



DISTRICT COUNCIL

20 August 1999

The City Manager
Christchurch City Council
P O Box 237
CHRISTCHURCH

Cnr Norwich Quay & Dublin Street
P.O. Box 4
Lyttelton

Telephone 0 3 328 8065
Facsimile 0 3 328 8283

Attention: Mr S Phillips - Community Relations Manager

Dear Stephen

WARD AND COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES - CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter dated 16 July 1999 and the enclosed reports on the preferred options and summary for the Community Areas and Wards of Christchurch City Council.

The consultation is appreciated. While the Banks Peninsula District Council would not normally wish to comment on the legal processes of any internal review carried out by the Christchurch City Council, the impact of possible amalgamation necessitates comment in this instance.

Possible Merger with Banks Peninsula District Council

- **Commissioners View**

Reference is made to page 24 (part 1) "Summary and Recommendations" of the report from the Commissioners. You should note that the Banks Peninsula District Council totally opposes any possible amalgamation and in the event of such an amalgamation, would not support only one rural councillor representing a ward as large as the Akaroa/Wairewa wards.

The Banks Peninsula District Council also cannot support the inclusion of the Lyttelton and Mt Herbert ward into the Ferrymead ward of the city. The population spread would almost certainly result in no direct councillor representation from the present Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Ward.

Any new structure as proposed by the City Council Commissioners would result in an impossible burden for the elected councillor and an almost total lack of effective representation for the residents of Banks Peninsula.

- **City Council View**

The view of the City Council in one ward for the total area of the present Banks Peninsula District Council with one councillor is in our opinion utterly unworkable and is rejected. It would be impossible for one councillor to adequately represent an area as large and geographically developed as Banks Peninsula, an area currently served by nine councillors. One ward and councillor covering the whole of Banks Peninsula would effectively mean that because of the population spread the residents of Akaroa and rural Banks Peninsula would be unlikely to be ever represented by a councillor from their area.

The conclusion reached by the City Council appears to lack clear thinking on how the people would be represented. It appears that the people of Banks Peninsula and the district communities of interest are being sacrificed for the City to have control over another growth area and the Port of Lyttelton.

Reduction of Councillor Numbers

The Banks Peninsula District Council understood that the Local Government Commission required the Christchurch City Council to review its wards and number of councillors with a view to reducing the level of representation.

A reduction from 24 councillors to 23 councillors would seem not to comply with the Local Government Commission's expectations. Rather, it appears to indicate that the City Council views the amalgamation issue as an opportunity to land grab while only paying lip service to the concept of efficiencies. Neither does this proposal provide for a system of 'good local government' for the Peninsula people who, under this scenario, would be residents with a new City Council.

Reference to Amalgamation

It is considered unfortunate that reference to the possible amalgamation of the Christchurch City Council with the Banks Peninsula District Council has been made in a report which should have applied to the present City Council boundaries only.

The City Council has not completed the report in a way that was expected but has also used the report as another form of submission on the proposed amalgamation.

Powers of Community Boards

In the debate on the proposed amalgamation, the City Council has clarified that local representation on Banks Peninsula would be achieved through the proposed Community Boards. Attached is a copy of the current delegations of powers and duties to Banks Peninsula District Council Community Boards.

It is clear that this Council's Boards enjoy a greater level of delegation of powers and duties than what applies in the City. This being the case, the residents of Banks Peninsula would be disadvantaged even further.


Conclusion

The City Council should have restricted this report to an internal review of its present wards and councillor numbers. To have included comments on the proposed amalgamation has clouded the issue and has not achieved what the Local Government Commission requested.

The Banks Peninsula District Council cannot support the present reports in any way and totally rejects its findings and conclusions.

Yours faithfully


E P Parker
GENERAL MANAGER


N A Allan
THE MAYOR

Copy to: CEO
Local Government Commission

COMMUNITY BOARD DELEGATIONS

- i) Council delegate to Community Boards
- To actively liaise with residential, business and special interest groups within the community to determine community needs.
 - To recommend to Council Annual Plan and Budget items in priority order.
 - To oversee the implementation of local aspects of the Annual Plan.
 - e.g. Cemetery Expenditure
 - Footpath Expenditure
 - Project Expenditure
 - Initiate policy and monitor ward aspects of street works, parks, traffic community activities and regulatory functions.
 - To have responsibility for the functional areas of:
 - streetworks including footpath and roading maintenance (excluding major works).
 - local traffic control.
 - refuse collection strategies.
 - elderly persons housing.
 - local parks.
 - liaison with Community Services.
 - recreational services.
 - monitoring regulatory services
 - e.g. dogs
 - noise
 - health and other nuisances
 - Authority to act on matters pursuant to the Resource Management Act, as delegated.
 - The right to distribute, or act, on Council's behalf on ward allocations for:
 - Council Community Grants
 - Hillary Commission Grants
 - Creative New Zealand Grants

- ii) **Community Board chairs or nominated representatives be co-opted as non-voting members of the Finance and Services Committees.**
- iii) **Community Boards be allowed access to Council public excluded minutes where the decisions affect their respective areas and at Council's discretion.**
- iv) **That adequate training of Community Board members, staff and other resources be provided to Community Board members to enable them to operate effectively.**
- v) **That community boards be authorised to hear submissions and prioritise proposed expenditure from their respective reserve accounts for recommendations to Council.**