



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

FILE: LSL 60  
DOCDM-364172

31 October 2008

Donald Riezebos  
Chief Executive Officer  
Local Government Commission  
PO Box 5362  
Wellington

Attn: Michael Coles

Dear Sir

### PROPOSAL FOR ABOLITION OF KAIKOURA DISTRICT

Thank you for your letter of 12 August 2008 to the Director-General of Conservation seeking the Department's views on the proposal to abolish Kaikoura District and include the district in Hurunui District. Your letter has been referred to me for reply, given that the Nelson-Marlborough Conservancy of the Department of Conservation includes the Kaikoura District. I apologise for not getting these comments through to you by your requested deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> October and hope that you are still able to consider them.

Whilst the Department does not have a view either way as to whether or not this proposal should proceed, I have some comments to make which may assist the Local Government Commission's consideration of the proposal.

Before I expand on the Department's views, it may help to set out the Department's operational context in relation to working in Kaikoura District. Kaikoura district lies within the Department's South Marlborough Area. Whilst the Department has a field centre in Kaikoura, the work carried out by the Department in Kaikoura district is managed by staff in the South Marlborough Area office which is based in Renwick (near Blenheim).

The Department has a good working relationship with Kaikoura District Council staff, due in part to the location of the Department's field centre there, but also due to the relative proximity of Kaikoura to the South Marlborough Area. Over the years, the Department has built up a number of partnerships with council staff, focused on achieving project outcomes in the district. These include the upgrading of the high-profile walkway along the Kaikoura Peninsula, which was progressed through a partnership of the Department, Kaikoura District Council, the local runanga and Whalewatch (all of whom are landowners along the walkway). Other partnership work focus on biodiversity protection initiatives such as the Significant Natural Areas Project run by the council, the Hutton's Shearwater Recovery project run by the Department and the a walking and cycling strategy.

The Department considers that these partnerships are effective in large part because Council staff are accessible. It has some concern that incorporating Kaikoura into Hurunui District may affect

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Telephone 03-5469335, Fax 03-548 2805

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their ongoing effectiveness, given that key contacts would have to be established in Amberley which is about 3 hours drive away from the South Marlborough Area office.

The Department notes that because the rating base for Kaikoura District is small, it struggles to secure sufficient resourcing to carry out its work. Having said this, despite its size, Kaikoura District Council is a strong advocate for environmental initiatives, for example: Green Globe and waste minimisation. It may be that Hurunui District Council would not have the same environmental focus on Kaikoura and, from the Department's perspective, this would be a considerable loss. The Department's observations are that there is a strong community voice in Kaikoura which is currently expressed through a local council centred in Kaikoura.

As an addition to the above, I note that Kaikoura District is a significant site for tourism which continually creates a need for ongoing environmental sustainability through locally based management. The current District Council structure provides for close contact and control by the local authority which could be diminished by incorporating the district into Hurunui.

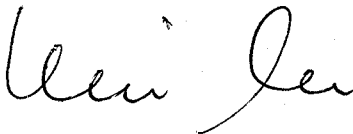
Incorporating Kaikoura District into Hurunui would create a bigger rating base, which could benefit the infrastructure needed to sustain the current economic and physical growth of Kaikoura. However, given that other places in Hurunui are also increasing in size and subject to the pressures of tourism, there may not be noticeable benefits for Kaikoura. An increase in staff capacity and access to staff expertise in Hurunui District Council could be a benefit for Kaikoura District.

Kaikoura District Council is currently a Rural Fire Authority member of the Nelson/Marlborough Regional Rural Fire committee, and there are good links at a fire operational level between the Department of Conservation and the Kaikoura District fire staff. At the present time discussions are developing on the concept of an Enlarged Rural Fire District for the entire Marlborough region. Although the Kaikoura District is not included in the initial concept a useful option is to have it included. It would probably be helpful for your study to get comment from the National Rural Fire Authority as to the rural fire management implications of the District inclusion into Hurunui.

Finally, whilst Kaikoura District shares some strong communities of interest with Marlborough, particularly in the northern part of the district, it is currently part of the Canterbury Region and the Department notes that this would not change if the district was incorporated into Hurunui District.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments and I wish the Commission well in its consideration of this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Neil Clifton  
Conservator

# East Coast Community Organisation Inc. Soc.

Secretary: J Throssell, Parikawa, Private Bag 1239, Blenheim

The Chief Executive Officer,  
Local Government Commission  
PO Box 5362  
Wellington  
3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2008

## "Kaikoura Proposal"

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of our organisation was held on the 9th September at Woodbank School. The proposed abolition of Kaikoura District Council was on the agenda and the meeting was widely advertised via email twice and school noticeboard and newsletter. Twenty-nine people attended.

A vote was taken to decide whether ECCO should make a submission, this was carried 24 for (including 2 proxy), 2 against and 5 abstentions.

A vote was also taken on the proposal from the floor that ECCO would prefer to retain KDC, this was carried 17 for (inc 2 proxy), 5 against, and 9 abstentions.

It was also proposed that should KDC be dissolved ECCO would favour joining the Marlborough Unitary Authority, this was carried 22 for, 1 against and 6 abstentions.

The meeting asked that the above figures be recorded in this submission.

Yours sincerely,

J Throssell

Secretary ECCO

**SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSAL THAT THE KAIKOURA DISTRICT BE ABOLISHED AND INCLUDED IN THE HURUNUI DISTRICT.**

**I / ~~We~~ the undersigned make written submission to the Local Government Commission supporting that the status quo remain, i.e. that the Kaikoura District NOT be abolished.**

My reasons are:


RETAIN CONTROL OF OUR WEALTH AND FUTURE

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03 NOV 2008

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Full Name: DONALD WILLIAM MORRISON  
Organisation: RATEPAYER  
Address: 5 WHITBY PLACE, KAIKOURA 7300  
Phone No: (03) 319 7933

Signature: 

I wish to be heard

Date: 27/09/08

I DO NOT wish to be heard

(see overleaf for instructions to send to the Local Government Commission)

SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSAL THAT THE KAIKOURA DISTRICT BE ABOLISHED AND INCLUDED IN THE HURUNUI DISTRICT.

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I / We the undersigned make written submission to the Local Government Commission supporting that the status quo remain, i.e. that the Kaikoura District NOT be abolished.

My reasons are:

We both prefer to deal with people we know and who live locally. Geographically it is handy to have a local Council with staff available to talk to and ask for advice. On the whole, we believe it is beneficial to have the status quo.

However, we are deeply concerned that there are (several) councillors who seem very short sighted and lacking common sense when it comes to major decisions this council is faced with regarding the towns future and growth.

The investment of large sums should always be in new public facilities first such as a sports complex which will increase the appeal for new people to come and live here.

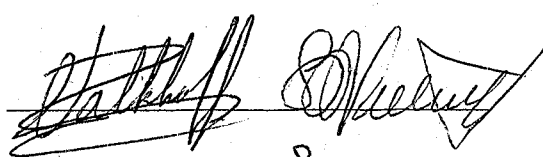
A new council offices etc does nothing to increase the appeal and level of services to the district. This town desperately needs to grow or we will not have a sustainable economic population base for business to thrive. Instead it is survive and eventually people like ourselves with young families will have no choice but to leave town!!

Full Name: Chris & Suzy Valkhoff

Organisation: Driftwood Villa B&B

Address: PO Box 133

Phone No: 03-3197116

Signature:  I wish to be heard

Date: 13-10-2008 I DO NOT wish to be heard

(see overleaf for instructions to send to the Local Government Commission)

**SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSAL THAT THE KAIKOURA DISTRICT BE ABOLISHED AND INCLUDED IN THE HURUNUI DISTRICT.**

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03 July 2008

My reasons are:

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Why fix something that is not broken
I am fully satisfied with the
service we get from the local
Council
The mayor is a great figure head
for a progressive council
I was living in Milton when it was
amalgamated with Clutha, miltonians
were definitely the losers.

Full Name: Yvonne MORRISON

Organisation: Private Rate payer

Address: 5 Whitby Place KAIKOURA

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: 

I wish to be heard

Date: 26-9-08

I DO NOT wish to be heard

(see overleaf for instructions to send to the Local Government Commission)