

## **Ironic twist**

The discussion on Environment Canterbury relative to former Labour cabinet minister David Caygill's defence of having five government appointees on ECan has an ironic twist.

The fourth Labour Government of which Caygill was a senior member, and which pursued policies commonly known as "Rogernomics", was disdainful of democracy, selling assets without consulting the voting public and arrogantly pursuing its agenda.

Another ironic twist is the John Key-led Government is so similar, selling public assets despite the majority of the voting public being opposed, allowing oil exploration on public lands with no public consultation, dropping toxins on public land against much public opposition and so on.

The irony - and confusion -

never stops for a Right-wing government that overturned a democratically-elected council and by a state takeover of ECan, seems determined to further shun democratic elections by retaining five government puppets on a future ECan.

This sets a dangerous precedent for other councils and organisations such as Fish & Game.

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21/6/14

"Press"  
(Chlch)  
~~Great~~  
readership  
190,000

## **Kea numbers**

In the control room at "Battle for our Birds" have DOC's technical advisers and scientists got their

computer models up and running yet?

I did my apprenticeship on kea under the guidance of kea expert JR (Dick) Jackson. By late winter, up to 200 kea lived at Arthur's Pass. They get hungry and scavenge for food wherever they can.

My career as a wildlife biologist started back then. I learnt about life tables and the amount of data I needed to form mathematically reliable conclusions on what causes wildlife numbers to fluctuate. When I plug the known data for kea into a life table it shows that killing 24 per cent of

kea every three years will result in their extinction. A kea roadshow starts next week. I trust the kea experts will explain how they will stop kea from eating tasty aerial 1080 poison baits.

JIM HILTON  
Karamea