

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: Rik Tindall

Ward: Christchurch South-Ōwhanga

Occupation/role in community:

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

Please choose the 50 words most helpful to you:

Regulating waste emissions, water takes, dams and irrigation is a job noone wants but needs doing well, with critics from both sides: not enough or too much is a fine balance politics impedes. Which Ecan is under examination - the crushed Ecan or the democractic, effective Ecan we must rebuild, together?

Regulation is widely disliked and Ecan's unenviable role, in waterway safety (harbour master), spill prevention and containment, stopbank maintenance versus floods, biohazard and noxious weed control, pest control, biodiversity initiatives, water science provision (it used to be their own but got privatised), improving air quality: all easier judged than done.

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

Ecan failed to meet non-existent national water standards, that this month were drafted to help. With tangata whenua, as regional regulator Ecan can now apply tight nitrogen rules to protect waterways, aquifers and all life within and dependent on these. Without democracy for nine years, Ecan lacked resolve for this.

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

Halt deteriorating water quality then improve it, through tighter nitrogen regulation plus productive industry change proposals. Support initiatives providing alternatives to greenhouse gas emissions, from better land and water use with more growing, to help stop climate change and create long-term sustainable employment. Preserve and reinstate more biodiverse environmental quality.

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)

Te Mana o te Wai, from the proposed National Policy Statement on freshwater management - promote to guiding principle, that health of natural water bodies is put first, ahead of all human uses and values. Amend Land and Water Regional Plan, declaring Te Mana o te Wai lifeforce of Waitaha/Canterbury.

Control nitrogen loss per the proposed National Policy Statement on freshwater management - Subpart 4-46, require nitrogen loss figure (Overseer files) from every qualifying farm, then require reduced application of nitrogen where Land and Water Regional Plan has catchments with "Water Quality Outcomes Not Met" or "At Risk" to resolve.

Control intensive winter grazing and irrigation per the proposed National Policy Statement on freshwater management - Subparts 2-33 and 34: halt the expansion of winter forage areas on farms where these can increase sediment flow, and inordinate irrigated farming where adverse effects may result in contamination entering any water body.

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. Overstocking is the major issue here, with too much waste product in proportion to the receiving environment's ability to absorb it. Nutrients flow down into aquifers or off into waterways, when they overwhelm the soils ability to catch it for plant utilisation. Canterbury soils are porous and need care.

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. Water bottling is a very wasteful industry, in terms of single-use plastic junk created - and also one of deepening inequity. The water shortage issues of every country must be managed locally and sustainably, including here in Waitaha / Canterbury. Exports of water are not a healthy proposition.

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.

With Save Our Water campaign, I served on Ecan 2007-2010 so have had the RMA decision-maker training, read the legislation and developing plans, seen the territory, met many public and players, then confronted the key problem principle of 'privatise the benefits and socialise the costs'. Backup is needed to continue with fresh democratic mandate. Arts and science trained, communications technologist by trade, I will extract for sharing the environmental facts and decisions wise people want.

