

## 1. REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES

RR 10452

At its meeting on 3 August 1999, the Board decided to convene this special meeting to enable consideration to be given to the formulation of a submission to the Council on the review of ward boundaries.

To assist in this consideration, members were each provided with copies of the Independent Commission's report "Community Areas and Wards" along with the outcomes of the public forum on this subject hosted at the Fendalton Service Centre on 28 July 1999.

From the ensuing discussion, the following matters were highlighted as a basis of the Board's submission to the Council details of which would be separately prepared and forwarded by the due date of 11 August.

- Concern at the splitting of communities (ie the Burnside High School community, Merivale, Fendalton being divided three ways and the Airport catchment).
- "If it ain't broke why fix it?"
- Hornby and Avonhead (Waimairi) are different.
- The level of representation (ie: elected members to residents) is about right and should not be increased.
- Merivale does not have an affinity with the central city.
- The central city community principle is ok but only when the population grows.
- Loss of continuity in elected members knowledge/understanding of 'communities'.
- Christchurch is the best city – why change? (ie Bertelsmann, Consumer Institute, Standard and Poor's credit rating etc)
- The city centre, Shirley, Papanui and Riccarton are more than major shopping areas – they are actually regional in character and function.
- After 10 years, local residents are relaxed and accepting of existing ward boundaries.
- Major roads are not necessarily a definitive way of creating acceptable community area boundaries.
- There is strong disagreement with the Commission's view that this "is a refinement of the existing situation, not a dramatic change".
- The strengthening communities initiative will be severely disrupted.
- The cost of change for the supposed benefits is not justified.
- The existing boundaries fairly reflect 'communities of interest'.
- A concern at the impact on Police/WINZ matching boundaries.

Overall it was felt that the Commission's findings were ill-conceived and that the good progress made to date with regard to the functioning of the Council's Community Boards would be dramatically affected.

The Board **decided** that the above points form the basis of a submission to the Council.