



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

REPORT ON A CHANGE TO THE EXTERNAL BOUNDARIES OF THE FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL AND GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

December 2010

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**REPORT ON A CHANGE
TO THE EXTERNAL BOUNDARIES OF THE
FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL AND
GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

December 2010

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Background

The Honourable the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has asked me assess a proposal to change the common boundary between Fraser Coast Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council by excluding Lot 113 on LX942 from the Gympie Regional Council and including it in the Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Mr Mark Thompson, at that time the landholder, approached the Fraser Coast Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council in November 2008 with a view to having his entire holding located within the Fraser Coast Regional Council. It was Mr Thompson's contention that access to his property was through the Fraser Coast Regional Council; the land the subject of his request being located within the Gympie Regional Council and attached to his property in the Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Since Mr Thompson approached the councils concerned in this matter, the land has been transferred to his grandson; Noel Douglas Thompson. Mr Noel Thompson has given his agreement to the proposal originated by his late grandfather.

The Change Commission in this case is comprised of the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with section 22 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act). The Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a proposed local government change is in the public interest. In doing so, the Change Commission must consider:

- whether the proposed local government change is consistent with the Act; and
- the views of the Minister about the proposed local government change; and
- any other matters prescribed under a regulation.

Section 19(4) of the Act requires that the Change Commission must:

- ask for submissions from any local government that would be affected by the proposed local government change; and
- hold a public hearing to ask the public for its views about the proposed local government change.

Submissions and Hearing

The Minister received a request from Fraser Coast Regional Council to consider this matter. In accordance with section 18 of the Act, only the Minister may apply to the Local Government Change Commission to assess whether to alter a local government change that was made under the 2007 reform process. Both Fraser Coast and Gympie Regional Councils came into being as part of that course of action. This matter was then referred to the Change Commission by the Minister.

Accompanying the Minister's referral were copies of the councils' submissions and correspondence from Mr Mark Thompson initiating the matter.

A public hearing in connection with this matter was advertised in the *Gympie Times* and *Fraser Coast Chronicle* newspapers on Thursday 16 December 2010. Each council concerned in this matter was also advised of the hearing and invited to put any additional material that the council considered appropriate before the Change Commission. The current landholder, Mr Noel Thompson was advised of the hearing.

The landholder, Mr Noel Thompson, the grandson of Mr Mark Thompson deceased who initially proposed the boundary change, and Ms Debbie Jenkins representing Gympie Regional Council attended the hearing. Both Mr Thompson and Ms Jenkins, on behalf of Gympie Regional Council, supported a realignment of the boundary as proposed.

Findings

After considering the material before the commission and acknowledging the agreement of all parties concerned, I find that there are no contentious issues and assess that it is appropriate to change the common boundary between the Fraser Coast Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council by excluding Lot 113 on Crown Plan LX942, County of Lennox, Parish of Miva from the Gympie Regional Council and including it in the Fraser Coast Regional Council. I also find that the proposed change is consistent with the Act.

Reasons for Findings

In making an assessment that the proposed change to the common boundary between the Fraser Coast and Gympie Regional Councils should be made, I recognise the support of both councils. I accept the landholder's contention that it is desirable and sensible for his property to be located entirely within the one local government; particular note is made of the lack of access to the property from the Gympie Regional Council. There are no significant issues impacting on either council in connection with their financial arrangements or provision of services and infrastructure.

Implementation

The Governor in Council may implement the Change Commission's recommendation under a regulation.

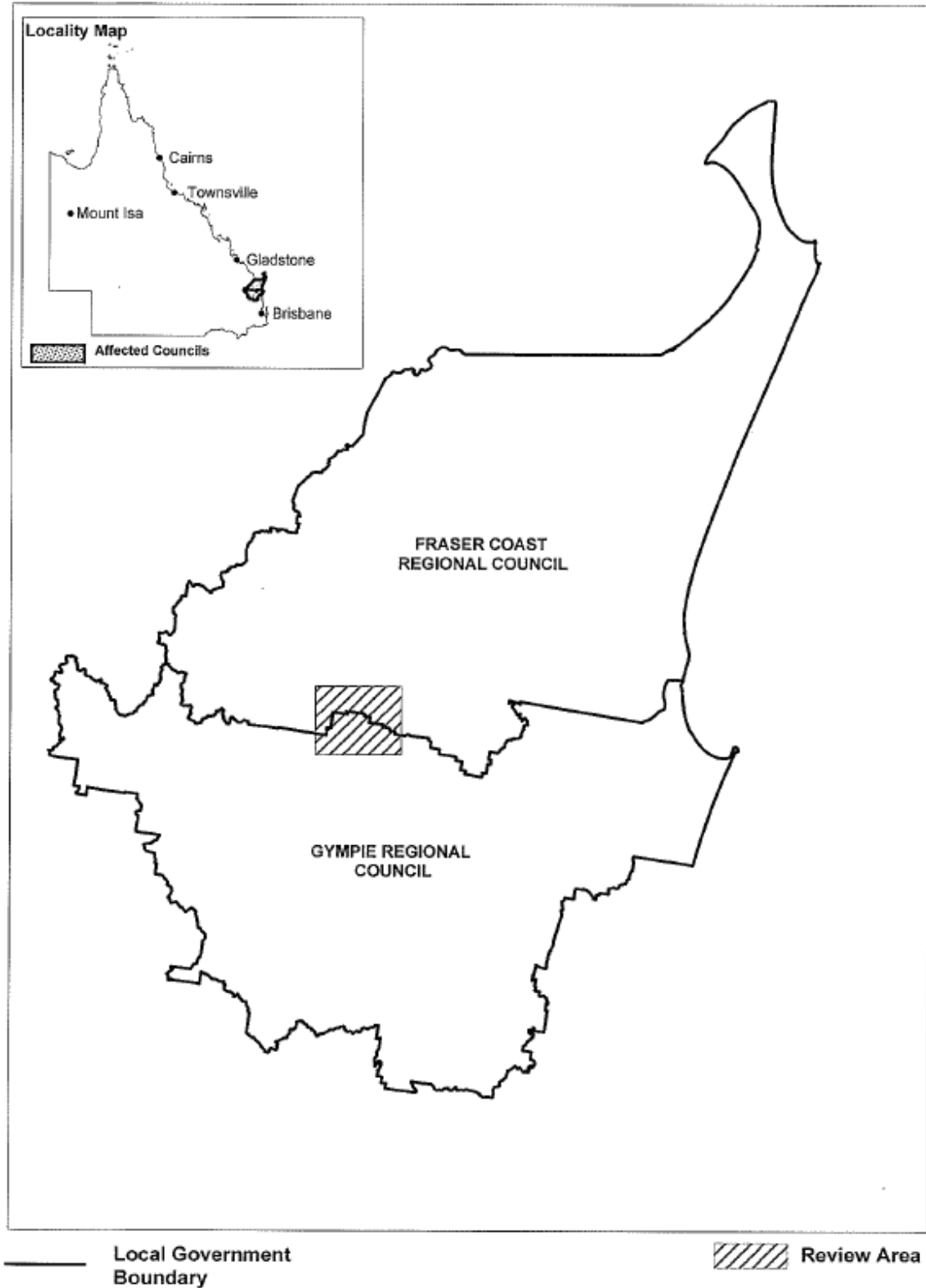
The regulation may provide for anything that is necessary or convenient to facilitate the implementation of the local government change.

David Kerlake
Electoral Commissioner
20 December 2010

APPENDIX A

Overview Map Fraser Coast Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council

**Overview Maps
Fraser Coast Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council**



APPENDIX B

Detailed Map Area Proposed for Boundary Change

