



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**9 July 1999**

#### **Commission upholds Wairoa District Council's Decision on the "South of the Mohaka" proposal**

The Local Government Commission today dismissed the appeal by the South of the Mohaka River Ratepayers Group against the Wairoa District Council's decision not to proceed with the Local Government (South of the Mohaka River) Reorganisation Scheme 1998.

The scheme was prepared by the Council following a proposal initiated by a number of Wairoa District ratepayers resident in the area to the south of the Mohaka River who sought to transfer to the Hastings District.

In announcing the decision, Sir Ross Jansen, Chairman of the Commission, advised that in the Commission's view the proposal, if implemented, would meet the criteria that both Wairoa and Hastings Districts would contain distinct communities of interest, and would be appropriate for the efficient and effective exercise of local government functions, duties and powers.

However, the Commission was not satisfied that with the reduction of rating income resulting from implementation of the proposal, the Wairoa District Council would continue to have the resources necessary to enable it to carry out its functions, duties and powers. Furthermore, the Commission was not satisfied that the proposal would enhance the good local government of the Wairoa District.

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