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14 January 2008

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

16 JAN 2008

RECEIVED

The Chief Executive Officer  
Local Government Commission  
P O Box 5362  
Wellington

### **Proposal for Abolition of the Kaikoura District Council**

I, Gordon Cockerell, am the proposer on behalf of the electors initiating and forwarding this petition to the Local Government Commission seeking the abolition of the Kaikoura District Council.

This has been undertaken on behalf of a number of concerned citizens within the Kaikoura District.

We, the concerned citizens in seeking abolition, have specified our preference for this Council to be amalgamated with the adjoining Hurunui District Council. If the abolition procedure was to ultimately succeed, it would result in an expanded district well in excess of 12,000 people.

In total we have obtained 360 signatures. This represents approximately 13.7% of the total number of registered electoral voters that we understand reside within the district according to the electoral role we received from Electoral Officer, Mr Warren Lamp.

Please find enclosed 49 petition sheets containing the total number of signatures we have collected.

The reason we have initiated this proposal is because of concerns regarding the sustainability of this district. We consider that an enlarged Council may be better resourced to deal with issues of long term economic and environmental sustainability, maintenance of infrastructure, and provide more staff skills and expertise that would enable the Kaikoura area to progress in a more strategic direction than is currently occurring.

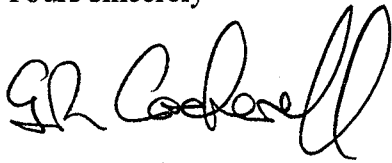
As a matter of courtesy we have advised the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor of the Hurunui District Council of our petition; the Kaiwhakahaere of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, Mr Mark Solomon, and local MP, Mr Colin King. The Kaikoura District Council is also aware of this petition.

Please find enclosed an attachment outlining the summary points that explain the reason for seeking the abolition of the Kaikoura District Council.

Also attached is a copy of the electoral roll, we obtained from the Electoral Officer, that has been used as a check to ensure that the number of signatures we have obtained appear on the Kaikoura District Council Electoral Roll and exceeds the 10% required to initiate the abolition process.

Please note that any pencilled notes alongside of any names, addresses or signatures relates to anything that may not exactly correlate with the details provided on the electoral roll. For example, where someone may have shifted or given a work address, or used their common name rather than their official name, we have checked with those individuals and made a pencil correction to clarify this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Cockerell', written in a cursive style.

Gordon Cockerell  
Proposer on behalf of Electors

## **PROPOSAL FOR ABOLITION OF THE KAIKOURA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Initiated by concerned citizens of Kaikoura, this proposal seeks to approach the Local Government Commission regarding abolition of the Kaikoura District Council, to enable its responsibilities to be financed by a larger number of ratepayers by amalgamating with the Hurunui District Council.

Concern exists about whether the Kaikoura District Council can continue to operate effectively into the future because:

- Kaikoura is the smallest District Council in mainland NZ with a population base of approximately 3618 (2006 Census) and approximately only 2241 rateable properties (Kaikoura District Council Long Term Community Council Plan 2006-16)
- Significant growth within the last five years has placed considerable pressure on the infrastructure. Kaikoura District Council and it's ratepayers may struggle to meet the costs of services resulting from projected growth.
- There is concern that ratepayers are facing unsustainable rates rises such as the 13.3% increase in 2007
- There is concern about the District's lack of strategic direction. Existing planners are fully committed with District Plan and RMA matters and have little or no time for strategic planning.
- Since the 2002 reform of the Local Government Act, small councils have had to take on additional responsibilities with attendant demands on staff time and costs.
- As pressures increase, central government may be forced to consider further local government reforms.

We feel that a discussion needs to be held to consider the merits of bringing about amalgamation with the Hurunui District.

Once consultation and reasoned debate has been undertaken, the final decision to amalgamate would be decided by voters through a referendum conducted by the Local Government Commission.

How amalgamation may be best achieved is a matter for the Local Government Commission to decide, but for it to be considered, the names and addresses of

10% of registered electoral voters in favour of the proposal must be presented. Some of the issues that may be relevant to possible abolition of the Kaikoura District Council include:

- Kaikoura receives many of its services from Canterbury e.g. District Health Board, Environment Canterbury.
- Strong tourism interests link Hurunui, Hanmer and Kaikoura through the Pacific Triangle Marketing Strategy.
- Community of interest with Marlborough Region for policing, social services, media (radio and newspapers), and conservation management.

Note: Signing this petition does not mean the Kaikoura District Council will necessarily be abolished. It simply means that the Local Government Commission may consider a proposal for abolition, and this will enable the issue to be openly debated. Ultimately any decision to either become amalgamated or to remain as the Kaikoura District Council would be decided by a vote.