

MEDIA RELEASE

19 February 1999



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

DECISION ON BANKS PENINSULA DISTRICT REVIEW RELEASED

The Decision

The Local Government Commission has released the results of its review of Banks Peninsula District. The review was carried out as a result of proposal initiated by a group of Banks Peninsula District electors for the merger of that district and Christchurch City.

The Commission has decided to issue a draft reorganisation scheme for the union of Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City to form a new Christchurch City. The principal reasons for this decision are that -

- Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City share a community of interest; and
- Banks Peninsula District residents would benefit from an increase in the level and quality of local government services provided by a Council administering the combined area.

The Reorganisation Scheme

The principal matters included in the draft reorganisation scheme are that -

- the new City Council be elected at the 2001 local elections:
- there be a Banks Peninsula Ward electing one member covering the areas of the existing Akaroa and Wairewa wards:
- the Lyttelton Harbour Basin be included in adjacent urban ward:
- the Akaroa-Wairewa Community and its community board remain in existence as the Banks Peninsula Community:
- the Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Community and its community board remain in existence:
- Service centres remain at Akaroa, Little River and Lyttelton at least until 2004:
- wards and membership for the remainder of the new City be determined in the Commission's final scheme following further submissions on that issue:

· a transitional committee be established to recommend administrative structures, funding polices and related matters for the new Council.

What happens next?

The procedure from now on is as follows -

- The draft scheme is open to submissions until 20 May 1999.
- The Commission meets with those who have made submissions:
- The Commission considers the submissions and make any other investigations or inquiries it considers necessary:
- The Commission decides whether to -
 - * issue a final scheme:
 - * issue a final scheme but with modifications to the draft; or
 - * if it considers the proposal does not meet the Local Government Act criteria, not issue any final scheme at all.
- If the Commission issues a final scheme, separate polls are held in Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City. For the scheme to be successful over 50% of votes cast in each poll must be in favour of the proposal:
- If the polls vote in favour of the proposal the scheme is implemented by Order in Council.

Media Enquiries

Donald Riezebos
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
Phone 04-494-0576
Fax 04-495-7287