

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Minister's Referral**



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

Our ref: MC19/1134

26 MAR 2019

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ABN 65 959 415 158

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 Scenic Rim Regional Council in preparation for the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections.

I have received correspondence from Mr Jon Gibbons, Chief Executive Officer of the Council dated 26 February 2019 advising of the results of the review, including that the proportion of electors is out of quota range in one of the Council's six divisions (Division 2, with 12.9 per cent electors more than the divisional average), as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act).

I am informed that the Gleneagle area on the Mt Lindsay Highway in Division 2 has experienced population growth with new residential estates already developed and further development applications under consideration. In accordance with the South East Queensland Regional Plan, the Council's planning scheme will be amended to change the land use in the division, converting some areas of rural residential land to urban residential land to provide for these changes. The Canungra area, near the southern border of Divisions 2 and 3 has experienced recent residential development impacting on population growth in Division 3.

In addition, the area east and north of Beaudesert has experienced recent residential estate development near the south-western boundary of Division 2, which is impacting on the population increase for both divisions. There is further residential development planned south of Beaudesert in the next two to three years which may impact on future population growth in Division 4.

Mr Gibbons also advised that the Council wishes to maintain its six divisions for Councillor representation and will commence a process to review the divisional changes needed to produce a balanced number of electors in each division. The Council will provide each of us with details of the recommended changes once this review has been finalised.

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 in undertaking the assessment, the Change Commission consider the potential population increases associated with the recent and proposed residential developments described above.

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**