

## DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY REVIEWS

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) periodically reviews the internal boundaries of divided councils to ensure each division or ward has relatively the same number of enrolled voters (quota).

This upholds the key democratic principle of 'one vote, one value' so that each person's vote carries the same weight.

Divisional boundary reviews are conducted in accordance with the [Local Government Act 2009](#) for all divided Queensland councils, except Brisbane which is governed by the [City of Brisbane Act 2010](#).

### Determining the quota

A council's quota is determined by dividing the total number of enrolled voters by the number of councillors, excluding the mayor. A deviation of plus or minus 10% is allowed for a council with more than 10,000 voters. A 20% deviation is allowed for all other councils.

### Selecting boundaries

Should one or more divisions/wards be out of quota, some internal boundaries will have to be shifted to evenly distribute the number of enrolled voters in each council area. When doing this, the Change Commission endeavours to select prominent natural or man-made features for use as boundaries that are easy to identify.

The geographical hierarchy below indicates how the Change Commission will select boundaries and label them on a map:

- roads
- railways
- waterways
- national parks, mountain ridges, forests, reserves

- other official boundaries –
  - state electorates
  - localities (suburbs)
- cadastral property descriptions using the lot and plan

It is important to note each review is different and the prioritisation of features may vary.

### Review timeframes

Divided councils must confirm the number of enrolled voters within their divisions/wards and notify the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) and the Electoral Commissioner of the results by:

- Brisbane City Council (BCC): 1 October, two years before the next local government elections.
- Divided councils (excl Indigenous): 1 March, the year before the next local government elections.

If a review of divisional boundaries is required, this must be conducted in the year before a Local Government Quadrennial Election.

As part of this process, the Change Commission will publish a review timetable on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) website and begin public consultation. Once the 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.