

Submission to be Considered in Regard to the Proposed Nelson Tasman Reorganisation.

Submission from the BibbySmith family, 11 Dawson Road, Mapua.

RDI Upper Moutere 7173

We do not wish to be heard but are happy to respond to any questions you may have by email at bibbysmith@actrix.co.nz or by phone, 03 5403810.

We do not support the proposed reorganisation in the suggested form.

We do not believe that the present proposal will provide any additional service to the Tasman Residents from local government, beyond what is currently received, nor reduce costs to the constituents.

We believe that should the reorganisation continue then the following points must be considered:

1. The council must equally represent the district it covers and be seen to be doing this in its name. As such it should be called the 'Tasman-Nelson Council' or 'Nelson-Tasman Council' not 'Nelson Council'.
2. The main council office should be in Richmond as this is more central to the area the council would service. It would also help to ensure the wider region is not marginalised by urban dominance of the offices.
3. The current proposal for boundaries is extremely arbitrary and does not relate at all to the communities within our district, in fact it breaks up identified communities of interest. We urge the Commission to review these boundaries and recommend smaller areas using identified 'communities of interest' as a guide for boundaries.
4. We believe that the communities represented by the current Councils will not receive better representation by the imposition of a Community Board structure. At present Tasman District has 17 'Communities of Interest' and local voluntary community associations address issues important to a community as the issues arise. Some, like the Mapua & Districts Community Association, have been in existence for many years and has a very constructive relationship with Council and Councillors. We believe that the community board suggestion should be removed and replaced by 'administrative assistance' to Resident Associations.
5. Community Boards as paid positions will become self serving and will look for issues to be involved in to justify their existence. They represent another layer of bureaucracy that is not needed when we have accessible councillors and active community associations. We support community driven associations not community boards.
6. From the best environmental management perspective we believe that the southern boundary should include the Maruia River Valley including the rural centre of Springs Junction. The valley is as much part of our district as it is part of Buller's. This valley is already represented by Tasman District now in the lower Maruia Valley. The people of this area should be canvassed to gauge their preference.

Donald Riezebos

From: colin robertson [colin.robertson4@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 8:07 a.m.
To: LGC
Subject: Submission against TDC / NCC Amalgamation

Proposal appears biased with grossly understated disadvantages

- Auckland spent \$576 Million on their super city computer upgrade (\$450 million over budget). The Nelson and Tasman computer systems are not compatible, what will be the cost of rectifying this?1
- Given that redundancy packages are likely to be two weeks per year of service, what is the likely cost of redundancies I estimate this to be in excess of \$900,0002spaces, offices and amenities in the already cramped Tasman location?3
- If any money is borrowed for the transition process it will be by default not be a “short term transitional cost” (as stated in the draft reorganisation scheme) as we will be paying for this for years to come in our rates.

I do not need to speak about this submission at the hearing

regards

Colin Robertson
02102468528

#177

SUBMISSION ON DRAFT PLAN NELSON CITY TASMAN DISTRICT UNION

I do NOT wish to appear before the Commission at the hearing.

I am a Nelson City resident and the views or concerns I express are purely personal.

Overall I am in favour of the proposed union. I am saddened that reading the concerns in the Nelson Mail it seems as if people are concentrating on the costs and what might happen to our rates when I would like people to look at the positives that could happen for rate payers and other residents.

My concern is for people in the Murchison, Lake Rotoiti area and the Golden Bay that they may get forgotten or that their voices may not be heard at Council meetings.

I read with interest the Powers of Community Boards on page 12 of the Draft I am pleased that the Boards will have delegated authority to use their allocated funds to benefit their community, but have some concern about how these funds will be allocated by the Council and how much money will be available for Community Boards. The ten recommendations in (2) page 12 seem well thought out and beneficial for each Community.

The Draft Reorganisation Scheme on page 17 seems reasonable and sensible. It is illogical to have a road dividing the City from the District when each area has very many interests and activities in common or working on together.

Therefore I support the suggested Union with the proviso that the outlying areas of the current Tasman District are well cared for and well served in the future. I believe that within in the Nelson City and Richmond areas such Union will go smoothly once reorganisation has happened – without too big a change in our rates.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission

Mrs Robin Hall
11a Tainui Street
Stoke
NELSON 7011

Submission to Local Government Commission Proposal on the Union of Nelson City Council and Tasman Districts.

Berylla Jones
PO Box 135
Murchison 7049
berylla@ts.co.nz
02 5239 875

I wish to be heard

This is a personal submission.

I disagree with the proposed amalgamation for the following reasons:

Firstly the commission has the following questions it is seeking to answer:
(from Nelson/Tasman proposal briefing Dec 8 2010)

Consideration of proposal

41.

In order to assess whether a reorganisation proposal will promote good local government in a particular area, the Commission has identified the following questions that need to be addressed:

- a. would the proposed districts/regions better recognise distinct communities of interest?
- b. would the proposal provide for more effective representation of communities of interest?
- c. would the proposal provide for more effective governance of the area concerned including meeting decision-making requirements?
- d. would the proposal facilitate more effective planning for meeting the immediate and long-term needs of the community concerned?
- e. would the proposal facilitate more efficient and effective service delivery for the community concerned?
- f. would the proposal provide for enhanced financial capacity in the local government arrangements for the area?
- g. would the proposal provide for enhanced local government management and organisational capacity for the area?

Nelson City is essentially an urban area, whilst Tasman District encompasses 17 main settlements and a very large rural area. The rural settlements are very diverse and many quite isolated with unique needs and flavour.

Amalgamating Nelson and TDC would give these small communities even less voice at local government level. Murchison, for instance, would go from having a Community Council that meets bi monthly and has close relationships with our local councillor and with other members of TDC to being one of three communities jointly sharing a Community Board.

The new proposal would have Murchison become part of a community board covering St Arnaud and Tapawera. This board would have 4 elected members. There is no provision for each community to have an elected member on the board. What if one community gets all four? Also these settlements are very different in focus, make up and need. All

#179

have very diverse issues of management, rivers, lakes, farming, forestry, roading etc. At the moment local people feed back to the community council and know intimately the land and issues in their area. This leads to management based on actual conditions not from a distant boardroom.

Furthermore there is no guarantee that even this community board will be retained when the next 6-year population based representation review is carried out. Based on the population after amalgamation, the population of these small settlements will be further diluted and yet their needs and the complexity of issues regarding the river and lake management etc remains the same.

Although small these communities do make a substantial contribution to the larger community. For instance, Murchison's tourism spend of over \$23 million, its 510 beds for tourists, its 48 tourism businesses were not mentioned in your background documents and yet this is a significant contribution the regional tourism spend. There is also the contribution of the farming sector as well.

It appears to me that distinct communities of interest will not be best served by amalgamation for the above reasons.

It appears that "better recognition of distinct communities of interest, more effective representation of communities of interest, more effective governance, more effective long term planning, more efficient and effective service delivery" (points from a-e above) will not be the outcome from amalgamation.

As regards f "enhanced financial capacity in the local government arrangements for the area" again, I am not convinced the needs of the rural population and the safeguarding of the natural resources will be improved by amalgamation. Both councils do a good job now.

As regards g - would the proposal provide for enhanced local government management and organisational capacity for the area?

I am not convinced that one community board for the three above mentioned townships would be an improvement on present arrangements where more people are representing their communities.

Roading money may also be jeopardised and impact the rural area of TDC. Already there have been cuts to the width of the mowing strips and number of times mowing is carried out on the road verges all the smaller rural roads, which compromise safety. Further cuts would more incur more important compromises. Rural roads would bear the brunt of this.

As regards the wider picture for the urban areas, the two councils are doing a good job and are increasingly cooperating and forming partnerships.

There may well be better ways of increasing this cooperation and enhancing the regional planning etc apart from amalgamation.

Donald Riezebos

From: Finn Deeley [finnd@henley.school.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 12:49 p.m.
To: LGC
Subject: submission on draft reorganisation of Nelson and Tasman

Dear Sir

I would like to make a submission on the draft reorganisation scheme for the union of Nelson City and Tasman District. I am concerned about the reduction of representation for rural communities. We currently have 3 elected representatives on a council of 13. Under the scheme we will have 2 on a council of 16. That means a 1:4.3 ratio becoming a 1:8 ratio. With Richmond and Nelson making up 10 of the 16 on the proposed council it will be more difficult to pass motions that are important to rural areas. This is a loss of representation not a perceived loss of representation as stated on page 20 of the draft.

I do not wish to appear before the Commission at a hearing.

Finn Deeley
Class Teacher
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Nelson
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180

Submission To The Local Government Commission

Draft Re-organisation Scheme : Proposal For The Union Of Nelson City And Tasman District

19 August 2011

1. My name is David Ogilvie. I have been a Motueka Resident since 1967, teaching at Motueka High School until 1978, and a Real Estate Licensee Agent until 2010.

I obtained a Master of Arts (University of Canterbury) in 1962, later a Diploma of Education, and have AREINZ qualifications.

I have been involved in Local Government part-time and occasionally full-time, since 1970:-

- Motueka Borough Council (1970 – 1989)
- Nelson – Marlborough Regional Council (1989 – 1992)
- Tasman District Council (1992 – 2004)
- Motueka Community Board (1989 – 2004, and since 2007).

For periods, I was Deputy Mayor at Motueka Borough and Tasman District. Currently (since 2007) I am the Chairperson for the Motueka Community Board.

I was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2005 for local government services.

2. This is a submission in support of the proposal for the union of Nelson City and Tasman District.

Briefly, I agree with the draft scheme actively promoting a regional approach for Nelson and Tasman. The existing two-council situation is artificial and inhibits the planning, growth and development of the region.

Secondly, and equally important, the draft scheme provides for community boards making local decisions on behalf of their particular community.

Notwithstanding, I consider the draft scheme does not extend these decision-making powers sufficiently.

The greater part of this submission endeavours to address this deficiency in the draft scheme, with an emphasis on the Motueka Community Board, arising from my local government experience.

I believe that a re-organised local authority for Nelson and Tasman must provide a strong, united regional Council, and also provide strong Community Boards with the statutory support to make meaningful decisions on behalf of its local community.

The submission is in three sections:

- A. The Role of a Community Board
- B. General points, relating to a Council and a Community Board
- C. Schedule of Delegated Powers for the Motueka Community Board

My initial submission to the Commission, prior to the 16 June 2011 pronouncement is appended.

I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

David Ogilvie
7 Goodman Drive
(P O Box 184)
MOTUEKA 7143

Phone: (03) 528 9883
Mobile: 027 431 4656
Email: d.ogilvies@xtra.co.nz

A. The Role of a Community Board

The role of a community Board is set out in section 52 of the Local Government Act 202 as follows:

- Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community.
- Prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

Clauses 38 and 39 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 contain the following provisions relating to administration and expenses of Community Boards:

- Clause 38: A territorial authority within whose district the community of a Community Board is situated must provide the necessary administrative and other facilities for that Community Board.
 - Clause 39:
 - (1) The expenses of the performance and exercise by a Community Board of its responsibilities, duties, and powers must be paid by the territorial authority within whose district the community is situated, out of the general revenues of the district.
 - (2) The territorial authority may fix a limit within which expenditure may be incurred under sub clause (1), and no Community Board may incur expenditure in excess of any limit so fixed without the prior approval of the territorial authority.
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B. General Points

1. The objective is to actively promote local decisions being made by the local communities, emphasizing local ownership, local responsibility, efficiency and cost effectiveness.
 2. Delegations made by the Council, extend the power of Council itself to the Community Board. The decisions made by the Community Board legally bind the full Council.
 3. Delegations made to the Community Board are in accordance with the “Order-in-Council” provisions of the Local Government Act, 2002 (S.52(2)). They are to be incorporated in the Council’s Long Term Plan, but reviewed after six years.
 4. The Community Board Chair (or the “portfolio holder”) to be invited to attend and have full speaking rights at Council and Standing Committee meetings.
 5. Any issue relating to the Motueka Ward to be referred to the Community Board for consultation. Partnership with the Council in decisions for Motueka Ward is necessary and an important on-going principle.
 6. A “Community Board Manager” be appointed to oversee and manage the Boards. This officer will advise the Boards, as well as being the “management link” with Council staff. This is a vital position in providing positive linkages between the Boards and the Council.
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Delegations : Motueka Community Board

C. Schedule

Powers of the Motueka Community Board

1. The Board shall have responsibility to:
 - (a) Facilitate engagement of their community in relation to policies, plans and projects proposed for their community.
 - (b) Advise the Council on the priorities and preferences of their community in respect of the level and nature of local services to be provided by the Council – in their community.
 - (c) Advise the Council on variations in levels of service provided to their community compared to planned levels of service.
 - (d) Where preferred service levels in their community are higher than default levels, advise the Council on the recommended funding mechanism.
 - (e) Undertake activities for which a budget has been allocated by the Council to the Board.

2. The Board shall have delegated authority, in accordance with the policies, plans and bylaws of the Council, to:
 - (a) Allocate funding and operational grants to local community groups in their community.
 - (b) Manage, maintain and approve usage (including hireage charges) of community halls in their community.
 - (c) Seek funding (to be held by the Council) from external organisations which can be applied to community projects within their community.
 - (d) Approve the granting of leases or licences on reserves and public spaces in their community.
 - (e) Approve proposed developments or activities on local parks, reserves and waterways in their community.
 - (f) Make recommendations to the Council on submissions and objections in relation to statutory processes.
 - (g) Approve traffic control and constraint measures, parking restrictions and traffic control signs on streets in their community (e.g. stop and give way signs etc).

- (h) Approve the design and location of bus stops and shelters in their community.
 - (i) Approve the design and location of neighbourhood improvements, such as street furniture, in their community.
 - (j) Approve names of roads, streets and parks in their community.
 - (k) Grant consent for the removal of trees from parks, reserves, streets or other Council land in their community.
 - (l) Authorise, within approved budgets, board member attendance at appropriate conferences and training courses.
3. These are Additional Delegations requested of the Local Government Commission, for the Motueka Community Board, to be included in the Final Re-organisation Scheme and prescribed by the Order in Council.
- (a) Motueka Ward Reserves management Plans
Review every 10 years, and amend where necessary, the various Motueka Ward Reserves Management Plans for the reserves and parks designated under the Reserves Act and the Local Government Act.
 - (b) Motueka Ward Reserves Financial Contributions (Development levies for Reserves).
Approve the allocation of funds for projects, and the authority to manage the expenditure of those funds within the approved allocations.
 - (c) Motueka Ward Parks and Reserves
 - (i) Approve the design of landscape plans on parks and reserves, provided the design is within the District Council's policy.
 - (ii) Decide as to alterations and / or additions to any building, fence, or structure, or construction of the same, on any parks and reserve land owned or leased by the Council, within the Ward.
 - (d) "Minor" Infrastructure
Decide as to new footpaths, cycle lanes, "shared pathways", pram / mobile scooter crossings, kerb and channel works, car parks, street lights, public toilets within the Ward.

The Community Board to prepare a 3 year priority programme for these works, following public consultation. The District Council to provide funding of \$300,000 (2011 – 2012 dollars excluding GST) annually for these works. The programme to be administered by the Community Board, and monitored by the District Council.

- (e) **Motueka Domestic Water**
To decide on a programme for the reticulation of Motueka and to approve the operation of the Motueka Domestic Water Account as a separate account from any District Water Accounts.
- (f) **“Major” Infrastructure (Wastewater; Stormwater; Roading)**
Where the District Council provides a “District – wide” policy for projects (and activities) that the Council to acknowledge the rating / funding contribution by the Motueka community and apportion benefits / projects relative to that contribution.

Alternatively, where possible, to “ring – fence” these projects and relate costs within the Motueka Ward. (E.g. This could apply very practically for Wastewater, and Stormwater).
- (g) **Motueka “Market”**
Manage and approve usage of any market place in Motueka with power to disburse any surplus, after costs, for purposes within the ward.
- (h) **Motueka Airport**
Governance and operational issues for the Motueka Airport be transferred to the Community Board.
- (i) **Housing, Camping Grounds, Port Motueka, Riwaka and Marahau Wharves**
Consultation with the Community Board on general policy formulation, income and expenditure policies, and development opportunities.
- (j) **Property**
Early consultation with the Community Board regarding any purchase, or disposal, of property in Motueka ward.
The Community Board to advise the Council of any strategic land purchase for the District Council.
- (k) **Planning**
This is a fundamental activity of the Council, and therefore necessarily of the Community Board.

The Community Board’s partnership with the District Council requires it to be actively involved in all aspects of Council planning:-

- Resource Management Plan and all Changes and Variations
- Annual Plan, Long Term Plan
- Asset Management Plans, Activity Management Plans

The Governance role of both Council and the Community Board is to establish policies, consequent of the various strategic plans developed. The partnership between Council and the Community Board is “as one” at this level – although it is the Board’s responsibility to communicate with and consult its own community prior to working with the Council.

- (l) Appointment of members(s), after appropriate training, to the Council’s Hearings Committee.

Where a Resource Consent application relates to the Motueka Ward and the Council decides to have Council / Community Board membership of the Hearing Panel, an RMA accredited Community Board member will be invited to participate in the hearing and deliberation process.

- (m) Notified Resource Consent Applications
The Community Board to receive a copy of the notification of notified applications for Resource Consents within the Motueka Ward and submit where appropriate.

The Board to be notified of any Gambling Venue Licence and any Liquor Licence applications in the Motueka Ward.

Appendix

SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION PROPOSAL : UNION OF NELSON CITY AND TASMAN DISTRICT

1. My name is David Ogilvie. I have been a resident in Motueka since 1967, teaching at Motueka High School until 1978 and a Real Estate licensee agent until April 2010. Currently, I am semi-retired.

I obtained a Master of Arts (University of Canterbury) in 1962, later a Diploma of Education, and have AREINZ qualifications.

I have been involved in Local Government, part-time and occasionally full-time, since 1970:

- Motueka Borough Council (1970 – 1989)
- Nelson – Marlborough Regional Council (1989 – 1992)
- Tasman District Council (1992 – 2004)
- Motueka Community Board (1989 – 2004, and since 2007)

I was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2005 for local government services.

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2. This opportunity by the Local Government Commission to consider the proposal for the Union of Nelson City and Tasman District is timely. As I recall, a single Nelson district was advocated in 1989 by uniting the City, Motueka and Richmond Boroughs, and Golden Bay and Waimea Counties, but this was amended to institute the current situation : Nelson City and Tasman District. The rationale for this was partly to create both urban and rural councils.

21 years later, the arguments against amalgamation are similar, although now there is considerable collaboration between the two. Port Nelson, Nelson Airport, Nelson – Tasman Tourism, Regional Sewerage, Provincial Museum, Saxton Fields are examples. For sport, commerce and cultural activities there are virtually no divisions. Many live in Tasman, and work in Nelson (and vice versa).

3. Nevertheless, there is strong independence evident in the various communities, particularly in Tasman. Both Motueka and Golden Bay reflect that separation and independence.

Motueka as a rural service town with a strong tourism factor has a population of 8,000 and services a district of almost 15,000 (including Kaiteriteri, coastal and valley areas).

With 40km to Richmond and 50km to Nelson City there is little affinity, or community of interest, between Motueka and Richmond / Nelson.

4. Motueka support for Amalgamation appears to be quite thin:- the current local government situation is acceptable but with an underlying nervousness that long-term important decisions affecting Motueka are being made in Richmond.

The Community Board has an advocacy role but has been allocated minimal functions and no resources by its parent District Council.

5. The “nervousness” intensifies should power be shifted from Richmond to Nelson city, unless there was some compensatory authority transferred to the Community Board. This could involve a delegation of functions to the Board from Council:-

The following list is a guide to the functions which could be delegated to the Community Board:-

- Parks and Reserves maintenance including street scaping.
- Footpaths, Cycle Lanes, Pram (Mobile Scooter) Ramps, Kerb and Channels.
- Street Lighting, Signage, Pedestrian Crossings, Road Marking.
- Community (Pensioner) Housing, Council-owned Halls.
- Library, Museum, Motueka Aerodrome.
- Relevant Resource Management & Environment / Planning matters.

Such delegated powers could allay concerns by local residents of local decisions being made elsewhere.

6. Further unease relates to the future of the Motueka Council office and to Council projects and contracts in Motueka being given to out-of-town contractors and trades people. The expectation is that contracts and tasks are handled more efficiently, more thoroughly and at a lower cost if local residents are involved.
7. Another alternative to the Proposal of Union is to allow the Tasman District's only two Community Board Wards (Golden Bay and Motueka) to form a single, new District and to amalgamate the balance of Tasman

District with the Nelson City. Such a Motueka – Golden Bay Council would be viable and sustainable (population 19 – 20,000). The two Wards share a community of interest and an affinity which is not evident with the rest of the Richmond and Waimea centred – Tasman District.

Should the Commission wish to pursue this variation for Motueka and Golden Bay the necessary information could be readily supplied.

I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

David Ogilvie
7 Goodman Drive
(P O Box 184)
MOTUEKA, 7143

Phone: (03) 528 9883
Mobile: 027 431 4656
Email: d.ogilvies@xtra.co.nz

November 2010

TO: Local Government Commission

SUBJECT: Submission to Reorganisation Scheme for the Union of Nelson City and Tasman District

PRESENTER: Penrose Property Management Ltd, David Penrose
PO Box 1970
Nelson 7040

Ph 03 548-2272 or 021 547-522

Email penroseproperty@gmail.com

I do not wish to speak to my submission

Background: I act as a commercial property manager involved in Commercial property throughout New Zealand. I am based in Nelson and manage a number of central Nelson properties, I was previously the Centre Manager for the Richmond Mall.

Submission: I support the Union of the Nelson and Tasman District Councils.

Reasons:

Rates:

Currently the 2 regions have differing rating systems, Nelson being Land value and Tasman being Capital Value. The Nelson City Council has enforced particularly harsh rating formulas on the Commercial rate payers in an effort to keep the residential portion down. The Capital Value system provides a fairer method of rating both commercial and residential property, assuming the commercial differential is set at a fair rate.

Consents:

Most people working and living in either of the regions regularly work or have contact with the other region. Having 2 different policies and long terms plans results in different and non-cohesive development occurring in the 2 areas. It makes sense to view the Tasman / Nelson region as one and have consistent Resource and Building Consent rules for the entire region.

Transport:

The transport network is not viewed as whole therefore the regions have differing transport policies and requirements, I would prefer to see these viewed as a whole.

Lowered Costs:

I do not believe the union of the 2 areas will actually result in reduced costs for the ratepayers. Initially the costs will increase, and will probably end up at about the same level as now. Other amalgamations have not really resulted in any savings for the ratepayers.

Government Rates payment:

Currently the government does not pay rates on a number of government occupied buildings, notably hospitals. The hospital still has demands on the local body government, at the moment that burden is unfairly being paid for by only the Nelson region, by combining the regions the burden will be spread between all ratepayers.

182

17 August 2011

The Local Body Commission
Wellington

Dear Sirs

Re the Proposal for a Union of Nelson and Tasman

I have read your report on the proposal for the union of Nelson City and Tasman District and consider your decision to be very perceptive and wise. In particular I support the opportunities for truly regional planning and governance that such a union would provide.

I urge the Commission to proceed with the next stage of the reorganisation.



Ross Shirley
7 Cheshire Place, Stoke
Nelson

Donald Riezebos

From: Philip de Weck [deweck@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 10:00 a.m.
To: LGC
Subject: Submission re proposed Amalgamation between Nelson City and Tasman district

Julia de Weck,
50, Ellis Street, Brightwater.

542 3615

I do not think the proposed amalgamation between Nelson City and Tasman District is in the interest of either party. From what I have read it seems to me to be inevitable, should this procedure take place, that costs and therefore charges and rates will rise dramatically. Even more so than if the present system remains. I am confident, provided more good will and common sense is applied, both Councils can better serve the region.

Consequently this submission is in opposition to such a merger taking place.

Julia de Weck.
18th August, 2011

I do not wish to be heard in person.

#184

Donald Riezebos

From: Laya Hawthorne [laya.hawthorne@hawthornedirect.com]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 2:09 p.m.
To: LGC
Cc: Laya Hawthorne; Tim Hawthorne
Subject: Nelson Tasman Union proposal

Regarding the Union of Nelson and Tasman Proposal

The creating of wards of representation is very, very slanted to making NelsonRichmond the power of decision. In order for any other ward to get their interests passed or to defeat N-R, nearly all the other communities/ wards have to vote with this ward because NelsonRichmond has 7 votes and the total of all the other wards combined is 9 votes. This creating of the ward boundaries as such and thereby number of representatives is gerrymandering and obviously endorses and hands power over the one NelsonRichmond community. So the urban NelsonRichmond concerns will be where the money and attention goes. I say No to this.

The boundaries of wards is very unclear in your proposal as seen online- where are the road names that show how the communities have been cut into wards??? These boundaries are not clearly marked with details of street and road names on the maps provided on line. How can we know what is really going on if the information about boundaries is not precisely detailed to us residents?? The presentation of the proposal is flawed and the omission of detailed boundaries of wards make the plan incomplete and deceptive.

I have heard that Ruby Bay and environs have been separated from Mapua in this plan. No to this- Mapua and Ruby Bay and environs recognize themselves as a unit and having common interests. These are the people that shepherded the by-pass and breaking this community base is another form of controlling a community power base in favor of a particular favorite. It is another form of gerrymandering. NO to separating Ruby Bay and environs from Mapua.

We would like to speak before the Commission.

LeAnn Schaetzel- Hawthorne and Tim Hawthorne
15 Pine Hill Road
Ruby Bay
03-540-3737

Upper Moutere 7173

181

Donald Riezebos

From: Sherryl Worthington [sw@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 3:00 a.m.
To: LGC
Subject: Nelson/ Tasman Amalgamation

Chief Executive Officer ,
Local Government Commission,
Wellington.

Reference: Draft Amalgamation Scheme.

I would like to request that consideration be given to the following within the frame work of the " Powers of Community Board".

1. That the Motueka Community Board be allocated an appropriate amount of annual funding to promote and actively encourage start up business and enterprises within the town. The object of this being to increase job and career opportunities locally.
2. That the Community Board be given the task of identifying suitable Youth training Schemes (such as exists in Otorohonga.) If the need and opportunities can be identified then the Community Board should be given authority to play an active roll in setting up such a scheme.

These "responsibilities" may possibly sit within sections (a) to (e) of the first section of the proposed power of Community Board ,however, that is not clear.

Thank You.
Sherryl Worthington. (TDC Ratepayer.
48 Pah Street ,
Motueka 7120.
Phone 528 5053.

09/190
#

From: Don Mead [don.mead@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 1:47 p.m.
To: LGC
Subject: Union of Nelson City and Tasman District

Draft Reorganisation Scheme for the Union of Nelson City and Tasman District

In general I support the work of the Commission. However, three aspects need further attention to ensure the success of the re-organisation and to gain the confidence of the people who are to vote on the proposal.

1. Powers of the Community Board.

The suggested posers are inadequate. Local people are seeking stronger powers than those outlined as they want to have a definitive say in what happens in their communities. Big cost savings could be made by having greater local decision making as they know the problems and opportunities - currently too much money is being wasted by the inefficiencies in the centralized management. This is particularly important for the more remote regions such as Golden Bay.

The powers should be the maximum allowed by law.

2. Rates and overall expenditure.

The concept of rates based on a capital value is supported. However, many ratepayers are concerned that their rates could rise substantially when the Union occurs. This could adversely impact those on fixed or low incomes, in particular. Further, rates have been rising much faster than average wages in the last 10 years. My own rates, for example, have doubled in the last 10 years while during this same period the average wage has risen only 35 percent. Therefore leaving the initial setting of rates to a transitional group without any guidelines is too risky. I would suggest that the proposal be strengthened by incorporating the following guidelines:

- a. Initial rates should be set so that no ratepayer finds their rates increased or decreased by more than 10 percent.
- b. In the first 6 years rate increases should be less than the rate of inflation.
- c. The overall budget set by the transitional group should be less than the combined budgets of the current two local authorities.

It would also be possible to state the saving expected. The point of this recommendation is to help ensure that the suggested financial savings actually occur.

- d. The initial budget should not increase borrowing as a way to get round keeping rates below the level of inflation.

3. Other matters:

To ensure that the Union does result in fewer staff, it should be mandated that staffing levels be published annually, together with their salary bands. I have been asking this from Tasman District council without success. It is impossible for ratepayers to monitor their Council without such information and slow the growth in staff.

I look forward to seeing these matters included in your final report.

Don Mead

Dr Donald J Mead
PO Box 6

161 #

Collingwood 7054
New Zealand

18 August 2011

Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
PO Box 5362
Wellington 6145

Email: info@lgc.govt.nz
Fax: 04 494 0501

Submission on Amalgamation of Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council.

1. I am a Mapua resident, a TDC ratepayer and make the following submission on the amalgamation of the Nelson City Council (NCC) and Tasman District Council (TDC).
2. I wish to be heard in support of my submission at the hearing.
3. I am opposed to the amalgamation of the NCC and TDC.
4. Nelson City is a small seaside village with a population of 40,000 people and deserves to retain its character as a small seaside village that would not be known as a city except for the fact it has a Cathedral.
5. Tasman District is a mixture of urban (Richmond) rural, agricultural and remote communities that deserve to retain their independence from a seaside village who wish to take control of the assets of the TDC.
6. The problems the region face on a daily basis are not created by the fact that NCC and TDC exist next to each other. An amalgamation of the two will not solve any of the perceived or real issues.
7. To spend \$10m on amalgamation when there is no guarantee it will either solve any issues or save any money for ratepayers is absolutely ludicrous. This fact alone should see the process of any amalgamation stopped in its tracks now before any more tax payer dollars are wasted.
8. The two councils can and have worked effectively together on joint/shared issues and projects. The fact that one or other of the councils does not always get their own way is no justification for wasting ratepayers' money on an amalgamation that will not reduce costs to ratepayers'.
9. If the two councils were kids I'd bang your heads together and tell them to just be nice to each other and be friends!
10. The amalgamation will NOT enable the region to plan any better or take up regional opportunities that can not be achieved now as two separate councils. In fact the ratepayers get better representation by having two councils separately and jointly advancing the regions interests under the current model.

Martyn Barlow – 45 Dawson Road – Mapua Estates – RD 1 Upper Moutere 7173

11. The fact that the NCC could not decide for 20 years on the best arterial route through the city of Nelson had nothing to do with the TDC it was simply poor leadership from successive NCC's. The NCC are finally to be applauded for showing some leadership and settling on 1 option – the southern arterial route.
12. I have had the opportunity to review the draft proposal for the union of NCC and TDC and the Commission's report has a number of factual errors, omissions and unsubstantiated assertions. These errors will lead the public and many submitters to draw inappropriate, and at times false, conclusions about the existing situation in the NCC and TDC region/district.
13. The most significant factual errors, omissions and unsubstantiated assertions in the reports include:

A. The ability of the existing local authorities to borrow to discharge their responsibilities more efficiently and effectively. The report claims a new merged council would have a far stronger balance sheet, and therefore be able to do things that the two independent Councils cannot do. In the Executive Summary, the report implies that one of the key benefits of amalgamation is that it will enable the new Council to "fund an extra \$177.4 million of expenditure" through additional borrowing capacity. The reality is that the whole is only as good as the sum of the parts. Just bringing two things together does not change the debt, or the assets, or the ability of ratepayers to afford the debt servicing costs. The current TDC policy is to limit its debt to no greater than 20% of its assets. NCC uses different limits which are more restrictive than the TDC's. For some reason the consultants have suggested that a new council could increase the limit to 25%. The existing Councils could change their debt ratio limits to enable them to raise more debt. Higher levels of debt will not be any more affordable whether one or two councils govern the same number of people. I oppose any increase of council debt.

B. The extent of the proposed savings as a result of the predicted reduction in staff numbers. The report states that it is possible to make a gross saving of \$4.7 million, through a significant number of staff reductions across the two Councils. In the summary it assesses the savings from this area as \$3.7 million. This is partially offset by an acknowledged but underestimated increase of \$400,000 in costs of elected members. When the consultants calculated what they believed was an appropriate number of staff for a new merged council, they benchmarked their figures against the staff employed by Tauranga, Palmerston North and Dunedin City Councils. They considered that these Councils' populations were about the same as a united NCC – TDC. A key error in this analysis is that all three of these City Councils are not unitary authorities. They have regional councils with associated staff (and other resources) to carry out the regional functions that NCC and the TDC currently undertake the latter over a very large area. If the staff needed to undertake the regional council functions were added to the numbers, they would have finished up with significantly higher staff numbers. I am concerned that the consultant's comparison of the two existing medium sized unitary Councils and then one merged unitary council, with city councils that have no regional responsibilities is flawed. It is a misleading and highly optimistic comparison and it does not seem to be evidence based. I am concerned that a balance between costs and savings is not achieved in the report. Staff savings are identified as a benefit, but many of the costs are not identified or quantified, for example:

Martyn Barlow – 45 Dawson Road – Mapua Estates – RD 1 Upper Moutere 7173

- the transition costs of joining two organisations together, particularly in light of the Auckland experience with IT costs and integration of various systems (e.g. rating systems)
- the additional costs of an increased number of elected members and the extra support and infrastructure they will require\
- the potential other costs or loss of income (e.g. 2% reduction in New Zealand Transport Agency funding)
- the cost of integrating planning documents, bylaws, long term plans, etc.

The report appears to imply that all the costs fall in the first year but savings continue on into the future. However, national and international experience indicates that many of the transition costs may be significant and may continue on into the future. Statements on assumed savings without detailing potential increases in costs will be misleading the public and submitters in this process with regard to the benefits of the re-organisation proposal. There appears therefore to be no savings in the amalgamation of the 2 councils.

C. The extent to which the combined region is suffering from the local authorities existing inability to advocate regionally or grasp opportunities. The report fails to identify where there have been lost opportunities to the region and why those opportunities have been lost. The report should be more specific on the opportunities that have been lost through having two Councils rather than one. It should demonstrate that the specific reasons for these opportunities not being taken up are a result of having two Councils rather than one.

D. Impact on rates. Nowhere in the reports is there a clear discussion on the impact of rate changes on the ratepayers. This is the most important consideration for me as a ratepayer. For example, if the business differentials are removed from the Nelson business area, there could be significant rates increases for property owners in residential areas. Another issue is the risk of increased rates for TDC ratepayers as Tasman has the greater proportion of capital value in the region. TDC figures show that as a result TDC ratepayers finish up paying for the greater proportion of the new combined operating cost. The omission of some scenario analysis of the rating impact is a major flaw in the reports and once again is misleading the public and submitters in this process.

14. Given the reports on the amalgamation of the two councils contain the above errors, omissions and inaccurate assertions that amount to zero savings for ratepayers and in all likelihood will lead to increased costs I OPPOSE THE AMALAGAMATION OF THE TDC AND THE NCC.
15. Amalgamation is not what the TDC, NCC and their ratepayers need. The councils need to go through an organisational design review and restructure to cut out the waste and the excess so they can better deliver on their objectives and priorities. The sooner this happens the better.
16. Councils do not operate like any normal business. They continue to have annual rates increases that bare no relevance to the earning capacity of the ratepayers who do not have any other choices; there is no competition for any council.

Martyn Barlow – 45 Dawson Road – Mapua Estates – RD 1 Upper Moutere 7173

17. Normal businesses have to take into account what the market is prepared to pay for their goods and services or they will lose those customers to the competition, it is therefore a requirement of business to reduce costs and remain competitive. While council has no competition it should still be a requirement that they reduce costs and provide better value for the ratepayers. My rates have increased by 35% in 4 years and the excessive waste in councils needs to stop or property owners will not be able to afford to pay rates in the future.



Martyn Barlow
45 Dawson Road
Mapua Estates
RD 1
UPPER MOUTERE 7173

Martyn Barlow – 45 Dawson Road – Mapua Estates – RD 1 Upper Moutere 7173

849 Dovedale Road
RD2 Wakefield
Nelson 7096

18th August 2011

Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
PO Box 5362
Wellington 6145
info@lgc.govt.nz

Re: Submissions relating to the proposed amalgamation of Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council.

Dear Sir/Madam

It is my belief that the two Councils should remain independent and the amalgamation should not go ahead. This proposal is based on the following facts:

- Auckland Super City spent \$576 million on upgrading their computer system, and this will not be ready for a further two years. There has been no consideration for the cost implications for enabling the NCC and TDC computer systems to communicate with each other. I should imagine it would run into millions, however this cost has been overlooked.
- Redundancy packages are estimated to be in the region of \$1 million. Again, this cost plus the cost of rehiring managers to help the remaining overburdened managers has not been considered.
- If approximately 110 NCC are expected to relocate to Richmond, there has been absolutely no consideration as to where and how they will be accommodated. Again, the cost implications have been overlooked.
- It has been suggested that money can be borrowed in order to finance the transition period. This will be required to be repaid by the ratepayer. Once more the cost implications have been completely overlooked.

To summarise, I feel the two Councils have very different agendas and requirements, one being a city and the other having rural responsibilities. They should therefore remain separate, and we should concentrate on how to improve them independently.

Yours Faithfully



Ben Smithies

18th August 2011

Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
P.O. Box 5362
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir,

**SUBMISSION – PROPOSAL FOR THE UNION OF NELSON CITY AND
TASMAN DISTRICT**

Background

- Mapua Auto Centre is a locally owned and operated Small Business Employer (SME). It was established in 1987 and is still owned and operated by both Peter and Marion Satherley who have depth in their local family roots.
- Mapua Auto Centre's client base covers a wide area from Mairiri in the north, Neudorf in the west and Redwood Valley hills to the south. Many people within this area view Mapua and Upper Moutere Villages as their service centres and we have always considered them as being in our area.
- For several generations villages within our area including but not exclusive of Mapua, Tasman, Mairiri, Harakeke, Mahana, Neudorf, Upper Moutere etc have also and still have close inter-community ties and support to where we do not consider there to be a point of separation.
- Schools in our area have always worked collaboratively and have regarded themselves in the Moutere Hills cluster.

Proposed boundaries

- The boundaries suggested within the proposal effectively divide our area into two wards.
- This division would contradict the future direction and vision held by collective community organisations, groups, businesses and residents within our area or they would directly undermine current activities within this.
- This division would also create a major separation of governance, priorities, and decision making resulting in a fragmentation of goals and outcomes within our area.
- Over the past three to four years the three major community groups in our area (Mapua and Districts Business Association MDBA; Mapua and Districts Community Association MDCA; Tasman Area Community Association TACA) have further increased their collaboration to a new level and as a result a new sub-region has been formed called 'Ruby Coast'.
- Ruby Coast is inclusive of all the coastal villages between the Moutere Estuary to the north and the Waimea Inlet to the south including Tasman Village and Kina Peninsula and compliments well the other villages in the long standing Moutere Hills, hence 'Ruby Coast Moutere Hills'.

#194

- Ruby Coast Moutere Hills is being used to promote our area both nationally and inter-national and provides a perfect title to describe the nature of our area - from the sea to the hills.
- Our area has experienced a huge amount of growth and change over the last fifteen to twenty years and I see this continuing into the future, especially once the planned upgrade to infrastructure (water, waste water and sewerage) has been carried out. Our slow growth over the last few years can be directly attributed to current infrastructure being inadequate.
- I support the introduction of a new ward to service the 'Ruby Coast Moutere Hills' communities as recommended to the Commission within the submission presented to you from the 'Coastal Initiative Groups'.
- The introduction of this new ward for 'Ruby Coast Moutere Hills' as being vital to ensuring future growth in our area is conducted in a manner which is complimentary to and preserves the cultural, environment (both physical and emotional), health and well-being, economy, and inter-personal relationships between all the village communities within our area.

Suggested advantages to ratepayers within both the Tasman District & Nelson City

- I am not convinced that there is strong enough evidence with regard suggested perceived advantages and that these advantages out weight the many disadvantages.
- I find it very disconcerting that both councils are pushing different perspectives and that there appears to be a lot of misinformation in the public arena. It leads me to believe one council has a lot to gain from the merger.
- Currently both councils work collaboratively together and share common interest projects and assets to the best interests of their respective ratepayers. Provided this relationship continues to function in the best interests of respective ratepayers, then I do not see reason for change..
- I wonder how well researched the commissions proposal is, especially when one considers that the proposal includes dividing the villages within our area, a long standing community base, into two.
- All inter-community relationships should have been fully researched to determine how to and where ward boundaries would be best placed so as to enhance and not inhibit the future needs of each ward.
- I suggest any progression with this proposed union be placed on hold for at least five years until the union which formed the Auckland Super City has had time to prove it has been beneficial giving other communities time to gauge how effective it has really been.

I do not wish to be heard.

Yours Sincerely

Marion Satherley
 Director / Admin. Manager Mapua Auto Centre, 20 Warren Place, Mapua. 7005

Submission by Andy & Stephanie McQueen on Nelson – Tasman Amalgamation

If you want us to vote for the amalgamation of Tasman with Nelson you need to do a lot better and make many changes as outlined below

Name Should be Tasman City Council. Who was Nelson a long dead English admiral who never even visited this area? It should be a city on the grounds of size and population like Dunedin City etc

Headquarters Should be in Richmond as it is more accessible to all and has free parking

Representation- We consider all of the region should be split into wards including the existing parts of Nelson City which should be split into 3 – Stoke, Port, & Atawhai and North . A further requirement should be that only residents of a least 6 months standing be eligible to stand as candidates.

In the Waimea –Moutere ward there should be a least 3 candidates because of the widely increased population since the last census in 2006

Community Boards should be abolished as their powers are minimal and are very costly to run and don't represent all of the individual communities The existing voluntary community associations have been found to work extremely well and operate on minimal costs.

Donald Riezebos

From: Margaret Fricker [africa@actrix.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 3:15 p.m.
To: LGC
Subject: Local Government Commission ---Chief Executive Officer

Submission to the local Government Commission on the Draft Reorganisation Scheme for the Union of Nelson City and Tasman district

1 Golden Bay is a defined, self contained area. Distances are large. The proposal of one elected Councillor covering such a large area is a difficult

task and of concern. Population based representation does not address this issue.

2 Differences occur with education, health and employment issues, in the rural as opposed to urban areas, which needs understanding.

3 I recommend meeting venues to be shared across the region and teleconferencing be used. This would save time in travelling and would be cost effective.

4 I support greater delegated authority to Community boards and indeed endorse the submission made to the Local Body Commission by the Golden

Bay Community Board together with Appendix 1-The Amended schedule for a Golden Bay Community Board.

5 I agree in principle with the proposal for amalgamation but my agreement would depend on the final recommendation to give more power to

Community Boards.

From, Mrs Margaret Fricker

22, Richmond Road,

RD1 Pohara,

Golden Bay 7183

I do not wish to speak to my submission.

196

**To: Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
PO Box 5362
Wellington 6145**

Email: info@lgc.govt.nz

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
DRAFT REORGANISATION SCHEME FOR THE UNION OF
NELSON CITY AND TASMAN DISTRICT**

**SUBMISSION FROM TINLINE PROPERTIES LIMITED AND CEPHAS
GROUP OF COMPANIES**

16 August 2011

#197

This submission is made by: Tinline Properties Limited and the Cephass Group of Companies

Address for Service:

Postal:

P.O.Box 1004

Nelson ,7040

Email: steve@cephas.co.nz

**Direct
Phone:** (03) 548 0175

Fax: (03) 548 7403

Contact Person: Mr Steve Baigent

Appearances:

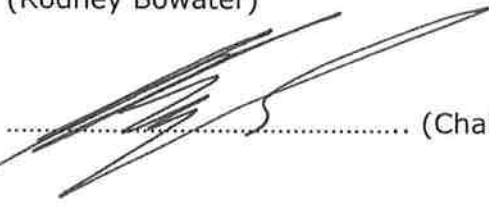
Tinline Properties Limited wishes to appear to present its submission at a hearing.

Signed



..... (Chairman, Tinline Properties Limited)

(Rodney Bowater)



..... (Chairman, Cephass Group of Companies)

(Steve Baigent)

Date *12.08.2011*

Introduction

Tinline Properties (Tinline) and the Cephass Group of Companies (Cephass) thanks the Local Government Commission (LGC) for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Reorganisation Scheme for the union of Nelson City and Tasman District.

Tinline and Cephass have significant property investments in the Nelson /Tasman region,(Region) including ownership of the Richmond Mall which is situated in the heart of Richmond. Under Tinline's ownership Richmond Mall has become the largest shopping centre at the top of the South Island, and represents a significant investment in the Nelson/Tasman region.

1. Support for Amalgamation of the Two Councils

- 1.1 Subject to our concerns in respect of rates and development contributions stated in Para 5 below, **Tinline and Cephass give qualified support the amalgamation of Nelson City and Tasman District** and do so in the hope that an amalgamation will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government in the whole Region. Tinline and Cephass do not believe that an amalgamation should proceed unless there can be some certainty that that will happen.
- 1.2 As major investors in the region, Tinline and Cephass have for some time had concerns about the dysfunctional and costly nature of regional governance, especially in the Tasman District. The region has two, often competing Councils administering two areas that regionally have significant interests and facilities in common which could be better managed by one unified local authority.
- 1.3 **Tinline and Cephass gives qualified support to a number of specific aspects of the proposal** as stated by the Local Government Commission, and in particular the following indicated advantages:
 - a) Formal recognition of the area of the two Councils as one regional community of interest.
 - b) The advantage of having a single decision making framework for the Region.
 - c) The greater and more meaningful input that the community and ratepayers could have into the planning and development of the Region, that would arise from a better quality and level of governance than exists at present with two separate, and at times factionalised local authorities.

2. Advantages and Benefits of Amalgamation of the Two Councils

- 2.1 Tinline and Cephass see the following advantages in there being one single Council managing the whole Nelson/Tasman region:
 - a) At present Nelson City and Tasman District jointly manage a distinct geographic region that utilises the same integrated network infrastructure of roads, airport and port facilities to move goods and services across its regional boundaries. Yet that region is separated by an artificial boundary at Champion Road which delineates the boundary between the two Council areas, notwithstanding the fact

that daily, hundreds of people cross that boundary both ways to go to their work, undertake their normal commercial activities, go to school, and do their shopping. In effect, the region operates as a single economy with increasing flows of people, products and services across Council boundaries.

- b) The continued importance of Port Nelson and Nelson Airport to economic and social wellbeing of the Nelson-Tasman community as key gateways for products and people will be enhanced with a more unified approach to the better and more cohesive objectives that could be developed in both entities Statement of Intent, if the Region were viewed as one region. Better direction could be given to both entities by the shareholders which would benefit the whole region.
- c) Richmond and Nelson have become one urban area with a single market for commercial, industrial and residential land. Yet disparate planning provisions, and differing policies, especially in major and critical areas for business such as development contributions, and the quality of governance and decision making that underpins those policies, and their application could be significantly improved. At present, Tinline and Cephas regard the policies that impact on it's operations as being administered and applied in a way, that has little regard for the significant investment made in the economy of the Tasman District, and a lack of understanding of the needs of major businesses such as ours. Currently there is no real incentive to invest further in the Tasman District.
- d) A high proportion of population growth in Nelson-Tasman is occurring in the south Nelson and Richmond areas. That now gives rise to infrastructure and planning issues that are not able to be dealt with effectively by two separate Councils. For example, increasingly the Councils have to address what should be shared regional issues, separately. These issues would all be best addressed by one Council administering the whole region. These include:
 - the transport network;
 - waste management;
 - regional tourism;
 - regional facilities;
 - economic development;
 - management of the environment;
 - the RMA planning framework (the diverse planning rules in both areas make undertaking development and investment in the Nelson Tasman region unnecessarily complex and costly);
 - Development Contributions policy and other policies that impact on business and investment in the region.

2.2 Management and Governance

Tinline and Cephas regard one of the most significant potential advantages of the amalgamation of the two Councils as much better management and governance of the Region. This is one of the key

reasons why Tinline and Cephas support amalgamation. If that cannot be achieved, we would not support amalgamation.

3. Wards and Community Board Boundaries

Tinline and Cephas have reservations in respect of the proposal to have a ward system of representation. Whilst acknowledging the need for separate communities of interest to be represented, we would submit that that can be achieved by Community Boards granted appropriate delegation by the new Council. Our concern in respect of the Ward system is the possibility of the new Council becoming divided and factionalised, with members more focussed on the areas which they represent, rather than the greater good of the total region.

4. Council Facilities

Tinline and Cephas support the LGC proposal to locate the administrative headquarters of the new Council at Richmond. Richmond will clearly be the centre of the new region, and provides a greater availability of space to accommodate the new Council.

5. Rates and Development Contributions

This is a key area of concern for Tinline and Cephas. If the amalgamation is likely to result in increased costs in both these areas, and does not result in significant cost savings we would be opposed to any amalgamation.

Hearing of submission

We wish to be heard in support of our submission, in particular as regards our concerns in respect of rates and development contributions

Donald Riezebos

From: Bruce Dyer/Harideva [bdyer@ts.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2011 4:44 p.m.
To: LGC
Subject: submission re Nelson & Tasman amalgamation

The Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
Wellington.

Dear Sir/Madam,

General

Geographically the Tasman and Golden Bays comprise a natural whole. This is reflected in simple things such as smoke drifting with the wind flows. If smoke originates in the Waimea basin and the wind is from the south, it will naturally drift towards Nelson city. It doesn't take account of artificial political divisions. The present split between Nelson City and the Tasman District fails to take account of the region forming a natural whole.

Cities are invariably linked to a hinterland. This is true of the predominantly urban Nelson city and the predominantly rural Tasman District. The reality is that the two are interdependent and as such comprise a whole.

A governance body that accords with these realities will resonate with the strength that comes from acknowledging both the geographic reality and the interdependence of the whole.

Representation

Tasman residents have reason to be concerned that they will be less well represented under the proposed merger. For example Tasman-Moutere currently have 3 representatives on a council of 13, or 23% of the Council. Under the proposed merger, they will have 2 representatives on a council of 16, or 12.5% of the Council. I suggest that there is a need to somehow weight rural populations to ensure their representation is not prejudiced by the current proposal.

Economic strength

The instability of the global economy is ongoing. I would argue that a region that is united politically and pursuing a policy of maximising self-reliance is likely to better placed to withstand the predations of global capital and the ravages of any more global economic turmoil.

On condition

Amalgamation will only be successful if the region's rural communities including Golden Bay, Murchison and Motueka have Community Boards that are empowered to address issues in their respective communities.

I recommend that assuming amalgamation proceeds it builds in an undertaking to review the situation within 3-5 years after it is put in place.

I would request the opportunity to to appear before the Commission

With regards
Bruce Dyer

#198

2035 Motueka Valley
R.D.1 Motueka 7196

849 Dovedale Road
RD2 Wakefield
Nelson 7096

18th August 2011

Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
PO Box 5362
Wellington 6145
info@lgc.govt.nz

Re: Submissions relating to the proposed amalgamation of Nelson City Council (NCC) and Tasman District Council (TDC).


Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to indicate my objection to the proposed draft amalgamation scheme between Nelson City and Tasman District Councils. I do not think sufficient thought has been given to the implications of the proposed scheme, and my reasons are as follows:

- Nelson City and the Tasman District can better serve the interests of their communities by remaining separate. A) Nelson is a city and therefore has a strong urban focus with respect to priorities for services and facilities. B) Tasman is predominantly rural, and therefore the smaller rural communities can be better represented by a council with a focus on rural issues.
- The proposed representation on the new Council is strongly biased towards Nelson and the urban areas. I would recommend that there should be one less councillor from each of the Richmond and Nelson representatives, and this be transferred to the rural areas.
- It is unclear what role and what decision-making capabilities the proposed community boards will have under the new scheme. If they are as ineffectual as suggested, they will become an unnecessary cost.
- More consideration should be made to what has happened in other areas of New Zealand and Europe. Auckland City is a prime example of where costs have been astronomical with little to gain. Hereford and Worcester County Councils in the UK amalgamated more than 30 years ago, and found that for similar reasons (large rural area, different agendas between town and rural) it was not cost effective or beneficial to remain so. They since disbanded and became two Councils again.

Overall I have searched within the draft proposal for hard facts and figures. It is not difficult to calculate the real costs of amalgamation, the savings that can be made. But the proposal does not provide real facts and figures and simply suggests vague ideas without real backup. For this to become a credible proposal it needs to be substantiated with hard evidence.

Yours Faithfully


Donna Smithies

#199

Dr M. R. JOHNSTON

Consulting Geologist
395 Trafalgar Street
NELSON 7010

Phone: 03 546 7575

Fax: 03 546 7574

Email mike.johnston@xtra.co.nz

18 August 2011

Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Commission
PO Box 5362
Wellington

Re Nelson and Tasman Amalgamation Proposal

Before making my submission on the above I wish to make the following points. I have lived much of my life in Nelson city but have spent most of my working life as a geologist working in the northern part of the South Island. When I was employed by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research I represented the department as one of five government appointees on firstly the Marlborough Catchment Board (1972-74) and then the Nelson board (1974-89). Through this involvement, the boards being truly regional entities, plus my work in regional geological mapping, geohazard assessments and such things as groundwater evaluation in Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough, membership of various other boards and organisations and as an independent planning commissioner, and I have gained considerable insight into local government in the north of the South Island.

Since the abolition of the provinces in 1876, Nelson (here arbitrarily taken as the Nelson and Tasman regions although the province was in fact considerably larger) has suffered from a lack of unity. The local government reorganisation in 1989 significantly reduced the plethora of local government territorial units from five to two (thereby hastening a trend that had earlier seen Collingwood and Takaka counties and Murchison and Waimea counties merge). The creation of the two territorial units of Nelson and Tasman was at the time perhaps understandable (although the boundary between them was even then illogical), as there was also a regional council.

However, the abolition of the regional council and the formation of two unitary councils, Tasman and Nelson, along with the growth of the two, the disappearance of the so-called "green belt" between Nelson and Richmond, and an increasing demand on natural resources, have resulted in the boundary between the two becoming an increasing anachronism. This boundary extending from the eastern ranges along Champion Road in the Nelson-Richmond urban area and through the Waimea Inlet can simply be described as absurd. With the formation of greater Auckland city, Nelson and Tasman are probably

#200

the only local authorities in New Zealand to have a boundary that splits an urban area into two as well as dividing one of the most important inlets in the country.

Much of the opposition to any merger of Nelson and Tasman revolves around a perception that one council will be taking over the other and imposing its values on it (which council this is perceived to be appears to depend on where one lives). Instead it should be viewed as a completely new council that will administer what is now an artificially divided natural geographical area, viz. the northwest corner of the South Island.

In this regard it is worth considering the local government situation in Marlborough where a single council administers an area not unlike that of Nelson and Tasman. It has a major urban area with a rural hinterland extending from D'Urville Island south nearly to Kaikoura and westwards into uninhabited mountains. Population centres, in addition to Blenheim, exist at Picton, Renwick and Seddon. Here a single authority works well and convincingly dispels the objection that such an authority cannot effectively administer a large and varied area. A single authority can better manage such matters as water supplies, waste disposal, transportation, cultural facilities, including art galleries and museums, etc, all things that Nelson and Tasman have not been particularly successful at. Facilities that are successfully run are commercial entities, such as Nelson Airport and Port Nelson, which the two councils are not directly responsible for.

The location of the headquarters of the council is immaterial other than that it should be based in the Nelson-Richmond urban area with service centres elsewhere where appropriate. However, as Richmond is more central it would be the most logical.

I am strongly of the opinion, if amalgamation proceeds, that dividing Richmond and Nelson into two wards would be a grave mistake as it will continue to emphasise the artificial boundary of Champion Road which now has urban development on both sides of it. Either have one entity with no wards, or introduce wards throughout e.g. Atawhai-Hira, central Nelson, Tahunanui, Stoke, Richmond etc. In a similar vein having a double barrelled name for the new council will also continue to foster a lack of unity. It should be either Nelson or Tasman. As Nelson is the most historically correct, and is the most widely used, e.g. "Northwest Nelson" in weather forecasts, Nelson Lakes etc, it should have precedent. If the name Nelson was adopted and the headquarters were in Richmond, this would seem to be a more than adequate compromise.

At this stage I wish to meet with the commission to speak to my submission.

Yours faithfully

Mike Johnston