

MEDIA RELEASE

21 JANUARY 1999



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

DECISION ON RANGITIKEI DISTRICT REVIEW RELEASED

The Local Government Commission has released the results of its review of Rangitikei District. The review was carried out as a result of proposal initiated by a group of Rangitikei District electors for the merger of that district and Manawatu District.

The Commission has decided that the proposal to merge the two districts is not to proceed. The reasons for declining to proceed with the proposal are that -

- the two districts contain different communities of interest and their good local government would be maintained by each remaining as a separate district with its own district council
- no satisfactory case had been put to the Commission that the proposal would result in an improvement in the good local government of the affected districts.

In relation to suggestions that amalgamation would lead to a reduction in rates the Commission concluded that savings could not be certain as it depended on the policies adopted by a new council on how its services would be delivered and funded.

The Commission also decided against further considering any boundary adjustments between Rangitikei District and neighbouring districts. No strong evidence was presented to the Commission of desire on the part of Rangitikei District residents for a division of their district or that their principal community of interest lay outside Rangitikei.

The Commission did state, however, that if any local authority or group of residents wished to propose an alteration to the boundaries of Rangitikei District they would be free to do so under the procedures set out in the Local Government Act for boundary alterations.

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