



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Media Release

19 August 2005

Commission proceeds with final scheme for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City

Chairman of the Local Government Commission, Grant Kirby, today announced that the Commission has decided to issue a final reorganisation scheme for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City.

The decision follows the Commission's consideration of the seventy-one submissions made following its release of a draft reorganisation scheme in April 2004, matters raised in the Commission's hearing of the submissions in July 2005, and the completion of inquiries and consultations.

The final scheme is based on the proposal initiated in November 2003 by electors of Banks Peninsula District.

The key elements of the final reorganisation scheme are:

- The area of the existing Banks Peninsula District will form the Banks Peninsula Ward of Christchurch City, and will elect one member to the Christchurch City Council;
- Community boards will be constituted for the Lyttelton-Mount Herbert area and the Akaroa-Wairewa area of the Banks Peninsula Ward, with each board having five elected members;
- The first election for Banks Peninsula Ward, Lyttelton-Mount Herbert Community Board and Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board will be held on 25 February 2006;
- The Banks Peninsula District Council will be dissolved, and the Banks Peninsula District will be abolished, on the day after the day on which the electoral officer of the Christchurch City Council declares the results of the first election of the member of the Banks Peninsula Ward, and the members of the Lyttelton-Mount Herbert Community Board and the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board;
- The community boards will have a comprehensive range of responsibilities, duties and powers;

- The rating system in the Banks Peninsula Ward will be the capital value system.

“The final decision on the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City now rests with the electors of the Banks Peninsula District”, advised Mr Kirby.

“A poll on the proposal will be held in the Banks Peninsula District, and for the reorganisation to proceed, over 50% of the votes cast in the poll must be in favour of the proposal contained in the reorganisation scheme.”

“The date of the poll will be set by the Commission following consultation with the electoral officer of the Banks Peninsula District Council. That consultation will get underway almost immediately.”

“The Commission wishes the electors of Banks Peninsula District well in their consideration of this final scheme, as the time approaches when they will be called on to determine its outcome”, concluded Mr Kirby.

Copies of the final reorganisation scheme and explanatory statement are available from the Commission or may be accessed at the Commission’s website: www.lgc.govt.nz. The documents may also be inspected at the principal offices of the Banks Peninsula District Council and the Christchurch City Council.

Media inquiries:

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