



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

### **Media Release**

28 October 2005

#### **Local Government Commission decision on the proposal to transfer part of the Tararua District (Woodville area) to Palmerston North City**

The Chairman of the Local Government Commission, Grant Kirby, today announced at a public meeting in Woodville that the Commission has decided not to proceed with an elector-initiated proposal to transfer part of the Tararua District in the Woodville area to Palmerston North City.

The Commission considered that a reorganisation scheme based on the proposal or on modifications to the proposal suggested by Mr Jay Reid would not promote the good local government of the Tararua District or of Palmerston North City.

“The Commission’s decision reflects the strong community ties that the wider Woodville area shares with Pahiatua and Dannevirke, and the fact that Woodville residents rely primarily on services and facilities located in the Tararua District. These include banking, schooling, sporting clubs, essential supplies, professional services, farming supplies, and emergency and medical services. A contributing factor here is that Woodville and its surrounding rural hinterland share a common land use and geography with the Tararua District”, said Mr Kirby.

“The Manawatu Gorge provides a barrier between communities to the west and east of it, both physically and as a matter of perception. The Gorge Road, and to a lesser extent, the Saddle Road and the Pahiatua Track, are prone to closure due to slips, adverse weather, and accidents. The Commission believes that if Woodville were to be included in Palmerston North City, the result would be a community at high risk of isolation from the remainder of its local authority area.”

“I’d like to applaud the many people of Woodville, Tararua, and Palmerston North, who have taken time to consider this proposal, and to share their views about it with the Commission. Clearly, the proposal is of great significance to the people of the Woodville area, and to both councils involved. It *is* important that the Commission hear the widest possible range of views about any

proposed local government boundary alteration, and I believe this has been achieved in this case.”

Full details of the Commission’s decision are contained in its determination, which is available at [www.lgc.govt.nz](http://www.lgc.govt.nz)

**Media inquiries:**

Donald Riezebos  
Chief Executive Officer  
Local Government Commission

Ph: 04 460 2200  
Fax: 04 460 2201