

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Minister's Referral**



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

Our ref: MC19/1156

28 MAR 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 Tablelands Regional Council in preparation for the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections.

I have received correspondence from Mr Bob Owen, General Manager, Community, Planning and Environment of the Council dated 1 March 2019 advising of the results of the review, including that the number of electors in Division 2 is out of the quota of a reasonable proportion of electors as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act).

Mr Owen also advised that public consultation and discussions undertaken by the Council regarding the options for changes to the electoral arrangements were inconclusive. The Council proposed that I request the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) to undertake further public consultation on whether the Council should retain divisions or become an undivided Council.

Having examined the Council's submission, I have written to Mr Justin Commons, Chief Executive Officer of the Council, requesting that the Council undertake further consultation and consideration of the electoral arrangements. I have asked the Council to provide a further proposal, should it resolve to support becoming an undivided Council. I have advised Mr Commons to liaise with the Change Commission on the timeframes for making such a proposal.

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.

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Notwithstanding the potential for a further submission from the Council, I consider it appropriate to refer the results of the divisional boundary review to you for independent assessment and determination by the Change Commission. I have no recommendations for how the Commission assesses any changes to the divisional boundaries.

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 [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stirling Hinchliffe', written in a cursive style.

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

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