



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MANA KĀWANATANGA Ā ROHE

Local government reorganisation on West Coast

The Local Government Commission gives notice in accordance with clause 13(1)(a) of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002 that it has determined its preferred option for local government on the West Coast. This is the transfer of statutory obligations for preparing district plans under the Resource Management Act from Buller, Grey and Westland district councils to West Coast Regional Council, and for the establishment of a joint committee of the four councils to prepare and approve a combined West Coast district plan.

In reaching this decision the Commission considered that:

1. The options that met the specific statutory requirements for a reasonably practicable option for the West Coast and were therefore identified by the Commission as reasonably practicable were:
 - a) transfer of statutory obligations to prepare district plans under the Resource Management Act from Buller, Grey and Westland district councils to West Coast Regional Council
 - b) a West Coast unitary authority
 - c) existing local government arrangements on the West Coast.
2. A number of other potential options were determined not to meet the specific requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 for being a reasonably practicable option on the West Coast.
3. In particular, options for the union of Grey and Westland districts and for a combined West Coast district were considered not to meet the tests for being reasonably practicable options because neither would provide an appropriate district for the efficient performance of the local authority role of enabling democratic local decision-making and action by and on behalf of communities.

Having considered all relevant matters under Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Commission is satisfied that the transfer of the statutory district planning obligation is the preferred option as it will, in the affected area, best promote the purpose of local government and will facilitate improved economic performance.

The Commission will now prepare a draft proposal relating to its preferred option for the purpose of consulting the West Coast community in 2018.

Dr Suzanne Doig
Chief Executive Officer