



Local Government Commission

Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

A local board for Golden Bay? Elsewhere in Tasman District?

What do you think?

The Local Government Commission is seeking proposals from Tasman residents and organisations in response to an application it has received for the establishment of a local board in Golden Bay.

Background

Late last year the Commission received an application for the establishment of a local board in Golden Bay. The Commission agreed to assess the application.

Given the timing of its decision in relation to Christmas and the summer holiday period and also its wish to meet the affected parties before proceeding, the Commission decided to delay the required next step of public notification of the application and inviting alternative applications until the new year.

Following agreement by all the affected parties for a further short delay, the Commission is now giving formal notification of the application for establishment of a Golden Bay local board and inviting alternatives to that application.

What is the application for?

The application is for the establishment of a local board to cover the area of the present Golden Bay Ward of Tasman District. If it is approved, the new board would replace the existing Golden Bay Community Board.

What is a local board?

Role and powers

A local board, as provided for in the Local Government Act 2002, is different from a community board. In short, a local board has more guaranteed decision-making powers than a community board. It also negotiates an annual agreement with the council on services to be provided in the local area and how these are to be funded.

A local board *shares* decision-making with the council and is democratically accountable to the community for particular decisions. Its ongoing decision-making role is established by the Local Government Commission through a reorganisation scheme.

This is in contrast to a community board which only has a decision-making role if the council has agreed to delegate some of its decision-making powers. Any delegated decision-making powers may be reviewed by a new council following the next elections.

Type of decision-making powers

Decision-making in respect of the council's "non-regulatory" activities are *required* to be allocated to a local board unless there are particular reasons why the decision-making should be carried out by the council. These reasons include the impact of the decision is wider than the local board area and the need for alignment with other council decisions.

"Non-regulatory" activities cover a wide range of council services and facilities but exclude matters like bylaw-making, building and planning controls, and licensing for community health and safety.

Membership of local boards

Like for community boards, members of local boards are elected by the local community at the same time as the council elections. Local boards comprise between five and twelve elected members and may include appointed members (the local ward councillor(s)).

What is an alternative application?

In the case of this application for a Golden Bay local board, an alternative application can relate to local government arrangements in Golden Bay, other parts of Tasman District or the district as a whole. It may not, however, propose the abolition of Tasman District or its union with another district, or propose any changes to the boundaries of Tasman District or the functions of Tasman District Council.

Deadline for alternative applications

All alternative applications must be received by **Monday, 10 June 2019**.

What happens next?

Once the Commission has received alternative applications, it will consider these alongside the original (Golden Bay) application as well as any other options the Commission may consider appropriate including any combination of the applications it has received.

The Commission must then identify "the reasonably practicable options" (as defined in the legislation) and also its "preferred option". If its preferred option is not the status quo (i.e. no change to current arrangements), the Commission will then produce a draft reorganisation proposal for consultation with the Tasman District community.

To assist the consultation, the draft reorganisation proposal must include a full and detailed explanation of the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. This will include a statement about anticipated costs of the proposal.

Further information

Further information can be received from and alternative applications must be delivered to:

Email: info@lgc.govt.nz

Postal address: Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Commission, PO Box 5362, Wellington 6140

Phone: (04) 460-2228

Website: www.lgc.govt.nz