

## EXTERNAL BOUNDARY REVIEWS

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The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) reviews the common or shared boundaries between councils to determine if a proposed change is in the public interest.

A review of external boundaries may consider a small change whereby a few property lots are moved, or significant changes when entire suburbs or areas are transferred between councils.

### Proposing a change

Only the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) may refer a proposed change to the Change Commission for assessment.

For information on proposing a change to the Minister see the Regional Advisors from the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs: <https://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/contact-us-dlgrma/regional-contacts.html>

### Assessment process

External boundary reviews are conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* for all councils except Brisbane which is governed by the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*.

Specific criteria that form the basis of an assessment are also outlined in the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (LGR) and *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (CoBR). These can include:

- communities of interest;
- joint arrangements i.e. joint governments, committees or actions;
- planning and development considerations;  
or
- financial viability.

Once the Change Commission's assessment is complete, the final determination report is provided to the Minister.

The Change Commission's recommendations can only be implemented by the Governor in Council under a regulation.

### Review timeframes

There is no legislated date for external boundary reviews to be referred to, or considered by, the Change Commission. The timing is subject to a range of factors such as their complexity and public consultation requirements. The Change Commission's availability is also critically important.

It is recommended that external boundary reviews be conducted in the two-year period after a Local Government Quadrennial Election, as divisional boundaries must be prioritised in the lead-up to these elections.

Should an external boundary change be proposed in the year before the quadrennial election, an assessment will only be conducted if time permits.