

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: Paul McMahon (Labour - The People's Choice)

Ward: Central-Ōhoko

Occupation/role in community: Public Health Worker

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

There has been some progress on air quality, on biodiversity, and at least a recognition of the climate change emergency. The partnership with Ngāi Tahu has been enhanced significantly.

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

ECan has failed to respond adequately to the freshwater crisis

Our public transport system has declined severely - meaning people have had to be more reliant on private vehicles, while transport accounts for 53% of the city's emissions.

ECan should have declined water bottling applications and fought it in the courts.

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

- A. Reduce carbon emissions from agriculture and transport
- B. Protect Christchurch's aquifers and rivers from pollution and exploitation
- C. Improve our public transport system to increase uptake.

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)

- Ensure rules encourage de-intensification, best-practice, and transition to regenerative agriculture.
- Clean urban waterways by continuing investment on stormwater filters, wetland plantings, education programmes, and supporting community-led initiatives.
- Advocate to Government for greater controls on large commercial extractive water takes through legislative changes and/or levies
- Strengthen the Land and Water Plan and the CWMS process to provide improved outcomes for water quality and quantity, including allocation.
- Work for a single lead agency has responsibility for a strategic approach to transport planning and management.
- Improve bus routes, frequency, and reliability of buses by implementing bus-priority lanes.
- Investigate and develop a north-west and south-west Rapid Mass Transit corridor network.
- Encourage greater use of public transport by introducing discounted family and student bus passes.
- Plan and prepare for future urban growth by investigating possibilities for rapid light rail linking with heavy rail.

With my Labour - The People's Choice team we will ensure all our decision-making is based on ecological sustainability.

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, by 25-20%

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

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 stand for economic, social, & environmental justice. I fundamentally believe that without the environment there is no economy, and if we continue to mistreat it as we have we are all going to suffer the consequences. In particular, it will be people with limited resources who suffer if we do not act now. I have a background in advocating for such communities, including in my role as a Community Board Member/Chair (2010-2016).