

**SPEECH NOTES FOR SIR ROSS JANSEN,  
CHAIRMAN, LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR  
THE UNION OF BANKS PENINSULA DISTRICT AND  
CHRISTCHURCH CITY**

**11.00AM, 14 DECEMBER 1999**

**TRINITY HALL, RECREATION CENTRE, LYTTELTON**

**Your Worships - Ms Noeline Allan, Mayor of Banks Peninsula  
- Mr Garry Moore, Mayor of Christchurch**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**The purpose for this meeting is for the Local Government  
Commission to outline its decision regarding the proposal for the  
union of Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City.**

**I am Sir Ross Jansen, Chairman of the Commission. I am  
accompanied today by Commissioners Barbara Durbin and Bruce  
Anderson and the Commission's Chief Executive Officer, Donald  
Riezebos, and Senior Advisor, Francis Ryan.**

**Firstly, I wish to thank those of you who made submissions on the  
draft reorganisation scheme for the union of Banks Peninsula  
District and Christchurch City, issued by the Commission in  
February this year.**

**The Commission received 240 written submissions and heard  
submissions from more than 30 submitters over three days during  
early June. On the whole the submissions were well prepared and of  
assistance to the Commission in formulating its final decision.**

**During the period since the hearing the Commission has carefully considered all the submissions made to it. The submissions covered a number of issues but in general terms they sought either:**

- the abandonment of the draft scheme and the retention of the status quo or exploration of alternative options, or**
- finalisation of the draft scheme without modification, or**
- finalisation of the draft scheme with modifications - particularly to the structure of wards and communities.**

**The Commission has also taken into account the review of wards and communities undertaken by Christchurch City and the further submissions made by the proposers and the affected Councils regarding delegations to community boards.**

**The Commission has considered the arguments made against finalising the draft scheme but has not been convinced by them. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to issue a final scheme for the union of Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City in accordance with section 37ZZZA of the Local Government Act.**

**The final scheme retains the core elements of the draft scheme, and provides for:**

- the united district to be known as Christchurch City**
- the first election of the Christchurch City Council to be held on 13 October 2001**
- the Council to comprise 25 members and a Mayor**
- 13 wards, and**
- 8 communities.**

**The existing wards of Christchurch City, with the exception of the Ferrymead Ward, will form wards of the new City. The final scheme provides for a Ferrymead-Lyttelton Ward, comprising the area of the existing Ferrymead Ward and the existing Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Ward of the Banks Peninsula District. The scheme also provides for an Akaroa-Wairewa Ward, comprising the area of the existing Akaroa and Wairewa Wards of the Banks Peninsula District.**

**The new Christchurch City will also have eight communities, based on the six communities of the existing Christchurch City and the two communities of the existing Banks Peninsula District.**

**In making its decision to unite the two districts the Commission is satisfied that implementation of the proposal will enhance the good local government of both Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City.**

**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 united district.**

**Implementation of the scheme will, in the view of the Commission, result in administrative savings through delivery of services by one local authority, rather than two as at present. 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 for the united district will have the resources to enhance 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 combined district. 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 whether the union proceeds now rests with the electors of Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City. Separate polls will be held in 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.**

**The date for the polls will be set by the Commission following consultation with the returning officers of the two Councils. I expect that the consultation will take place over the next week.**

**A booklet outlining the Commission's decision will now be circulated. The booklet includes:**

- an introductory statement on the final scheme**
- the final reorganisation scheme**
- an explanatory statement, setting out what the Commission considers to be the advantages and disadvantages of the final scheme**
- notes to the reorganisation scheme, and**
- maps showing the boundaries of the new district, its wards and communities.**

**Finally, the Commission wishes to thank the proposers, the Banks Peninsula District Council and the Christchurch City Council for their submissions and assistance to the Commission, and those of you who have made a contribution to the process which the Commission is required to follow under the Local Government Act.**

**The process has been long and detailed but the Commission is satisfied that the outcome will be enhanced local government for the combined Banks Peninsula - Christchurch area.**

**END**