

**SPEECH NOTES FOR GRANT KIRBY,
CHAIRMAN, LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR THE
ABOLITION OF BANKS PENINSULA DISTRICT AND ITS
INCLUSION IN CHRISTCHURCH CITY.**

**10.30AM, FRIDAY, 29 APRIL 2005
LYTTELTON CLUB, LYTTELTON**

Stewart Miller, Deputy Mayor of Banks Peninsula District.

Garry Moore, Mayor of Christchurch City.

Mr David Bundy, representative of the electors.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am Grant Kirby, Chairman of the Local Government Commission. I am accompanied by Commission members Linda Constable and Kerry Marshall, the Commission's Chief Executive, Donald Riezebos, and Senior Advisor, Francis Ryan.

We are here today to announce the Local Government Commission's decision on the proposal for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City.

Bob Parker, Mayor of Banks Peninsula District, has tendered his apologies for not being here today. He is attending a planning conference in Auckland.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge your patience in the process so far. It has now been eighteen months since this matter first came to the Commission. This proposal has been the first major reorganisation proposal to be dealt with under the provisions of the new Local Government Act 2002. It has involved significant consultations with interested parties and the commissioning of two detailed studies to help the Commission in reaching a decision.

I also wish to thank the Councils, and Mr David Bundy and his fellow proposers, for their positive engagement in this process. The Commission and its consultants have made many requests for information and these requests have been dealt with in a positive and timely manner. This has greatly assisted the Commission in being able to make the decision which I will announce shortly.

In November 2003 a petition of 985 Banks Peninsula electors initiated a proposal for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City.

The proposal was publicly notified, and 142 written submissions were received. The Commission held hearings in September 2004 in Lyttelton, Akaroa and Christchurch for those submitters who wished to be heard. It also held separate meetings with the affected Councils, the proposers, and other Councils with an interest in the proposal.

The Commission also held a hui with the five Banks Peninsula rūnanga.

To assist its consideration of relevant issues, the Commission initiated a community of interest study and a financial and operational study.

The community of interest study updated a previous study prepared for the Commission in 1998. It showed that the linkages with Christchurch City across all parts of Banks Peninsula have continued to strengthen since 1998. Much of this development is a result of the significant growth of tourism activities in Banks Peninsula in recent years.

The financial study focused on the likely costs and benefits derived from an implementation of the proposal. The study showed that significant financial benefits would accrue to Banks Peninsula ratepayers through an implementation of the proposal, while the impact on existing Christchurch City ratepayers would be insignificant.

In reaching its decision the Commission assessed the proposal against the criteria specified in Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002. This section of the Act requires the Commission to consider the proposal in terms of the following criteria:

- Will the proposal promote the good local government of the affected districts?;
- Would an enlarged Christchurch City constituted as a result of an implementation of the proposal have –

- the resources necessary to carry out its responsibilities, duties and powers;
- a district appropriate for the efficient and effective exercise of its role;
- a sufficiently distinct community of interest or sufficiently distinct communities of interests; and
- the ability to exercise effective decision-making?

The Commission is also required to give consideration to:

- The area of impact of the functions, duties and powers of the local authorities concerned;
- The area of benefit of services provided; and
- The likely effects on any local authority of the exclusion of any area from its district.

I won't go into the Commission's assessment of the proposal against the criteria as you can read the details in the documents that will be distributed at the end of this announcement.

Having considered the proposal against the statutory criteria, the Commission is satisfied that the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City would promote good local government and that the proposal meets the other criteria.

The Commission has therefore decided to issue a draft reorganisation scheme for the abolition of Banks Peninsula District and its inclusion in Christchurch City. The draft scheme includes an indicative date of 25 February 2006 for the first election of the ward and community board representatives for the Banks Peninsula area.

The area of the existing Banks Peninsula District would become the Banks Peninsula Ward of the enlarged City, electing one member. In this regard the Commission came to the view that significant parts of the Banks Peninsula area are sufficiently isolated from the area of the existing City for the Banks Peninsula area to warrant its own specific representation in order to provide effective representation for its communities of interest.

The existing Lyttelton-Mount Herbert and Akaroa-Wairewa Community Boards would be reconstituted. Each board would have five elected members. The councillor for the Banks Peninsula Ward would be appointed to each board. Each board would have significant delegated functions.

The Commission has decided that for the purposes of the draft reorganisation scheme that the existing territorial authority boundary at Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora) should be retained. In the view of the Commission the existing boundary minimises cross-boundary territorial issues. The Commission welcomes submissions on this issue and the other elements of the draft scheme.

The draft reorganisation scheme provides full details relating to the electoral and other arrangements for the Banks Peninsula area of the enlarged Christchurch City.

Copies of the relevant documents will now be circulated. Copies will also be provided to the Banks Peninsula District Council and the Christchurch City Council so that they can be locally available for public viewing. The information will also be available on the Commission's website.

The Commission looks forward to receiving comments on the draft reorganisation scheme.

Submissions on the draft reorganisation scheme close on 30 June 2005. The Commission expects to hear the submissions on the draft reorganisation scheme in July. A decision on whether to issue a final scheme will be made as soon as possible after that.

Thank you for attendance. The Commission looks forward to your submissions on the draft reorganisation scheme.

ENDS