

Manawatu District/Palmerston North City Proposed Boundary Change

Our community is faced with making some important decisions about its future. It is important to us that the people whose lives are affected by these decisions are involved in the decision-making. There is still much to consider and we want to share with you what we know so far.

Background – What is the Issue?

Growth is occurring in the Manawatu region, particularly on the boundary between Palmerston North City and Manawatu District Councils. This is good for our region, but it has created some issues between the two Councils. Development has to date been on an ad hoc basis and this has created planning and servicing issues. The Councils are keen to manage these growth pressures and in November last year commissioned consultants to look, in-depth, at how these pressures could be addressed.

Outcome of Report

In response the consultants considered the following four options:

- amalgamation
- boundary change (option 1): a small adjustment of the boundary between MDC and the city, focused on Longburn and a small portion of the north-east industrial area
- boundary change (option 2): a larger adjustment to the boundary, focused on land to the north and west of Palmerston North which would be transferred to the City. This would include Longburn and Bunnythorpe
- cross-boundary servicing

The Councils' preferred option is boundary change option 2. This would see an area of Manawatu District land to the north and west of Palmerston North transferred to the city.

Where to From Here?

The Councils plan to undertake joint consultation to determine community views based on the preference of boundary change 2, including a potential plan to compensate MDC for loss of income for a determined period.

Consultation will also include the amalgamation option in order that our communities may better understand the potential benefits this may offer. Consultation is likely to take place towards the end of the year. You will have an opportunity to be involved in further consultation. Please see timelines over page.



Timeline for Initial Community Engagement

Friday 15 October	Submissions open
Friday 19 November	Submissions close
Friday 17 December	Councils consider feedback received during the consultation period
Early 2011	Councils make final decisions about which option, if any, to pursue

Process and timeline for Boundary Adjustment

October 2010	Local body elections
February 2011	Councils initiate the boundary change proposal
April 2011	Establish joint Manawatu District/Palmerston North City Committee
May 2011	Councils issue Draft Reorganisation Scheme – they notify the public about the details of the proposed boundary change
July 2011	Submission period begins
August to September 2011	Hearings take place
October 2011	Reorganisation scheme adopted
October to November 2011	Appeal period. This is when those who are opposed to the change can appeal against it.
December 2011	Scheme confirmed or appeal launched. The Local Government Commission (LGC) will consider all appeals and either confirm, reject or vary the original decision the Councils made when they adopted the boundary change.

Process and timeline for Amalgamation

October 2010	Local body elections
February 2011	Having received a proposal from MDC and PNCC the LGC notifies public of the proposal and invites initial submissions
August to October 2011	LGC holds initial hearings
February 2012	LGC issues draft scheme
April to July 2012	LGC holds second round of hearings
September 2012	LGC issues reorganisation scheme
November 2012	Poll held of affected residents – at least 50% of those polled must be in favour*
January 2013	Reorganisation scheme either confirmed or rejected, depending on the poll result
By October 2013 in time for the local body elections	New Council comes into existence

*A poll may involve MDC residents only or residents of MDC and PNCC, depending on the nature of the reorganisation scheme. For example, if the proposal was to abolish both Councils and create a new one or for a union of both Councils, the vote would involve both sets of residents. If, on the other hand, the proposal was to abolish MDC and include it in PNCC, only MDC residents would vote. The results of each poll held must be at least 50% of residents in favour.

Please visit www.mdc.govt.nz for a copy of the final consultant's report.