



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Media Release

29 April 2005

Commission announces decision on the proposal for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City

The Chairman of the Local Government Commission, Grant Kirby, today announced the Commission's decision on the proposal, initiated by electors of Banks Peninsula District, for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City.

The key elements of the decision are as follows:

The Decision

The Commission has decided to issue a draft reorganisation scheme based on the proposal. In making this decision the Commission came to the view that:

- the proposal will promote the good local government of the Banks Peninsula area;
- there are strong and developing community of interest linkages between Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula District;
- significant ongoing cost savings will accrue to Banks Peninsula ratepayers through implementation of the proposal;
- implementation of the proposal will have negligible impact on ratepayers of the existing Christchurch City; and
- the Christchurch City Council will have the resources to carry out its responsibilities, duties and powers in the Banks Peninsula area.

The Draft Reorganisation Scheme

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

- the area of the existing Banks Peninsula District will form the Banks Peninsula Ward of the enlarged Christchurch City, electing one member;
- there will be a Lyttelton-Mount Herbert Community Board, electing five members, covering the area of the existing Lyttelton-Mount Herbert Community of Banks Peninsula District;
- there will be an Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board, electing five members (three from the Akaroa Subdivision and two from the Wairewa

- Subdivision), covering the area of the existing Akaroa-Wairewa Community of Banks Peninsula District;
- the member of the Christchurch City Council for the Banks Peninsula Ward will be appointed to both the Lyttelton-Mount Herbert Community Board and the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board;
 - the Lyttelton-Mount Herbert Community Board and the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board will each have the same delegations as those conferred on the existing Christchurch City community boards, subject to the following variations:
 - each board will have the power to recommend to the Council proposed expenditure from its reserve contributions account
 - each board will be provided with discretionary funding of \$10,000 (GST excl.) per annum;
 - the first elections for the Banks Peninsula ward and community board representatives for the enlarged Christchurch City will be held on 25 February 2006;
 - the service centres in Lyttelton, Little River and Akaroa will each be retained for a period of at least five years, and will provide at least the same levels of service as currently exist; and
 - the Capital Value rating system of Christchurch City will apply across the enlarged City.

What happens next?

The procedure from now on is as follows –

- The draft reorganisation scheme is open to submissions until 30 June 2005.
- The Commission meets with those who make submissions.
- The Commission considers the submissions and makes any other investigations or enquiries it considers necessary.
- The Commission decides whether to –
 - Issue a final reorganisation scheme based on the draft reorganisation scheme; or
 - Issue a final reorganisation scheme, based on modifications to the draft reorganisation scheme; or
 - Not issue any final reorganisation scheme if it considers that the proposal does not meet the Local Government Act's criteria.
- If the Commission issues a final reorganisation scheme a poll of electors will be held in Banks Peninsula District - for the final reorganisation scheme to be successful, more than 50% of the votes cast in the poll must be in favour of the proposal.
- If the poll votes in favour of the proposal, the final reorganisation scheme is implemented by Order in Council.

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(See www.lgc.govt.nz for further information regarding the Commission's decision.)