



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Media Release

28 June 2000

Commission announces proposal for the membership and electoral arrangements of the Rodney District Council

The Local Government Commission has today issued its proposal for the membership and electoral arrangements of the Rodney District Council to apply for the Council's general election to be held on 31 March 2001.

The proposal provides for the District to be divided into three wards to provide for effective representation of the communities of interest in the District:

- the Northern Ward - comprising the area of the existing Wellsford, Warkworth and Matakana Wards
- the Western Ward - comprising the area of the existing Helensville, Kumeu and Wainui Wards
- the Eastern Ward - comprising the area of the existing Hibiscus Coast Ward.

A map showing the proposed wards is attached.

The Commission considers that the population of each proposed ward provides an appropriate basis for ensuring the fair representation of each ward. It is proposed that the Northern Ward (population 17460) will elect 2 councillors, the Western Ward (population 24920) will elect 3 Councillors and the Eastern Ward (population 31500) will elect 4 Councillors. The Council would therefore comprise 10 members, including the Mayor who is elected at large.

The Commission has not proposed the establishment of community boards in the District. In making this decision the Commission noted that community boards, which formerly existed in the District and had wide ranging delegated powers, consented to their dis-establishment. The Commission also sensed little indication of a desire in the District for the re-establishment of community boards. It does not consider that the establishment of community boards would significantly enhance the governance arrangements of the District.

Commission Chief Executive, Donald Riezebos, advised that the Commission's proposal is open to written submissions until 25 August 2000. The Commission will hold a hearing in September 2000, in which submitters will have the opportunity to appear before the Commission. The Commission is required to give public notice of its final determination by 3 November 2000.

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