

19. COMMUNITY AREAS AND WARDS WITHIN CHRISTCHURCH CITY: POSSIBLE MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

RR 10671

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Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

The purpose of this report is to seek a direction regarding the resolution adopted by the Council at its special meeting on 26 August 1999:

“That the Council ask officers to report on minor boundary adjustments requested in the submissions and the manner in which they could be accommodated, with a view to a supplementary submission to the Local Government Commission.”

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Several submitters suggested minor boundary alternations in the first round of public consultation undertaken by the three commissioners in April 1999. In their subsequent report to the Council the commissioners stated:

“A number of those who made submissions proposed minor modifications to the existing boundaries of community board areas (and, therefore, wards). Our tests revealed that these modifications to existing boundaries resulted in population numbers in two of the wards rising above the ± 10 per cent tolerance range.

When, however, we made minor adjustments to the present wards to try to meet the suggestions made during the first submissions phase, the changes made resulted in the variation from the mean size exceeded our ± 10 per cent tolerance in two instances (Pegasus and Shirley), and in a third instance (Heathcote) the variation was right on the upper limit. In an attempt to bring these wards within our agreed tolerance levels the boundary between the Burwood and Pegasus wards was returned to its original line, but this resulted in making Hagley’s population 17.4 per cent below the mean, but did not change the excess of population in either Shirley or Heathcote.”

STATUTORY PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO SUCH BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Local Government Act 1974 provides that a community area may be abolished, united with another community, or the boundaries altered, by a reorganisation scheme or by resolution of the Council **with the consent of the Board affected**. Where there is no agreement, a determination may be made by the Local Government Commission. Therefore, where disagreement over minor boundary alternations exists between the Council and the Board/s affected, only the Commission may determine the matter.

Some minor boundary alterations were effected prior to the last two triennial elections, with the consent of the Boards involved. However, such agreement was reached only after extensive consultations, and there were at least two instances where alterations sought by one Board were rejected by another, and were therefore incapable of implementation.

STANCE ADOPTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

The resolutions adopted by the Council on 26 August have since been conveyed to the Local Government Commission. The Commission advises that any minor boundary alterations proposed must be agreed and advised to the Commission by no later than 21 September, when the Commission is meeting to progress the Banks Peninsula issue.

In view of this short time frame, and the impossibility of reaching inter-Board agreement on any such alterations by 21 September it is suggested that there is little point in pursuing any minor alterations until after the Local Government Commission has issued a final determination on the proposed union with Banks Peninsula, and the results of any subsequent poll of electors of both districts is known. Should the proposed union with Banks Peninsula not proceed, then this Council will be required to undertake a fresh review of its community areas and wards next year, at which time it will be possible for the issue of minor boundary changes to be readdressed.

- Recommendation:**
1. (i) That the Local Government Commission be advised that in view of the short time available, it will not be possible to make a supplementary submission on minor boundary adjustments by the 21 September deadline.
 - (ii) As a result, that a Final Reorganisation Scheme contain a provision along the following lines:

“The Local Government Commission will approve any minor boundary adjustments between ward and community boards, provided such adjustments are supported by resolution of the Community Boards affected and the Christchurch City Council and/or Banks Peninsula District Council as appropriate based on current boundaries.”
 2. That, should the proposed union with Banks Peninsula not proceed, then such adjustments be reconsidered as part of the review required to be carried out by this Council in the year 2000.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.