



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MANA KĀWANATANGA Ā ROHE

LGC BULLETIN

JULY 2008

INTRODUCTION

This, our second newsletter for 2008, provides an update on:

- the on-line survey we had Colmar Brunton conduct on councils' experiences with the Local Government Act 2002
- the Commission's review of the Local Government Act 2002 and Local Electoral Act 2001
- information for councils and local communities on the choice of electoral system for the 2010 local elections
- the reorganisation proposals we have before us.

SURVEY OF COUNCILS' EXPERIENCES WITH THE LGA 2002

We commissioned this research to inform our review of the Local Government Act.

It was conducted during April and May this year and achieved a response rate of 89% including a 100% response rate from city councils.

46% of the surveys were completed by the chief executive, while 51% were completed by other council staff (3% of councils did not state the position of the person who completed the survey).

We appreciated the efforts of those who participated and you will see the results were used to inform the Commission's thinking on the review of the LGA.

We are confident that the results will be both of interest and use beyond the review. The survey report can be found at www.lgc.govt.nz on the legislative review page.

REVIEW OF LGA 2002 AND LEA 2001

The Commission has now concluded its review of the operation of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Electoral Act 2001. The Commission has submitted a summary report, including its overall conclusions, key findings and recommendations, to the Minister of Local Government. The main report will be provided to the Minister shortly.

The report endorses many of the Acts' provisions. However it also recommends substantive legislative amendments in certain areas and numerous technical amendments. Importantly, it also identifies areas where (further) development and dissemination of good practice should be encouraged.

On behalf of the Commission I would like to once again thank all councils that provided input into the review, be it through submissions, discussions with us and/or completing the aforementioned survey.

We have sent copies of the summary report to all councils and will do the same with the main report when it is available. In addition these reports will be available on the Commission's website.

INFORMATION ON ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

We are aware that the Department of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with LGNZ and SOLGM, has commissioned Janine Hayward from Otago University to prepare information on the options on the electoral system (FPP or STV) for local elections. This is designed to assist councils in considering the options and as a basis for information to local communities.

We hope this information will be available shortly for councils making decisions on this matter prior to them undertaking representation reviews.

REORGANISATION PROPOSALS

The Commission has received the following reorganisation proposals.

Proposed Boundary Alteration between Clutha District and Dunedin City

This proposal is for the transfer of the Lake Mahinerangi Catchment from Clutha District to Dunedin City. It was initiated by a petition from 14 residents of the affected area. The two councils resolved to refer the proposal to the Commission rather than having it considered by a joint committee of the two councils or by one of

the councils as the "principal local authority". 41 public submissions on the proposal were received.

The Commission is now making inquiries about the proposal, and will hold a hearing of the affected councils and those submitters who wish to be heard. This is scheduled for 3 September 2008, at the Clutha District Council Chambers. The hearing will be open to the public and the media. For more information see the material about this proposal on www.lgc.govt.nz.

Proposed abolition of Kaikoura District and its inclusion in Hurunui District

This proposal was initiated by a petition from 352 residents of Kaikoura District. Submissions will be sought on this proposal in early August.

For further information on the reorganisation process see our [Procedures for Changing the Structure of Local Government](#).

Regards



Donald Riezebos
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission