



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

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Commission proceeds with scheme to unite Napier City and Hastings District

The Local Government Commission has today issued a final reorganisation scheme for the union of Napier City and Hastings District, to form a new District known as the Hawke's Bay District.

The decision follows the Commission's consideration of the 80 submissions made following its release of a draft reorganisation scheme in March this year, and further submissions made during the Commission's two-day hearing in June.

The final scheme differs from the draft scheme in several key respects, including the constitution of wards and the rural community, and the first date of the election of the new Council.

The final scheme provides for:

- the new Council to be elected on 14 October 2000 for a four year term
- the Council will be comprised of fifteen councillors and a Mayor
- the District to comprise six wards:
 - the Napier Ward, electing six members
 - the Hastings Ward, electing four members
 - the Havelock North Ward, electing one member
 - the Plains Ward, electing two members
 - the Northern Rural Ward, electing one member
 - the Southern Rural Ward, electing one member
- the Hawke's Bay District Rural Community Board to include representation from the Plains Ward, the Northern Rural Ward and the Southern Rural Ward.

The Commission considers that the membership structure of the Council will ensure effective representation for all communities in the district.

The Commission is of the view that the advantages resulting from implementation of the scheme will include ongoing administrative savings through the provision of services through one local authority. The Council, through serving a population of 120 000, will be able to have a more effective voice in advocating for action on issues of concern to its residents and ratepayers at a national level.

The final decision on the union rests with the electors of Napier City and Hastings District. 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.

Commission Chief Executive, Donald Riezebos, advised that the date of the polls would be set following consultation with the returning officers of the Napier City and Hastings District Councils.

Media Enquiries

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