

Name: Greg Byrnes

Ward: North Canterbury

Occupation/role in community: General Manager Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust

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

ECan have a strong Regional Park network which has introduced environmental protection to what are predominantly river control, endowment and soil conservation areas. This has allowed for the expansion of threatened ecosystems including wetlands and coastal saltmarsh. They also have highly qualified and dedicated ecological staff working on numerous projects with communities across the region.

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

Enforcement needs muscle and unfortunately ECan have been reluctant to pursue many cases of environmental destruction. There has also been a continuation of valuing economic development over the environment, which is a legacy of removing the elected Councillors and the highly regarded CEO scientist in Dr Bryan Jenkins.

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

My priorities are

-reducing the nitrate reduction levels proposed within plan change 7 from the 3.8mg precautionary level to 1mg to protect instream ecology and the timeframes proposed from 5 - 15% per decade to up to 60% by 2040.

- supporting the diversification from monoculture agriculture in our high risk areas e.g. Clarkeville to Oxford light soils

- that people in North Canterbury have reliable public transport to commute in and out of Christchurch in an affordable and timely way

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)

priority 1 will be dependent upon the hearings outcomes. While the process has been skewed by the Council only having the ability to accept or reject the commissioner outcome in full,

priority 2 lobby central government to extend loan and underwriting to farmers wishing to move from dairy only farming. Partner the establishment of hemp agriculture sites within the Waimakariri and Ashburton districts.

priority 3 increase general rating for public transport infrastructure.

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?

Yes, dramatically. This will also have the benefit to NZ greenhouse gas reduction goals.

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?

No, I would rather Dairy farmers exported water directly than irrigate light soils to grow grass. This would dramatically reduce water use and help protect those aquifers. If there was a change of use for a consent, this of course activates a consent review. Again this will benefit Canterbury's freshwater which in some areas is over allocated by 200 - 300%. I would however push for non transferable consents.

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 local and regional government, environmental management and rehabilitation for over thirty years. My mission in life is to use my knowledge and experience to influence the way people engage with nature and the environment. I am a pragmatic conservationist who realises people need to make a living but not at the expense of the environment and future generations.