



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

### **Media Release 16 August 1999**

#### **Commission confirms Canterbury Regional Council's Decision on the Local Government (Waitaki River Valley) Reorganisation Scheme 1998**

The Local Government Commission today confirmed the decision of the Canterbury Regional Council to not proceed with the Local Government (Waitaki River Valley) Reorganisation Scheme 1998.

The scheme was prepared by the Council following a proposal initiated by a number of Canterbury Regional Council ratepayers resident in the area to the south of the Waitaki River who sought to transfer to the Otago Region.

In announcing the decision, Sir Ross Jansen, Chairman of the Commission, advised that in the Commission's view the proposal, if implemented, would not promote the good local government of the Canterbury and Otago Regions.

In particular, the Commission was not satisfied that the proposal, if implemented, would provide the Otago and Canterbury Regional Councils with regions appropriate for the efficient and effective exercise of local government functions, duties and powers. With regard to the area affected by the proposal, the Commission considered that the introduction of a second Regional Council into the management of the Waitaki catchment and Waitaki River would not be efficient for the management of the catchment or river.

The Commission also considered that the proposal did not adequately reflect the community of interest of residents of the Waitaki valley in terms of common interest in the integrated sustainable development and management of the Waitaki River.

The Commission was also required to ensure that the regional boundary conform, where practicable, with a catchment boundary. Taking all the information presented to it into account, the Commission considers that a catchment boundary is the most practicable arrangement for the area affected by the proposal. The current boundary in the affected area, which is generally based on the boundary of the Waitaki catchment, avoids the range and complexity of cross-boundary issues that would arise with a river boundary and enables the Canterbury Regional Council to undertake its resource management responsibilities in an effective, integrated manner.

#### **Media Enquiries**

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