



Joint Media Release

Wednesday June 21

Parker has Mayor's Confidence

UDS Not Under Threat

Canterbury's Urban Development Strategy is solid!

The Mayor's of Christchurch City and Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts say they, and their Councils are fully behind the Strategy process.

They are taking issue with a report in Saturday's Press, which they say is false and misleading.

The report stated their Councils have called for the resignation of the UDS Chairman, Bob Parker, after he moved a motion to investigate establishing a unitary authority in the region.

Mayors Garry Moore, Michael McEvedy and Jim Gerard says they have done no such thing – and there is absolutely no truth to the suggestion the future of the UDS is now under threat.

“Our Council's have not debated this issue, no motions have been passed on Bob Parker's Chairmanship, nor have any letters been written on the subject as the Press has reported.”

The Mayors acknowledge attending an informal dinner meeting about a month ago where matters concerning the UDS, including the City Council's move to investigate Unitary Council, were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Sir Kerry Burke (Chairman ECAN), Bob Parker, Ken Tremaine (UDS Project Leader) and his assistant Bill Wasley.

But the Mayors say following assurances by the City that this issue was going nowhere, ALL present confirmed their confidence in Bob Parker's continuing chairmanship, and in the UDS process.

“We, and our Councils remain committed to the UDS process. Nothing has changed. As far as we were concerned, it is business as usual.”

Mayors Jim Gerard and Michael McEvedy are very concerned and disappointed at the way the informal discussions have been misreported.

“The report is inaccurate, misleading, and we would have to say also mischievous, and we can only assume is the result of some political agenda.”

For more information contact:

Garry Moore, Mayor Christchurch City
Michael McEvedy, Mayor Selwyn District Council
Jim Gerard, Mayor Waimakariri District