

STAFF REPORT

TO: Full Council

FROM: Paul Wylie, Chief Executive Officer

REFERENCE: C855

SUBJECT: **Presentation of Amalgamation Submission to the Local Government Commission RCN10-12-01**

PURPOSE

The purposes of this report are to:

1. Seek agreement to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive presenting to the Local Government Commission the Council's submission on the proposal for the amalgamation of Nelson City and Tasman District.
2. Seek agreement to the general content of the verbal submission that will be presented to the Commission.

BACKGROUND

The submissions on the proposal to amalgamate Nelson City and Tasman District closed with the Commission on 8 November 2010. Council submitted on the proposal prior to the closing date.

The Commission is holding hearings of submissions in the Nelson – Tasman area from 14 – 18 December 2010. Council is scheduled to present its submission at 8.45 am in the Tasman District Council Chamber on Wednesday 15 December. The Commission has allocated an hour and a half for Council to present its submission and to answer questions from the Commissioners. The Commission has also allocated a 15 minute slot on Saturday 18 December for Council for final observations and questions from the Commissioners.

The hearings are open to the public and media. All Councillors are welcome to attend while the Council's submission is presented.

DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Presentation of Council's Submission

There are a range of options for who should present Council's submission. It could be just Councillors, just senior managers or a mix of both. The Commission has indicated that there should be no more than 3 – 5 people presenting on behalf of Council.

Given that there are likely to be both political and technical/managerial questions asked by the Commission, it is desirable that both Councillors and a senior manager are at the table to answer questions.

It is recommended that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive are delegated responsibility to present the Council's submission to the Commission and to deal with the final observations and questions session with the Commission on Saturday 18 December.

Content of the Verbal Submission

The content of the verbal submission is currently being developed. It will cover the key points in Council's written submission and also address some of the matters raised in other submissions, where these are not already covered in Council's submission.

Council staff are currently doing an analysis of the submissions received by the Commission, which will be distributed to Councillors prior to the Council meeting.

As noted above, this summary will help inform the content of the verbal submission Council will present to the Commission. Therefore, a copy of the verbal submission is not yet available for inclusion with this agenda. It will be tabled at the meeting.

SIGNIFICANCE

The content of this report and the matters being addressed in it are not significant in terms of Council's Significance Policy.

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION

THAT the Tasman District Council:

- 1. Agrees to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive presenting the Council's verbal submission to the Local Government Commission on the proposal for the amalgamation of Nelson City and Tasman District during the hearings from 14 – 18 December 2010, and to deal with the final observations and questions session.**
- 2. Approves the verbal submission to the Commission, as tabled at the meeting.**

Paul Wylie
Chief Executive Officer