

**SPEECH NOTES FOR SIR ROSS JANSEN,
CHAIRMAN, LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR
THE UNION OF NAPIER CITY AND HASTINGS DISTRICT**

11.30AM, 11 AUGUST 1999

CONFERENCE ROOM, HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Your Worships - Mr Alan Dick, Mayor of Napier
- Mr Jeremy Dwyer, Mayor of Hastings**

Ladies and Gentlemen

The purpose for this meeting is for the Local Government Commission to outline its decision regarding the proposal for the union of Napier City and Hastings District.

I am Sir Ross Jansen, Chairman of the Commission. I am accompanied today by Commissioners Barbara Durbin and Bruce Anderson and the Commission's Chief Executive Officer, Donald Riezebos, and Senior Advisor, Francis Ryan.

Firstly, I wish to thank those of you who made submissions on the draft reorganisation scheme for the union of Napier City and Hastings District, issued by the Commission in March this year.

The Commission received 80 written submissions and heard submissions from more than 30 submitters over two days during early June. On the whole the submissions were well prepared and of assistance to the Commission in formulating its final decision.

During the weeks since the hearing the Commission has carefully considered all the submissions made to it. The submissions covered a number of issues but in general terms they sought either:

- the abandonment of the draft scheme and the retention of the status quo or exploration of alternative options, or**
- finalisation of the draft scheme without modification, or**
- finalisation of the draft scheme with modifications - particularly to the name of the proposed district and the structure of wards and communities.**

The Commission has considered the arguments made against finalising the draft scheme but has not been swayed by them. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to issue a final scheme for the union of Napier City and Hastings District in accordance with section 37ZZZA of the Local Government Act.

The final scheme is based on the draft scheme, but includes modifications in a number of important areas. These modifications principally arise through the submissions made on the draft scheme.

The key modifications are:

- the united district will be known as the Hawke's Bay District**
- the first election of the Hawke's Bay District Council will be held on 14 October 2000**
- the first election of Council will be for a four year term**
- the Council will comprise 15 members and a Mayor**
- there will be six wards as follows:**
 - a Napier Ward, electing six members**
 - a Hastings Ward, electing four members**
 - a Havelock North Ward, electing one member**
 - a Plains Ward, electing two members**
 - a Northern Rural Ward, electing one member**
 - and a Southern Rural Ward, electing one member.**

(The membership has been determined by the Commission on the basis of population, rateable value and land area of each ward)

- there will be a Hawke's Bay District Rural Community Board with representation from the Plains Ward, and Northern Rural and Southern Rural Wards.**

In making its decision to unite the two districts the Commission is satisfied that implementation of the proposal will enhance the good local government of both Napier City and Hastings District.

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

Implementation of the scheme will, in the view of the Commission, result in administrative savings through delivery of services by one local authority, rather than two as at present. With a population of approximately 120,000 the Council for the combined district will be

more effective at a national level in advocating the interests and concerns of its community.

The final decision on whether the union proceeds now 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.

The date for the polls will be set by the Commission following consultation with the returning officers of the two Councils. I expect that the consultation will take place over the next week. The Commission would like to have the polls held well before the end of this calendar year.

A booklet outlining the Commission's decision will now be circulated. The booklet includes:

- an introductory statement on the final scheme**
- the final reorganisation scheme**
- an explanatory statement, setting out what the Commission considers to be the advantages and disadvantages of the final scheme**
- notes to the reorganisation scheme, and**
- maps showing the boundaries of the new district, its wards and the rural community.**

Finally, the Commission wishes to thank the Napier City Council, Hastings District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council for their initiative in submitting five proposals to the Commission for consideration - the final scheme is consistent with one of the proposals put forward. The Commission also thanks those of you who have made a contribution to the process which the Commission is required to follow under the Local Government Act. The process has been long and detailed but the Commission is satisfied that the outcome will be enhanced local government for the combined Napier - Hastings area.