



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Media Release

14 December 1999

Commission proceeds with scheme to unite Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City

The Local Government Commission has today issued a final reorganisation scheme for the union of Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City, to form a new District known as Christchurch City.

The decision follows the Commission's consideration of the 240 submissions made following its release of a draft reorganisation scheme in February this year, and further submissions made during the Commission's three-day hearing in June.

Under the final scheme the wards of the existing Christchurch City will continue as wards of the new City, except for the Ferrymead Ward which will be merged with the existing Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Ward of the Banks Peninsula District to form the Ferrymead-Lyttelton Ward of the new City. The final scheme also provides for the existing Akaroa and Wairewa Wards of the Banks Peninsula District to be combined as the Akaroa-Wairewa Ward of the new City.

There will also be eight Community Boards, based on the existing Community Boards of both districts.

The final scheme provides for:

- the new Council to be elected on 13 October 2001
- the Council to comprise twenty-five councillors and a Mayor
- the District to comprise thirteen wards:
 - the Akaroa-Wairewa Ward, electing one member
 - the Burwood Ward, electing two members
 - the Fendalton Ward, electing two members
 - the Ferrymead-Lyttelton Ward, electing two members
 - the Hagley Ward, electing two members
 - the Heathcote Ward, electing two members
 - the Papanui Ward, electing two members
 - the Pegasus Ward, electing two members
 - the Riccarton Ward, electing two members
 - the Shirley Ward, electing two members
 - the Spreydon Ward, electing two members
 - the Waimairi Ward, electing two members
 - the Wigram Ward, electing two members

- the constitution of eight communities and community boards:
 - The Akaroa-Wairewa Community, for the area of the Akaroa-Wairewa Ward
 - The Burwood-Pegasus Community, for the area of the Burwood and Pegasus Wards
 - The Fendalton-Waimairi Community, for the area of the Fendalton and Waimairi Wards
 - The Hagley-Ferrymead Community, for the area of the Hagley Ward and part of the Ferrymead-Lyttelton Ward
 - The Lyttelton Community, for part of the Ferrymead-Lyttelton Ward
 - The Riccarton-Wigram Community, for the area of the Riccarton and Wigram Wards
 - The Shirley-Papanui Community, for the area of the Shirley and Papanui Wards
 - The Spreydon-Heathcote Community, for the area of the Spreydon and Heathcote Wards.

The Commission considers that the membership structure of the Council and the provision for Community Boards will ensure effective representation for all communities in the new City.

The Commission is of the view that the advantages resulting from implementation of the scheme will include ongoing administrative savings through the provision of services by one local authority. The joint working party of the Banks Peninsula District Council and the Christchurch City Council, convened to assess the financial impacts of amalgamation, has forecast administrative savings following amalgamation of \$379,000 in the first year, \$529,000 in the second year and \$560,000 in subsequent years.

The new Council will have the resources to improve the quality and level of services in the Banks Peninsula area. The joint working party identified that a significant increase in the level of local services provided in the Banks Peninsula area could be achieved with a 0.34 percent increase in rates across the whole of the new City. The report identifies that this would be applied to enhancing solid and liquid waste services, maintenance of parks and reserves, property maintenance, enhancing leisure and community services, integrating management information systems and library systems, and the raising of roading service standards.

The final decision on the union rests with the electors of Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City. Separate polls will be held both areas, and for the union to proceed, over 50% of the votes cast in each poll must be in favour of the union as specified in the Commission's final scheme.

Commission Chief Executive, Donald Riezebos, advised that the date of the polls would be set following consultation with the returning officers of the Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City Councils.

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