



## 11. CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL: REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP AND BASIS OF ELECTION

The Council Secretary reported, advising that at its meeting on 6 April last the Canterbury Regional Council (now known as Environment Canterbury) had commenced the process to review its membership and basis of election. At that meeting the Regional Council resolved:

- *That a Waitaki constituency, comprising one member and covering the area of the Mackenzie District, Waimate District and that part of Waitaki District in the Canterbury region, be created to apply from the date of the next triennial elections in 2001.*
- *That the South Canterbury constituency, comprising one member and covering the area of the Timaru District, be reconstituted to apply from the date of the next triennial elections in 2001.*

The Committee concluded that the current representation arrangements were reasonably equitable as far as Christchurch was concerned, in that Christchurch now had four distinct constituencies each electing two members, and with eight members elected more than 50% of the total membership of the Regional Council.

For these reasons, and in view of the review previously carried out by the Local Government Commission regarding Christchurch's membership, it is unlikely that the city would succeed in any attempt to further increase its present membership of the Regional Council.

As objections to the proposal closed on 15 May 2000 it was necessary for the Committee to make a decision on behalf of the Council in respect of this proposal.

The Committee **decided** that the decision of the Regional Council be received, and that the Christchurch City Council not lodge an objection to the Regional Council's proposal to create a separate Waitaki constituency for the 2001 elections.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of changing the present local government arrangements in Canterbury and **decided** to request staff to report on:

- The process for seeking a review of local government arrangements in Canterbury.
- A re-definition of the role and powers of regional councils in the review of the Local Government Act in order to allow for different models for different regions.