



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

### **Media Release**

**30 January 2004**

#### **Commission proceeds with final scheme to unite Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts**

The Local Government Commission today issued a final reorganisation scheme for the union of Otorohanga District and Waitomo District to form a new district to be known as the Otorohanga-Waitomo District.

The decision follows the Commission's consideration of the thirty-one submissions made following its release of a draft reorganisation scheme in August 2003, and matters that were raised in the Commission's hearing of the submissions in November 2003.

The final reorganisation scheme differs from the draft scheme in several key respects, including the name of the new district and the constitution of wards.

The final scheme provides that:

- The new Council will be elected at the time of the triennial local elections (9 October 2004);
- The Council will comprise the Mayor, and eight members elected from six wards; and
- Community boards with comprehensive functions, duties and powers will be constituted for the Kawhia area and the towns of Otorohanga and Te Kuiti.

The final decision on the union of the two districts rests with the electors of the Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts. A poll on the proposal will be held in each district, and for the union to proceed, over 50% of the votes cast in each poll must be in favour of the union proposal.

The date of the polls will be set by the Commission following consultation with the electoral officers of the Otorohanga and Waitomo District Councils.

Copies of the final reorganisation scheme and explanatory statement are available from the Commission or may be accessed at the Commission's website: [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz). The documents may also be inspected at the principal offices of the Otorohanga and Waitomo District Councils.

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