



Hon Steven Miles MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,  
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: [REDACTED]

Your ref: [REDACTED]

- 1 JUN 2021

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ABN 65 959 415 158

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM  
Electoral Commissioner  
Electoral Commission Queensland  
[REDACTED]

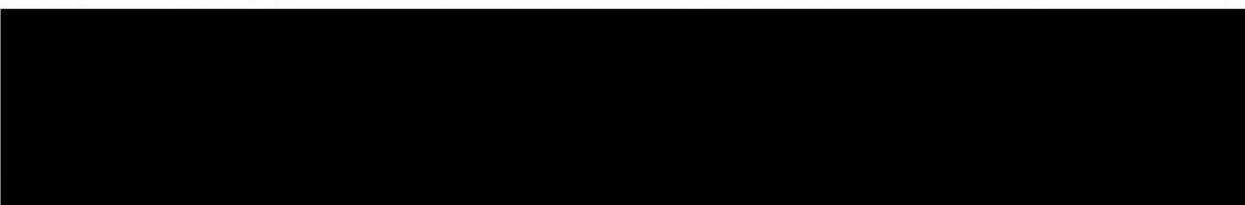
Dear Mr Vidgen

I am writing to you in response to your information brief regarding impending boundary review work to be undertaken by the Change Commission (the Commission). In particular, you were seeking advice on any additional instruction I may have regarding those boundary reviews.

**Rockhampton Regional Council/Livingstone Shire Council**

In relation to the proposed boundary change for the Rockhampton Regional Council and the Livingstone Shire Council, I request that the Commission:

- engages the Queensland Treasury Corporation or other suitably qualified financial expert to undertake the review of the finances and financial impacts associated with the proposed change
- undertakes a poll of all electors, in both the Livingstone Shire Council and the Rockhampton Regional Council local government areas, rather than just undertaking consultation with directly affected residents
- makes the completed review into financial and community impacts publicly available prior to the poll
- consult with stakeholders, such as the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department), the Queensland Treasury Corporation and the local governments to consider and make recommendations on the following issues should it be recommended that the proposed boundary change occur:
  - the transfer of assets and liabilities of the affected local governments
  - the application of existing statutory instruments, including local laws and planning schemes
  - any consequential amendments to the local government arrangements for the affected local governments.



[REDACTED]

Thank you for the update on the important work by the Commission and I look forward to hearing about the outcomes.

I have asked for [REDACTED] Regional Director, Strategy and Service Delivery, in the department to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



**STEVEN MILES MP**  
**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
**Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,**  
**Local Government and Planning**



Minister for Local Government,  
Minister for Racing and  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: [REDACTED]

31 JAN 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM  
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Electoral Commission Queensland  
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ABN 65 959 415 158

Dear Pat

I am writing to you about a meeting that I held on 21 June 2018 with the Mayors of Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council regarding a significant Local Government change that would involve the transfer of the suburbs of Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale from Livingstone Shire Council's Local Government area to Rockhampton Regional Council's Local Government area.

As you are aware, on 1 January 2014, Livingstone Shire Council was de-amalgamated from Rockhampton Regional Council. The de-amalgamation occurred along the former boundary of Livingstone Shire Council that was in place prior to the amalgamation of 14 March 2008. I am advised though that the residents of Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale wish to return to Rockhampton Regional Council's Local Government area.

I note that each of these Local Governments have advised me that, subject to conditions of ongoing financial sustainability, they substantively support the proposal to change the Local Government boundaries of Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council to align with communities of interest. It was agreed at the June meeting that I would refer this proposal to the Local Government Change Commission to obtain resolution to this matter.

Having considered the matter, I consider it appropriate under section 18 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) to refer the proposal to you for independent assessment and determination by the Local Government Change Commission. Given the nature and scale of the Local Government change, I believe it appropriate to provide direction to the Local Government Change Commission in accordance with section 19(4) of the Act, which I have provided in the enclosed Terms of Reference.

I have asked for [REDACTED] Regional Director, Local Government and Regional Services (North) in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP  
Minister for Local Government,  
Minister for Racing and  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Enc

# Terms of Reference

## Local Government boundary change proposal Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council

### Background

On 1 January 2014, the Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale areas north of Rockhampton were transferred to Livingstone Shire Council (Livingstone SC) following its de-amalgamation from the Rockhampton Regional Council (Rockhampton RC), an outcome supported by approximately 56 per cent of the Livingstone Shire. These suburbs had been part of Livingstone SC at the time of amalgamation in 2008 and thus were returned to the Shire as part of the de-amalgamation process.

In 2014, Livingstone SC conducted a poll canvassing residents of these areas as to whether they wished to either remain with the Livingstone SC or alter the Local Government's boundaries and be included within Rockhampton RC. The poll was conducted on a voluntary basis with approximately 65 per cent of eligible voters electing to participate. The localities of Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale voted 75 per cent, 71.5 per cent and 61.9 per cent respectively to return to the Rockhampton RC.

In October 2016, Rockhampton RC stated that it was prepared to make a financial contribution to Livingstone SC for the boundary realignment. The contribution would amount to \$1.8 million per year for three years and was calculated based on:

- the transfer of 1,170 properties from Livingstone SC to Rockhampton RC
- the amount levied by Livingstone SC's for general rates in its 2014 Revenue Statement

Rockhampton RC stated that there was a precedent for such an arrangement, citing the transfer of Parkhurst to the then Rockhampton City Council from Livingstone SC in 1985 which also entailed the payment of compensation to Livingstone SC.

Following on from the Minister for Local Government's offer to mediate this matter in April 2018, the Minister for Local Government and the Mayors of each Local Government met in Rockhampton on 21 June 2018 to discuss the proposed boundary change.

As agreed with the Mayors at this meeting, the Minister for Local Government would refer the boundary change proposal to the Local Government Change Commission to obtain a resolution to this matter.

### Subject area

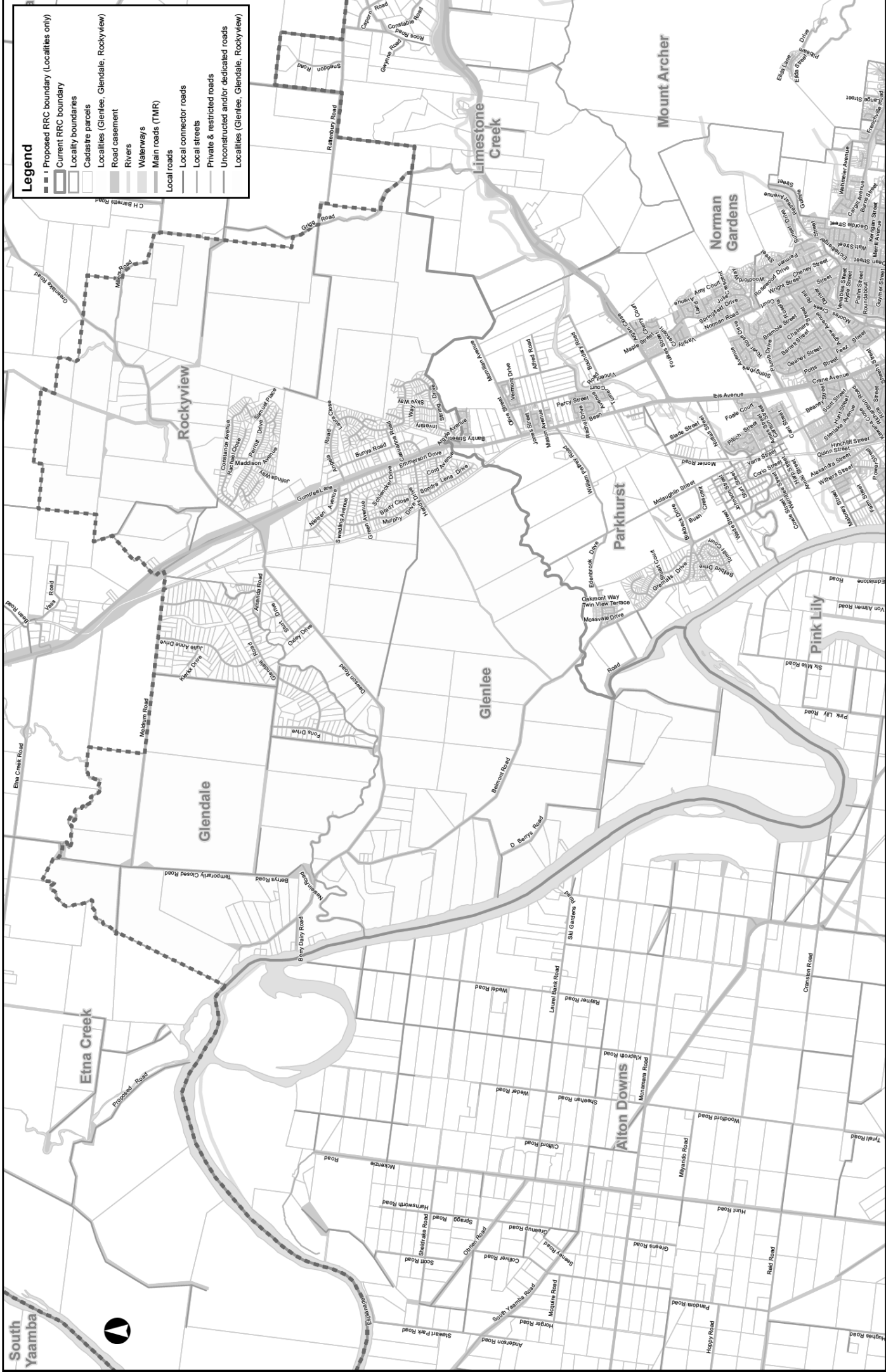
The proposed Local Government boundary change comprises the transfer of three suburbs, Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale, from Livingstone SC to Rockhampton RC. A map of the proposed boundary change is provided at **Attachment 1**.

### Local Government boundary change referral

Pursuant to section 18 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Minister for Local Government refers the proposed boundary change for independent review and assessment to the Local Government Change Commission.

Pursuant to section 19(4) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Minister for Local Government directs the Local Government Change Commission to conduct its assessment of the proposed Local Government change in the following way:

- Consult with the affected Local Government and residents of the affected communities to gauge the level of support for the Local Government boundary change.
- Conduct a review of the financial sustainability of Livingstone SC and Rockhampton RC to determine whether proceeding with implementation of the proposed boundary change (or not) will adversely impact the immediate and/or ongoing financial position and sustainability of the two Local Governments. Both local government authorities shall have input into their respective financial sustainability reviews, such input to be considered prior to any decision on a boundary change being made.
- Provide advice to the Minister for Local Government on the boundaries of each Local Government area taking into account;
  - communities of interest that may exist between the two Local Government Authorities;
  - relative financial disadvantage and the likely impact on service use and capacity to raise own source revenue;
  - reasonable town planning requirements to accommodate population growth;
  - reciprocal use of services and infrastructure; and
  - the enhancement of mutual lifestyle and economic development opportunities.
- Provide advice to the Minister for Local Government on the number and distribution of divisions in Rockhampton RC should the Local Government boundary change occur.
- Provide advice to the Minister for Local Government about the timing of the implementation of the potential Local Government boundary change taking into account;
  - the impact on each Local Government's long- term financial sustainability;
  - likely changes that will impact on rateable properties in the foreseeable future;
  - reasonable town planning requirements to accommodate population growth;
  - the reciprocal use of services and infrastructure across both regions;
  - preparation of their electoral rolls; and
  - the identification of divisional boundaries and associated quotas.
- Determine the classification of each Local Government area
- Consult with the impacted communities regarding the name of each Local Government area
- Provide advice to the Minister for Local Government on the number of Councillors for Livingstone SC and Rockhampton SC should the Local Government boundary change occur.



Map 1 - Proposed LGA boundary changes

Coordinate System: GDA 1984 MGA Zone 56  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: GDA 1984

0 300 600 1,200 1,800 2,400  
Metres  
Map created at A3