LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

Review of Divisional Boundaries

2019 PROPOSED DETERMINATION ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

The *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* (the Act) provides for a Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission). The Change Commission is responsible for periodically reviewing the internal boundaries of divided councils so that each division has relatively the same number of enrolled voters. This upholds the key democratic principle of 'one vote, one value', by ensuring each person's vote carries the same weight.

On 3 April 2019, the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP referred a divisional boundary review of the Isaac Regional Council (see Appendix A).

The Change Commission for this review consists of:

- Mr Pat Vidgen, Electoral Commissioner;
- Ms Jennifer Lang, Casual Commissioner; and
- Mr Wade Lewis, Casual Commissioner.

The casual commissioners were appointed by the Governor in Council on 1 November 2018.

Endorsement of proposal

This report outlines the Change Commission's proposed boundaries for the electoral divisions of the Isaac Regional Council.

Pat Vidgen PSM Electoral Commissioner

Jennifer Lang Casual Commissioner

Wade Lewis Casual Commissioner

THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Change Commission must ensure each division of the Council has a reasonable proportion of enrolled voters, herein referred to as 'quota'. Where possible, community interests, public submissions and easy-to-identify boundaries are also considered.

Assessments are conducted in any way the Change Commission deems appropriate, unless the Minister has provided specific directions.

The process for the divisional boundary review of Isaac is as follows:

- 1. Invite suggestions
- 2. Publish the Change Commission's proposal
- 3. Invite comments on the proposal
- 4. Publish the Change Commission's final determination report
- 5. Final determination report provided to the Minister for Local Government, for implementation by the Governor in Council
- 6. New boundaries come into effect at the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Election

Determining the quota

A quota is determined by dividing the total number of enrolled voters by the number of councillors (other than the mayor), plus or minus 10%. The Change Commission also considers projected enrolment, so the divisions remain in quota for as long as possible.

Current enrolment data has been sourced from Queensland's electoral roll and projected enrolment data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office of Queensland Treasury. Projections are based on the timing of future local government quadrennial elections.

Enrolment information is organised around 'Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1)'. SA1s are geographical units used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the release of census data. According to the ABS most SA1s have a population of between 200 to 800 persons with an average population of approximately 400 people.

Current and projected enrolment data are available for download on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) website.

CURRENT BOUNDARIES & ENROLMENT

The Isaac Regional Council has 11,326 voters and is divided into eight single-member electoral divisions plus a mayor. Table 1 shows the Council's current enrolment quota as at 31 January 2019 and the projected quota for 31 March 2024.

Table 2 shows the current and projected enrolment for the Council's existing divisional boundaries. As at 31 January 2019, Divisions 1 and 6 were out of quota and in 2024, Divisions 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 are projected to be out of quota.

Table 1 – Current and Projected Council Quota					
31 January 2019 31 I		31 March 2024			
Number of divisions	8	8			
Enrolment	11,326	11,373			
Quota per division	1,416	1,422			
Quota (+10%) per division	1,557	1,564			
Quota (-10%) per division	1,274	1,280			

Table 2 – Current and Projected Enrolment for the Existing Electoral Divisions					
Division	as at 31/01/2019 from Quota Enrolment a		Projected Enrolment as at 31/03/2024	(%) Deviation from Quota	
Division 1	1,228	-13.26	1,247	-12.28	
Division 2	1,355	-4.29	1,254	-11.79	
Division 3	1,502	6.09	1,639	15.29	
Division 4	1,509	6.59	1,537	8.12	
Division 5	1,459	3.05	1,499	5.44	
Division 6	1,590	12.31	1,660	16.77	
Division 7	1,288	-9.02	1,241	-12.71	
Division 8	1,395	-1.47	1,296	-8.84	

PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

The Change Commission sought public suggestions to assist in developing its proposal. Advertisements were placed in The Courier-Mail, a local newspaper and on the ECQ's social media platforms.

Suggestions were invited from 27 April 2019 to 5pm 13 May 2019. Two submissions were received and are available to view on the ECQ website or at Appendix B.

The Isaac Regional Council recommended in its review of divisional enrolment on 13 February 2019, that changes be made to the boundary between Divisions 1 and 6. The Change Commission modelled this suggestion, however found that the change did not completely satisfy the enrolment requirements of the Act. Additional changes in the area were required and the boundaries of Division 6 have been contracted to the urban centre of Clermont.

The other submitter expressed dissatisfaction with the current divisions, suggesting the area return to the boundaries that existed prior to the local government amalgamations. This submission is outside the scope of this review and was unable to be considered.

THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The proposed boundaries for the Isaac Regional Council are detailed below. They bring enrolment in each division into quota and the Change Commission has made a concerted effort to unite suburbs and communities of interest where possible.

Table 3 shows the current and projected enrolment for the proposed electoral divisions. Maps of the proposed divisions are in Appendix C and interactive maps are available to view on the ECQ website.

Table 3 – Current and Projected Enrolment for the Proposed Electoral Divisions					
Division	Division as at 31/01/2019 from Quota Enro				
Division 1	1,296	-8.46	1,333	-6.23	
Division 2	1,431	1.08	1,326	-6.73	
Division 3	1,365	-3.58	1,475	3.75	
Division 4	1,452	2.56	1,490	4.81	
Division 5	1,448	2.28	1,492	4.95	
Division 6	1,335	-5.7	1,392	-2.08	
Division 7	1,475	4.19	1,442	1.43	
Division 8	1,524	7.65	1,423	0.1	

Division 1

As Division 1 needed to increase electors and the neighbouring Division 6 exceeded the quota, a boundary change between these divisions was necessary. The Change Commission has proposed changes to bring the Division into quota and unite suburbs where possible.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- **a.** Gains a greater portion of the Clermont suburb, excluding the urban centre, from Division 6;
- **b.** Transfers the Wolfang suburb, part of the Clermont suburb and a portion of the Gemini Mountains suburb to Division 2; and
- **c.** Transfers the balance of the Neebo and Epsom suburbs and the entire locality of Coppabella to Division 8.

The proposed Division has 1,296 voters which is -8.46% below quota and is predicted to have 1,333 voters by 2024 which would be -6.23% below quota.

Division 2

A couple of changes are proposed to improve Division 2's current and projected enrolment.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- **a.** Gains the entire Wolfang suburb and a portion of Clermont from Division 1; and
- **b.** Gains a portion of the Gemini Mountains suburb from Divisions 1 and 7.

The proposed Division has 1,431 voters which is 1.08% above quota and is predicted to have 1,326 voters by 2024 which would be -6.73% below quota.

Division 3

Division 3 is projected to exceed the quota by 2024 and changes have been proposed to balance its enrolment. The proposed northern boundary follows Bernborough Avenue, Rupert Street and Mills Avenue.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

a. Transfers a portion of the Moranbah suburb to Divisions 4 and 5.

The proposed Division has 1,365 voters which is -3.58% below quota and is predicted to have 1,475 voters by 2024 which would be 3.75% above quota.

Division 4

A couple of changes have been proposed to Division 4 to better balance enrolment across Divisions 3, 4 and 5. The proposed northern boundary crosses Mills Avenue and follows the lot boundaries of the houses on Forrest Drive and Watkins Street, re-joins Mills Avenue, then follows Rupert Street and Bernborough Avenue.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- **a.** Gains a portion of the Moranbah suburb from Division 3; and
- **b.** Transfers a portion of the Moranbah suburb to Division 5.

The proposed Division has 1,452 voters which is 2.56% above quota and is predicted to have 1,490 voters by 2024 which would be 4.81% above quota.

Division 5

A few changes have been proposed to Division 5, to help balance the current and projected enrolment in neighbouring Divisions 3, 4 and 7. Division 5 now takes in the more rural areas north of the lot boundaries of the houses on Forrest Drive, Watkins Street and Mills Avenue. The houses to the south-west of Goonyella Road (SA1 3134101 and SA1 3134115) have been shifted to Division 7.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- **a.** Gains portions of the Moranbah suburb from Divisions 3 and 4; and
- **b.** Transfers a portion of the Moranbah suburb to Division 7.

The proposed Division has 1,448 voters which is 2.28% above quota and is predicted to have 1,492 voters by 2024 which would be 4.95% above quota.

Division 6

Division 6 has contracted to hold the urban centre of Clermont. This has reduced its enrolment and brought it into quota, while also holding together the urban community of interest.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

a. Transfers its more rural portions of the Clermont suburb to Division 1.

The proposed Division has 1,335 voters which is -5.7% below quota and is predicted to have 1,392 voters by 2024 which would be -2.08% below quota.

Division 7

A couple changes are proposed to improve Division 7's current and projected enrolment.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains a portion of Moranbah (SA1 3134101 and SA1 3134115) from Division 5; and
- **b.** Transfers its portion of the Gemini Mountains suburb to Division 2.

The proposed Division has 1,475 voters which is 4.19% above quota and is predicted to have 1,442 voters by 2024 which would be 1.43% above quota.

Division 8

Changes are proposed to improve Division 8's projected enrolment and unite suburbs.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

a. Gains the balance of the Neebo and Epsom localities and the entirety of the Coppabella suburb from Division 1.

The proposed Division has 1,524 voters which is 7.65% above quota and is predicted to have 1,423 voters by 2024 which would be 0.1% above quota.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL INVITED

Comments on this proposal are invited until 5pm, 8 July 2019 and can be lodged through:

Online Form	Email
https://ecq.qld.gov.au/lgr/isaac	LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
Personal Deliverv	Post
Personal Delivery	Post
Electoral Commission of Queensland	Local Government Change Commission
•	

It is recommended that those submitting comments:

- consider the enrolment requirements outlined in the Act and in this report;
- clearly state which division/s your comment relates to;
- provide supporting information for why you support or oppose a proposed boundary change or public submission; and
- if you oppose a change, provide alternative boundary suggestions and reasoning.

FINALISING THE REVIEW

After reviewing the public comments on the proposal, the Change Commission will make a final determination on the Council's divisional boundaries.

The results of a Change Commission review must be provided to the Minister for Local Government. A notice of results is published in a local newspaper, the Queensland Government Gazette and on the ECQ website.

A decision of the Change Commission is not subject to appeal.

IMPLEMENTATION

A local government change can only be implemented by the Governor in Council under a regulation.

The regulation may provide for anything that is necessary or convenient to facilitate the change.

APPENDIX A

Minister's Referral



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

Our ref: MC19/802

0 3 APR 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM Electoral Commissioner Electoral Commission Queensland GPO Box 1393 BRISBANE QLD 4001 1 William Street Brisbane Queensland 4000 PO Box 15009 City East Queensland 4002 **Telephone +61 7 3719 7560 Email** Igrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au **Website** www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158

Dear Pat

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

I have received correspondence from Mr Gary Stevenson, Chief Executive Officer of the Council dated 13 February 2019 advising of the results of the review, including that the Council's Division 1 and Division 6 do not have a reasonable proportion of electors as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act). Mr Stevenson also proposed amendments to the boundaries of Division 1 and Division 6 to bring the proportion of electors in both divisions within the required range.

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 boundary changes to Division 1 and Division 6 proposed by the Council. A copy of the Council's review is enclosed.

I have asked Mr Daniel Westall, Manager Governance, Local Government Division in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact Mr Westall on **Control on the Second Sec**

Yours sincerely

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

Enc

APPENDIX B

Public Suggestions

List of Public Suggestions

Divisional Boundary Review of Isaac Regional Council

Suggestion	Name / Organisation		
1	Isaac Regional Council		
2	Racheal		

Amy Chang

From:	Liza Perrett
Sent:	Wednesday, February 13, 2019 10:40 AM
То:	Minister for Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs
Cc:	LG Boundaries; Daniel Westall; Governance
Subject:	Isaac Regional Council - Change Proposal - 2020 Quadrennial Elections Government
	Boundaries
Attachments:	ECM_3656754_v4_Local Govt Change Proposal - Local Government Boun.pdf

Hello

Please find attached correspondence in response to the invitation to make submissions on any proposed Local Government changes and requests for postal voting for the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Elections.

Attached is Isaac Regional Council's submission following its consideration of the matter on 29 January 2019. I note that the hardcopy has been forwarded via certified mail.

Should you need any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Liza Perrett, Manager Governance & Corporate Services on **Service Services** or **Service Service**.

Kind Regards

Liza Perrett Manager | Governance & Corporate Services | Corporate, Governance & Financial Services Ph: Mobile: Mobile: 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27) PO Box 97 | MORANBAH QLD 4744



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S-1

Our Ref.: GS:LP:3656754 Your Ref.: CCA/000013

EMAIL TO -

13 February 2019

Hon Stirling Hinchliffe Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs PO BOX 15009 CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister

RE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL 2020 QUADRENNIAL ELECTIONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

Thank you for your correspondence received on 19 September 2018 in relation to the Local Government Change Commission (LGCC) process for submitting local government change proposals in preparations for the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Elections.

On 29 January 2019 Isaac Regional Council considered its proportion of electors across its eight (8) divisions and preference for postal ballot to ensure accessibility for remote areas to participate in the elections.

At this meeting in January 2019, Council resolved (resolution number #5821) to:

- 1. Endorse the amendments to the Isaac Regional Council Local Government Divisional Boundaries for the upcoming 2020 Local Government Elections to redistribute Division 1 & 6 as per the attached Map Number 2078-1 (ECM document ID number: 3656891);
- 2. Resolve that Council make application to the Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to conduct the Isaac Regional Council 2020 Local Government Elections for Divisions 1 & 8;
 - a. by 'postal ballot' due to the convenience, practicability and cost savings in utilising the postal ballot method, with the option to implement electronically assisted voting if appropriate and feasible.

During the review it was evident that Divisions 1 & 6 were both outside the reasonable proportion of electors within divisions, as per s15 of the *Local Government Act 2009*. Attachment 1 & 2 provide the proposed amendments to the boundaries of Divisions 1 & 6, which will bring both divisions within the requirements of the legislation. The following table highlights the impact on elector numbers with this proposal.

		#As at Jan 19			Proposed		
Div		# Election	equal %	+/-10%	# Electors	equal %	+/-10%
1	Glenden & Clermont Rural	1,221	1,411	-13.43	1,327	1,411	-5.92
6	Clermont	1,589	1,411	12.66	1,483	1,411	5.14

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In addition, this letter formally requests the Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to favourably consider conducting the Isaac Regional Council 2020 Local Government Elections for Divisions 1 & 8 by 100% postal vote, as per the 2016 Local Government Quadrennial Elections.

Both Division 1 and Division 8 areas currently cover a significantly large proportion of the Isaac local government area. These areas demonstrate a large rural and remote area, including extensive distances between residences with minimal centres in the region. These distances and large areas support making practical arrangements for these electors to access appropriate voting methods so not to disadvantage them from their democratic responsibilities. For each division neither have a main centre that services the whole area. Both main towns are at the northern point of the division (Glenden and Nebo), with a majority of the electors considered to be in rural and remote areas.

It is noted that depending on the outcome of the boundary review of Division 1, it may be determined this area be a partial postal vote for electors located within or close to the town centre of Clermont.

Please don't hesitate to contact Liza Perrett on (07) should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully



Encl

• Attachment 1 – Map depicting current Divisions 1 & 6 with proposal marked.

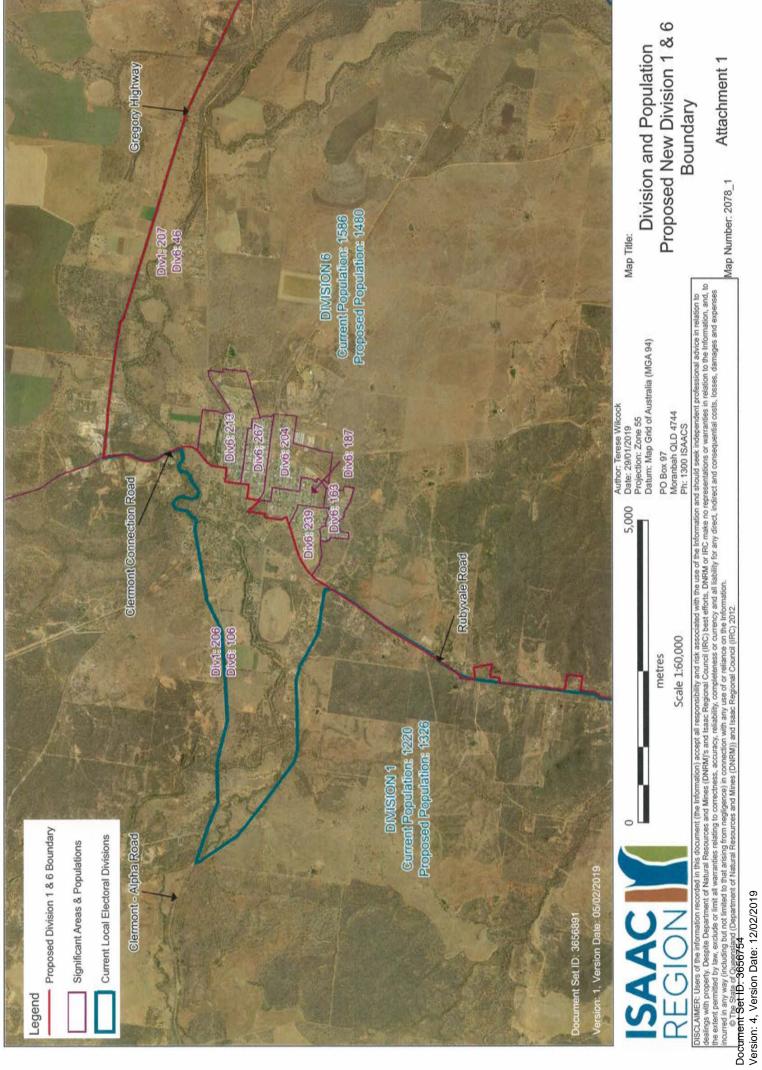
This attachment shows the proposed boundary changes to Division 1 & 6, which took into respect the Statistical Areas Level 1. ECM document ID number: 3656891

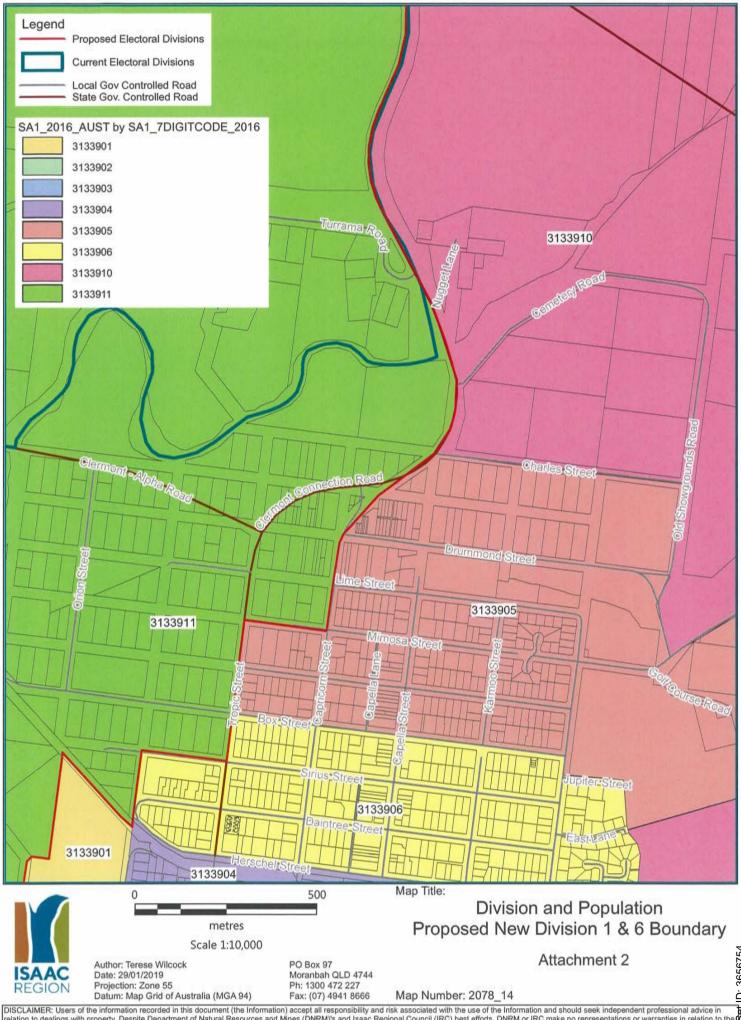
If the Division 1 boundary is moved (in part) to run along the Statistical Areas (SA) Level 1 line (identified as A) that goes down the middle of the page (i.e. most pink western line), both Divisions will be amended to meet the population proportion required as per legislation.

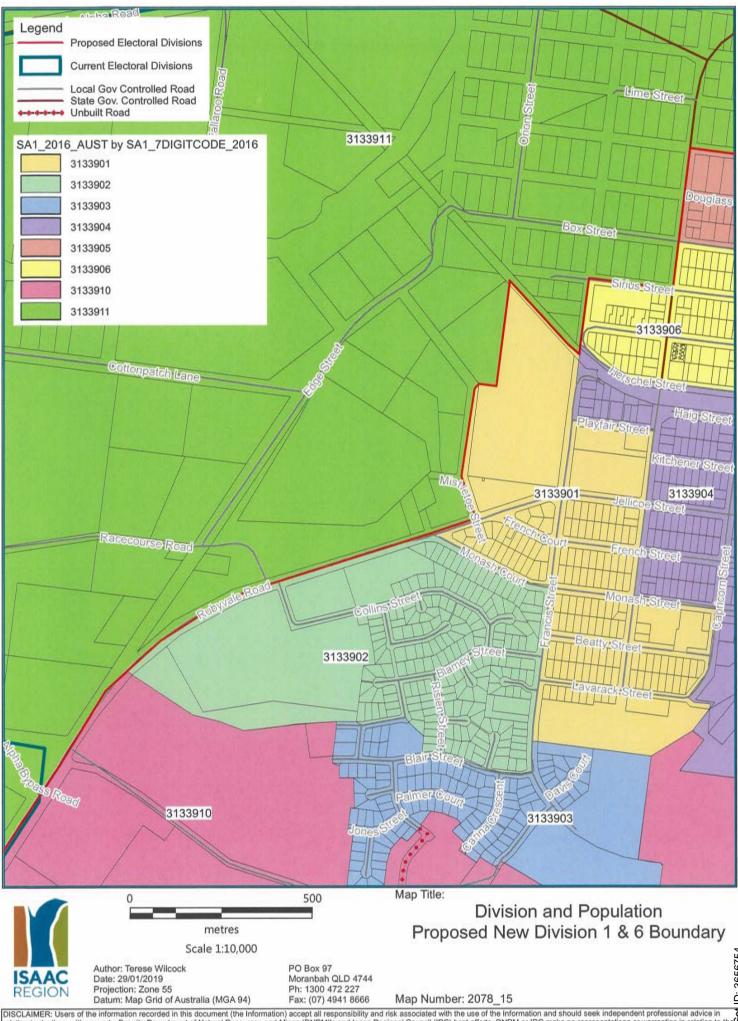
- Attachment 2 Street Maps of Divisions 1 & 6, with proposal marked.
 - Provides a more details map at street level identifying where this proposed new divisional boundary would exist.

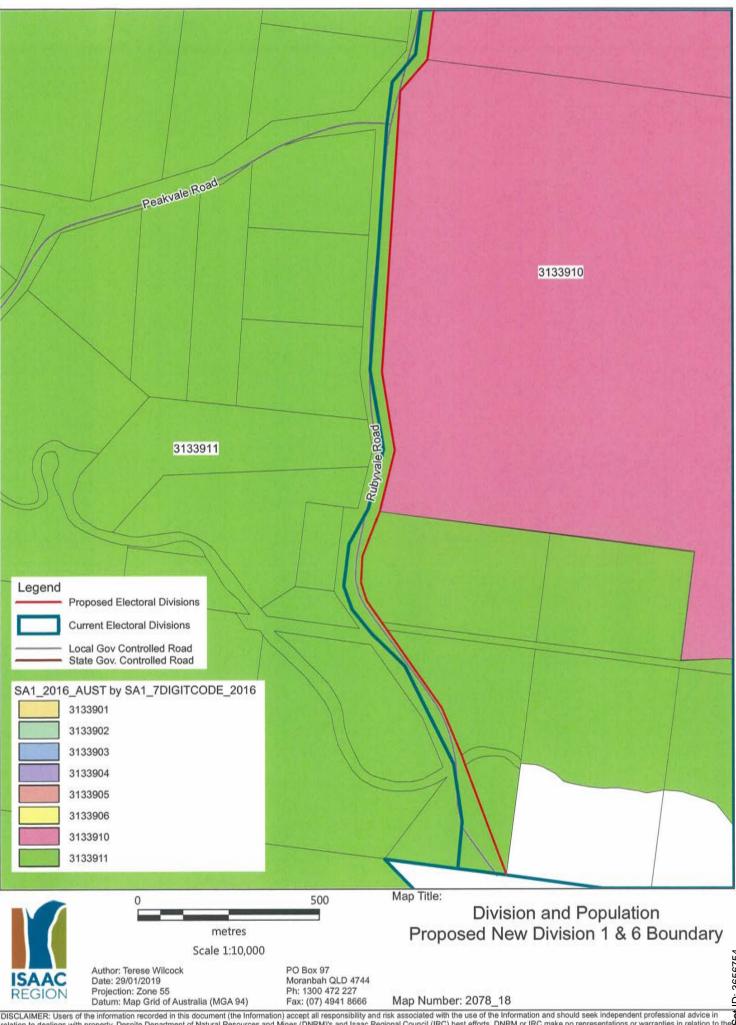
Maps providing 7-digit SA1 codes on the maps to assist the Change Commission to easily identify the SA1s involved in the proposed changes

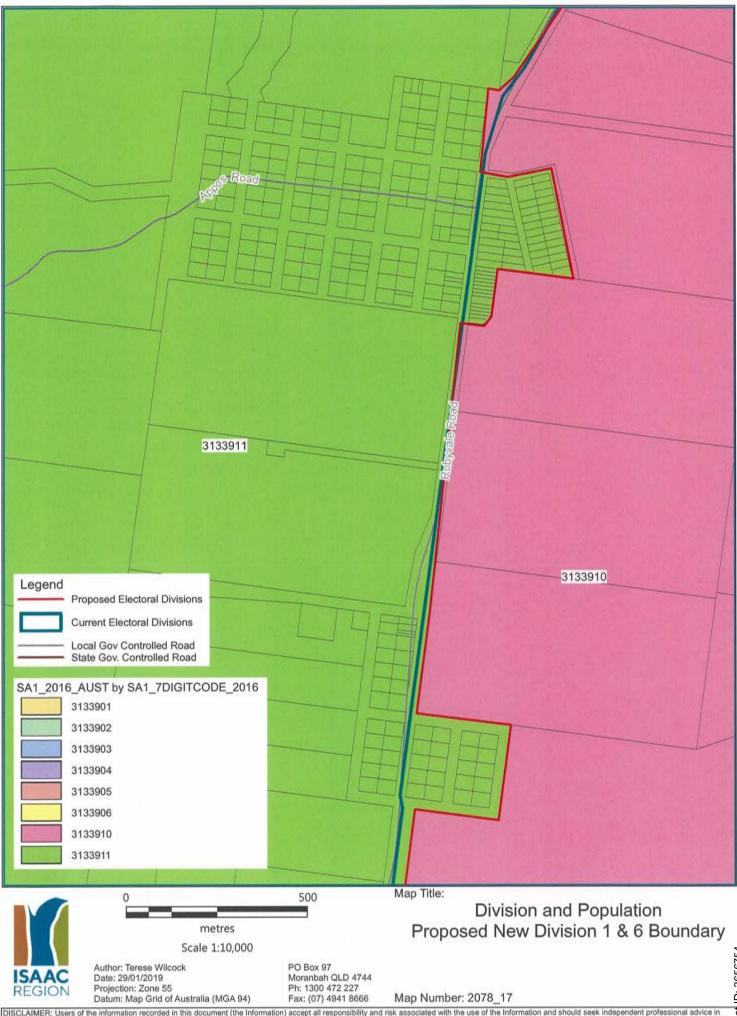
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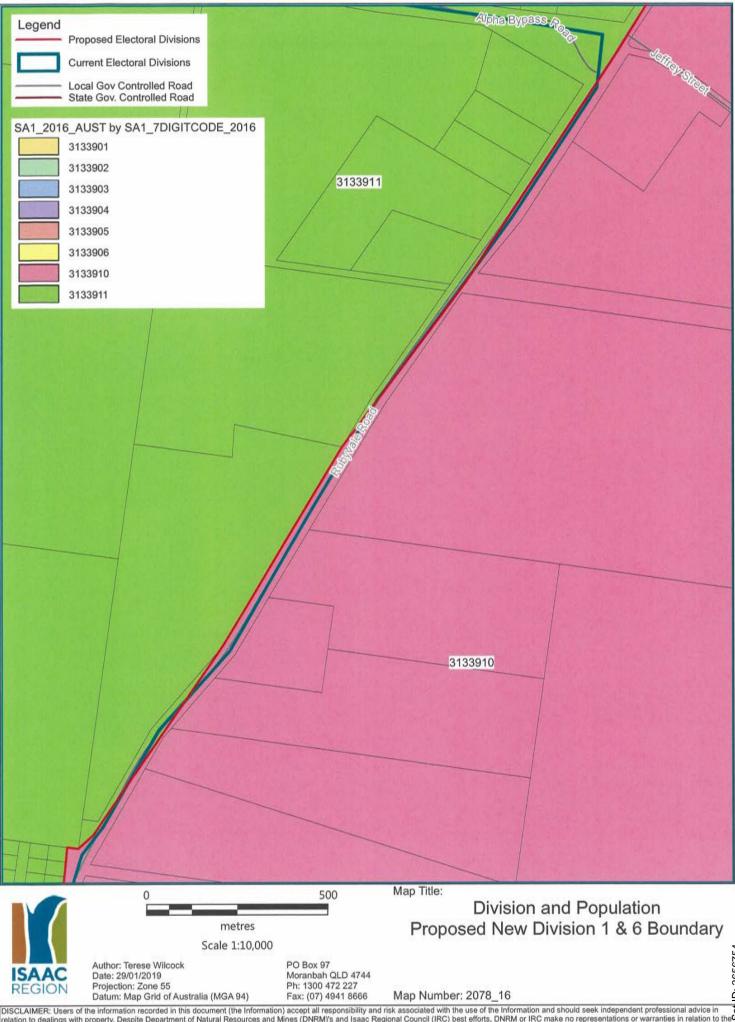












From:noreply@ecq.qld.gov.auSent:Saturday, 4 May 2019 4:43 PMTo:LG CC SubmissionsSubject:(78685) Isaac Regional Local Government Area - Racheal

Online submission for Isaac Regional Local Government Area from Racheal

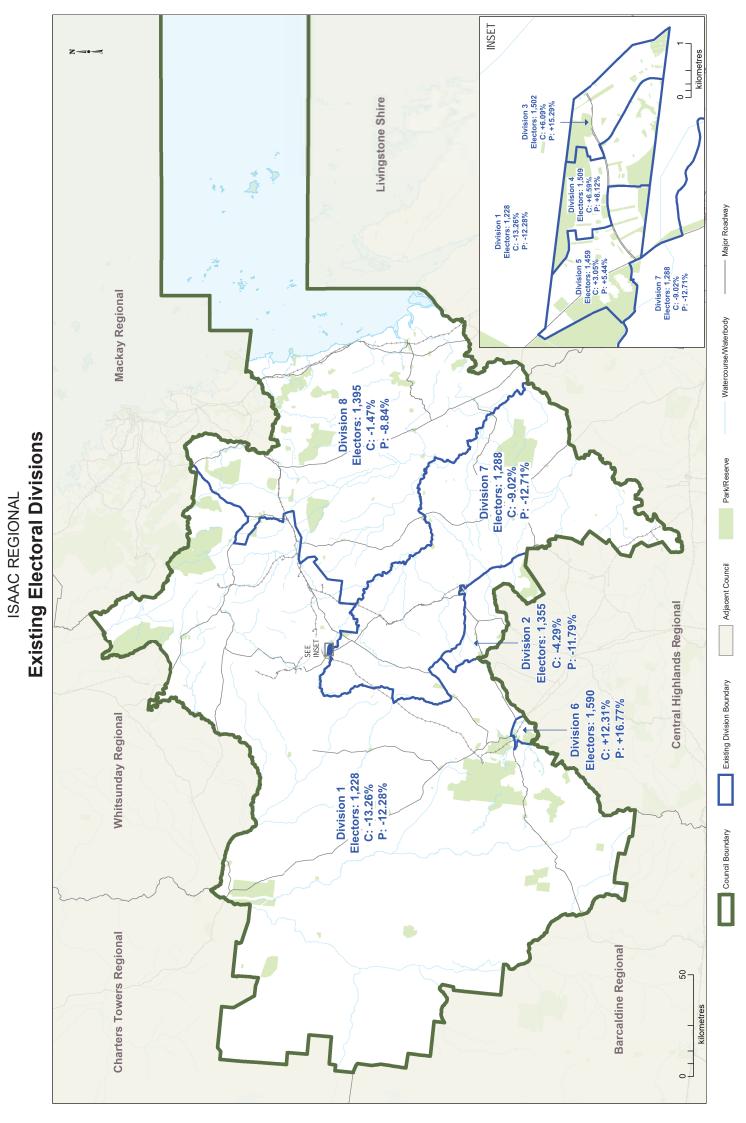
Submission Details

Name: Racheal

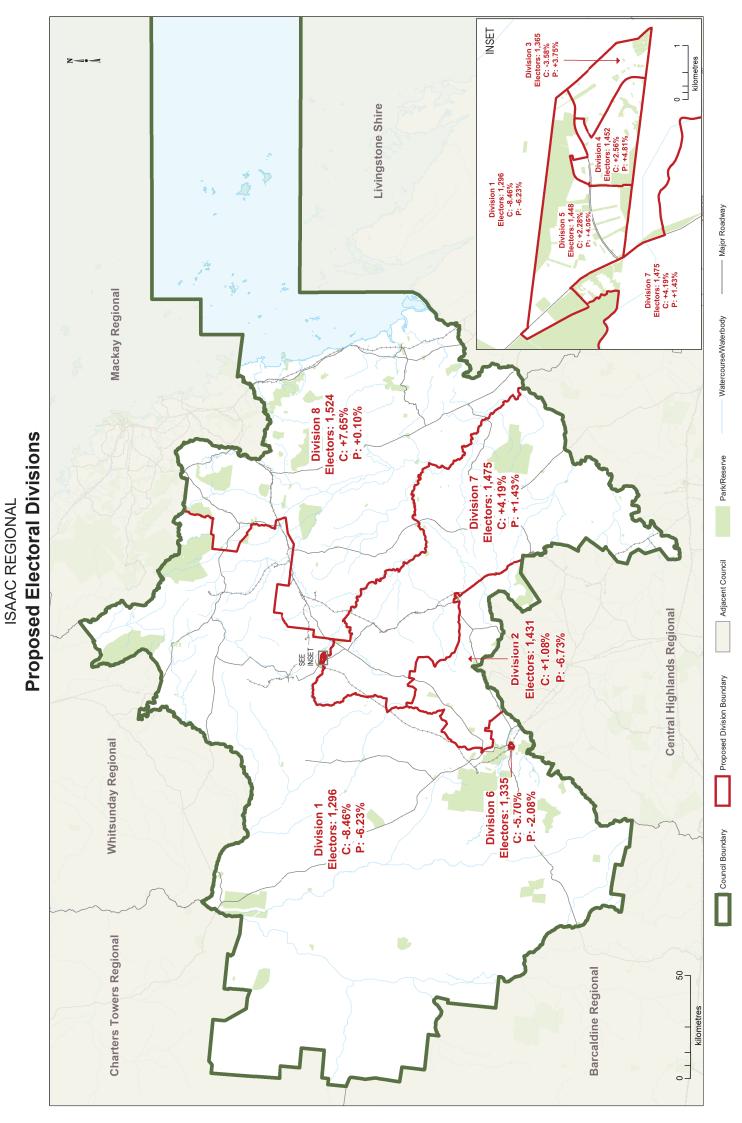
Submission Text: The Issac region should be split up Moranbah to me I way in one and the central highlands and belyando should go back to its original form! Since the amalgamation happened Clermont has seen nothing good from it, instead we are now paying far more in terms or rates and our drinking water went backwards! I believe if you go back to the origin! form of shire we had the voting side will go back to normal was never a problem until the merge is without proper care or input from the communities File Upload: No file uploaded ()

APPENDIX C

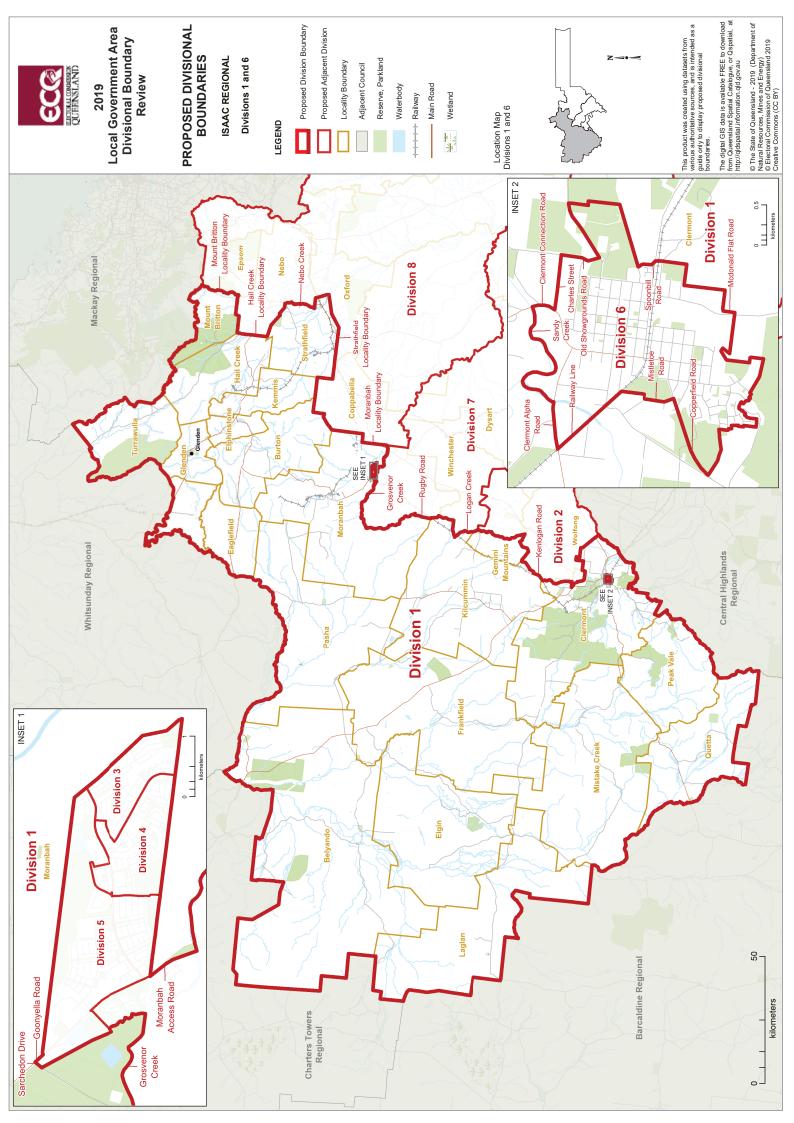
Maps

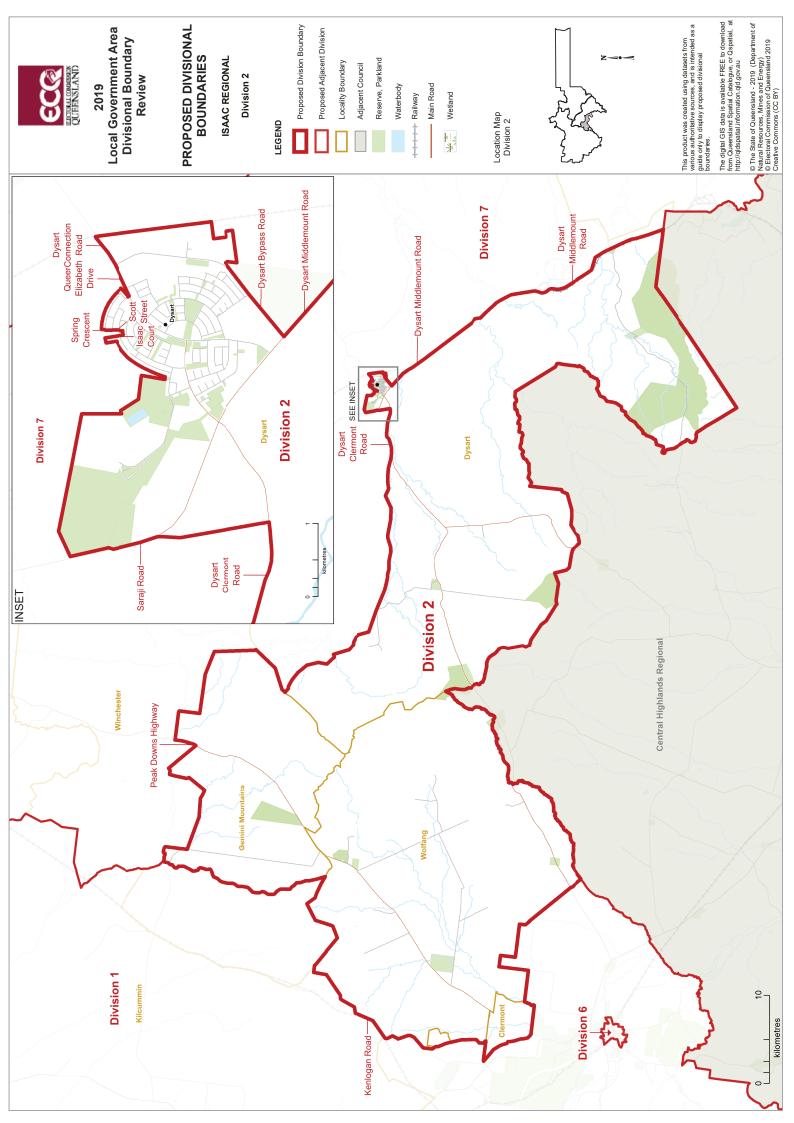


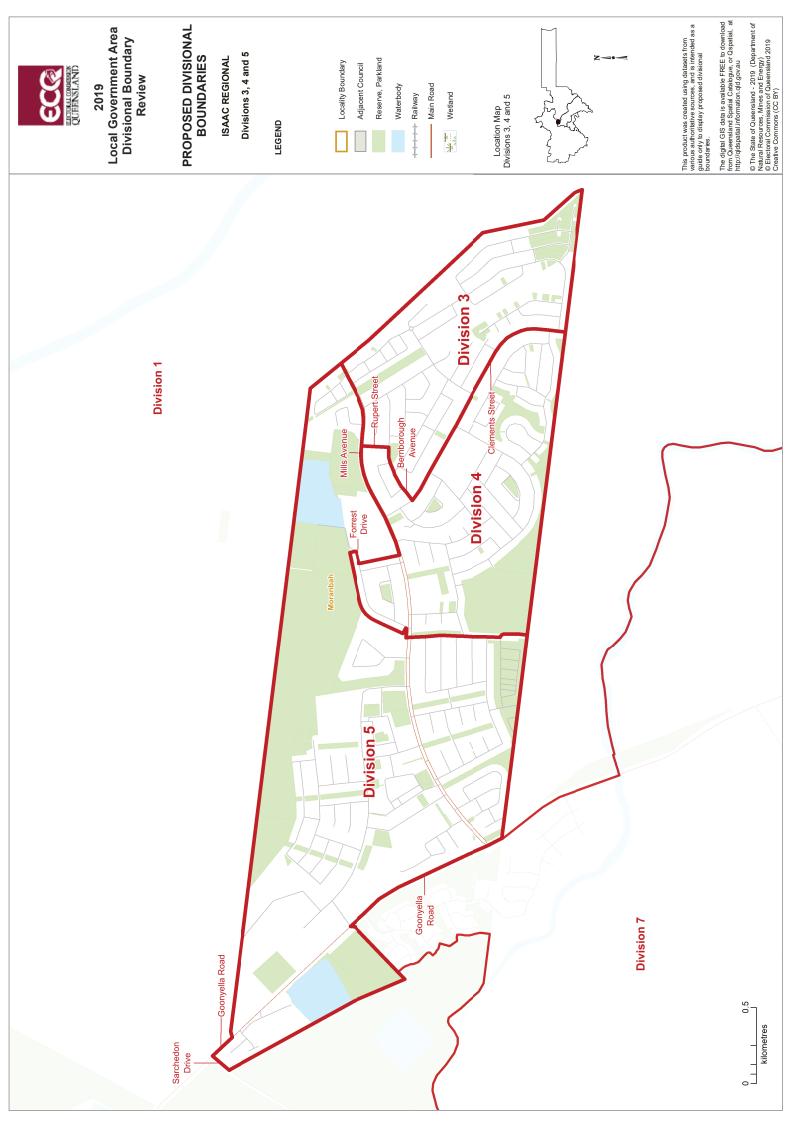
This product was created using datasets from various authoritative sources, and is intended as a guide only to display current divisional boundaries. The digital GIS data is available FREE to download from Queensland Spatial Catalogue, or Qspatial, at http://qidspatial.information.qid.gov.au © The State of Queensland - 2019 (Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy), © Electoral Commission of Queensland 2019. Creative Commons (CC BY)

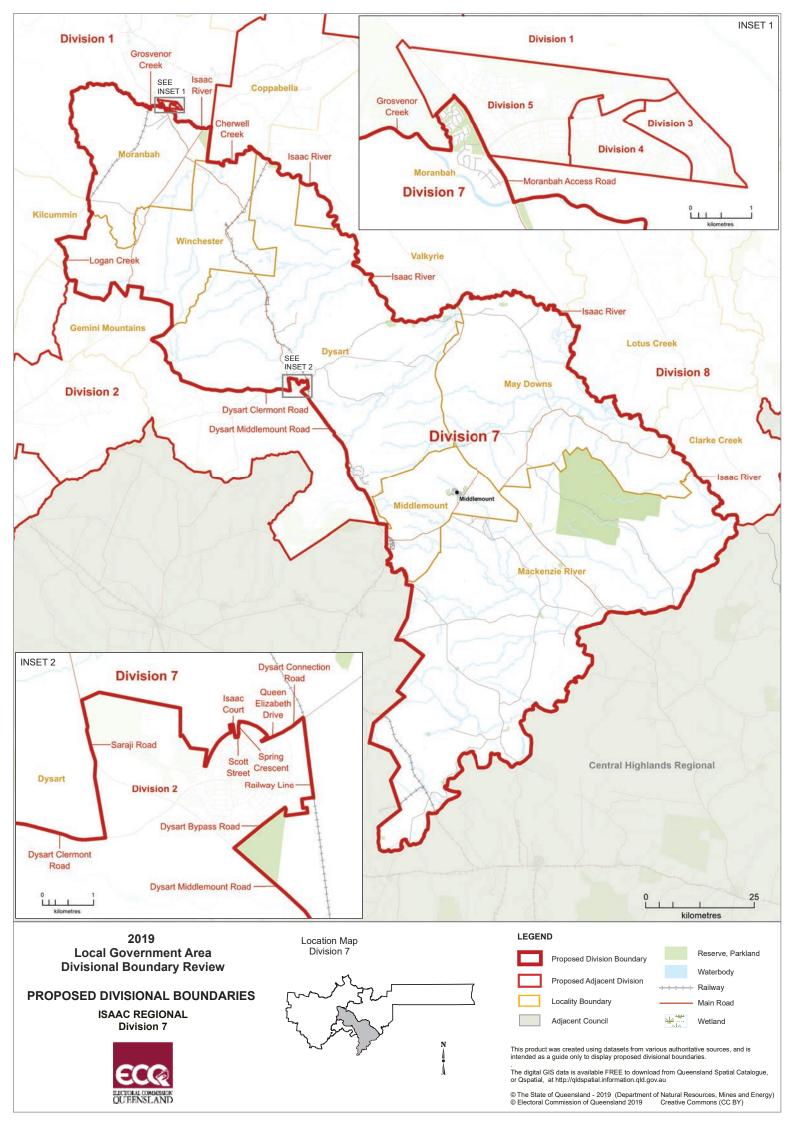


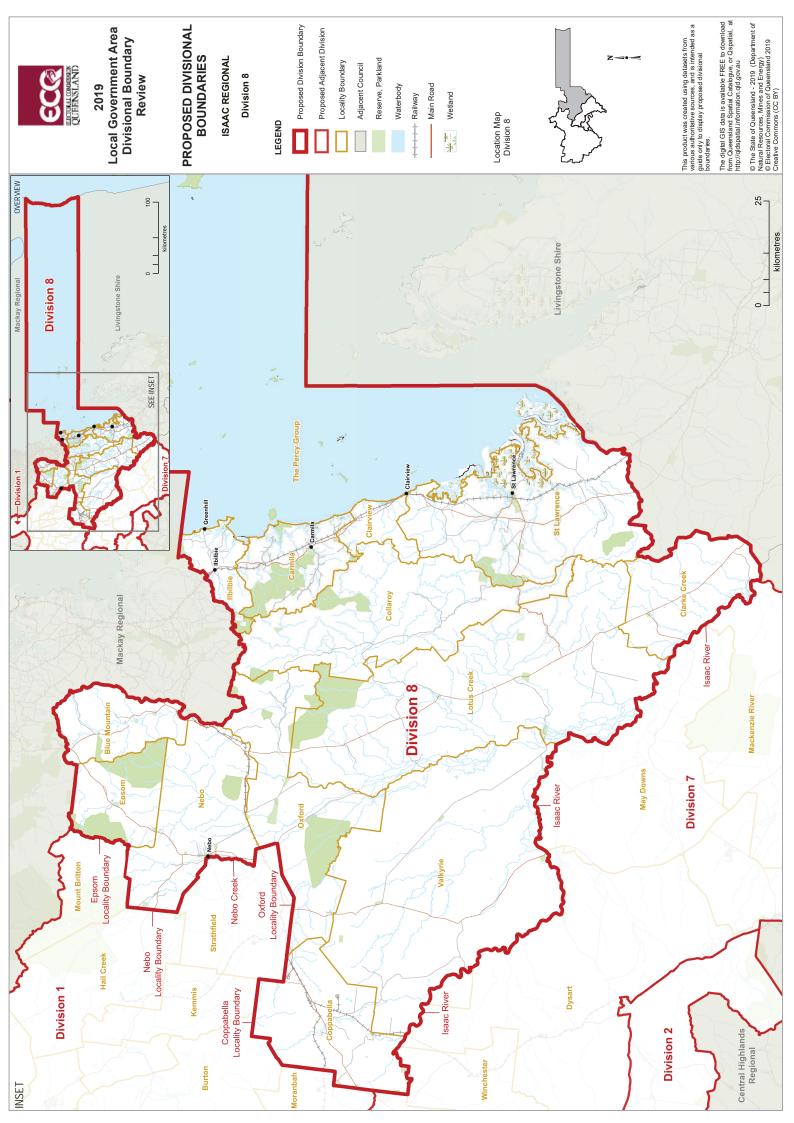
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

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