



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Media Release

29 August 2003

Commission announces decision on the review of the Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts

The Chairman of the Local Government Commission, Grant Kirby, today announced the Commission's decision on the review of the Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts at a public meeting held in Te Kuiti.

The key elements of the decision are as follows:

The Decision

The Commission has decided to issue a draft reorganisation scheme for the union of the Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts to form a King Country District. The principal reasons for this decision are that:

- The union of the two districts will promote good local government of the districts
- The Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts share a community of interest
- Significant ongoing cost savings will accrue through the union
- The Council for the new District will be better able to attract the competencies needed to meet its statutory responsibilities.

The Draft Reorganisation Scheme

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

- The new District Council be elected at the 2004 local elections.
- There be a South-Western Ward, electing one member, covering the areas of the existing Tainui, Paemako and Aria Wards of Waitomo District.
- There be a South-Eastern Ward, electing one member, covering the areas of the existing Mangaokewa Ward of Waitomo District and the Waipa Ward of Otorohanga District.
- There be a North-Eastern Ward, electing one member, covering the areas of the existing Wharepuhunga and Kiokio-Korakonui Wards of Otorohanga District.
- There be a North-Western Ward, electing one member, covering the areas of the existing Kawhia and Tihiroa Wards of Otorohanga District.

- There be a Western Ward, electing one member, covering the areas of the existing Te Anga and Waitomo Wards of Waitomo District.
- There be an Otorohanga Ward, electing one member, covering the area of the existing Otorohanga Ward of Otorohanga District.
- There be a Te Kuiti Ward, electing two members, covering the area of the existing Te Kuiti Ward of Te Kuiti District.
- There be a Kawhia Community Board, made up of four elected members and the member of the Council for the North-Western Ward.
- There be an Otorohanga Community Board, made up of four elected members and the member of the Council for the Otorohanga Ward.
- There be a Te Kuiti Community Board, made up of five elected members and the two members of the Council for the Te Kuiti Ward.
- A service centre be established in Te Kuiti.
- The Council's administration headquarters be in Otorohanga.
- The system of rating across the new district be the Capital Value system.
- A transitional committee be established to recommend administrative arrangements, funding policies and related matters for the new Council.

What happens next?

The procedure from now on is as follows –

- The draft reorganisation scheme is open to submissions until 31 October 2003;
- The Commission meets with those who make submissions;
- The Commission considers the submissions and makes any other investigations or enquiries it considers necessary;
- The Commission decides whether to –
 - Issue a final reorganisation scheme based on the draft reorganisation scheme
 - Issue a final reorganisation scheme, based on modifications to the draft reorganisation scheme; or
 - Not issue any final reorganisation scheme if it considers that the proposal does not meet the Local Government Act's criteria.
- If the Commission issues a final reorganisation scheme, separate polls are held in the Otorohanga District and in the Waitomo District. For the final reorganisation scheme to be successful more than 50% of the votes cast in each poll must be in favour of the proposal;
- If the polls vote in favour of the proposal the final reorganisation scheme is implemented by Order in Council.

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(See www.lgc.govt.nz for further information regarding the Commission's decision.)