

12th March 2017

Suzanne Doig
C.E.O. Local Government Commission,
P.O. Box 5362,
Wellington 6140.

Tenakoe,

Support the application for a unitary authority
for the West Coast.

Propose a Council of 7 Ward representatives
elected with 2 Manawhenua Iwi Representatives.

1 Karamea

1 Westport

1 Reefton

1 Greymouth

1 Hokitika

1 Franz Joseph

1 Haast

2 Manawhenua Iwi Representatives

Area to be that covered by the present Councils.
 Change would achieve a lower administration cost

Working depots be established at: -

Karamea,

Westport,

Clymouth,

Haast.

Would uniform rates across the whole of the West Coast.

Further, the Commission to look at the alignment of Hapu tribal areas of the Tai Poutini (West Coast) with that of Council boundaries.

Kia ora, ua

James Mason Russell

Chairman Kati Waewae Kaumatua Kahui.

P.S. Attachment.

Coast councils review

In reference to the article about the Local Government Commission, the call for a review of council services on the West Coast is not a "complete waste of money", as stated by Westland Mayor Bruce Smith (Guardian, February 3).

The Local Government Commission was called in by 400-plus resident-ratepayers who had had a gutfest of bad management, bad decision making and spiralling rate increases, by bloated councils with no respect for whose money they were spending.

Already the commission's presence has had Coast councils discussing shared services and people are now looking at ways of cutting costs to ratepayers.

Councils have been sucking like leeches on the West Coast ratepayers and we have run out of blood. Many old people with property are struggling to meet rate demands.

The arrival of the commission has brought about discussion on something that was broken. Now we have a chance to say how to fix it, and living in the past is not the answer. Whether you like it or not Mayor Bruce, the status quo cannot afford to remain without major changes taking place. Even his own members of council are questioning

the benefits of some members of staff.

If amalgamation is required then so be it.

We are not calling on centralisation. Alternatives could be sought, such as disbanding the West Coast Regional Council and absorbing it into the three district councils. Resource consents could be administered from Greymouth, roading from Westland, civil defence from Buller etc.

We all live in a special but isolated part of the country with a declining population. There is a dire need for us to work together if we want to continue to live here, otherwise the Coast will be overrun by tourists and become a holiday home playground for wealthy people from outside the district. It has already happened in Haast.

Write and have your say with the commission. At least some positive ideas can be put forward that could take the pressure off the rates burden of the locals.

PETER SALTER
Pukekura

Hokitika Guardian

Tuesday, February 7, 2017