaken by many landowners with encouragement from ECan. More of this needs to occur and will only occur if ECan get alongside landowners and works with them rather than the confrontational approach they are currently using.

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

By the recent wetlands mapping exercise undertaken in North Canterbury they have alienated many landowners and lost trust. This will be very hard to get back and make progress, it will not happen without trust.

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

Build trust between ratepayer/landowners and ECan. This is also needing improved in the relationship with District Councils, although I believe this is improving.

Better relationships with the general population is needed, as well as better publicity of what ECan does, public knowledge of ECan activities and responsibilities is disgustingly low. Keep expenditure as low as possible, to stop or at least reduce rate increases. The attitude that it costs each ratepayer very little for any individual activity is wrong as with all the activities ECan is involved with the cost to ratepayers has grown way out of proportion to the gains they get.

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)

Work with other councillors and staff to gain efficiencies and build trust by talking to people rather than coming in aggressively. Find the common ground and build from that.

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

Some areas in Canterbury have probably reached "Peak Cow Numbers", other areas need improved management practices, some properties are OK. There are some areas that I have

a difficulty with being in Dairying at all. My understanding is that some 97.5% of our water goes straight out to sea so much of the issue isn't quantity but is some areas what happens to the water.

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?

As I said above most of our water goes straight out to sea. However I have difficulty in understanding how Non Notified Consents were given when there was such huge public interest. Our deep aquifers are precious and much information we get is more guess work than known fact as we can't get down there to see exactly what is there or happening there.

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.

I have been involved with ECan since it's inception as a ratepayer, Rivers and Pest Committee chairman (In Kaikoura) and obtaining and complying with consents for my sheep farming operation. I am involved with Land Search & Rescue throughout Canterbury and a Rural Fire crew. As a Real Estate salesperson interacting with people from the whole constituency area has me negotiating to get a suitable outcome for diverse parties, as I see this position entails.