

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: Felicity Price

Ward: Ōhoko Christchurch Central

Occupation/role in community:

1. In what ways do you believe that ECan has succeeded in protecting and enhancing our natural environment?
ECan has done a lot towards reducing harm to our environment in terms of air quality, and getting farmers to actively protect our waterways through fencing and riparian planting along rivers and streams. It has also been active in getting rid of pests such as wilding pines, crack willows, rabbits etc, protecting habitats for endangered birds, fish and invertebrates, and working towards re-establishing mahinga kai.
2. In what ways do you believe that Ecan has failed?
At the same time ECan hasn't done enough to be tough on farmers who are leaching too much nitrate into the soil and then the rivers – its low rate of prosecutions are evidence of this. It has set the allowable level of nitrates in rivers and wells too high and should lower it to around current levels, to ensure it doesn't get any worse. Hopefully the Government's new National Environment Standards: Freshwater rules, when legislated, will change this by limiting nitrogen fertiliser, leaching into waterways, and cow numbers.
ECan has also allowed Cloud Ocean water-bottling plant to transfer over its wool scour consent to take billions of litres from our precious aquifers. While it says it has to do so under the RMA it should have put up a fight, and at least got it out for consultation.
3. What specific things do you intend to achieve if you are elected to Ecan? List your 3 main priorities.
 - Work to have the RMA law changed so existing use consents like the Kaputone wool scour at Belfast can't be transferred over, and especially not for water bottling. At the very least they should be notified and go out for public consultation. At best, they should be blocked entirely.
 - Get the allowable levels of nitrate reduced from 3.8mg nitrate per litre of water to something much closer to current levels, which are under 1mg. If we don't take action here, nitrates will end up in Christchurch's pristine aquifers and the city's drinking water supply. I would like to get ECan to implement the Government's new limits on nitrogen leaching before the 2025 deadline.
 - Ensure ECan is tougher on non-complying land users, including dairy farmers and others using nitrogen-based fertiliser and leaching nitrates and pesticides into the soil and waterways.
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)
 - *See above. Same answers:*

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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?
- Yes. And not just on the plains, but in the Mackenzie Basin also
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?
- I don't know how the regulations work, but in principle yes, especially in consideration of the question around "the effects being more than minor". However, I believe getting national changes to the RMA to stop the transfer of existing use consents will be more effective and more easily achievable. Thanks to Aotearoa Water Action's legal action, it may happen even sooner than expected.
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.

My track record at work and as a volunteer is of action to benefit our community. After the earthquakes, as the (unpaid) chair of the Court Theatre, I got a new theatre built that thrives today. Now I'm chair of the Arts Centre, two-thirds way through restoring and repopulating 23 historic buildings in possibly the world's biggest heritage rebuild. I will be catching the bus into ECan and won't be using a councillor carpark.