

APPENDIX B

Minister's Referral



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

Our ref: MC19/1182

03 APR 2019

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Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission Queensland
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Pat

I am writing to you in relation to a Local Government electoral review that was undertaken by the Fraser Coast Regional Council in preparation for the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections.

I have received correspondence from Mr Ken Diehm, Chief Executive Officer of the Council dated 28 February 2019 advising of the results of the review, including that the number of electors is out of the quota of a reasonable proportion of electors in a number of divisions, as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act).

The number of electors in Division 3, which stretches from the Bruce Highway in the west to the Mary River in the south and Saltwater Creek in the north, is 11 per cent fewer electors than the average and may be attributed to population migration from rural areas to the urbanised centres. This may also be the case in Division 4, which is still within the quota range but almost at the lower limit of population.

Division 5, which stretches from Nikenbah to Burrum Heads and incorporates the emerging coastal centres of Craginish, Dundowran Beach and Toogoom, has 10 per cent more electors than the average. The population increase may be attributed to additional land being available for residential subdivision on the fringes of Hervey Bay City.

The number of electors in Division 8, which stretches from Susan River to Eli Waters, is 14 per cent more electors than the average. Similarly, the population increase may be attributed to additional land being available for residential subdivision.

The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs sought information from the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning about the development and population trends in the Fraser Coast Regional Council. I am advised the key differences in trends relate to the fact that Division 5 and Division 8 cover growth areas around Hervey Bay, while Division 3 is located in an area experiencing less development in and around the northern area of Maryborough. It was considered that Division 5 and Division 8 are likely to continue to experience growth at a higher rate than Division 3.

As you are aware, section 18 of the Act provides that only I may apply to the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) for an assessment of a proposed Local Government change. Further, under section 19 of the Act, the Change Commission must consider whether the Local Government change is consistent with the Act and must consider my views on any proposed changes.

Having examined the Council's submission, I consider it appropriate to refer the matter to you for independent assessment and determination by the Change Commission. I recommend that in assessing any changes to divisional boundaries, the Change Commission consider the potential population changes associated with the population migration from rural areas in Division 3 and Division 4 to the growing urbanised and coastal centres in Division 5 and increasing populations in the new residential subdivisions in Division 5 and Division 8.

I have asked for Mr Daniel Westall, Manager, Governance Local Government Division in the Department to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact Mr Westall on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



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