

Lets Chat : 3 October 2009

Hello everyone,

Some times in our lives we face tough decisions, decisions that just have to be made. In my role as mayor, I have made a commitment to transparency and accountability, which also means there are no hiding places from living life in a public spotlight.

With that introduction, I need to share with you a tough decision Loretta and I have had to make. Family circumstances dictate that we must move to Christchurch, at least for the immediate future, and ahead of the commencement of the 2010 school year. Accordingly, and with great sadness, Amberley House, our wonderful home and lifestyle, is now on the market for sale.

Let me emphasise a number of critically important points.

Irrespective of where I might be living, my commitment to the mayoral role and to Hurunui District does not change. There are a number of key challenges confronting us over the next twelve months, including water management strategies for Canterbury and Hurunui in particular, growth and development in Amberley, the Queen Mary site development in Hanmer Springs, ongoing financial governance focussed on affordability and prudence, tourism development throughout Hurunui, and more. All of these will continue to receive my full attention and efforts, together with all the issues that are yet to arise.

Beyond the coming year, these same challenges will represent wonderful opportunities for the future of Hurunui, together with the benefits flowing from the many other strategies and plans contained in our ten year forecast.

It is my hope to be part of that future, and to seek re-election for a third term from 2010. Hurunui will remain our "home". It is where we want to be. Our aim is to return and live in the district as soon as family commitments allow.

In the meantime, and irrespective of my decisions and changes ahead, I hope that from your viewpoint you will see the same seamless, total performance that you expect from me, and which I am committed to deliver.

Sincerely

Garry

(etc)