

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: Dr Elizabeth McKenzie

Ward: South Canterbury/Ōtuhituhi

Occupation/role in community: Scientist

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

I do not believe ECan leadership have succeeded in protecting and enhancing our natural environment in any significant way.

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

- Failure to prevent nitrate and E. coli contamination of freshwater;
- Failure to prevent pesticide contamination of freshwater;
- Failure to keep stock out of waterways;
- Failure to prevent dairying in unique environments such as the MacKenzie Basin;
- Failure to prevent loss of wetlands and insect decline;
- Failure to control wallaby.

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

1. Drive development and implementation of a Climate Change Emergency Mitigation and Adaptation Plan;
2. Accelerate implementation of the new government policy for freshwater management to protect clean safe drinking water and swimmable rivers;
3. Lead the restoration of diverse insect habitats to protect biodiversity and safeguard our food ecosystems.

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)

I will advocate for urgent development of a Climate Change Emergency Mitigation and Adaptation Plan. The plan will deal with greenhouse gas mitigation, climate safe modular buildings, review of all low-lying transport infrastructure, residential water collection and storage, and community resilience to geopolitical instability, and the influx of climate refugees.

To protect our water, I will push for a review of the performance of the current ECan leadership in light of the current state of our water, and I will ensure that ECan leadership and staff implement the objectives and policies of the government's *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management*.

To restore insect numbers I will push for regional standards limiting pesticide use, and I will institute regular insect and pesticide level monitoring. I will defend the protection of

wetlands and other important insect habitats. I will promote incentives that increase insect habitat in residential areas, farms, and council parks.

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?

Absolutely. I believe that if large-scale irrigation is required for dairying, then we are dairying in the wrong place. There are several areas in New Zealand suitable for dairying, and Canterbury is not one of them. I would advocate for an increase in cropping for grains, nuts, berryfruit, and brassicas.

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?

Yes, I would advocate for banning the taking of water for export, firstly because we need to maintain water volumes for river health and freshwater fisheries, secondly, because we need the water for drinking and for growing our food, and thirdly because the production of plastic bottles pollutes the environment.

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 am a 46-year-old Christchurch-born scientist with 17 years' experience in geochemistry, forensic science, environmental analytical chemistry, and biomedical science. My family have lived in South Canterbury for the past 20 years. I have demonstrated leadership in both academic and voluntary sectors in equity and sustainability. My diverse science background enables me to see both the detail and the 'big picture', an attribute necessary for making decisions that will affect complex social and environmental systems.