Review of Divisional Boundaries

2019 PROPOSED DETERMINATION TOWNSVILLE CITY 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 17 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 Townsville City Council (see Appendix A).

The Change Commission for this review consists of:

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

The casual commissioner was 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 Townsville City Council.

Pat Vidgen PSM Electoral 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 this divisional boundary review is:

- 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 based on '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 Townsville City Council webpage on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) website.

EXISTING BOUNDARIES & ENROLMENT

The Townsville City Council has 127,521 voters and is divided into ten single-member electoral divisions plus a mayor. Table 1 shows the Council's current enrolment quota as at 31 January 2019 and the quota projected for 31 March 2024.

Table 2 shows the current and projected enrolment for the Council's existing divisional boundaries. As at 31 January 2019, Division 2 had exceeded the enrolment quota and Division 8 was close to the lower limit of the quota. In 2024, Divisions 2, 7 and 8 are projected to be out of quota.

| Table 1 – Current and Projected Enrolment Quota | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--|
| | 31 January 2019 | 31 March 2024 | |
| Number of divisions | 10 | 10 | |
| Enrolment | 127,521 | 135,928 | |
| Average enrolment per division | 12,752 | 13,593 | |
| Average enrolment (+10%) per division | 14,027 | 14,952 | |
| Average Enrolment (-10%) per division | 11,477 | 12,234 | |

| Table 2 – Summary of Enrolment for the Existing Divisions | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Division | Enrolment as at 31/01/2019 | (%) Deviation from Average Enrolment | Projected Enrolment as at 31/03/2024 | (%) Deviation from Average Enrolment |
| Division 1 | 13,221 | 3.68 | 14,649 | 7.77 |
| Division 2 | 14,089 | 10.48 | 16,931 | 24.56 |
| Division 3 | 13,052 | 2.35 | 13,772 | 1.32 |
| Division 4 | 12,642 | -0.86 | 13,013 | -4.27 |
| Division 5 | 12,925 | 1.36 | 13,149 | -3.26 |
| Division 6 | 12,567 | -1.45 | 13,057 | -3.94 |
| Division 7 | 12,204 | -4.3 | 12,219 | -10.11 |
| Division 8 | 11,580 | -9.19 | 11,734 | -13.67 |
| Division 9 | 12,153 | -4.7 | 12,602 | -7.29 |
| Division 10 | 13,088 | 2.63 | 14,802 | 8.9 |

PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

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

Suggestions were invited from 27 April to 5pm 20 May 2019. Two submissions were received and are available to view at Appendix B.

In its review of divisional enrolment on 28 February 2019, the Townsville City Council recommended minimal change to bring enrolment in Divisions 2 and 8 into quota, including:

- excising a portion of Mount Louisa south of Bayswater Road from Division 1 and including it in Division 8; and
- excising a portion of Deeragun south of the Pacific Coast Way (Bruce Highway) from Division 2 and including it in Division 1.

The Change Commission supported the need to address enrolment in the areas suggested by the Council, however has proposed some alternative or additional modifications to further balance the current and projected divisional enrolment.

As both Divisions 7 and 8 are projected to be out of quota in 2024, the Change Commission has proposed boundaries that result in a more sustainable enrolment balance for both Divisions. It is proposed that parts of Mount Louisa and Cosgrove be transferred into Division 7, thereby enabling Division 7 to transfer part of Cranbrook in the south into Division 8.

As Division 2 already has too many voters (10.48%) and is projected to be significantly out of quota by 2024 (24.56%), the Change Commission supported the Council's suggestion regarding Deeragun, however has proposed transferring the entire suburb rather than a portion into Division 1. It also proposed adding parts of Yabulu, Beach Holm, Black River and Saunders Beach into Division 2, thereby bringing both Divisions 1 and 2 closer to the average enrolment.

The other public suggestion requested Cungulla be transferred into the Burdekin Shire Council. This submission was outside the scope of this internal boundary review. The Change Commission cannot consider transferring parts of a council to a neighbouring council unless an external boundary review is referred to it. The Ministerial referral for this review is to assess and correct enrolment within the Townsville City Council's internal divisions.

THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The proposed boundaries for the Townsville City Council are detailed below. They bring enrolment in each division into quota, whilst also catering for growth projected in certain parts of the region. The Change Commission has made a concerted effort to use easily identifiable features such as roads and waterways as boundaries.

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 on the ECQ website.

| Table 3 – Summary of Enrolment for the Proposed Divisions | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--------|--|--|
| Division | Enrolment as at 31/01/2019 | (%) Deviation Projected From Average Enrolment 31/03/2024 | | (%) Deviation from Average Enrolment | |
| Division 1 | 12,962 | 1.65 | 14,409 | 6 | |
| Division 2 | 11,875 | -6.88 | 14,477 | 6.5 | |
| Division 3 | 13,590 | 6.57 | 14,346 | 5.54 | |
| Division 4 | 12,642 | -0.86 | 13,013 | -4.27 | |
| Division 5 | 12,925 | 1.36 | 13,149 | -3.26 | |
| Division 6 | 12,567 | -1.45 | 13,057 | -3.94 | |
| Division 7 | 13,395 | 5.04 | 13,664 | 0.52 | |
| Division 8 | 13,185 | 3.39 | 13,278 | -2.32 | |
| Division 9 | 12,835 | 0.65 | 13,314 | -2.05 | |
| Division 10 | 11,545 | -9.47 | 13,221 | -2.74 | |

Division 1

The proposed boundaries of Division 1 have helped to better balance voter numbers in neighbouring Divisions 2 and 7, while also bringing Division 1 closer to the average enrolment.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the suburb of Deeragun from Division 2;
- **b.** Transfers most of Beach Holm and parts of Saunders Beach, Yabulu and Black River to Division 2: and
- c. Transfers its portions of the Cosgrove and Mount Louisa localities to Division 7.

The proposed Division has 12,962 voters which is 1.65% above average and is predicted to have 14,409 voters by 2024 which would be 6% above average.

Division 2

As Division 2 has exceeded the quota and is projected to be 24.56% above the average enrolment by 2024, the Change Commission has proposed transferring Deeragun to Division 1, as suggested in a public submission. To prevent voter numbers dropping too low in Division 2, or exceeding the enrolment quota in Division 1, the western boundary of Division 2 has been expanded to take in areas along the coast.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- **a.** Gains most of Beach Holm and parts of Saunders Beach, Yabulu and Black River from Division 1; and
- **b.** Transfers the entire Deeragun locality to Division 1.

The proposed Division has 11,875 voters which is -6.88% below average and is predicted to have 14,477 voters by 2024 which would be 6.5% above average.

Division 3

The Change Commission has proposed realigning the southern boundary of Division 3 in the Garbutt area to continue following the easily identifiable Ingham Road. Currently the existing boundary deviates from Ingham Road to follow Chandler Street and excises a residential portion of Garbutt that appears more connected to Division 3.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

a. Gains an additional portion of Garbutt from Division 8.

The proposed Division has 13,590 voters which is 6.57% above average and is predicted to have 14,346 voters by 2024 which would be 5.54% above average.

Division 4

No change is proposed for Division 4.

Division 5

No change is proposed for Division 5.

Division 6

No change is proposed for Division 6.

Division 7

Division 7 is projected to have too few voters by 2024 at -10.11%, while neighbouring Division 8 in the east is also projected to be out of quota at -13.67%. The Change Commission has therefore expanded Division 7 in a north-west direction to balance its enrolment.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- **a.** Gains part of Mount Louisa and Cosgrove from Division 1;
- b. Gains an additional portion of Mount Louisa from Division 8; and
- c. Transfers its portion of Cranbrook to Division 8.

The proposed Division has 13,395 voters which is 5.04% above average and is predicted to have 13,664 voters by 2024 which would be 0.52% above average.

Division 8

As Division 8 is currently close to falling outside the quota at -9.19%, the Change Commission has proposed expanding its boundaries in both the south-east and south-west.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains part of the Cranbrook locality from Division 7;
- **b.** Gains part of Rosslea and an additional portion of Mundingburra from Division 9;
- c. Transfers part of Garbutt situated north of Ingham Road to Division 3; and
- **d.** Transfers its portion of Mount Louisa to Division 7.

The proposed Division has 13,185 voters which is 3.39% above average and is predicted to have 13,278 voters by 2024 which would be -2.32% below average.

Division 9

The proposed boundaries of Division 9 unite the Railway Estate suburb within this Division, while also bringing Division 9 closer to the average enrolment. In addition, the changes more evenly balance the projected voter numbers in neighbouring Divisions 8 and 10.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- **a.** Gains the remainder of the Railway Estate locality from Division 10, establishing the Ross River as an easily identifiable boundary between these divisions; and
- b. Transfers a portion of Rosslea and Mundingburra to Division 8.

The proposed Division has 12,835 voters which is 0.65% above average and is predicted to have 13,314 voters by 2024 which would be -2.05% below average.

Division 10

As Division 10 is projected to be close to the upper limits of the quota in 2024 at 8.9%, it is proposed that the northern boundary contract to follow the Ross River. This offers the dual benefit of uniting the Railway Estate suburb entirely within Division 9 and also creates a strong and easily definable boundary between Divisions 9 and 10.

In proposing this change, the Change Commission recognises that Division 10 is close to the lower limit of the quota, However, it notes that enrolment in this Division is projected to move closer toward the average by 2024 and that the change has helped facilitate other changes that have balanced enrolment in Divisions 8 and Division 9.

The proposed Division has 11,545 voters which is -9.47% below average and is predicted to have 13,221 voters by 2024 which would be -2.74% below average.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL INVITED

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

Online FormEmailhttps://ecq.qld.gov.au/lgr/townsvilleLGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.auPersonal DeliveryPostElectoral Commission of Queensland
Level 20, 1 Eagle Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

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.

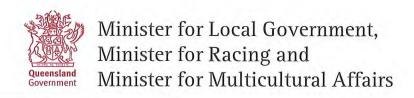
IMPLEMENTATION

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



Our ref: MC19/1380

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

17 APR 2019

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 Townsville City Council in preparation for the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections.

I have received a copy of the correspondence sent to you from Councillor Jenny Hill, Mayor of the Council, dated 28 February 2019 advising of the results of the review. I note this correspondence indicates that the projected number of electors in 2020 would be out of the quota of a reasonable proportion of electors as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) in Division 2. In addition, the Council also identified that the number of electors in Division 8 is approaching the lower quota limit for the Division.

I note the Council has requested that the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) considers resolving the imbalance of electors in these Divisions by:

- excising a portion of Mount Louisa (perhaps a portion south of Bayswater Road) from Division 1 and including it into Division 8
- excising a portion of Deeragun (perhaps a portion south of the Pacific Coast Way) from Division 2 and including it into Division 1.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning advised the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs regarding several current and planned developments in the Local Government area. These include Division 1 (Western development), Division 2 (Northern Beaches development), Divisions 4 and 6 (Upper Ross and The Pinnacles development), Divisions 3, 9 and 10 (City Central development) and Division 10 (Elliott Springs development). Populations in these areas may increase significantly by the 2024 elections. However, at this time, growth is understood to be stagnant due to available tradespeople working on reconstruction following the recent floods. This is likely to continue for at least the next 12 months.

As you are aware, section 18 of the Act provides that only I may apply to the 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.

I consider it appropriate to refer the matter to you for independent assessment and determination by the Change Commission. I recommend that in assessing the proposed changes to divisional boundaries in Divisions 2 and 8, the Change Commission considers the Council's request to excise portions of Mount Louisa and Deeragun, and the potential population increases from current or planned developments in Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Daniel Westall, Manager Governance, Local Government Division in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs. You may wish to contact Mr Westall on or by email at

Yours sincerely

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

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

APPENDIX B

Suggestions Notice & Public Submissions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION Divisional Boundary Review of Townsville City Council

The Townsville City Council has advised its electoral divisions no longer meet the voter enrolment requirements set down in the *Local Government Act 2009*. As a result, the Minister for Local Government has referred the matter to the Change Commission for independent assessment.

Enrolment Requirements

Each division of the Council is required to have relatively the same number of voters (quota) to ensure each person's vote has the same value. The quota for each division of the Townsville City local government area is 12,752 with a lower limit of 11,477 (-10%) and an upper limit of 14,027 (+10%).

For more information and enrolment statistics please see the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/lg-reviews/DBRs or phone 1300 881 665.

INVITATION FOR WRITTEN SUGGESTIONS

The Change Commission now invites suggestions regarding the divisional boundaries for the Townsville City Council. Submissions will be accepted until 5pm on 20 May 2019. Late submissions cannot be considered.

Submissions can be lodged through:

- Online Form (preferred) www.ecq.gld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/lg-reviews/DBRs
- Personal Delivery (Mon Fri 9.00am 5.00pm)
 Electoral Commission of Queensland
 Level 20, 1 Eagle Street
 BRISBANE QLD 4000
- Email LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
- Post
 Local Government Change Commission
 GPO Box 1393
 BRISBANE QLD 4001

Submissions will be made available for public inspection. To discuss any privacy concerns, please phone 1300 881 665.

Pat Vidgen PSM Electoral Commissioner

List of Public Suggestions Divisional Boundary Review of Townsville City Council

Suggestion Name / Organisation

- 1 Townsville City Council
- 2 Lyndon

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL



28 February 2019

PO BOX 1268, TOWNSVILLE QUEENSLAND 4810

13 48 10 enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au townsville.qld.gov.au

ABN: 44 741 992 072

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
The Electoral Commissioner of Qld
GPO Box 1393
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Vidgen

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 2018.

The following table records the number of electors enrolled in each division of the as-constituted Townsville City Council local government area as at 31 January 2019:

| Townsville | Enrolment | Average | Variation | Lower | Upper | Quota |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|----------|
| City Council | 31 Jan | Enrolment | % | Limit | Limit | Status |
| Division | 2019 | | | | | |
| DIVISION 1 | 13221 | 12752.1 | 3.68 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |
| | | | | | | Out of |
| DIVISION 2 | 14089 | 12752.1 | 10.48 | 11477 | 14027 | Quota |
| DIVISION 3 | 13052 | 12752.1 | 2.35 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |
| DIVISION 4 | 12642 | 12752.1 | -0.86 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |
| DIVISION 5 | 12925 | 12752.1 | 1.36 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |
| DIVISION 6 | 12567 | 12752.1 | -1.45 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |
| DIVISION 7 | 12204 | 12752.1 | -4.3 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |
| | | | | | | Close to |
| DIVISION 8 | 11580 | 12752.1 | -9.19 | 11477 | 14027 | Quota |
| DIVISION 9 | 12153 | 12752.1 | -4.7 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |
| DIVISION 10 | 13088 | 12752.1 | 2.63 | 11477 | 14027 | In Quota |

You will see that:

- Only Division 2 is presently outside the allowable quota variation because it has 62 more electors than the upper variation limit; and
- Division 8 is approaching having too few electors, in that it presently has only 103 more electors then the lower quota variation limit.

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL



Townsville City Council submits that it would be prudent to address both of those issues during the 2019 review.

Council submits that this could be achieved with minimal disruption to the other divisions by:

- excising a portion of Mount Louisa (perhaps a portion south of Bayswater Road) from Division 1 and including it into Division 8; and
- excising a portion of Deeragun (perhaps a portion south of the Pacific Coast Way) from Division 2 and including it into Division 1.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact my office on

Yours sincerely a

Mike Chiodo

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Sent: Monday, 6 May 2019 5:47 PM

To: LG CC Submissions

Subject: (78692) Townsville City Local Government Area - Lyndon

Online submission for **Townsville City Local Government Area** from **Lyndon**

Submission Details

Name: Lyndon

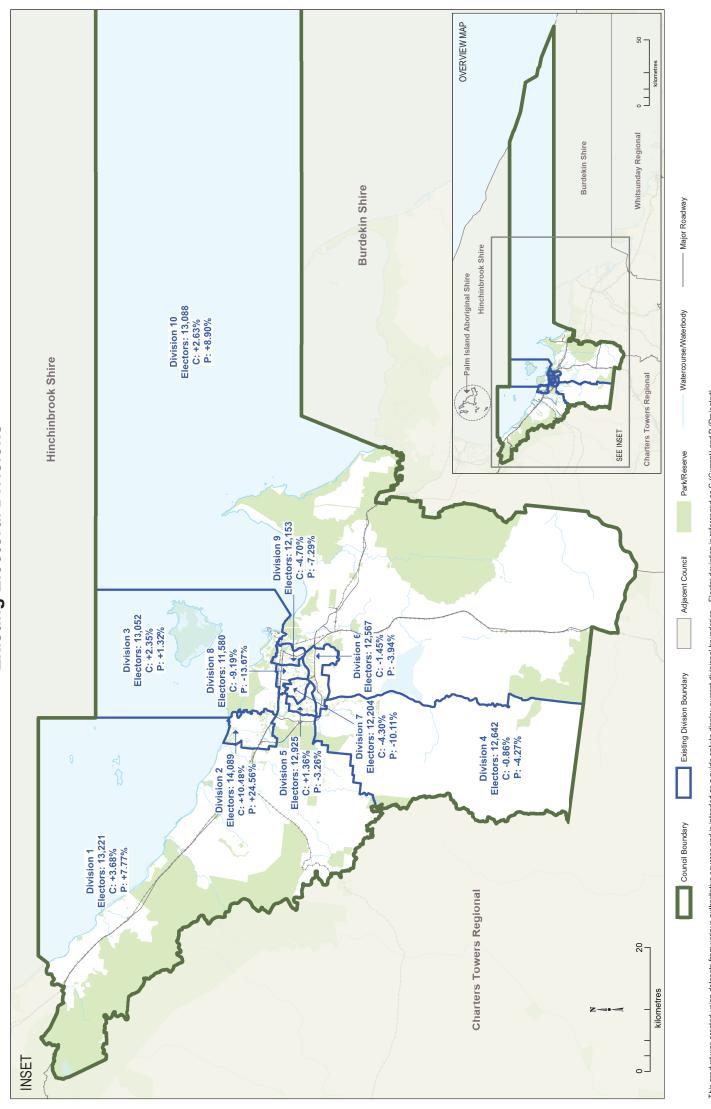
Submission Text: Please make Cungulla part of the Burdekin council. Thanks.

File Upload: No file uploaded ()

APPENDIX C

Maps of Proposed Divisions

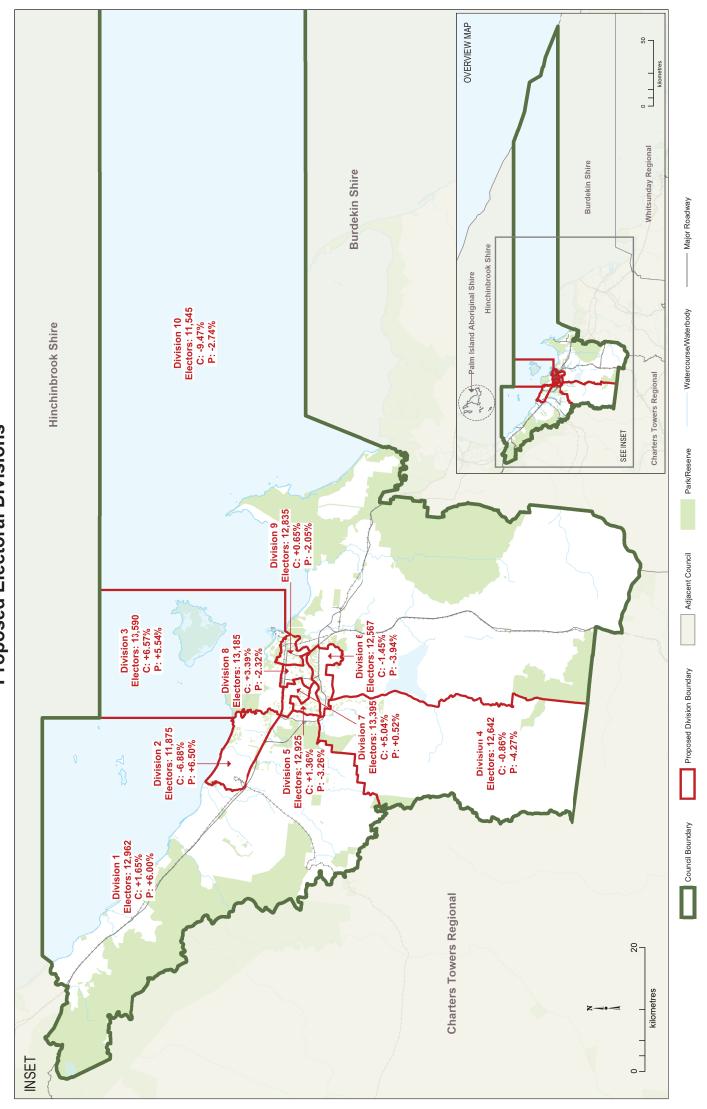
TOWNSVILLE CITY Existing Electoral Divisions



This product was created using datasets from various authoritative sources and is intended as a guide only to display current divisional boundaries. Elector deviation is referenced as C (Current) and P (Projected).

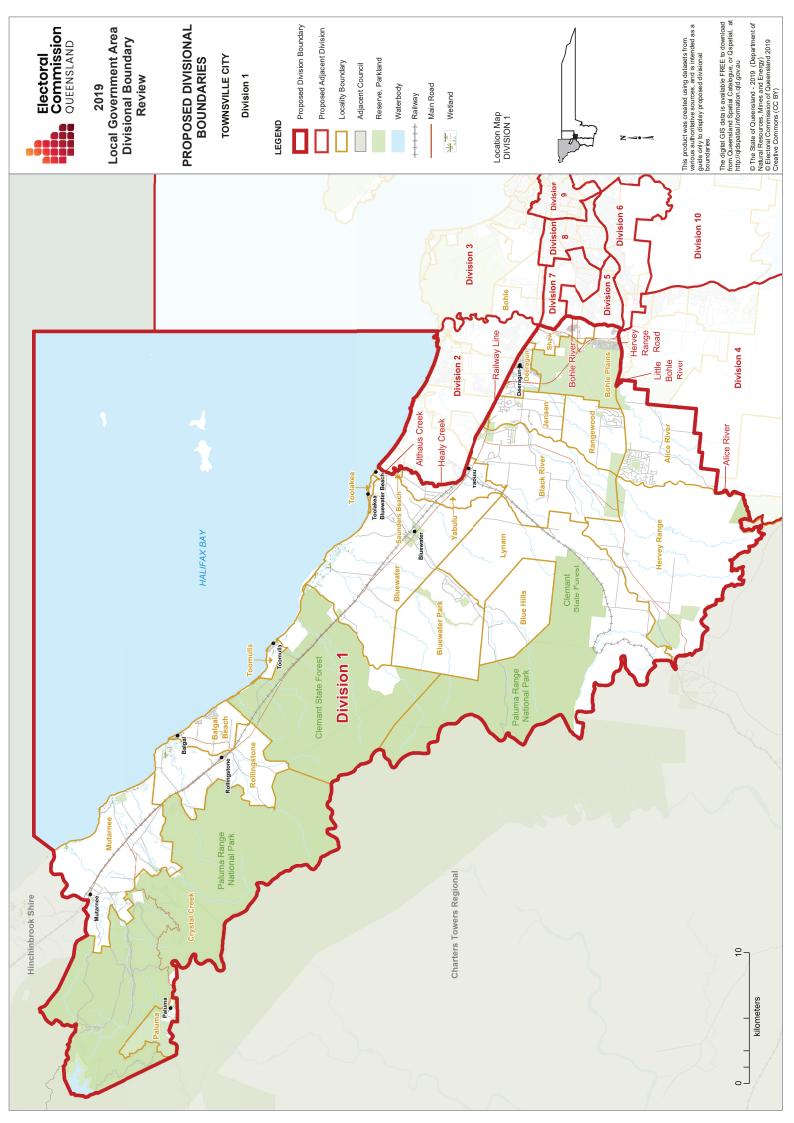
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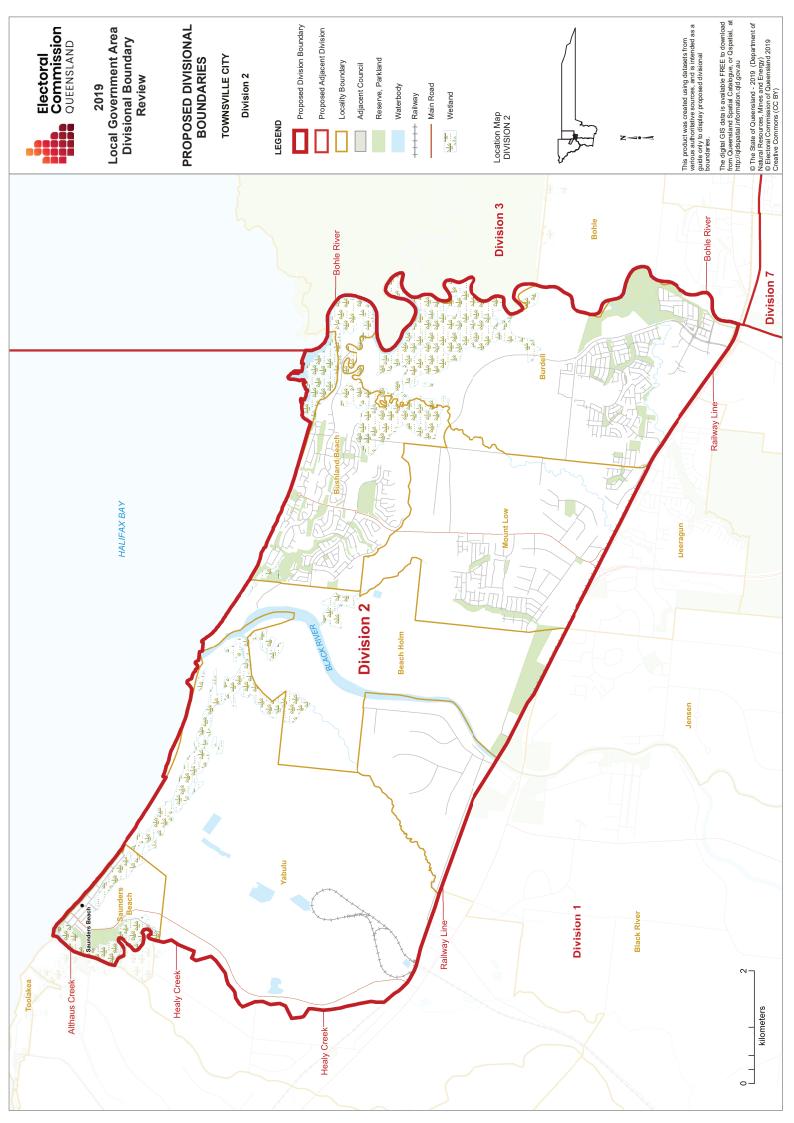
TOWNSVILLE CITY Proposed Electoral Divisions

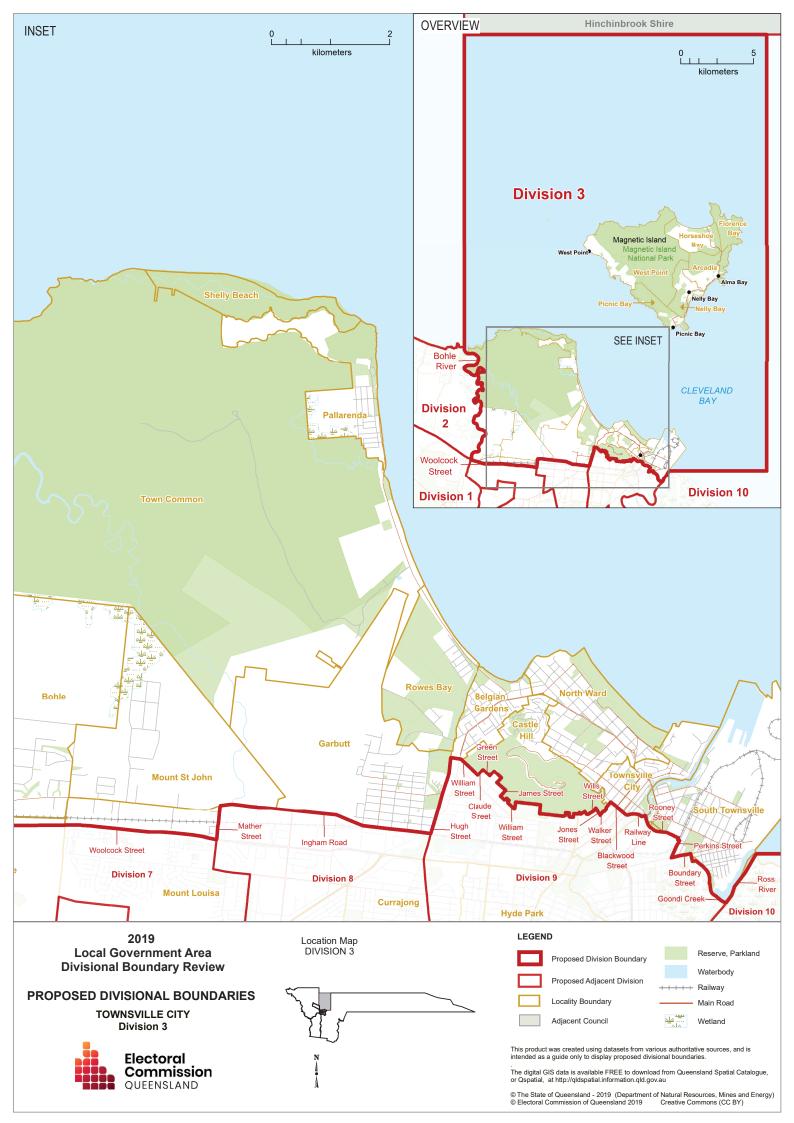


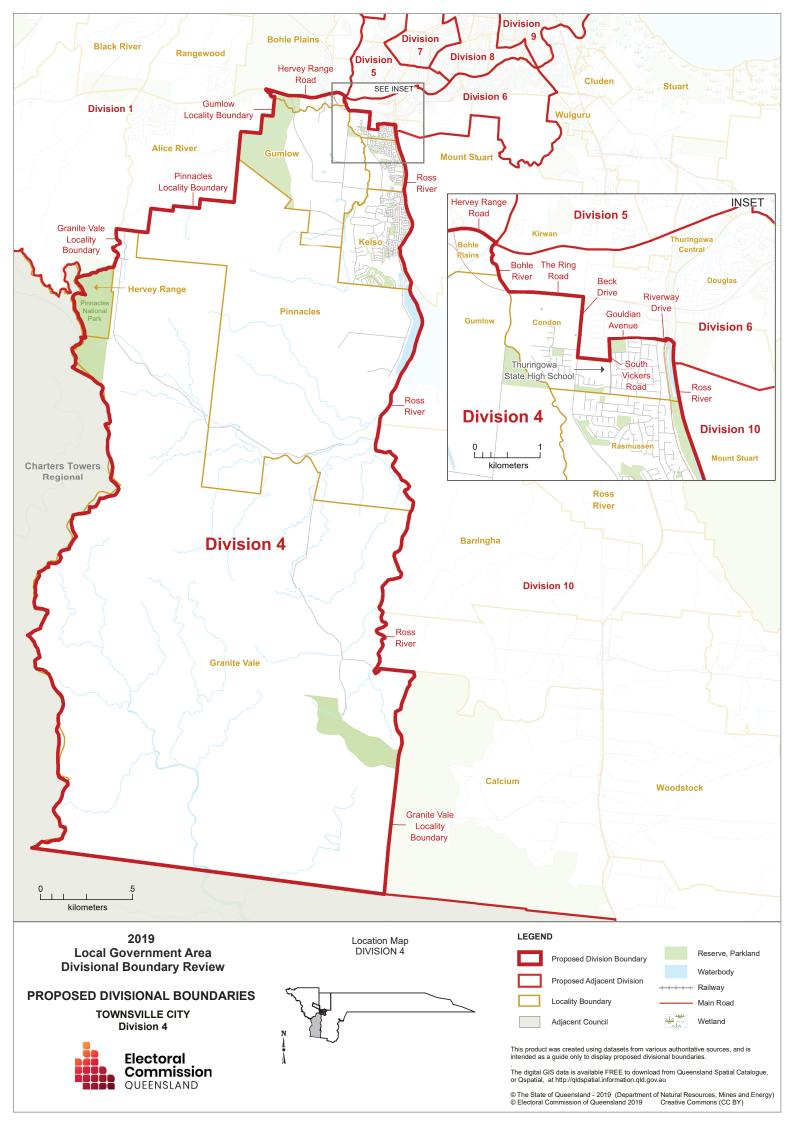
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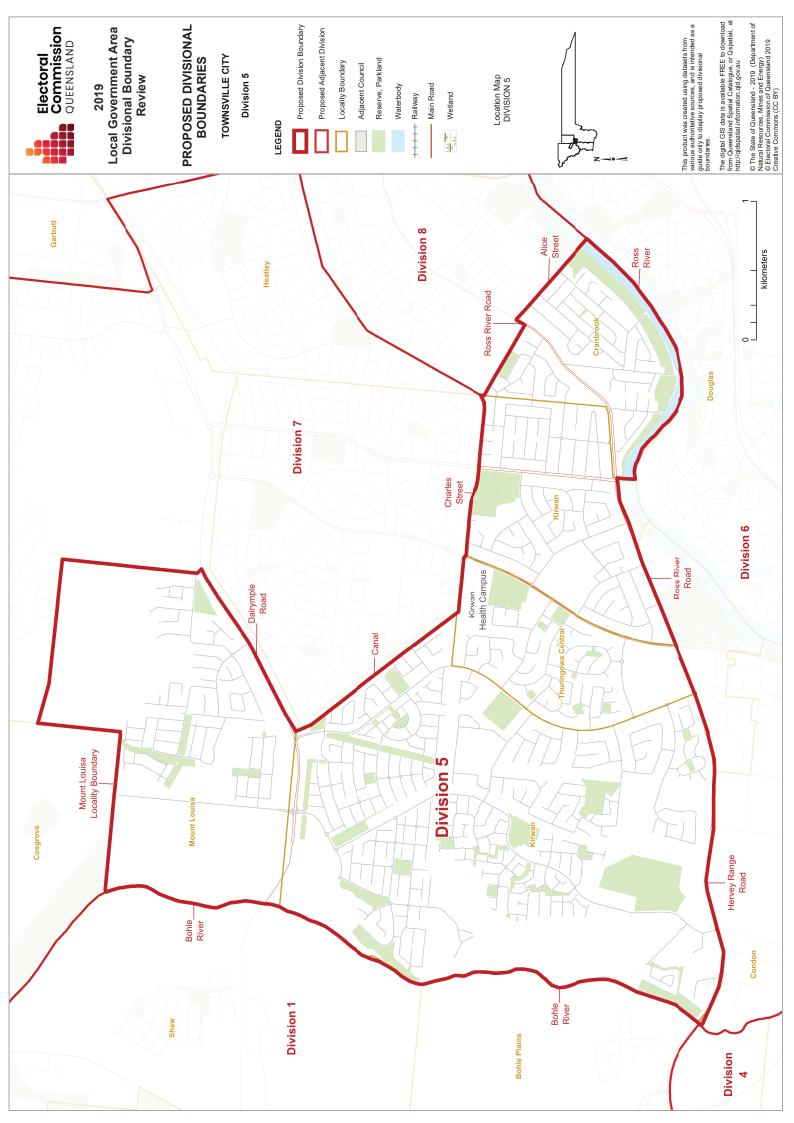
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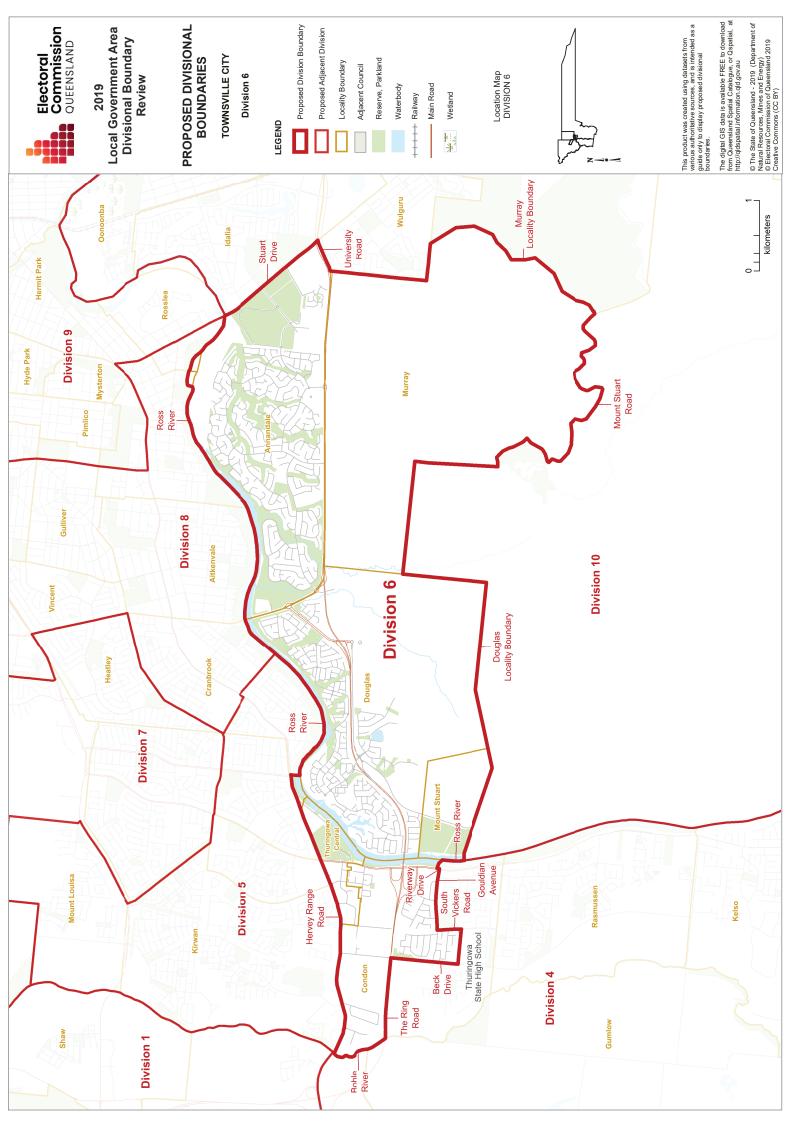


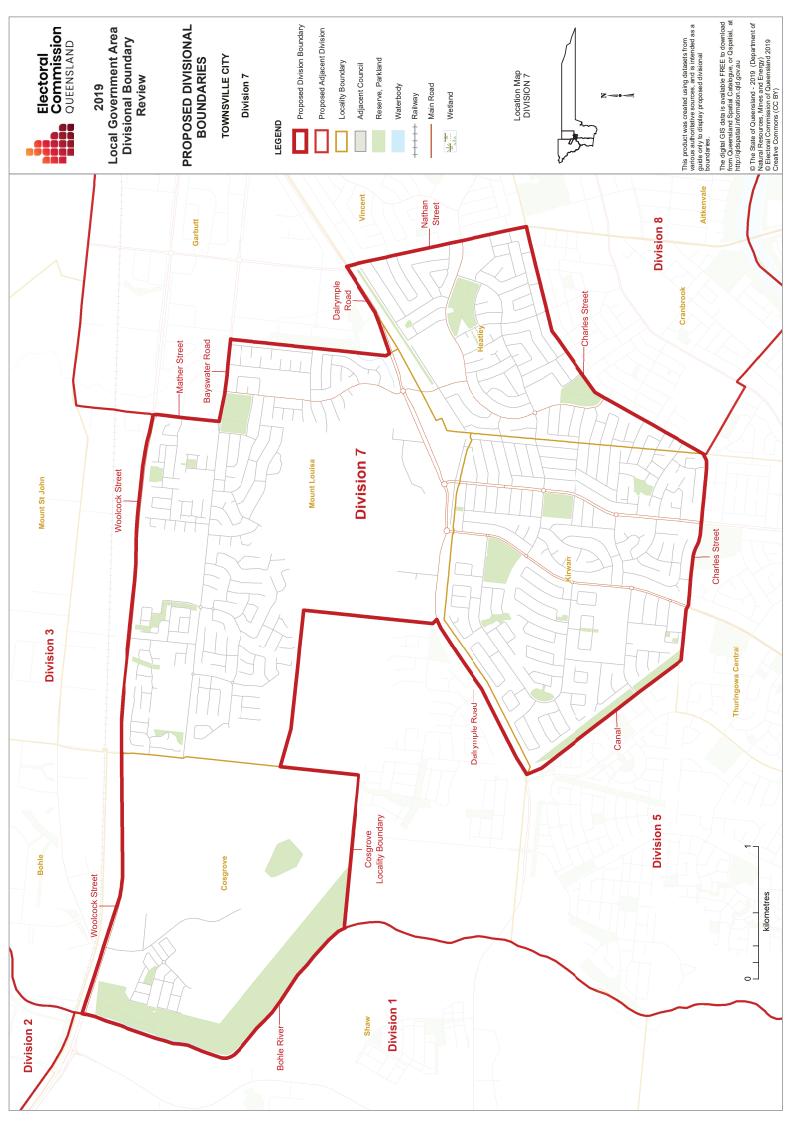


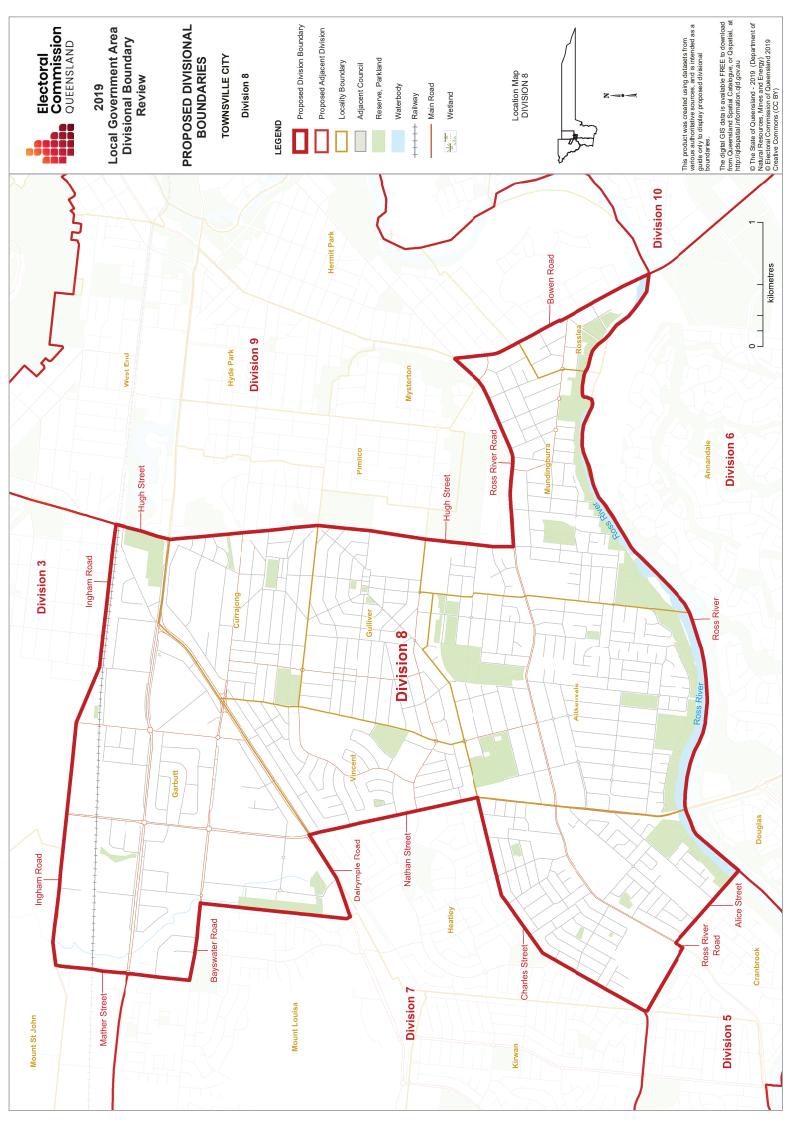


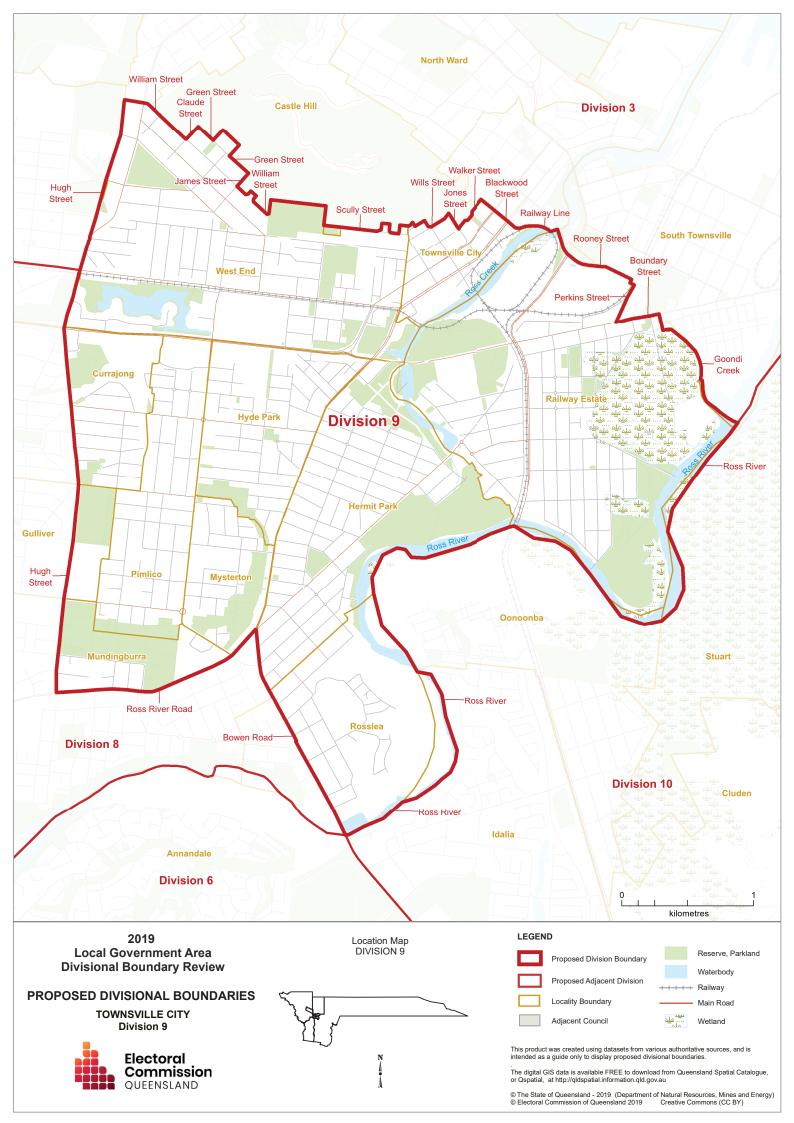


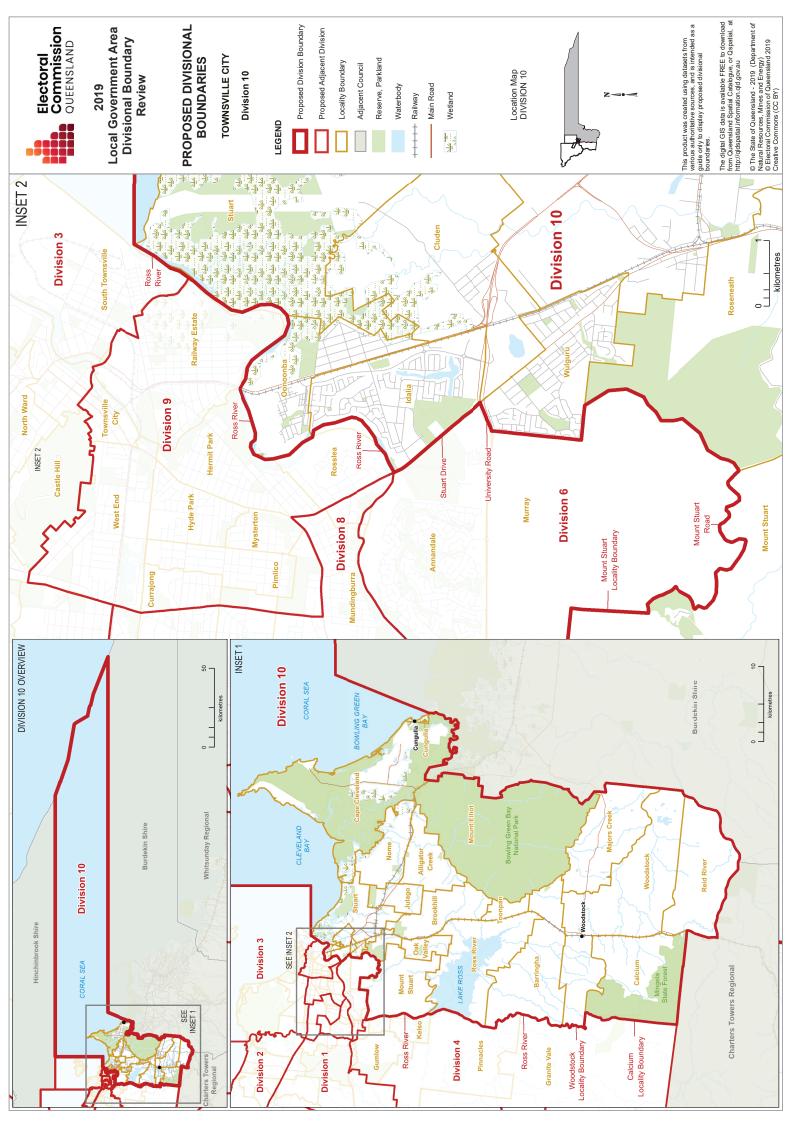












LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

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