

APPENDIX B

Minister's Referral



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

Our ref: MC19/1124

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26 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 divisional review that was undertaken by the South Burnett Regional Council in preparation for the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections, as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act).

Mr Mark Pitt, Chief Executive Officer of the Council wrote to me on 25 February 2019 advising of the results of the review, including that the proportion of electors as at 21 December 2018 was out of the quota range in Division 4. I am aware that the most recent figures provided by the Electoral Commission Queensland indicate that Division 4 had six electors fewer than the upper quota limit for a reasonable proportion of electors, as at 31 January 2019. As the number of electors is close to the quota limit, I consider it is likely that the division will be out of quota by the 2020 Local Government elections.

Mr Pitt advised that the Council recommended minor divisional boundary changes to bring Division 4 into quota and further minor changes to the Divisions 5 and 6 boundaries to bring those divisions closer to the centre of the quota range. Division 5 has experienced decreased population and there are no major residential developments proposed or in progress that will increase the population of any of the divisions in the future.

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.

I consider it appropriate to refer the matter to you for independent assessment and determination by the Change Commission. I recommend that the Change Commission consider the need to adjust the boundaries of Divisions 5 and 6, in addition to the changes necessary to ensure the number of electors in Division 4 is a reasonable proportion of electors.

I have asked for 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 [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



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