

Review of Divisional Boundaries

2019 PROPOSED DETERMINATION
TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

The *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* (the Act) provides for a Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission). 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.

On 28 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 Tablelands Regional Council (see Appendix A).

The Change Commission for this review consists of:

- Mr Pat Vidgen, Electoral Commissioner;
- Mr Wade Lewis, Casual Commissioner; and
- Mr Peter McGraw, Casual Commissioner.

The casual commissioners were appointed by the Governor in Council on 1 November 2018.

Endorsement of proposal

This report outlines the Change Commission's proposed boundaries for the electoral divisions of the Tablelands Regional Council.



Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner



Wade Lewis
Casual Commissioner



Peter McGraw
Casual Commissioner

THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Change Commission must ensure each division of the Council has a reasonable proportion of enrolled voters, herein referred to as 'quota'. Where possible, community interests, public submissions and easy-to-identify boundaries are also considered.

Assessments are conducted in any way the Change Commission deems appropriate, unless the Minister has provided specific directions.

The process for the divisional boundary review of Tablelands is as follows:

1. Invite suggestions
2. Publish the Change Commission's proposal
3. Invite comments on the proposal
4. Publish 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

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 Tablelands Regional Council webpage on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) website.

EXISTING BOUNDARIES & ENROLMENT

The Tablelands Regional Council has 17,200 voters and is divided into six single-member electoral divisions plus a mayor. Table 1 shows the Council's current enrolment quota as at 31 January 2019 and the quota projected for 31 March 2024.

Table 2 shows the current and projected enrolment for the Council's existing divisional boundaries. As at 31 January 2019, Division 2 had too few voters and was out of quota. In 2024, Division 2 is projected to be further out of quota and Divisions 1 and 5 are also expected to be close to exceeding the upper limits of the quota.

Table 1 – Current and Projected Enrolment Quota		
	31 January 2019	31 March 2024
Number of divisions	6	6
Enrolment	17,200	17,964
Average enrolment per division	2,867	2,994
Average enrolment (+10%) per division	3,153	3,293
Average Enrolment (-10%) per division	2,580	2,695

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	3,114	8.63	3,273	9.32
Division 2	2,514	-12.3	2,577	-13.93
Division 3	2,909	1.48	2,973	-0.7
Division 4	2,977	3.85	3,106	3.74
Division 5	3,063	6.85	3,270	9.22
Division 6	2,623	-8.5	2,765	-7.65

PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

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

Suggestions were invited from 27 April to 5pm 13 May 2019. Two submissions were received and are available to view at Appendix B.

One submission requested the entire Atherton township be contained within the same division. The Change Commission modelled this suggestion, however found the number of enrolled voters exceeded the legislated enrolment quota. As a result, the Change Commission has only been able to partially adopt this submission and has proposed uniting as much of central Atherton as possible within Division 5.

The other submitter requested the Change Commission retain the Council's existing electoral arrangements (i.e. six single-member divisions and a mayor). This submission appears to be in response to the Council's earlier consultation with the community regarding alternative electoral arrangements, for example an undivided (no divisions) or multi-member divisional structure. As a change to the Council's electoral arrangements has not been referred to the Change Commission, this review will maintain the existing arrangements as requested.

THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The proposed boundaries for the Tablelands Regional Council are detailed below. They bring enrolment in each division into quota, whilst also catering for the growth projected in certain parts of the region. The Change Commission has made a concerted effort to unite suburbs within individual divisions.

Table 3 shows the current and projected enrolment for the proposed electoral divisions. Maps of the proposed divisions are in Appendix C and interactive maps are on the ECQ website.

Table 3 – Summary of Enrolment for the Proposed 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	2,859	-0.27	3,072	2.61
Division 2	2,893	0.92	2,975	-0.63
Division 3	2,834	-1.14	2,913	-2.17
Division 4	2,968	3.53	3,065	2.37
Division 5	2,889	0.78	3,033	1.3
Division 6	2,757	-3.83	2,906	-2.94

Division 1

The proposed boundaries of Division 1 better balance voter numbers in the area, reducing high enrolment within Division 1, while increasing enrolment within neighbouring Division 2. The Change Commission has proposed transferring the town of Herberton to Division 2 and extending the northern boundary of Division 1 to take in parts of Atherton.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the remainder of the Wondecla suburb from Division 2;
- b. Gains most of the Upper Barron locality from Division 3;
- c. Gains a portion of the Atherton locality from Division 4;
- d. Gains part of Atherton from Division 5;
- e. Transfers the Moomin, Herberton and Kalunga localities, uniting them in Division 2; and
- f. Transfers part of Atherton into Division 5.

The proposed Division has 2,859 voters which is -0.27% below average and is predicted to have 3,072 voters by 2024 which would be 2.61% above average.

Division 2

As Division 2 is out of quota at -12.3%, the entire Herberton and surrounding localities have been added to increase and balance enrolment within this Division.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the entire Herberton, Kalunga and Moomin suburbs from Division 1; and
- b. Transfers the balance of Wondecla to Division 1.

The proposed Division has 2,893 voters which is 0.92% above average and is predicted to have 2,975 voters by 2024 which would be -0.63% below average.

Division 3

Minimal change has been proposed to Division 3, with the north-western boundary following the Malanda locality boundary without deviation.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the remainder of Malanda from Division 4, uniting it within Division 3; and
- b. Transfers most of Upper Barron to Division 1.

The proposed Division has 2,834 voters which is -1.14% below average and is predicted to have 2,913 voters by 2024 which would be -2.71% below average.

Division 4

The proposed Division 4 has expanded north to take in the Tinaroo Falls Dam and surrounding suburbs, while contracting its western boundary to allow neighbouring Divisions 1, 5 and 6 to better balance their enrolment.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the Kairi, Tinaroo and Danbulla localities from Division 6;
- b. Transfers its portion of Malanda to Division 3; and
- c. Transfers its portion of the Atherton locality to Divisions 1 and 6.

The proposed Division has 2,968 voters which is 3.53% above average and is predicted to have 3,065 voters by 2024 which would be 2.37% above average.

Division 5

Division 5 is projected to be close to exceeding the enrolment quota by 2024. The proposed boundary has contracted to include as much of urban Atherton as possible. As Atherton has too many voters to be united within a single division, neighbouring Divisions 1 and 6 have expanded to take in parts of this populated area, with the intent to create a more sustainable enrolment balance across the Council's divisions.

The Division is bounded by the railway line in the west, Grove Street and Maunds Road in the north, then in a clockwise direction follows Dalziel Avenue, First Avenue, Twelfth Avenue, property boundaries to Rockley Road, the Kennedy Highway, and north of the agricultural land in the south.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains a portion of Atherton from Division 1; and
- b. Transfers a portion of Atherton to Divisions 1 and 6.

The proposed Division has 2,889 voters which is 0.78% above average and is predicted to have 3,033 voters by 2024 which would be 1.3% above average.

Division 6

Division 6 has expanded south to take in parts of the Atherton locality, increasing its enrolment while helping to reduce and balance enrolment in neighbouring Division 5.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains part of Atherton from Division 5 and a small portion from Division 4; and
- b. Transfers the Kairi, Tinaroo and Danbulla localities to Division 4.

The proposed Division has 2,757 voters which is -3.83% below average and is predicted to have 2,906 voters by 2024 which would be -2.94% below average.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL INVITED

Comments on this proposal are invited until 5pm, 30 September 2019 and can be lodged through:

Online Form

<https://ecq.qld.gov.au/lgr/tablelands>

Email

LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

Personal Delivery

Electoral Commission of Queensland
Level 20, 1 Eagle Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Post

Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

It is recommended that those submitting comments:

- consider the enrolment requirements outlined in the Act and in this report;
- clearly state which division/s your comment relates to;
- provide supporting information for why you support or oppose a proposed boundary change or public submission; and
- if you oppose a change, provide alternative boundary suggestions and reasoning.

FINALISING THE REVIEW

After reviewing the public comments on the proposal, the Change Commission will make a final determination on the Council's divisional boundaries.

The results of a Change Commission review must be provided to the Minister for Local Government. A notice of results is published in a local newspaper, the Queensland Government Gazette and on the ECQ website.

A decision of the Change Commission is not subject to appeal.

IMPLEMENTATION

A local government change can only be implemented by the Governor in Council under a regulation.

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

APPENDIX A

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

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560
Email lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158

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.

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



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

Enc



1 March 2019

PO Box 573, Atherton QLD 4883
Telephone: 1300 362 242
info@trc.qld.gov.au

Community, Planning & Environment

File Ref: CRM/19/02805
Your Ref:

The Hon Stirling Hinchcliffe
Minister for Local Government
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

REVIEW OF DIVISIONS AND PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2020 QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

Reasonable Proportion of Electors

Council has conducted a review pursuant to section 16 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to determine whether each of its divisions has a reasonable proportion of electors.

In undertaking the review, Council relies on the number of electors provided by the Electoral Commission of Queensland as at 31 January 2019.

The reasonable proportion of electors (RPE) for Tablelands Regional Council is 2,866.667 (17 200 electors divided by 6 divisions). With the permitted 10% variance from the RPE, the high number of electors is 3 153 and the low is 2 580.

Division 1 and 3 to 6 inclusive satisfy the RPE. Elector numbers in Division 2 are 2 514 which falls below the low threshold or quota.

A summary table of divisional results is provided below.

DIVISON	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	RPE	UPPER LIMIT	LOWER LIMIT	VARIANCE FROM RPE	STATUS
1	3114	2866.667	3153	2580	+8.83%	In quota
2	2514	2866.667	3153	2580	-12.3%	Out of quota
3	2909	2866.667	3153	2580	+1.48%	In quota
4	2977	2866.667	3153	2580	+3.85%	In quota
5	3063	2866.667	3153	2580	+6.85%	In quota
6	2623	2866.667	3153	2580	-8.5%	In quota

Subject to the information provided below, if divisions are maintained, Council advises that a boundary review will be required to bring Division 2 into the RPE range. If such a review is undertaken, Council requests to be consulted by the Local Government Change Commission during the review process with respect to possible boundary realignments.

Alternative Electoral Arrangements

Council has undertaken consultation with the community on three possible electoral arrangements for the next quadrennial election. The three options are:

1. Maintain existing divisions (with adjustments to boundaries to satisfy the RPE requirement);
2. Reduce the number of divisions and introduce multi-member divisions;
3. Abolish divisions and become an undivided Council.

Council itself has a diversity of views on the best option. The public consultation and Councillor workshop highlighted:

- There is a difference of views within Council and within the community.
- While 103 out of 170 responses favoured retaining existing divisions, the response rate was a mere 0.98% out of the 17 200 electors.

The relevant public consultation documents and results are attached as Annexure 1.

Council resolved at its meeting on 28 February 2019 to request that you refer **options 1 and 3** above to the Local Government Change Commission in order for the Commission to undertake public consultation and make a decision on the electoral arrangements for the 2020 election. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact me, on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully



BOB OWEN
GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Annexure 1

- Advertisement in local paper
- Public consultation poll sheet
- Public consultation responses
- Public consultation comments (personnel information redacted)
- Council report and resolution tabled at Ordinary Meeting 28 February 2019

REVIEW OF DIVISIONS AND PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2020 QUADRENNIAL ELECTION**Public consultation poll sheet**

DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES REVIEW

Project Overview

Council is required to advise the Local Government Minister of any proposed changes for the 2020 quadrennial local government elections by 1 March 2019. There are three options to consider:

1. keep existing divisions with minor boundary realignment
2. reduce divisions with multiple councillors per division
3. abolish divisions

Have Your Say

Councillors and the Mayor are elected to represent the overall public interest of the whole local government area (LGA), regardless of whether it is a divided or undivided council. Candidates must reside within the LGA, however do not have to live in a particular division to be eligible to nominate.

	Option 1 Keep existing divisions with minor boundary realignment	Option 2 Reduce divisions with multiple councillors per division	Option 3 Abolish divisions
Voters have say on who gets elected across whole LGA	✗	✗	✓
Candidates cannot be elected unopposed or with fewer votes than other candidates across the LGA	✗	✗	✓
Multiple councillor contact options for community	✗	✓	✓
By-election less expensive	✓	✗	✗

Currently in Queensland, 54 councils are undivided (i.e. there are no divisions) and 22 councils are divided (i.e. they have divisions). Tablelands Regional Council is currently made up of six divisions, covering 11,419 km², with a population of 25,338 residents (ABS ERP 2017).

Council is not the decision maker with respect to any proposed changes. The Change Commission is an independent body and will assess and, if necessary, implement matters referred by the Minister.

TRC has investigated possible options for referral to the Minister and we are keen to obtain community input on the options before making any referral. Council has mixed views on the possible options and is keen to hear from members of the public on each option.

Option 1: Keep the existing six divisions with a minor amendment to boundaries to increase the reasonable proportion of electors in Division 2.

Division 2 has fallen below the threshold for the minimum number of electors. On current figures, the number of voters in Division 2 needs to increase by at least 62. If the Minister refers this option to the Change Commission, the Commission will undertake consultation and decide where any boundary realignment will happen.

Option 2: Reduce the number of divisions and have multiple councillors represent each division.

If this option is considered by the Change Commission, the Commission will undertake public consultation and decide on the boundaries for the divisions if this option is recommended.

Option 3: Abolish divisions.

Have six councillors and a mayor elected by all voters in the local government area.

What is your preferred option for local representation?

Please tick one answer only. Find out details about the pros and cons of each option on the reverse side of this page.

- ☐ Keep existing divisions with minor boundary realignment
- ☐ Reduce divisions and have multiple councillors per division
- ☐ Abolish divisions

Comments:

Please return to a customer service centre or library by 26 February 2019

REVIEW OF DIVISIONS AND PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2020 QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

Considerations for and against each option

Option 1: Keep existing divisions with minor boundary alignment

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains the status quo and a system people are used to • Perception that divisional councillors have a greater affiliation with local issues • Undivided elections may not guarantee that all elected members have empathy for or affiliation with all or parts of our communities • By-elections would be less expensive within a division than across the region (subject to the timing of any vacancy) • The task and expense of contesting an election by candidates at a divisional level is perceived to be easier than on a regional basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if there are divisions, the job of a councillor is to represent and make decisions for the whole local government area. Councillors cannot favour their division over the whole local government area • Divisional councillors are not required to live in the division, so divisions do not guarantee greater local affiliation • Changes to legislation have changed the traditional role of the divisional councillor. Councillors now need to represent the public interest across the whole local government area – not just their division • By their inherent nature, divisions are divisive • Odd results can arise between divisions e.g. candidates can get elected unopposed or with fewer votes than defeated candidates in other divisions • Community members may feel like they don't have a say about matters outside their division • Modern technology and social media enables community members to communicate directly with councillors regardless of their location • Some community members feel obliged to contact their divisional councillor as opposed to another councillor

Option 2: Reduced number of divisions with multiple councillors in each division

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows community members to vote for multiple divisional councillors as opposed to only one • Allows councillors in multi-member divisions to work as a team rather than being the sole councillor for a division • Allows constituents to have a contact point even if one of the divisional councillors is unavailable • Possibly creates larger communities of interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities may feel their local voice is lost in a larger division • Even if there are divisions, the job of a councillor is to represent the whole local government area • Divisional councillors are not required to live in the division, so divisions do not guarantee greater local affiliation • The traditional role of the divisional councillor has changed. Councillors need to represent the public interest across the whole local government area – not just their division • Odd results can arise between divisions e.g. some winning candidates get less votes than defeated candidates in other divisions

Option 3: Abolish divisions

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most democratic – all voters can vote for all vacant positions, not just the one in their division • Potential for better communication as the community can consult with any councillor rather than feel obliged to go through the divisional councillor • Overcomes parochial divisional attitudes within the community and between councillors (or the perception of this) • Encourages decision making with a regional focus as opposed to a divisional focus • Ensures the most supported candidates are elected across the whole local government area – avoids anomalies such as councillors being elected unopposed and/or winning candidates in one division having less votes than defeated candidates in other divisions • All community members can seek assistance from any/all councillors without having to worry about what division a councillor is elected in • Fluctuations between the number of voters in each division is no longer an issue • Modern technology and social media enables community members to communicate directly with councillors regardless of their location • By its inherent nature, undivided councils are not divisive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities may feel their local voice is lost in an undivided council • Perception that divisional councillors have a greater affiliation with local issues • Undivided council may not guarantee that all elected members have empathy for or affiliation with all or part of our communities • By-elections would be more expensive across the whole local government area (subject to the timing of any vacancy) • The task and expense of contesting an election by candidates across the region (as opposed to division) may be perceived as a problem • Some of the smaller communities may become marginalised

Find out more and register to have you say at shapingourtablelands.trc.qld.gov.au

Public consultation responses

Divisional Boundaries Review - Community Engagement results 26/02/2019

Data Snapshot

MODE	Quantitative	#	Qualitative	#	Qualitative	#	Overall interaction	#
Online	Poll responses	166	Interactive comments	5			Page Views	1027
Offline	Hard copy surveys	2	Customer enquiries	4	Emailed commentary	3		

1027 total page views

Please note from an anecdotal point of view the high volume may be due to the following:

- ✓ High level interest in the project
- ✓ People that have completed the poll may be checking back in at a later time to view latest poll results
- ✓ TRC staff monitoring the poll results and volume of interaction, and comments

166 online poll responses

Quick Polls

Forums

Q :What is your preferred option for local representation?

Keep existing divisions with minor boundary realignment (60%, 99 votes)

Reduce divisions and have multiple councillors per division (6%, 10 votes)

Abolish divisions (34%, 57 votes)

Total Votes: 166

2x Hard Copy Poll responses

- ✓ Keep existing division with minor boundary realignment
Total votes: 2
Received from Ravenshoe Library

TOTAL POLL RESPONSES – 168

RESULT – 101 VOTES in favour of keeping existing divisions with minor boundary changes

Public consultation comments (personnel information redacted)

Qualitative Data

5x Interactive comments provided on the Shaping our Tablelands project

1. Residents on the cemetery side of Herberton consider themselves to be part of a community of interest with Herberton and Division One rather than Division Two. Alternatively, Wondelba residents could be shifted to Division Two to make up the numbers along with some Upper Barron households.
2. Division ensure that the community gets more or less equal representation otherwise there is a chance that all the Councillors may come from a particular place and some areas will feel unrepresented.
3. No divisions.
4. Concur with you. That would seem to be a logical choice. Division 2 is huge but manageable. A slight alteration to the boundaries would not affect the business of the elected Councillor.
5. Along with maintaining Divisional Boundaries, efforts should be increased to engage more casual employment (including occasional plant hire etc) from within the Divisions. The removal / reduction of workshops and agencies from the lower populated divisions has a significant impact on the smaller businesses and the sustainability of these centres, as Councils are often one of the major employers. Removing or expanding Division Boundaries will further exacerbate these mini economies.

7x offline comments

Customer service contact:

1. [redacted] called to express his dissatisfaction with the short length of time the given to have a say on Divisional Boundaries from the date of advertising in the paper. He is going to complain to Brisbane but wants it noted by Council as well.
2. [redacted] called Council regarding the Divisional Boundary survey particularly around Option 3. She has some queries around the payments that Councillors/Mayors will receive if Option 3 goes ahead?
Community Engagement Officer has phoned and left a message for Marcia, will follow up.
3. [redacted] Customer Service Counter enquiry, information provided
4. [redacted] called Customer Service, information provided

Commentary received via contact option on Shaping our Tablelands:

5. [redacted] emailed asking "Who is responsible for the publicity of the division/boundary survey- council or change commission? There is only a few days to go and I have only just heard about it."
Email response provided.
6. [redacted] emailed stating (3) Abolish divisions
7. [redacted] emailed stating Wish to retain divisional boundaries

Submission re Council Boundaries

I believe that the TRC division boundaries should remain as they are for the following reasons:

The councillor should live in the area they represent, as currently is the case. If this were to change there is a high likelihood that most of the representatives would be from the main towns, leaving those of us in the sparsely populated areas with far less representation.

Because the councillor lives in the area he or she is likely to be familiar with the local issues and people, therefore it would involve less travel and time for the representative.

It is far more democratic for people in an area to vote for a representative from that area who they are likely to know, than for someone from a distance away.

If the number of voters in Division 2 is below the quota then a simple look at a map will show what a vast area there is to cover. What chance is there of a councillor from Atherton or Malanda visiting such far flung areas of the shire? Alternatively, there could be an amendment to the divisional boundaries to increase the number of residents in that division.

We are seeing now in Mareeba shire a push by residents of Kuranda to have their own representative on the council, as no councillor is from that area, and given the population of Kuranda it is impossible for the residents there to elect someone from that area.



Council report and resolution (tabled at ordinary meeting 28 February 2019)Tablelands Regional Council

OFFICER'S REPORT

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR THE 2020 QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

MEETING: Ordinary

MEETING DATE: 28 February 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR/
OFFICER'S TITLE:** Bob Owen General Manager Community, Planning & Environment

DEPARTMENT: Community, Planning & Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required under the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) to review whether each of its divisions has a reasonable proportion of electors. Notice of the results of the review needs to be given to the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) and the Electoral Commissioner (the Commissioner) by 1 March in the year before the quadrennial election in 2020.

Council is also currently undertaking public consultation on options in regard to electoral boundaries for the 2020 quadrennial election. The result of this public consultation is not available at the time of writing this report as the consultation period is still open. It is proposed to finalise and complete this report for tabling and publication prior to the Council meeting on 28 February 2018.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

"That Council write to the Minister for Local Government and the Electoral Commissioner to give notice of the results of the review into the reasonable proportion of electors in each division as required under section 16 of the *Local Government Act 2009*."

"That Council request the Minister for Local Government to refer the electoral arrangements for Tablelands Regional Council to the Local Government Change Commission in order for the Commission to undertake further, detailed community consultation as to whether existing divisions are retained or Council becomes an undivided Council"

BACKGROUND***Reasonable proportion of electors***

Council is required under the Act to review the number of electors in each division and give notice of the review to the Minister and Commissioner by 1 March 2019. Each division must contain a reasonable proportion of electors (RPE) as defined under the Act.

The RPE is the total number of electors divided by the number of divisions. On the latest figures obtained from the Electoral Commission of Queensland (as at 31 January 2019), the total number of electors is 17 200. As we have six divisions, the RPE is 2 866.667. The number of

REVIEW OF DIVISIONS AND PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2020 QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

2

electors in each division may vary by 10% above or below the RPE under the Act. This gives a high number of 3 153 electors and a low number of 2 580. The number of electors in each division must fall within this range. All divisions, other than Division 2, satisfy the RPE requirements. Division 2 has 2 514 electors which is below the low threshold.

For the sake of completeness, the number of electors in all divisions is set out below:

DIVISION	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	RPE	UPPER LIMIT	LOWER LIMIT	VARIANCE FROM RPE	STATUS
1	3114	2866.667	3153	2580	+8.83%	In quota
2	2514	2866.667	3153	2580	-12.3%	Out of quota
3	2909	2866.667	3153	2580	+1.48%	In quota
4	2977	2866.667	3153	2580	+3.85%	In quota
5	3063	2866.667	3153	2580	+6.85%	In quota
6	2623	2866.667	3153	2580	-8.5%	In quota

Council must give notice of the above results of the RPE review to the Minister and Commissioner. The Minister will review the information and decide whether to refer the matter of possible boundary changes to the Local Government Change Commission (the Commission). The Commission is an independent body and will make a decision based on its own investigations and recommendations. The Commission will likely investigate ways to increase the number of electors in Division 2 in order to meet the threshold requirements.

Possible alternate electoral arrangements

An interim report was published in the Agenda in order to provide some level of information to councillors and members of the public.

Initial public consultation closed at 5pm on Tuesday 26 February 2019.

The results below update the interim information contained in the Agenda.

Three options were presented to the community for feedback:

1. Option 1: Keep the existing six divisions with a minor amendment to boundaries to increase the reasonable proportion of electors in Division 2.
2. Option 2: Reduce the number of divisions and have multiple councillors represent each division.
3. Option 3: Abolish divisions.

Consultation was undertaken on Council's community engagement website, Shaping Our Tablelands. Hard copy information and feedback forms were also provided in each of Council's Customer Service Centres.

Results of the consultation were:

3

Option	Percentage of votes	Number of votes
Retain existing divisions (with minor amendments to boundaries)	60.58%	103
Reduce the number of divisions and have multiple councilors represent each division	5.88%	10
Abolish divisions	33.52%	57
Total Votes		170

Comments received from respondents are attached to this report.

A majority of the 170 respondents wish to retain existing divisions with boundary amendments to ensure Division 2 has a RPE.

The response rate to the survey was low at 0.98% given that the local government area has 17 200 electors as at 31 January 2019.

There is also a diversity of views at Council level as to the preferred option.

It is therefore recommended that Council request the Minister to refer the matter to the Commission in order to undertake further, detailed community consultation. If the matter is referred, the Commission (not Council) will make any decision.

Project Objective and Scope

N/A

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

KEY PRIORITY:	4. Towards Council 2050 <i>Council will explore options and develop commercially sound strategies and practices to maximise economic, social and environmental well-being for community members, taking balanced risks to develop innovative solutions to problematic issues.</i>
STRATEGIC GOAL	4.4 Model good governance and leadership.

CONSULTATION

Internal
Councillors
Executive Leadership Team

External
Community survey
Department of Local Government
Electoral Commission

4

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY BASIS, LEGAL RISKS)

Council is in compliance with the Act by undertaking the actions outlined in the report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATION

Letters to be sent to the relevant parties following Council's decision.

Change Management

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Comments received through the community engagement process

Date Prepared: 20/02/2019

Attachment 1

Submission re Council Boundaries

I believe that the TRC division boundaries should remain as they are for the following reasons:

The councillor should live in the area they represent, as currently is the case. If this were to change there is a high likelihood that most of the representatives would be from the main towns, leaving those of us in the sparsely populated areas with far less representation.

Because the councillor lives in the area he or she is likely to be familiar with the local issues and people, therefore it would involve less travel and time for the representative.

It is far more democratic for people in an area to vote for a representative from that area who they are likely to know, than for someone from a distance away.

If the number of voters in Division 2 is below the quota then a simple look at a map will show what a vast area there is to cover. What chance is there of a councillor from Atherton or Malanda visiting such far flung areas of the shire? Alternatively, there could be an amendment to the divisional boundaries to increase the number of residents in that division.

We are seeing now in Mareeba shire a push by residents of Kuranda to have their own representative on the council, as no councillor is from that area, and given the population of Kuranda it is impossible for the residents there to elect someone from that area.



Qualitative Data

5x Interactive comments provided on the Shaping our Tablelands project

1. Residents on the cemetery side of Herberton consider themselves to be part of a community of interest with Herberton and Division One rather than Division Two. Alternatively, Wondecla residents could be shifted to Division Two to make up the numbers along with some Upper Barron households.
2. Division ensure that the community gets more or less equal representation otherwise there is a chance that all the Councillors may come from a particular place and some areas will feel unrepresented.
3. No divisions.
4. Concur with you. That would seem to be a logical choice. Division 2 is huge but manageable. A slight alteration to the boundaries would not affect the business of the elected Councillor.
5. Along with maintaining Divisional Boundaries, efforts should be increased to engage more casual employment (including occasional plant hire etc) from within the Divisions. The removal / reduction of workshops and agencies from the lower populated divisions has a significant impact on the smaller businesses and the sustainability of these centres, as Councils are often one of the major employers. Removing or expanding Division Boundaries will further exacerbate these mini economies.

7x offline comments

Customer service contact:

1. [redacted] called to express his dissatisfaction with the short length of time the given to have a say on Divisional Boundaries from the date of advertising in the paper. He is going to complain to Brisbane but wants it noted by Council as well.
2. [redacted] called Council regarding the Divisional Boundary survey particularly around Option 3. She has some queries around the payments that Councillors/Mayors will receive if Option 3 goes ahead?
Community Engagement Officer has phoned and left a message for Marcia, will follow up.
3. [redacted] Customer Service Counter enquiry, information provided
4. [redacted] called Customer Service, information provided

Commentary received via contact option on Shaping our Tablelands:

5. [redacted] emailed asking "Who is responsible for the publicity of the division/boundary survey- council or change commission? There is only a few days to go and I have only just heard about it."
Email response provided.
6. [redacted] emailed stating (3) Abolish divisions
7. [redacted] emailed stating Wish to retain divisional boundaries

[Agenda Report](#)

User Instructions

If necessary to view the original Agenda Item, double-click on 'Agenda Report' blue hyperlink above.

ACTION FROM ORDINARY MEETING

Held on Thursday, 28 February 2019
For ITEM-8

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR THE 2020
 QUADRENNIAL ELECTION**

Moved by Cr Mellick

Seconded by Cr Banks

"That Council write to the Minister for Local Government and the Electoral Commissioner to give notice of the results of the review into the reasonable proportion of electors in each division as required under section 16 of the *Local Government Act 2009*."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Cr Mellick

Seconded by Cr Banks

"That Council request the Minister for Local Government to refer the electoral arrangements for Tablelands Regional Council to the Local Government Change Commission in order for the Commission to undertake further, detailed community consultation as to whether existing divisions are retained or Council becomes an undivided Council."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPENDIX B

Suggestions Notice & Public Submissions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

Divisional Boundary Review of Tablelands Regional Council

The Tablelands Regional Council has advised its electoral divisions no longer meet the voter enrolment requirements set down in the *Local Government Act 2009*. As a result, the Minister for Local Government has referred the matter to the Change Commission for independent assessment.

Enrolment Requirements

Each division of the Council is required to have relatively the same number of voters (quota) to ensure each person's vote has the same value. The quota for each division of the Tablelands Regional local government area is 2,867 with a lower limit of 2,580 (-10%) and an upper limit of 3,153 (+10%).

For more information and enrolment statistics please see the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/lg-reviews/DBRs or phone 1300 881 665.

INVITATION FOR WRITTEN SUGGESTIONS

The Change Commission now invites suggestions regarding the divisional boundaries for the Tablelands Regional Council. Submissions will be accepted until 5pm on 13 May 2019. Late submissions cannot be considered.

Submissions can be lodged through:

- Online Form (*preferred*)

www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/lg-reviews/DBRs

- Email

LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

- Personal Delivery (Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm)

Electoral Commission of Queensland
Level 20, 1 Eagle Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

- Post

Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Submissions will be made available for public inspection. To discuss any privacy concerns, please phone 1300 881 665.

Pat Vidgen PSM

Electoral Commissioner

Divisional Boundary Review of Tablelands Regional Council
List of Public Suggestions

Suggestion Name / Organisation

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| 1 | Karen Allen |
| 2 | Helen & Brad Rolph |

Sent: Thursday, 2 May 2019 5:16 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78672) Tablelands Regional Local Government Area - Karen Allen

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Local Government Area** from **Karen Allen**

Submission Details

Name: Karen Allen

Submission Text: All residents in the Atherton township should be in the same division. I am in the town of Atherton but in the division mostly of Herberton which is crazy.

File Upload: No file uploaded ()

Sent: Monday, 6 May 2019 3:47 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78691) Tablelands Regional Local Government Area - Helen & Brad Rolph

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Local Government Area** from **Helen & Brad Rolph**

Submission Details

Name: Helen & Brad Rolph

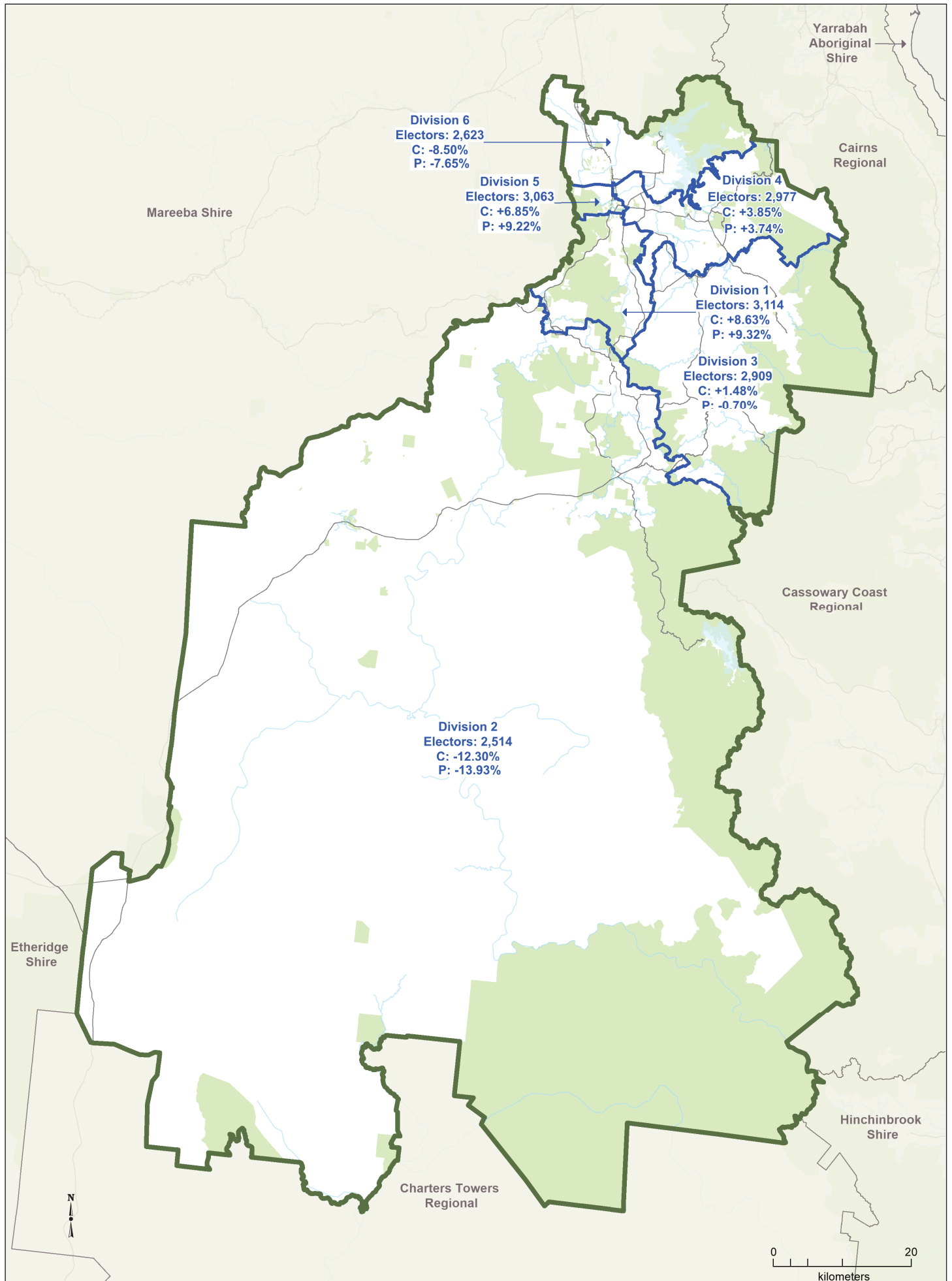
Submission Text: Should remain as six divisions with six councillors and a Mayor

File Upload: No file uploaded ()

APPENDIX C

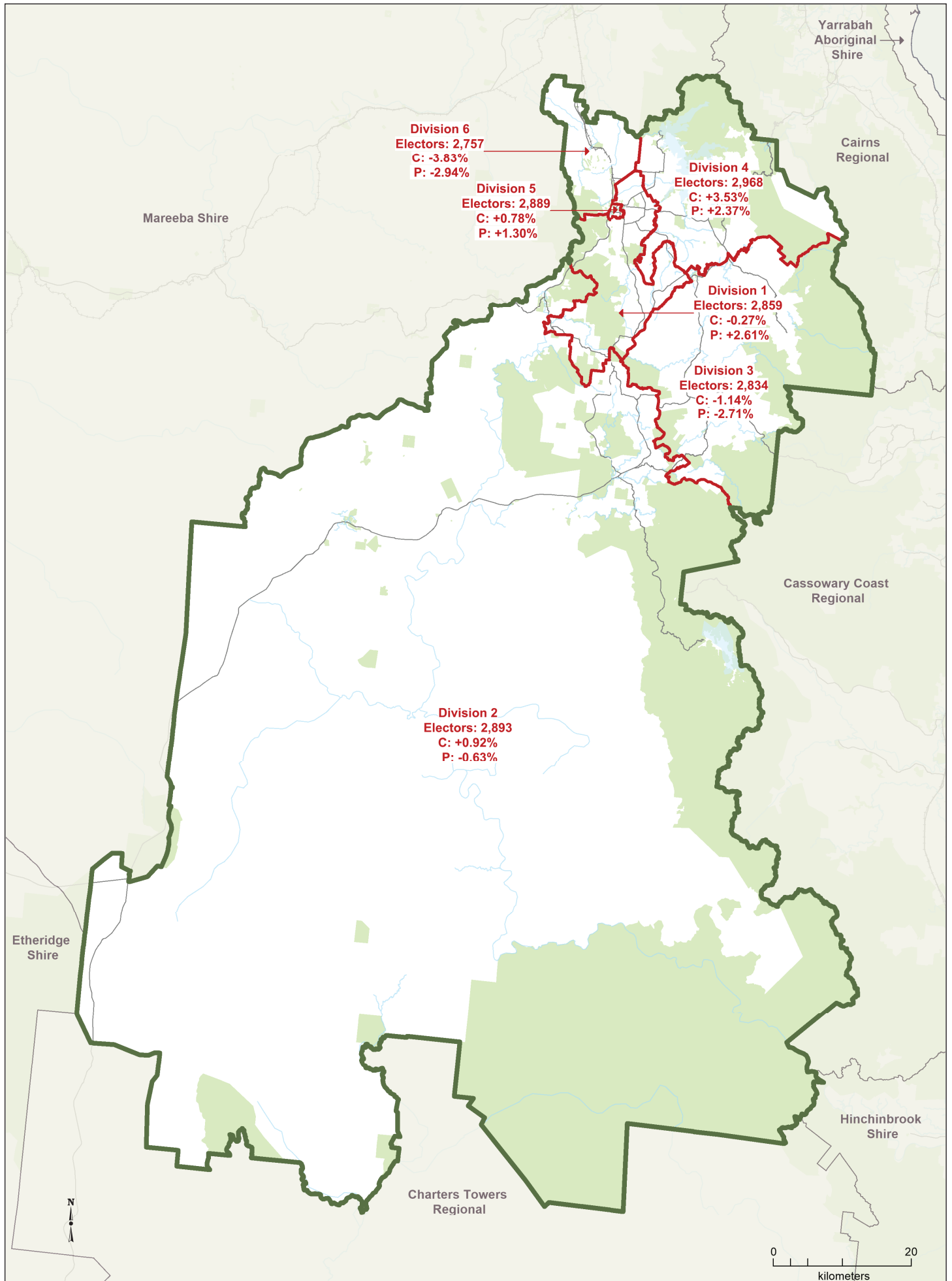
Maps of Proposed Divisions

TABLELANDS REGIONAL Existing Electoral Divisions

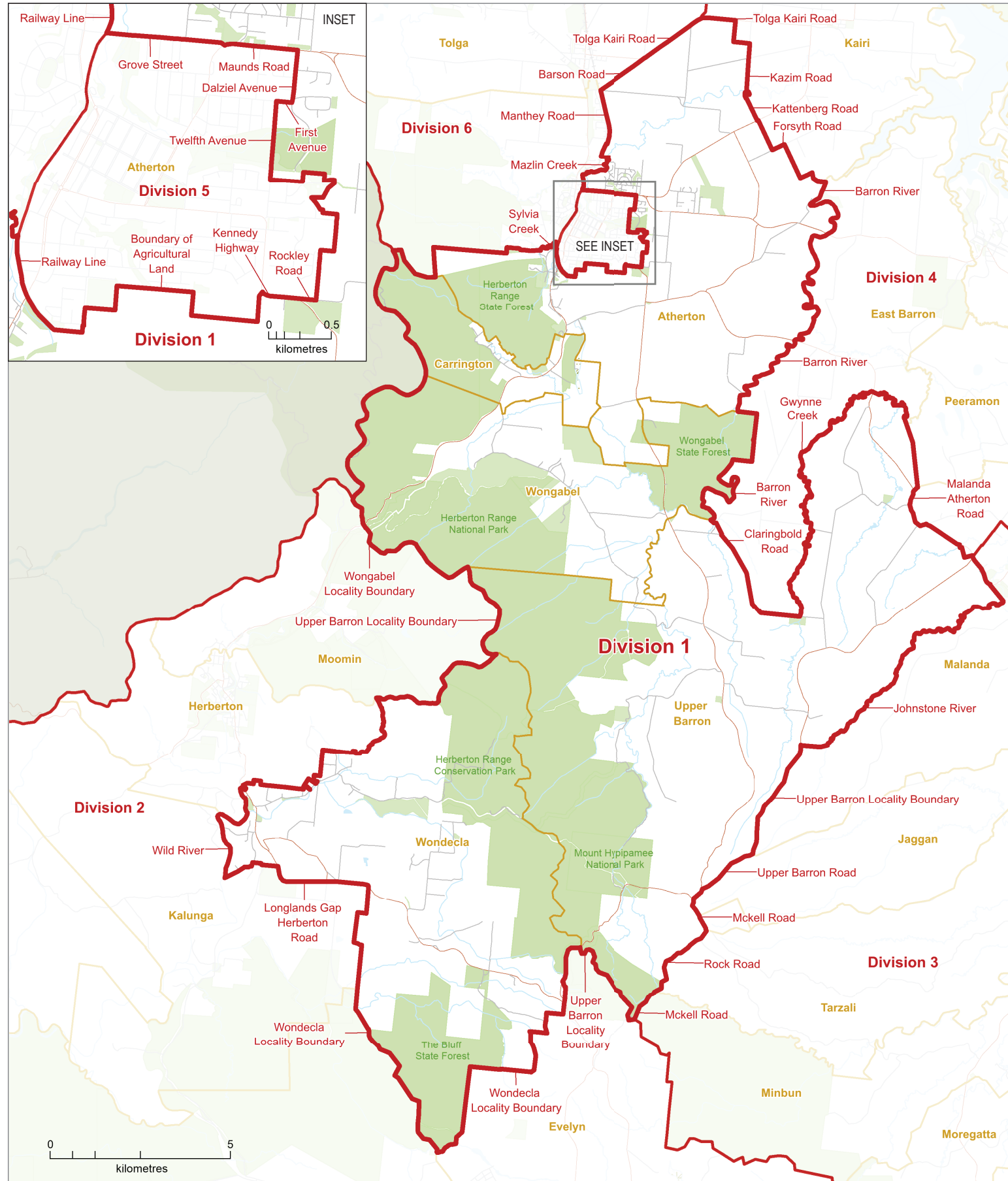


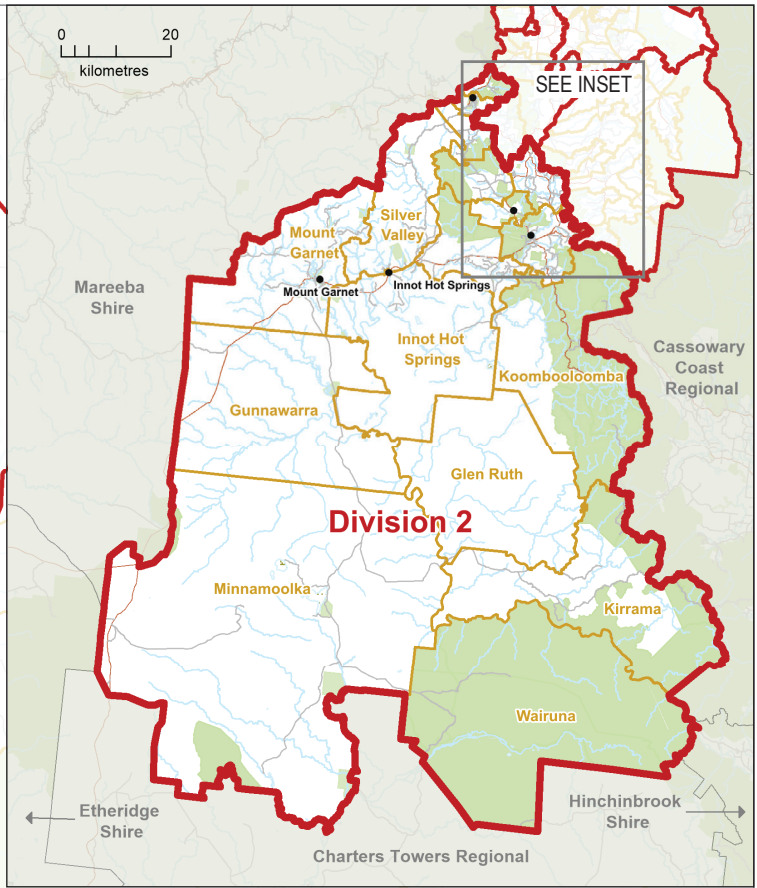
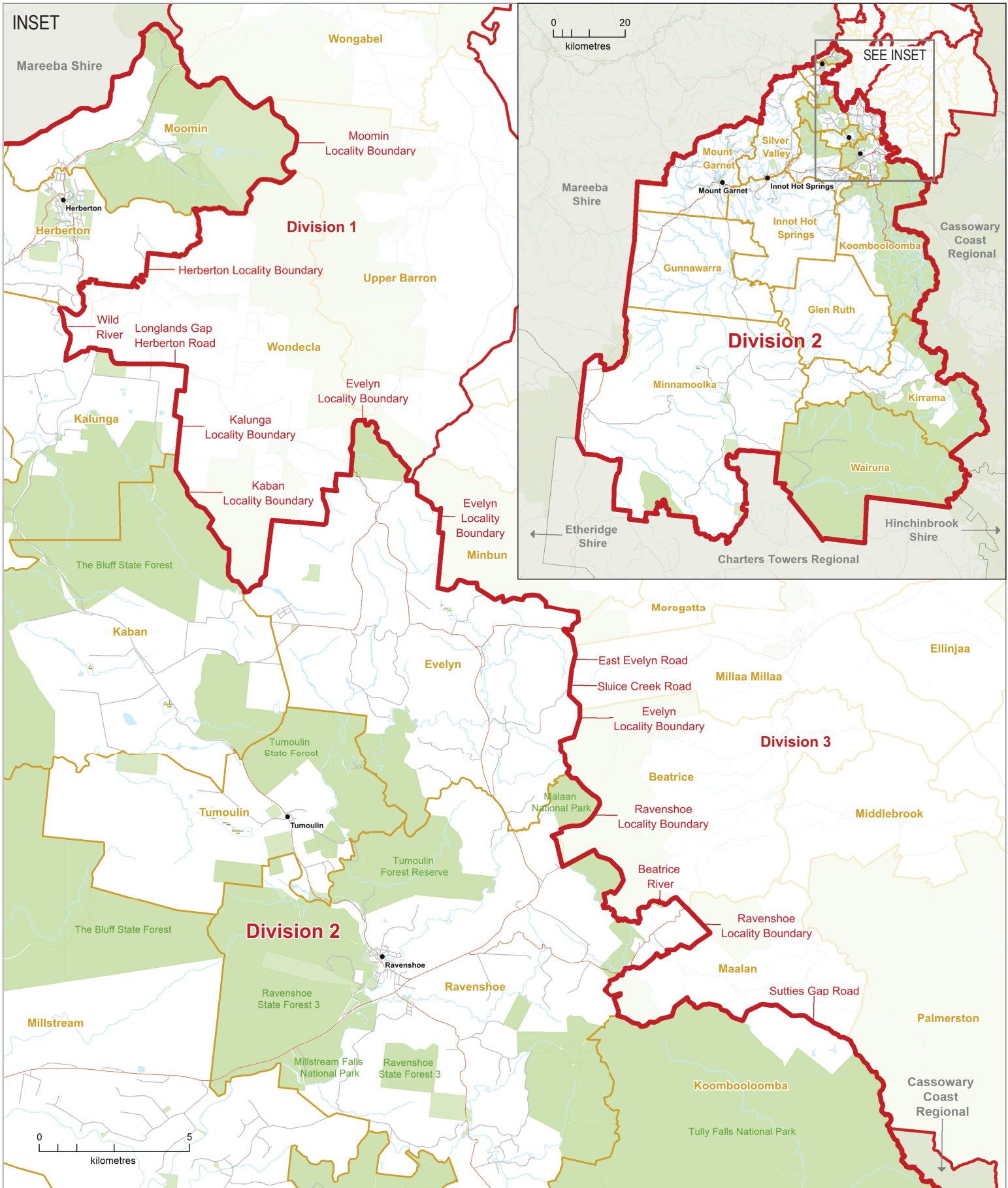
Council Boundary
 Existing Division Boundary
 Adjacent Council
 Park/Reserve
 Watercourse/Waterbody
 Major Roadway

TABLELANDS REGIONAL Proposed Electoral Divisions



 Council Boundary
 Proposed Division Boundary
 Adjacent Council
 Park/Reserve
 — Watercourse/Waterbody
 — Major Roadway





2019
Local Government Area
Divisional Boundary Review

PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES

TABLELANDS REGIONAL
Division 2



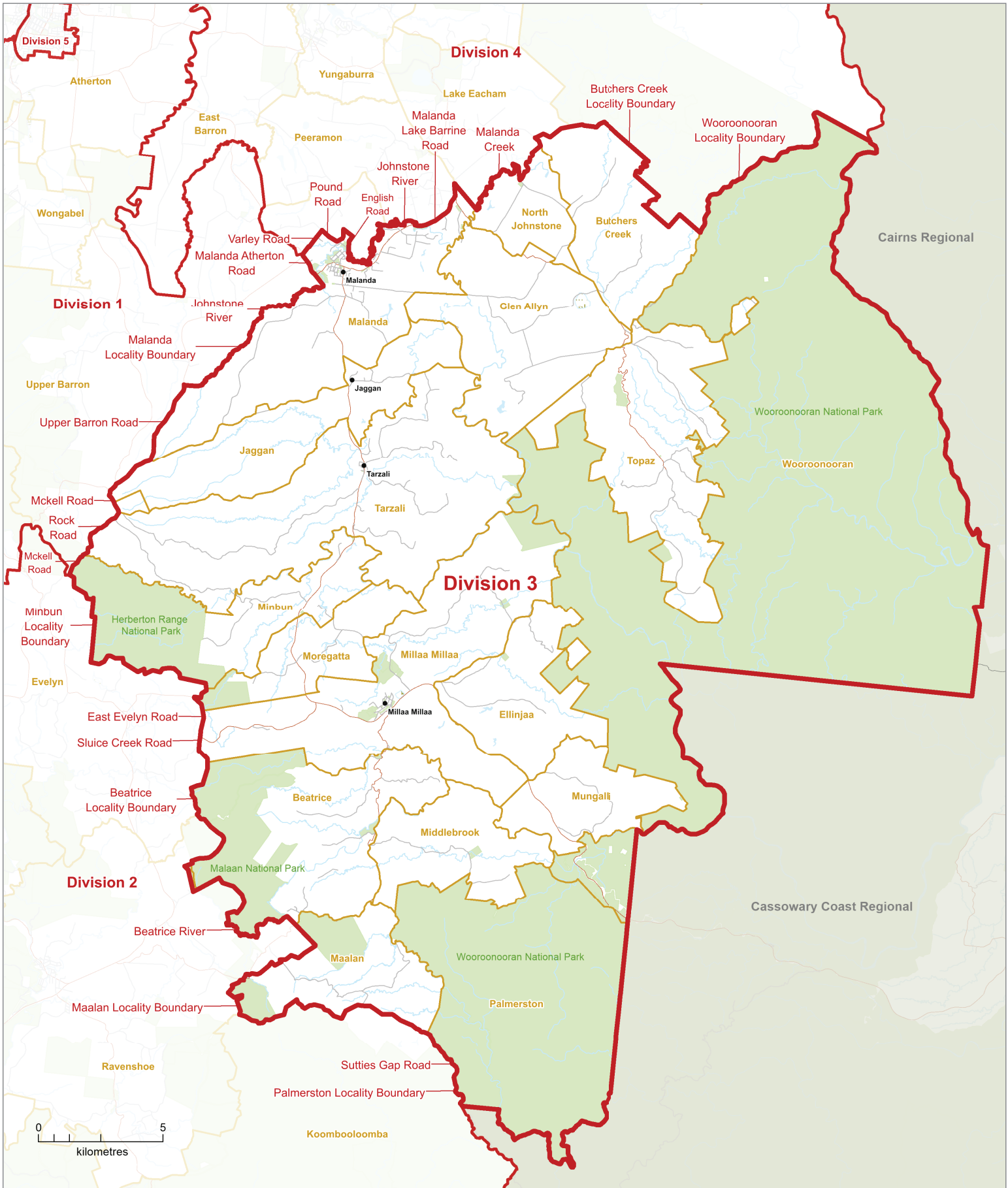
LEGEND

	Proposed Division Boundary		Reserve, Parkland
	Proposed Adjacent Division		Waterbody
	Locality Boundary		Railway
	Adjacent Council		Main Road
			Wetland

This product was created using datasets from various authoritative sources, and is intended as a guide only to display proposed divisional boundaries.

The digital GIS data is available FREE to download from Queensland Spatial Catalogue, or Qspatial, at <http://qldspatial.information.qld.gov.au>

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**2019
Local Government Area
Divisional Boundary Review**

PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES

**TABLELANDS REGIONAL
Division 3**



Location Map
DIVISION 3



LEGEND

	Proposed Division Boundary		Reserve, Parkland
	Proposed Adjacent Division		Waterbody
	Locality Boundary		Railway
	Adjacent Council		Main Road
			Wetland

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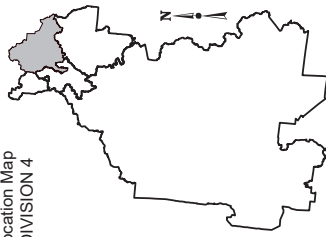
**PROPOSED DIVISIONAL
BOUNDARIES**

**TABLELANDS REGIONAL
Division 4**

LEGEND

- Proposed Division Boundary
- Proposed Adjacent Division
- Locality Boundary
- Adjacent Council
- Reserve, Parkland
- Waterbody
- Railway
- Main Road
- Wetland

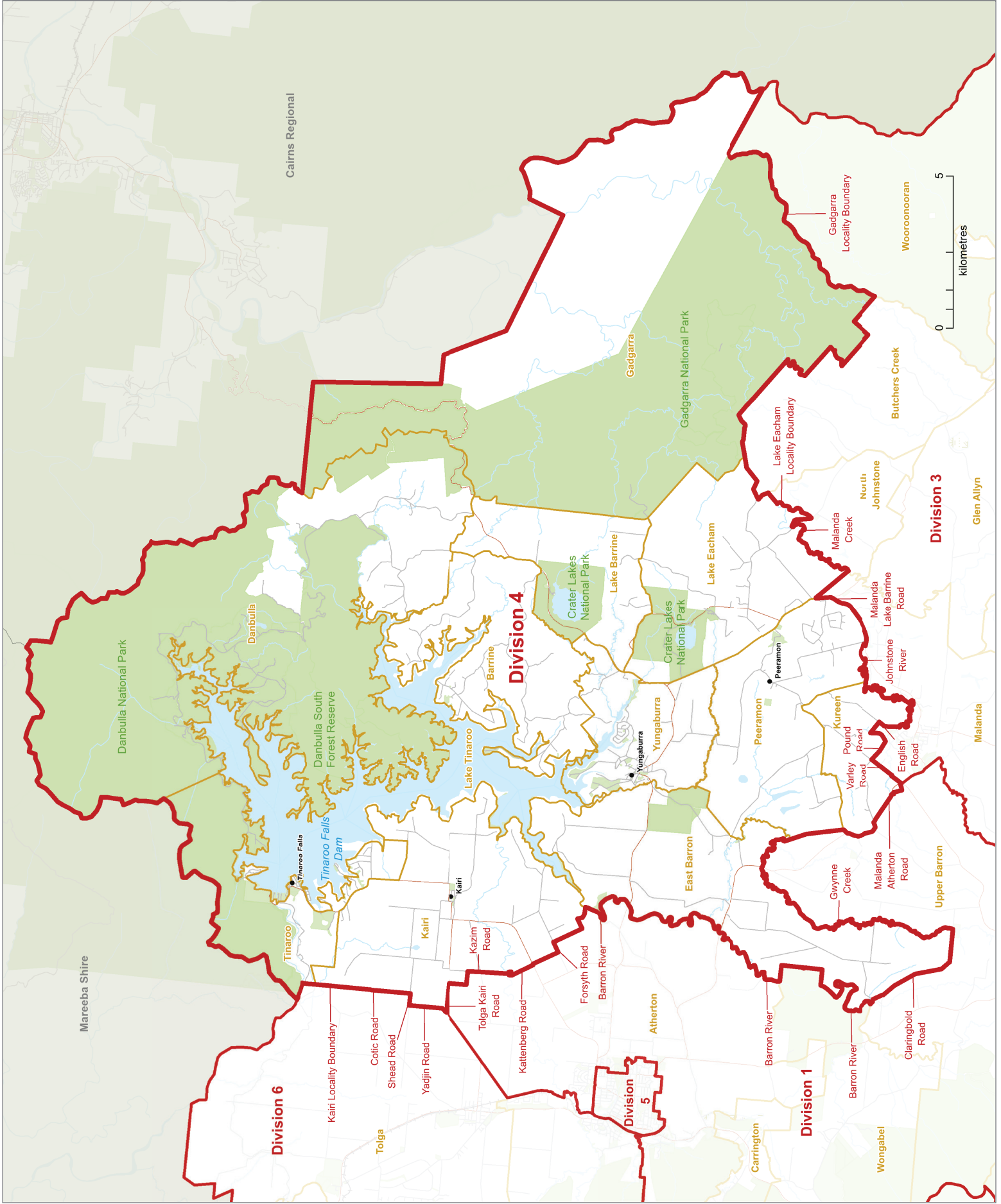
Location Map
DIVISION 4



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**PROPOSED DIVISIONAL
BOUNDARIES**

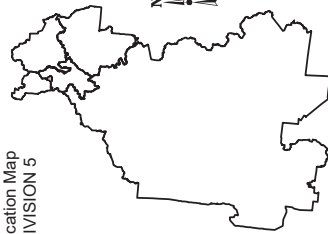
TABLELANDS REGIONAL

Division 5

LEGEND

- Proposed Division Boundary
- Proposed Adjacent Division
- Locality Boundary
- Adjacent Council
- Reserve, Parkland
- Waterbody
- Railway
- Main Road
- Wetland

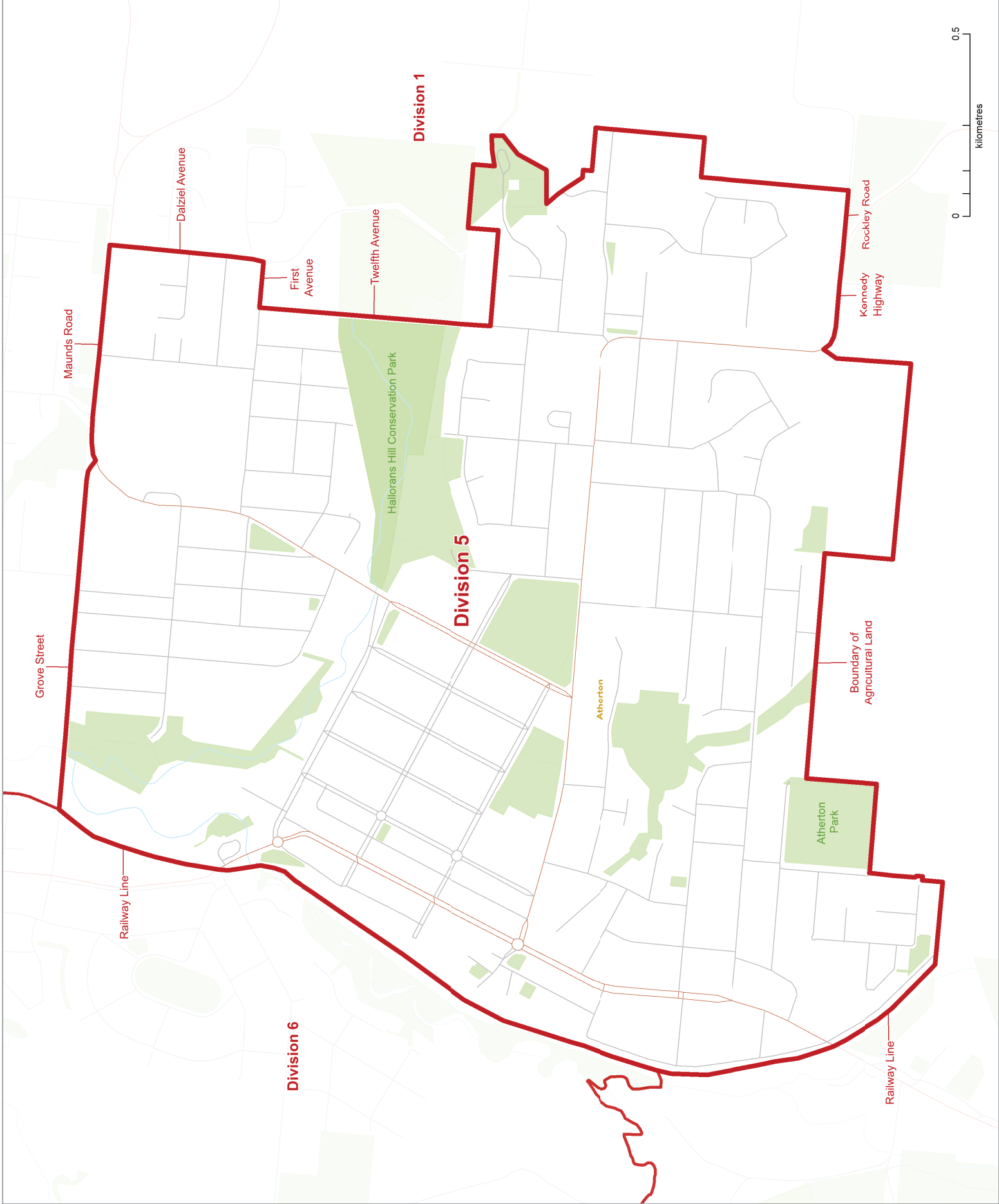
Location Map
DIVISION 5

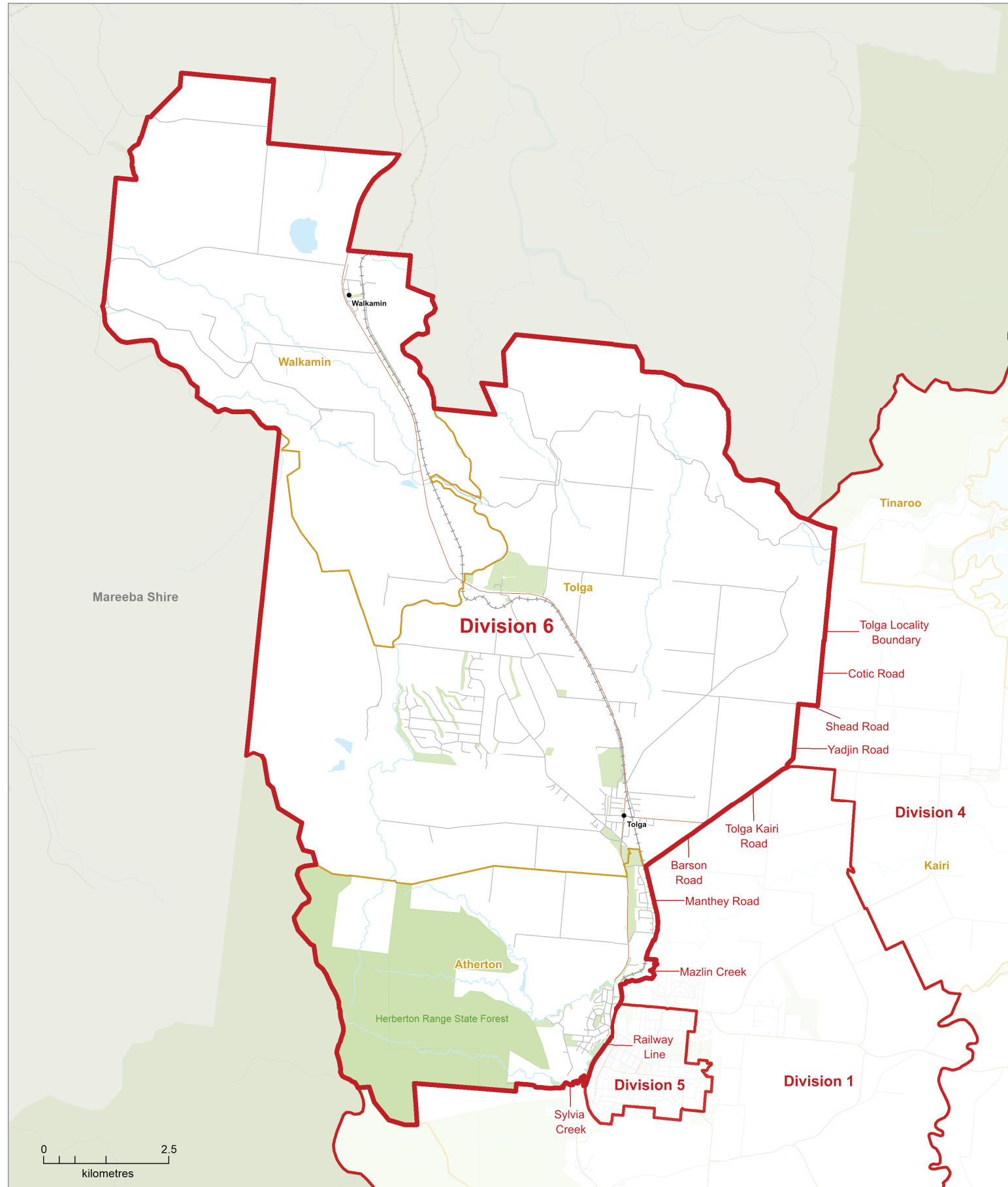


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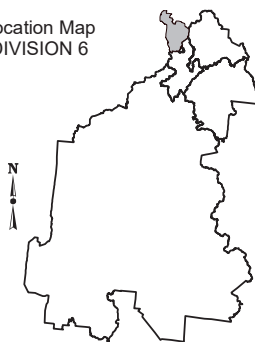


**2019
Local Government Area
Divisional Boundary Review**

**PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES
TABLELANDS REGIONAL
Division 6**



Location Map
DIVISION 6



LEGEND

	Proposed Division Boundary		Reserve, Parkland
	Proposed Adjacent Division		Waterbody
	Locality Boundary		Railway
	Adjacent Council		Main Road
			Wetland

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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



**Electoral
Commission**
QUEENSLAND