LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHANGE COMMISSION

Divisional Boundary Review

2026-27

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

DISCUSSION PAPER

About the Local Government Change Commission

The Local Government Change Commission (LGCC) is the independent body responsible for assessing proposed boundary changes to Brisbane City Council in accordance with the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (COB Act).

Purpose of this discussion paper

On 24 September 2026, the ECQ referred Brisbane City Council to the LGCC to assess the ward boundaries as one ward was found to have too many electors.

The LGCC now wants to hear the community's views on how they believe the ward boundaries should change to ensure equitable representation across Brisbane City ahead of the 2028 local government elections.

The need for a ward boundary review

Under the COB Act, the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) must review whether each Brisbane City Council ward has roughly the same number of electors. When wards do not have roughly the same number of electors, the LGCC is responsible to draw new ward boundaries to rebalance enrolment. This process is necessary to ensure representation is equitable and uphold the democratic principle of one vote one value.

Brisbane is divided into 26 areas called wards. Each ward needs to have a 'reasonable proportion of electors' (referred to as the 'quota' below). This is worked out by dividing the total number of electors in Brisbane by the number of councillors (other than the mayor), allowing a variation of plus or minus 10 per cent.

As people move into and around Brisbane, the number of electors in each ward can change so they no longer have a roughly equal number of electors. For this reason, the LGCC periodically reviews and redraws the ward boundaries. When redrawing boundaries, the LGCC also considers projected enrolment to help maintain balanced enrolment over multiple elections.

The LGCC endeavours to align boundaries to easily recognisable landmarks such as roads, railways, waterways, national parks and other official boundaries such as state boundaries and localities.

What is a quota?

The quota is used to assist the ECQ to determine if there are roughly the same number of electors in each ward. It is calculated by dividing the total number of

enrolled electors in a local government area by the number of councillors, excluding the mayor.

Brisbane ward enrolment is allowed to deviate within plus or minus 10 percent of the quota.

Brisbane City Council's enrolment as of 31 August 2026

As of 31 August 2026, Brisbane has the following enrolment data.

- Total enrolment – 863,382
- Number of Councillors (excluding the Mayor) - 26
- Quota – 33,207
- Lower limit (-10%) – 29,886
- Upper limit (+10%) – 36,528

The enrolment review found Calamvale ward is outside the enrolment quota range. Additionally, projected enrolment data suggests Calamvale, Central, Hamilton and The Gabba wards may exceed the allowable limits by 2032 if their boundaries remain unchanged**.

The LGCC is seeking public feedback on where divisional boundaries should change to bring all wards into quota, taking into account potential future population growth.

The table below provides the current and projected enrolment data for all wards in Brisbane.

Ward	Enrolment as at 31 August 2026	Deviation from quota	Projected enrolment as at 31 March 2032	Projected deviation from quota
Bracken Ridge	32,322	-2.67%	33,276	-5.57%
Calamvale	37,784	**13.78%**	39,260	**11.41%**
Central	32,729	-1.44%	39,005	**10.69%**
Chandler	30,973	-6.73%	31,931	-9.39%
Coorparoo	32,871	-1.01%	36,644	3.99%
Deagon	36,008	8.43%	36,775	4.36%
Doboy	31,729	-4.45%	33,363	-5.32%
Enoggera	33,637	1.29%	34,910	-0.93%

Forest Lake	35,218	6.06%	36,549	3.72%
Hamilton	34,264	3.18%	39,594	**12.36%**
Holland Park	32,780	-1.29%	33,875	-3.87%
Jamboree	31,817	-4.19%	32,636	-7.38%
McDowall	34,425	3.67%	36,886	4.68%
MacGregor	31,238	-5.93%	34,864	-1.06%
Marchant	35,033	5.50%	36,912	4.75%
Moorooka	31,456	-5.27%	32,332	-8.25%
Morningside	31,867	-4.04%	32,588	-7.52%
Northgate	34,359	3.47%	35,400	0.46%
Paddington	33,450	0.73%	35,222	-0.05%
Pullenvale	33,881	2.03%	34,800	-1.24%
Runcorn	31,752	-4.38%	32,437	-7.95%
Tennyson	30,995	-6.66%	32,510	-7.74%
The Gabba	32,686	-1.57%	38,911	**10.42%**
The Gap	34,009	2.42%	35,762	1.49%
Walter Taylor	34,102	2.70%	36,779	4.37%
Wynnum-Manly	31,997	-3.64%	32,970	-6.44%

*In the table above, percentage deviations outside the plus or minus 10 per cent threshold are bolded in red.

**The projections are provided as an indication of future population growth. The Queensland Government Statistician's Office have prepared projections using the latest available information and the real outcome is expected to vary from the provided figures.

How you can have your say

Anyone who has a suggestion about how the ward boundaries should be changed to bring them into quota is encouraged to make a submission to the LGCC during the 21-day consultation period ending on Monday, 7 December 2026.

The LGCC has released a wide range of information to inform the public about the divisional boundary reviews, and help submitters provide informed suggestions on changes to the ward boundaries. An interactive map displaying current and projected enrolment figures as well as downloadable enrolment data and spatial files are available on the Electoral Commission of Queensland website.

Submissions can be made until 5:00pm, Monday, 7 December 2026 by:

- Online form: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/BrisbaneBoundaryReview-survey
- Email: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
- Mail: Local Government Change Commission
  GPO Box 1393, Brisbane QLD 4001

All submissions will be handled in accordance with the LGCC publication guidelines. The LGCC will also consider applications for late submissions.

If you require any assistance lodging your submission, please contact the ECQ on 1300 881 665.

Frequently asked questions

1. **Do the boundaries of the out of quota ward need to change?**
   Yes, under section 17(3) of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, each ward of Brisbane must have a reasonable proportion of electors (quota). Wards with enrolment outside the allowed quota must have their boundaries redrawn to bring them back into allowable limits. This upholds the democratic principle of 'one vote, one value'.

2. **Will the other boundaries of wards that are in quota need to change?**
   Maybe. Ensuring all wards contain a reasonable proportion of electors (quota) may require consequential changes adjacent wards as well as to wards further afield, even if they are currently in quota.

3. **When will the new divisional boundaries come into effect?**
   The new ward boundaries will come into effect at the 2028 local government elections.