

2 February 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Six named on Independent Advisory Panel

The Invercargill City Council has named the six people it has appointed to an independent advisory panel for the City's 2009 Representation Review.

Invercargill City Council Chief Executive Officer Richard King said the Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities to conduct a formal Representation Review every six years. This includes reviewing how Councillors are elected and whether there should be community boards.

In December 2008, Council advertised publicly for expressions of interest from people willing to serve on the Independent Panel.

At its first meeting for 2009, the Invercargill City Council appointed the following people to the independent advisory Panel:

- Margaret Cook, former Chair of Habitat for Humanity, Co-chair of the Southland Interagency Forum for social agencies and volunteer groups.
- Allan Derrick, of Allan Derrick Advertising and Design.
- Robyn Hickman, Principal of Aurora College.
- Joe O'Connell of Myross Bush, business management consultant and accountant.
- Tony O'Neill, former Area Commander of Southland Police and currently the Strengthening Families Coordinator for Presbyterian Support Services.
- Iwi Representative, Stephen Bragg, Pou Kura Taiao in the Department of Conservation.
- Councillor Norman Elder. (Chair)

Mr King said in appointing members to the panel, Council had tried to achieve a balanced group that would include representation from different geographic areas of the city. They also looked for representatives of both urban and semi-rural areas and key sectors in the community such as business, education and the voluntary sector.

“Council is pleased to have a panel with such a wide mix of skills and experience and we look forward to their ideas and their involvement in consulting with the community,” he said.

ENDS.

Inquiries, Janette Malcolm, Policy Advisor, (03) 2111 689.