

MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

**DECISION ON REVIEW OF THE HAWKE'S BAY REGION, WAIROA
DISTRICT, HASTINGS DISTRICT, NAPIER CITY AND CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT RELEASED**

The Decision

The Local Government Commission has released the results of its review of the Hawke's Bay Region, Wairoa District, Hastings District, Napier City and Central Hawke's Bay District. The review was carried out as a result of five proposals jointly submitted to the Commission by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Napier City Council and Hastings District Council.

The Commission has decided to issue a draft reorganisation scheme for the union of Napier City and Hastings District to form a new Napier-Hastings City. The principal reason for this decision is that Napier City and Hastings District share a community of interest.

The Reorganisation Scheme

The principal matters included in the draft reorganisation scheme are that -

- the new City Council be elected at the 2001 local elections;
- there be a Napier Ward electing six members covering the area of the existing Napier City;
- there be a Hastings Ward electing six members covering the areas of the existing Clive, Flaxmere, Hastings, Havelock North and Heretaunga Wards of Hastings District;
- there be a Northern Rural Ward electing one member covering the areas of the existing Kaweka and Tutira Wards of Hastings District;
- there be a Southern Rural Ward electing one member covering the areas of the existing Maraekakaho and Poukawa Wards of Hastings District;
- there be a Rural Community Board made up of three members elected from the Northern Rural Ward, one member elected from the Southern Rural Ward, and the members of the Council representing the Northern and Southern Rural Wards;

- a transitional committee be established to recommend administrative structures, funding policies and related matters for the new Council.

What happens next?

The procedure from now on is as follows -

- The draft scheme is open to submissions until 14 May 1999;
- The Commission meets with those who have made submissions;
- The Commission considers the submissions and makes any other investigations or enquiries it considers necessary;
- The Commission decides whether to -
 - issue a final scheme;
 - issue a final scheme but with modifications to the draft; or
 - if it considers the proposal does not meet the Local Government Act criteria, not issue any final scheme at all.
- If the Commission issues a final scheme, separate polls are held in Napier City and Hastings District. For the scheme to be successful over 50% of votes cast in each poll must be in favour of the proposal;
- If the polls vote in favour of the proposal the scheme is implemented by Order in Council.

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