

## ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT REVIEWS

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The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) reviews the electoral arrangements of councils to determine if a proposed change is in the public interest.

These assessments can include whether a council is divided or undivided, the number of councillors, the council's name / classification (city, shire, region, town) or other such changes.

### Proposing a change

Only the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) may refer a proposal 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

The Change Commission will conduct community consultation, usually through written submissions. It must also consider principles outlined in section 4 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA) and the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (CoBA). Some of these include:

- sustainable development, management of assets and infrastructure and delivery of effective services;
- democratic representation, meaningful community engagement and social inclusion; and
- good governance.

Section 13 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (LGR) provides criteria for a change of classification:

- to be declared a city – the area is the centre of a region providing commercial, industrial, health and public sector services. In addition, it must meet population requirements specified in the LGR.
- to be declared a town – the area does not meet the criteria of a city but is urban in character.
- to be declared a shire – the area is not urban in character.
- to be declared a region – the area is created as a result of the amalgamation of two or more councils.

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 electoral arrangement 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 electoral arrangement 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 electoral arrangement change be proposed in the year before the quadrennial election, an assessment will only be conducted if time permits.