



12 August 2009

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Have your say on city's preferred choice

The Invercargill City Council has put forward a preferred choice for the city's Representation Review and the public are being invited to have their say.

Council's Chief Executive Officer Richard King said the Representation Review decides what method would provide effective representation for the Invercargill District. This includes how City Councillors will be elected, how many Councillors there will be and whether there should be Community Boards.

"Earlier an Independent Review Panel consulted with the public and community groups about representation. Their final report is available from the Council and is on the Council website www.icc.govt.nz," Mr King said.

After considering the report of the Independent Panel, Council agreed at last night's Council meeting to make the following resolutions under the Local Electoral Act 2001 with respect to effective representation (the "Initial proposal"):

- To elect its Mayor and Councillors at large (no Wards). This means that voters can vote for all Councillors. No change from the 2007 election format.
- For 12 Councillors to be elected. No change from the 2007 election format.
- To retain the Bluff Community Board (five elected Board members and one appointed Council representative, with no change to Board boundaries). No change from the 2007 election format.

Mr King said in coming to the above three decisions, Council considered geographical communities of interest within the Invercargill district. Council decided that Bluff was the only community of interest in terms of the Local Electoral Act.

In addition, to provide greater opportunity for Community-Council discussion, Council proposes to operate a series of clinics and public meetings. These will be held once a month in one of three locations - North Invercargill, South Invercargill and the City Centre.

Council also proposes to provide some support to Residents' Associations which have a community development focus and meet the criteria set by Council, he said.

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Council's "Initial Proposal" is open for submissions until 5pm on Monday September 21. Submissions can be made online or in writing, go to www.icc.govt.nz for more information. Council will hear and consider submissions in October.

Decisions on submissions will then be made and Council's "Final Proposal" for Representation in the Invercargill District will be released in early November 2009.

The Local Government Commission will decide any objections or appeals to Council's "Final Proposal".

ENDS.

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