

## AN OVERVIEW

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The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) is an independent body established under the *Local Government Act 2009*.

It consists of the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland and any of the following people:

- the deputy Electoral Commissioner
- a casual commissioner/s.

### Its functions

The Change Commission reviews whether a proposed change to a Queensland council is in the public interest.

Its assessments include:

- division/ward boundaries i.e. the internal boundaries of divided councils;
- external boundaries i.e. the common boundaries between councils; and
- electoral arrangements i.e. whether a council is divided or undivided, the number of councillors, the council name, the council's classification (i.e. shire or city).

The LGA is used to assess all Queensland councils except the Brisbane City Council (BCC) which is governed by the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*.

### The assessment process

The Minister for Local Government (the Minister) is the only person who can refer a proposed change to the Change Commission, except in the case of the BCC which may be referred by the Minister, the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) or the BCC itself.

The Change Commission assesses proposals in any way it deems appropriate, unless the Minister provides specific directions.

Reviews can consider a range of factors such as:

- voter enrolment numbers
- community interests; and
- geographical features that make easy-to-identify boundaries.

They generally also involve community consultation through written submissions.

The results of a Change Commission review must be handed to the Minister. A notice of results is published in a local newspaper, the Queensland Government Gazette and on the ECQ website.

A Change Commission decision is not subject to appeal.

### Implementation

A local government change can only be implemented by the Governor in Council under a regulation.

The regulation may provide for anything that is necessary or convenient to facilitate the change. For example:

- holding, postponing or cancelling a council election; or
- transferring assets and liabilities from one council to another.