

Mr. McCombs.

PORT CHRISTCHURCH REFERENDUM.

[LOCAL BILL.]

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Construction of a Deep-sea Harbour in the Estuary of the Heathcote and Avon Rivers and for Matters incidental thereto. Title.

5 WHEREAS for many years past there has been an agitation on the part of the Citizens of Christchurch having for its object the provision of better access to the sea and better port facilities for the City of Christchurch and Province of Canterbury: And whereas there is at present in the City of Christchurch an organization, known as the Port Christchurch League, having for its Preamble.

main object the construction of a deep-sea harbour in the estuary of the Heathcote and Avon Rivers including the construction of a mole or breakwater at Sumner extending out to sea from the sandspit on the northern side of the present entrance to the estuary with commodious and up-to-date wharves in a basin towards the head of the estuary and necessary communication therewith by road and rail: And whereas it is desirable that provision be made for taking a referendum of the electors of the Lyttelton Harbour District, as defined by the Harbours Act, 1923, to decide whether the said works shall be carried out and whether a loan shall be raised for that purpose:

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Port Christchurch Referendum Act, 1936.

Lyttelton Harbour Board to take poll on question of constructing harbour in estuary of Heathcote and Avon Rivers.

2. The Lyttelton Harbour Board shall cause to be taken throughout the Lyttelton Harbour District, as defined in the Harbours Act, 1923, a poll or referendum of the electors therein on a parliamentary franchise as provided by the Electoral Act, 1927, on the proposal to construct a deep-sea harbour in the estuary at Heathcote (to be known and thereafter referred to as Port Christchurch) capable of providing up-to-date accommodation for the largest vessels and making provision for the necessary means of access to the said harbour with power if necessary to raise a loan for that purpose.

If poll carried Lyttelton Harbour Board may proceed with construction of Port Christchurch with power to raise necessary loan.

3. On the taking of the said poll or referendum, should a majority of the electors voting thereat be in favour of the said proposal, the Lyttelton Harbour Board is hereby authorized and may thereupon take any further proceedings that may be necessary to raise such loan and do all things necessary for the construction and working of Port Christchurch.

If Lyttelton Harbour Board refuses or neglects to do so for six months Port of Christchurch Authority may do so.

4. In the event of the Lyttelton Harbour Board refusing or neglecting for a period of six months after the date of the passing of this Act commencing to do, perform, and carry out the aforesaid acts and works and prosecute the same to completion with all convenient speed, then the Port of Christchurch Authority as hereafter constituted may proceed to do so and for this purpose shall be invested with all the powers and

- authorities conferred upon Harbour Boards by the Harbours Act, 1923, with relation to the Port Christchurch District as defined in section *five* hereof, including the necessary powers and authorities to enable the
- 5 Port of Christchurch Authority to work, manage, and administer Port Christchurch for all time from and after the completion of the same.
5. For the purposes of this Act there shall be constituted a district, to be known as the Port Christchurch District, which shall comprise the City of Christchurch, the boroughs of Sumner, New Brighton, and Riccarton and the counties of Waimairi, Paparua, Heathcote, and Halswell.
- 10 Port Christchurch District constituted.
6. Subject to the provisions of this Act, there shall also be constituted a Board, to be known as the Port of Christchurch Authority, which shall consist of fourteen members to be elected as defined in the Schedule to this Act, and shall be elected by the persons whose names appear as electors upon any parliamentary electoral roll
- 15 of any electorate constituted under the Electoral Act, 1927, which or part of which electorate includes the whole or any part of any city, borough, county, or town district entitled to elect one or more members to the said Board. No elector shall be entitled to vote at any election
- 20 under this Act at any polling-place not in the city, county, borough, or town district in which he resides, or in which the property for which he is registered as an elector is situate.
- 25 7. For the purposes of this Act the Lyttelton Harbour Board and/or the Port of Christchurch Authority is hereby authorized to levy, if necessary, a special rate on the aforesaid Port Christchurch District and to pledge the said rate as security for any loan that may be raised for the construction of Port Christchurch.
- 30 Power to levy rate.
8. The Lyttelton Harbour Board shall pay all expenses incurred in taking the poll or referendum under this Act.
- 35 Lyttelton Harbour Board to pay expenses of referendum.
9. In the event of the Lyttelton Harbour Board proceeding with the construction of Port Christchurch and assuming the management, control, and administration of the same, then the Port of Christchurch Authority shall not be elected and the Port Christchurch District shall continue to exist only for rating purposes.
- 40 On Lyttelton Harbour Board proceeding with construction of Port Christchurch and assuming management of same Port Christchurch District to cease to exist and Port of Christchurch Authority to become *functus officio*.

Election
of Port
Christchurch
Authority:
When and how
conducted.

10. The election of the members of the Port of Christchurch Authority as provided by section *six* of this Act shall take place not later than forty days after the expiration of the period of six months referred to in section *four* hereof, and such election shall be arranged and conducted by the Registrar of Electors at Christchurch: 5

Provided that all expenses incidental to such election shall be a charge against the funds of the Lyttelton Harbour Board. 10

Schedule.

SCHEDULE.

THE Port of Christchurch Authority shall consist of:—

Eight members elected by the electors of the City of Christchurch:

One member elected by the electors of the Borough of Sumner:

One member elected by the electors of the Borough of New Brighton:

One member elected by the electors of the Borough of Riccarton:

One member elected by the electors of the County of Waimairi:

One member elected by the electors of the County of Heathcote:

One member elected by the electors of the counties of Paparua and Halswell.