

Review of Divisional Boundaries

2019 FINAL DETERMINATION
LOGAN CITY COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) is an independent body established under the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* (the Act). 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.

The Change Commission has finalised its assessment of the Logan City Council’s divisions on Friday, 27 September 2019. This report outlines the recommended divisional boundaries and sets out the reasons for the Change Commission’s decisions. Maps of the final boundaries are attached at 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.

Background

On 26 March 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 Logan City Council (see Appendix B).

In conducting its assessment, the Change Commission was legally required to ensure each division of the Council has a reasonable proportion of enrolled voters, herein referred to as ‘quota’. Community interests, public submissions and easy-to-identify boundaries were also considered.

Table 1 shows the Council’s enrolment quota as at 31 January 2019 and the projected quota for 31 March 2024.

Table 1 – Current and Projected Enrolment Quota		
	31 January 2019	31 March 2024
Number of divisions	12	12
Enrolment	190,682	210,008
Average enrolment per division	15,890	17,501
Average enrolment (+10%) per division	17,479	19,251
Average enrolment (-10%) per division	14,301	15,751

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

THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Change Commission may conduct its assessments in any way it deems appropriate, unless the Minister has provided specific directions.

The process for this review is as follows:

1. Inviting suggestions
2. Publication of the Change Commission's proposal
3. Inviting comments on the proposal
4. Publication of 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

Existing Divisions

The Logan City Council has 190,682 voters and is divided into twelve single-member electoral divisions plus a mayor.

Table 2 shows the current and projected enrolment for the Council's existing divisional boundaries. As at 31 January 2019, Divisions 4 and 8 were out of quota and Divisions 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 are projected to be further out of quota by 2024.

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	15,533	-2.25	15,910	-9.09
Division 2	16,400	3.21	16,995	-2.89
Division 3	16,053	1.02	16,363	-6.5
Division 4	18,653	17.39	24,152	38.01
Division 5	14,960	-5.85	15,676	-10.43
Division 6	16,171	1.77	17,475	-0.15
Division 7	16,525	4	17,814	1.79
Division 8	14,035	-11.67	14,887	-14.93
Division 9	15,044	-5.33	17,095	-2.32
Division 10	16,378	3.07	16,759	-4.24
Division 11	15,985	0.6	21,194	21.1
Division 12	14,945	-5.95	15,688	-10.36

Public Suggestions

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

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

The Logan City Council recommended changes to all of the Council's divisions and particularly focused on addressing the projected developments within Flagstone and Flinders Lakes as well as the high growth areas of Park Ridge, Logan Reserve, Greenbank and Bahrs Scrub. The Change Commission agreed with a number of the Council's proposed boundaries, and also proposed additional realignments to further distribute high growth across the divisions and to accommodate other public suggestions.

One suggestion requested development areas such as Flagstone and Yarrabilba be considered when making boundary changes and that Transport and Main Roads (TMR) designated roads be used as boundaries where possible. The Change Commission proposed boundaries that distributed many of the high growth areas between the Divisions 4, 9 and 11 and tried to follow locality boundaries or use prominent features such as roads and waterways as boundaries.

Another submitter requested part of the existing Division 10 that is bounded by the M1 Motorway, remain in this Division, noting that the area had previously been transferred from Division 6 to Division 10. The Change Commission agreed with this submission and retained the area within the proposed Division 10.

Other submissions requested the unification of suburbs such as Loganholme in Division 10 and Mount Warren Park in Division 12. These suggestions were adopted for the proposal.

Five of the suggestions raised matters that were outside the scope of the review and were unable to be considered, including requests to:

- transfer the Jimboomba area to the Scenic Rim Regional Council;
- transfer the Cedar Creek area to the Gold Coast City Council;
- transfer the Beenleigh area to the Albert Shire or Gold Coast City Councils;
- reinstate the former Beaudesert and Albert Shire Councils; and
- establish a new Council area to govern the rural areas from Parkridge through to the start of Beaudesert, including Munruben, Logan Village, Jimboomba and Flagstone.

The Change Commission cannot remove parts of a Council or establish a new Council unless a change proposal is referred by the Minister for Local Government. The referral for this review is to address enrolment imbalances within the existing divisions of the Logan City Council as per the requirements of the Act.

Proposed Determination

The Change Commission published its proposal on 23 August 2019 and on the same day public comments were invited. Advertisements were placed in The Courier-Mail, the Albert Logan News and on the ECQ's website and social media.

The Change Commission's proposal considered both current and projected enrolment data as well as the views expressed in the public submissions. A concerted effort was made to establish easily identifiable boundaries by following suburb boundaries, or prominent features such as roads and waterways.

Comments on the Proposal

Comments on the proposal were invited from 23 August 2019 to 5pm on 9 September 2019. Twenty comments were received and can be viewed at Appendix D.

More than half of the comments expressed opposition to the suburb of Logan Village being split between Divisions 4 and 9. Many of these submitters noted their particular objection to the separation of the 'My Home and the River' estate from the rest of Logan Village. The submitters cited the shared interests with the rest of Division 4 and Logan Village and a lack of commonality with Jimboomba as reasons for opposing the change.

Some of the alternative boundaries suggested are listed below:

- Retain Logan Village within Division 4, or at least the entire SA1 3132208 and reconsider splitting Bethania.
- Move the boundary to Kooruhman Creek, offsetting the inclusion of SA1 3132208 by removing Bethania to Division 6.
- Continue along Logan Road, Kooruhman Creek, Stockleigh Road and Waterford Tamborine Road and add the green area adjacent to Kooruhman Creek.
- Remove Tamborine from Division 4.
- Retain Bethania entirely within Division 6, as this area identifies with Holmview and Edens Landing rather than Buccan.

The Change Commission was persuaded to return part of Logan Village to Division 4, including the SA1 3132208 and the My Home and the River estate. The Change Commission modelled but did not implement the recommendations regarding Bethania, noting the locality boundary splits an aged care facility and also that this change would require further modifications to balance enrolment. Therefore, to accommodate the Logan Village change, the suburb of Tamborine has been transferred into Division 9.

One submitter suggested a series of SA1 transfers between Divisions 5, 7, 8 and 11, so that the boundaries follow roads such as Wembley Road, Mount Lindesay Highway, Crest Road and Middle Road. The Change Commission supported a couple of the recommended changes, returning a portion of Park Ridge west of the Mount Lindesay Highway into Division 7. The boundary between Divisions 7 and 8 has also been adjusted to return an additional portion of Regents Park to Division 8.

Two comments noted that the suburb of Mount Warren Park identifies with the Beenleigh area and one expressed support for the proposed boundaries. The Change Commission has retained its proposed boundaries as the final boundaries, uniting Mount Warren Park in the Beenleigh based Division 12.

Other submissions raised the following:

- One submission suggested alternative boundaries for Division 11 removing some areas to enable Glenlogan and Riverbend to remain in this Division. The Change Commission modelled but was unable to implement this recommendation, noting it resulted in Division 11 exceeding the projected enrolment quota in 2024.
- One submission objected to part of Kingston (Queens Road to Mary Street) being included in Division 2. The Change Commission has retained the proposed boundaries in this area as the final boundaries, noting they unite suburbs and balance enrolment.
- One comment requested no boundary changes be made, however the Change Commission notes it is legally required to conduct this assessment to ensure each division has a similar number of voters at the local government election.
- The Council noted its strong preference to keep similar communities of interest together and stated that in the future (post-2024) it may be necessary to increase the number of divisions or perhaps establish multi-member divisions. The Change Commission recommends the Council and community consider whether such a change is desired following the 2020 election and if so, consult with Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs regarding the requirements for a change proposal of this nature being referred to the Change Commission.

CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

After reviewing its proposed boundaries and having considered feedback from the public suggestions, the Change Commission has made modifications to Divisions 4, 7, 8 and 9.

Maps of these proposed divisions are attached at Appendix E and can be compared with the final division maps at Appendix A.

Divisions 4 and 9

The western boundary of Division 4 has been realigned to return the part of Logan Village bounded by the Logan River, Logan Village locality boundary, Bobermien Road and Hotz Road. This includes the SA1 3132208 and the My Home and the River estate discussed in many of the public submissions. To accommodate this change, the suburb of Tamborine has been transferred into Division 9, with the boundary following Albert River Place, Waterford Tamborine Road and the Tamborine / Kairabah locality boundary.

Divisions 7 and 8

The Change Commission supported two suggested realignments, returning a portion of Park Ridge west of the Mount Lindesay Highway into Division 7 and returning part of Regents Park to Division 8 with the boundary extending along the green space from Colisa Park through Emerald Park (Regents Park) to connect with the Mount Lindesay Highway.

FINAL DETERMINATION

After assessing the material submitted and having considered the requirements of the Act, the Change Commission is recommending the proposed boundaries, with a few minor adjustments to Divisions 4, 7, 8 and 9 become the final divisions for the Logan City Council.

The Change Commission is satisfied that the final boundaries meet the enrolment requirements of the Act, while also balancing the expressed needs and interests of the community. It is noted that the implementation of this recommendation is expected to result in the following divisional enrolment:

Table 3 – Summary of Enrolment for the Final 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	16,603	4.49	17,009	-2.81
Division 2	17,237	8.48	17,854	2.02
Division 3	16,501	3.84	16,714	-4.5
Division 4	14,356	-9.65	18,855	7.74
Division 5	16,036	0.92	16,774	-4.15
Division 6	15,273	-3.88	17,306	-1.11
Division 7	16,701	5.1	17,110	-2.23
Division 8	14,770	-7.05	17,319	-1.04
Division 9	14,903	-6.21	17,376	-0.71
Division 10	16,747	5.39	17,320	-1.03
Division 11	14,510	-8.69	18,609	6.33
Division 12	17,045	7.27	17,762	1.49

RECOMMENDATION

The Change Commission has provided its assessment to the Minister for Local Government and recommends the Governor in Council implement its recommendation.

The Change Commission's final recommendation is as follows:

- for the purpose of the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Election, the Logan City Council be redivided into twelve divisions as shown in the maps in Appendix A.

In accordance with the Act, the Change Commission has published a notice of results in the Government Gazette, a newspaper circulating in the local government area and on the ECQ website.



Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner



Wade Lewis
Casual Commissioner

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

W: www.ecq.qld.gov.au

E: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

T: 1300 881 665

P: Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001