MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood and Terry Mills

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATION MEETING

Terry Mills, Member for Blain, and Gerry Wood, Member for Nelson, have organised a community information meeting to look at the ramifications of the amalgamation of local government councils and more specifically the new super council in the Litchfield area.

There will be a number of key speakers, including Mr Pat Dodson, Chairman of the Local Government Advisory Board, Mrs Mary Walshe, President of the Litchfield Shire Council and Gerry Wood Member for Nelson and Past President of the Litchfield Shire. Terry Mills, Member for Blain, will chair the meeting.

The meeting will give the opportunity for the government to put forward its plans for the Litchfield area and to answer some basic questions about how these plans will affect ratepayers in the existing Litchfield Shire. The community will also have the opportunity to ask questions of the panel.

Some of the key questions that may be asked
- Why do we need amalgamation? What are the benefits? What are the negatives?
- Will a new expanded council cost more to run than the existing councils?
- Will the rates go up to pay for these changes?
- Will the flat rate be retained or will the government impose a rate based on UCV?
- What core functions will the government impose on councils eg libraries, aged care?
- What money will the government contribute in the way of an establishment package?
- What will happen to our recreation reserves?
- Why has the community been left out of the consultation process eg boundaries, numbers of shires?
- How many councillors will the new shire have?
- Will the president or mayor be elected by the people or by the councillors?

Plus many more matters of interest or concern

Terry and Gerry believe that the community has so far been left out of the debate. The government has established Advisory Boards and Transition Committees but these are closed to the public. This meeting will give people in the Litchfield Shire the first opportunity to hear first hand about what these Government proposals are and how these changes will affect them.

The meeting will be held at
Girraween Primary School, Carruth Road (off Girraween Road),
Tuesday April 3rd at 6.30pm.
Tea coffee and bikkies will be provided.
The meeting should finish by 8.30pm.