

Review of Divisional Boundaries

2019 PROPOSED DETERMINATION
SOUTH BURNETT 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 26 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 South Burnett 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 South Burnett 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 South Burnett 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 organised around '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 Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) website

CURRENT BOUNDARIES & ENROLMENT

The South Burnett Regional Council has 22,802 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 projected quota 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 4 was close to the quota with 4,173 voters (9.81%) and had exceeded the quota in the previous month of December 2018.

Table 1 – Current and Projected Council Quota		
	31 January 2019	31 March 2024
Number of divisions	6	6
Enrolment	22,802	23,638
Quota per division	3,800	3,940
Quota (+10%) per division	4,180	4,334
Quota (-10%) per division	3,420	3,546

Table 2 – Current and Projected Enrolment for the Existing Electoral Divisions				
Division	Enrolment as at 31/01/2019	(%) Deviation from Quota	Projected Enrolment as at 31/03/2024	(%) Deviation from Quota
Division 1	3,690	-2.9	3,860	-2.02
Division 2	3,754	-1.22	3,925	-0.37
Division 3	3,751	-1.3	3,863	-1.95
Division 4	4,173	9.81	4,308	9.35
Division 5	3,521	-7.35	3,609	-8.39
Division 6	3,913	2.96	4,073	3.38

PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

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

Suggestions were invited from 27 April 2019 to 5pm 13 May 2019. No submissions were received during this period, however on 25 February 2019, the South Burnett Regional Council recommended minor changes to Divisions 4, 5 and 6. No specific boundary recommendations were made. This submission is available to view on the ECQ website or at Appendix B.

THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The proposed boundaries for the South Burnett Regional Council are detailed below. They bring enrolment in each division into quota and the Change Commission has made a concerted effort to use suburb boundaries where possible, uniting entire localities 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 available to view on the ECQ website.

Table 3 – Current and Projected Enrolment for the Proposed Electoral Divisions				
Division	Enrolment as at 31/01/2019	(%) Deviation from Quota	Projected Enrolment as at 31/03/2024	(%) Deviation from Quota
Division 1	3,682	-3.11	3,851	-2.25
Division 2	3,737	-1.67	3,907	-0.83
Division 3	4,046	6.46	4,108	4.27
Division 4	3,896	2.52	4,081	3.59
Division 5	3,720	-2.11	3,819	-3.06
Division 6	3,721	-2.09	3,872	-1.72

Division 1

A few changes are proposed so that Division 1 follows suburb boundaries.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the remainder of the East Nanango suburb from Division 2;
- b. Gains the remaining portion of the Wattle Camp suburb from Division 6; and
- c. Transfers the remainder of the Charlestown and Corndale suburbs to Division 6.

The proposed Division has 3,682 voters which is -3.11% below quota and is predicted to have 3,851 voters by 2024 which would be -2.25% below quota.

Division 2

A couple of changes are proposed so that Division 2 follows suburb boundaries.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the balance of the Bunya Mountains suburb from Division 6; and
- b. Transfers the balance of the East Nanango suburb to Division 1.

The proposed Division has 3,737 voters which is -1.67% below quota and is predicted to have 3,907 voters by 2024 which would be -0.83% below quota.

Division 3

A number of changes are proposed to align Division 3's boundaries to suburbs and help to balance enrolment in the neighbouring Division 4.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains a portion of Kingaroy suburb from Division 4;
- b. Gains the remainder of the Taabinga suburb and a portion of the Kingaroy suburb from Division 6;
- c. Transfers the suburb of Booie and a portion of Kingaroy suburb to Division 4; and
- d. Transfers the balance of the Inverlaw and Haly Creek suburbs to Division 6.

The proposed Division has 4,046 voters which is 6.46% above quota and is predicted to have 4,108 voters by 2024 which would be 4.27% above quota.

Division 4

Division 4 is close to exceeding the enrolment quota. The Change Commission's proposal has followed suburb boundaries, except for the Kingaroy locality which is shared between Divisions 3 and 4. This is an improvement on the current boundaries, which split the Kingaroy suburb three-ways between Divisions 3, 4 and 6.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the suburb of Booie and a portion of Kingaroy from Division 3;
- b. Transfers a portion of Kingaroy to Division 3; and
- c. Transfers the balance of the Crawford and Memerambi suburbs so they are united in Division 6.

The proposed Division has 3,896 voters which is 2.52% above quota and is predicted to have 4,081 voters by 2024 which would be 3.59% above quota.

Division 5

Division 5 needed to gain voters and a few changes have been proposed to improve its enrolment.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains an additional portion of the Greenview suburb as well as the entirety of the Okeden, Proston, Kinleymore, Hivesville, Mount McEuen, Keysland, Leafdale, Fairdale and Mp Creek suburbs from Division 6; and
- b. Transfers its portion of the Charlestown suburb to Division 6.

The proposed Division has 3,720 voters which is -2.11% below quota and is predicted to have 3,819 voters by 2024 which would be -3.06% below quota.

Division 6

Division 6 has been impacted by the need to reduce enrolment in Division 4 and boost enrolment in Division 5. As with the other divisions, the Change Commission has made a concerted effort to follow suburb boundaries where possible.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes. The Division:

- a. Gains the balance of the Corndale suburb from Division 1;
- b. Gains the remainder of the Charlestown suburb from Divisions 1 and 5, uniting the locality in Division 6;
- c. Gains the balance of the Inverlaw and Haly Creek suburbs from Division 3;
- d. Gains the remainder of the Memerambi and Crawford suburbs from Division 4;
- e. Transfers the balance of the Wattle Camp suburb to Division 1;
- f. Transfers the balance of the Bunya Mountains suburb to Division 2;
- g. Transfers a portion of the Kingaroy suburb and the balance of the Taabinga locality to Division 3; and
- h. Transfers a portion of the Greenview suburb and the entirety of the Okeden, Proston, Kinleymore, Hivesville, Mount McEuen, Keysland, Leafdale, Fairdale and Mp Creek suburbs to Division 5.

The proposed Division has 3,721 voters which is -2.09% below quota and is predicted to have 3,872 voters by 2024 which would be -1.72% below quota.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL INVITED

Comments on this proposal are invited until 5pm, 8 July 2019 and can be lodged through:

Online Form

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

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: MC19/1124

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

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

APPENDIX B

Public Suggestions

Enquiries: Mark Pitt
Phone: (07) [REDACTED]
ECM ID No 2570998 MP:AL

South Burnett Regional Council
ABN 89 972 463 351
PO Box 336
Kingaroy QLD 4610
☎ 1300 789 279 or (07) 4189 9100
☎ (07) 4162 4806
✉ info@southburnett.qld.gov.au
■ www.southburnett.qld.gov.au

25 February 2019

Ms Elise Arklay
Secretary
Local Government Change Commission (LGCC)
Electoral Commission Queensland
GPO 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Arklay

Re: South Burnett Regional Council Division Changes

I write with reference to your correspondence dated 19 September 2018 and 6 February 2019 in relation to the above matter.

This matter was considered by Council at this meeting on Wednesday 20 February 2019. The following resolution was unanimously carried.

That South Burnett Regional Council advise the Minister for Local Government and the Electoral Commission Queensland that:

1. *Division 4 is out of quota as at 21 December 2018;*
2. *That Council recommends minor divisional boundary changes to bring Divisions 4 into quota average and further minor changes to Divisions 5 and 6 to bring to the average quota in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009.*

If you have any further questions or should you require further information please feel free to contact my office on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Mark Pitt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Customer Service Centres

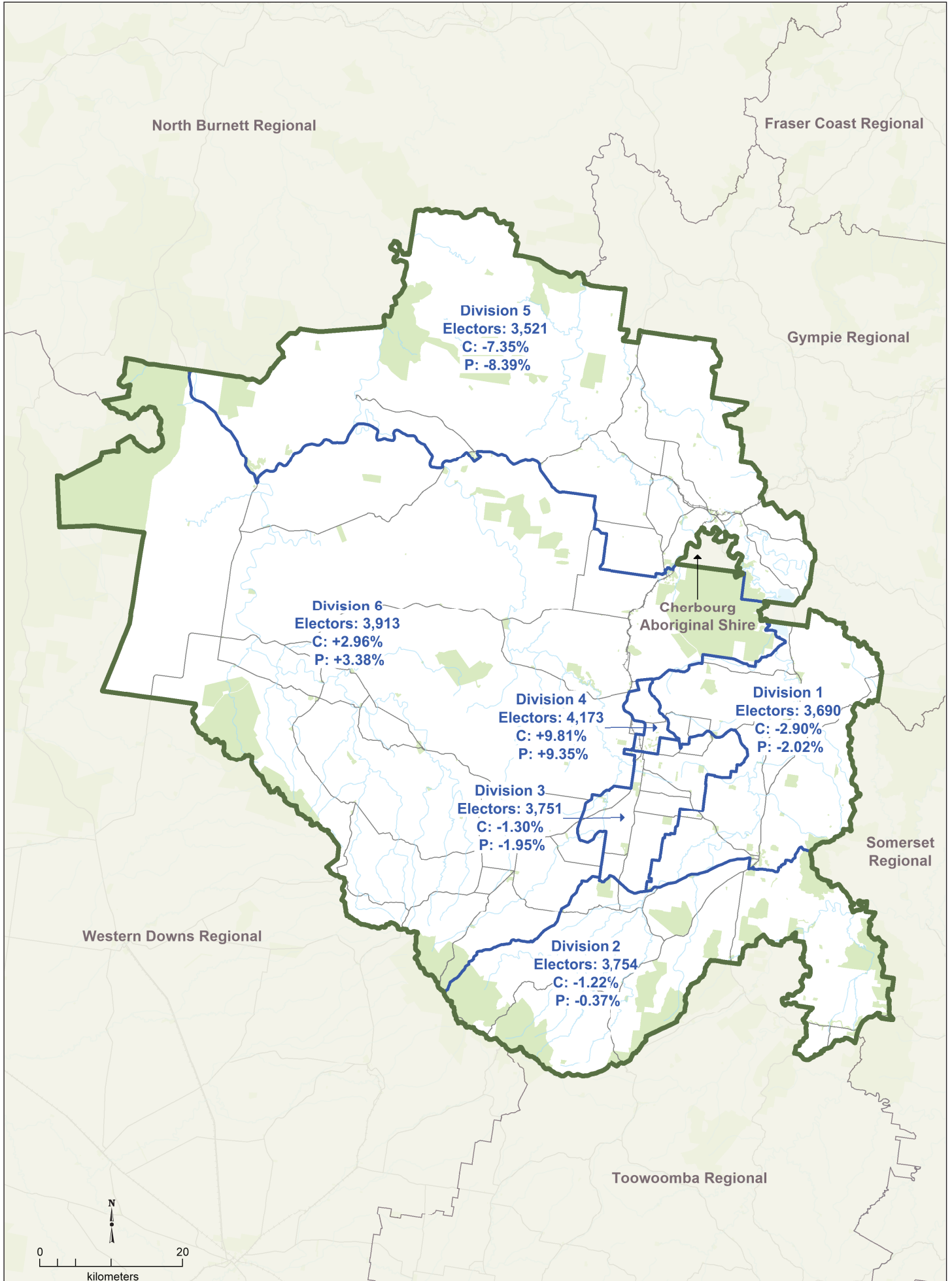
- ☐ **Blackbutt** 69 Hart Street
- ☐ **Kingaroy** 45 Glendon Street
- ☐ **Nanango** 48 Drayton Street

- ☐ **Murgon** 42 Stephens Street West
- ☐ **Wondal** Cnr Mackenzie & Scott Streets

APPENDIX C

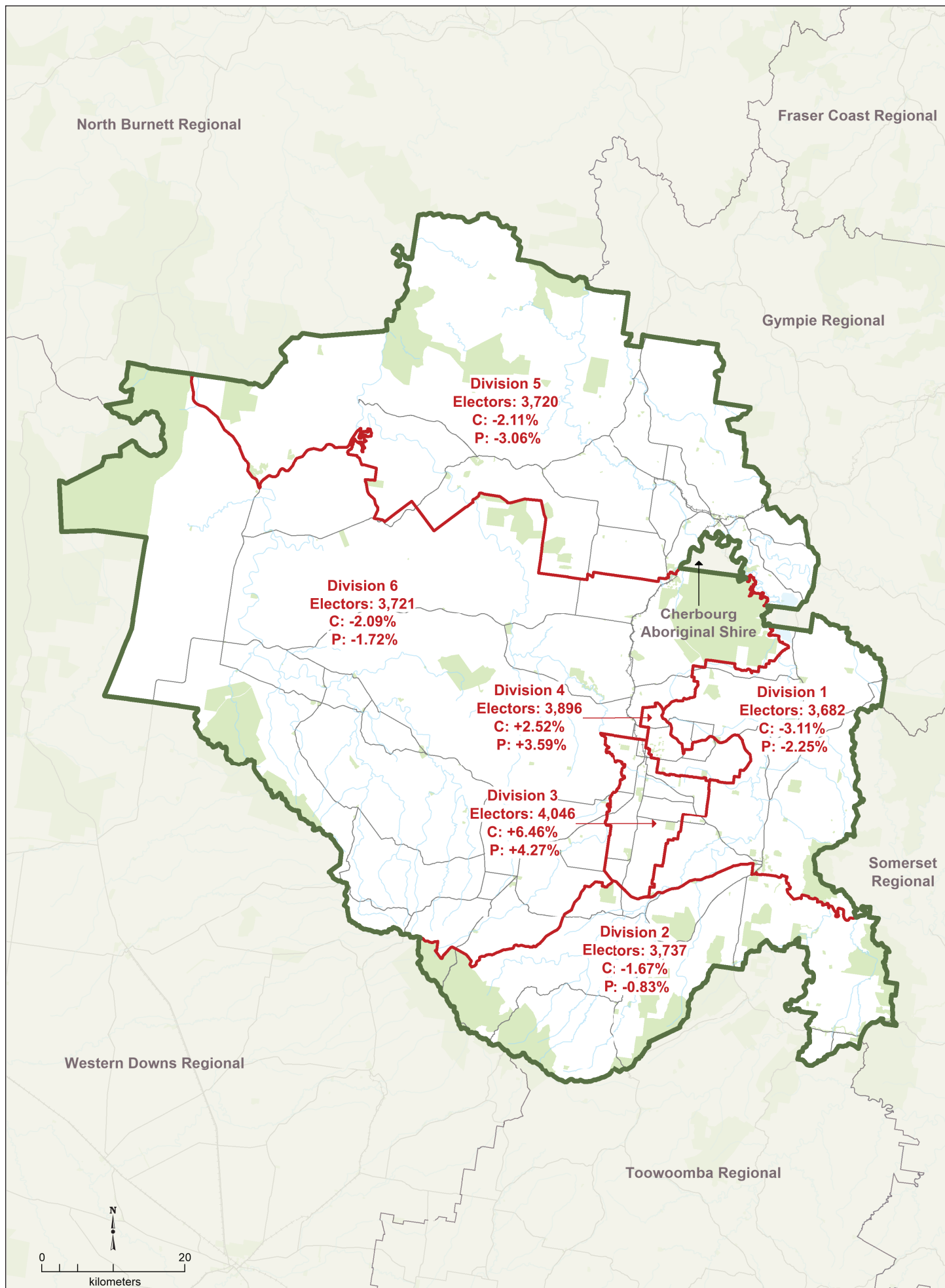
Maps

SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL Existing Electoral Divisions



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

SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL Proposed Electoral Divisions



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

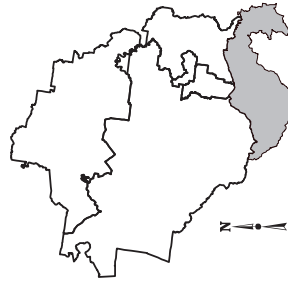
PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES

SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL Division 2

LEGEND

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

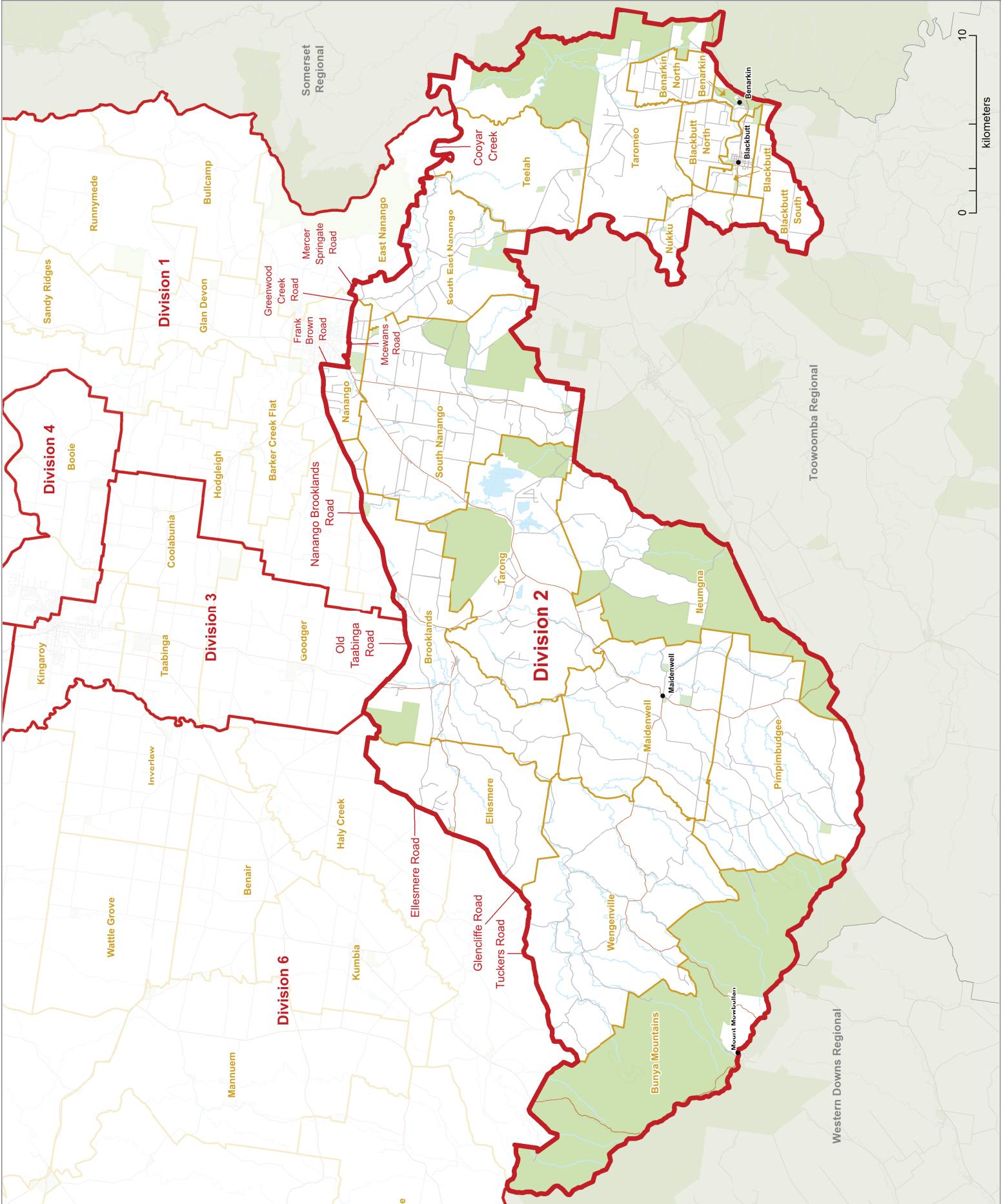
Location Map
Division 2

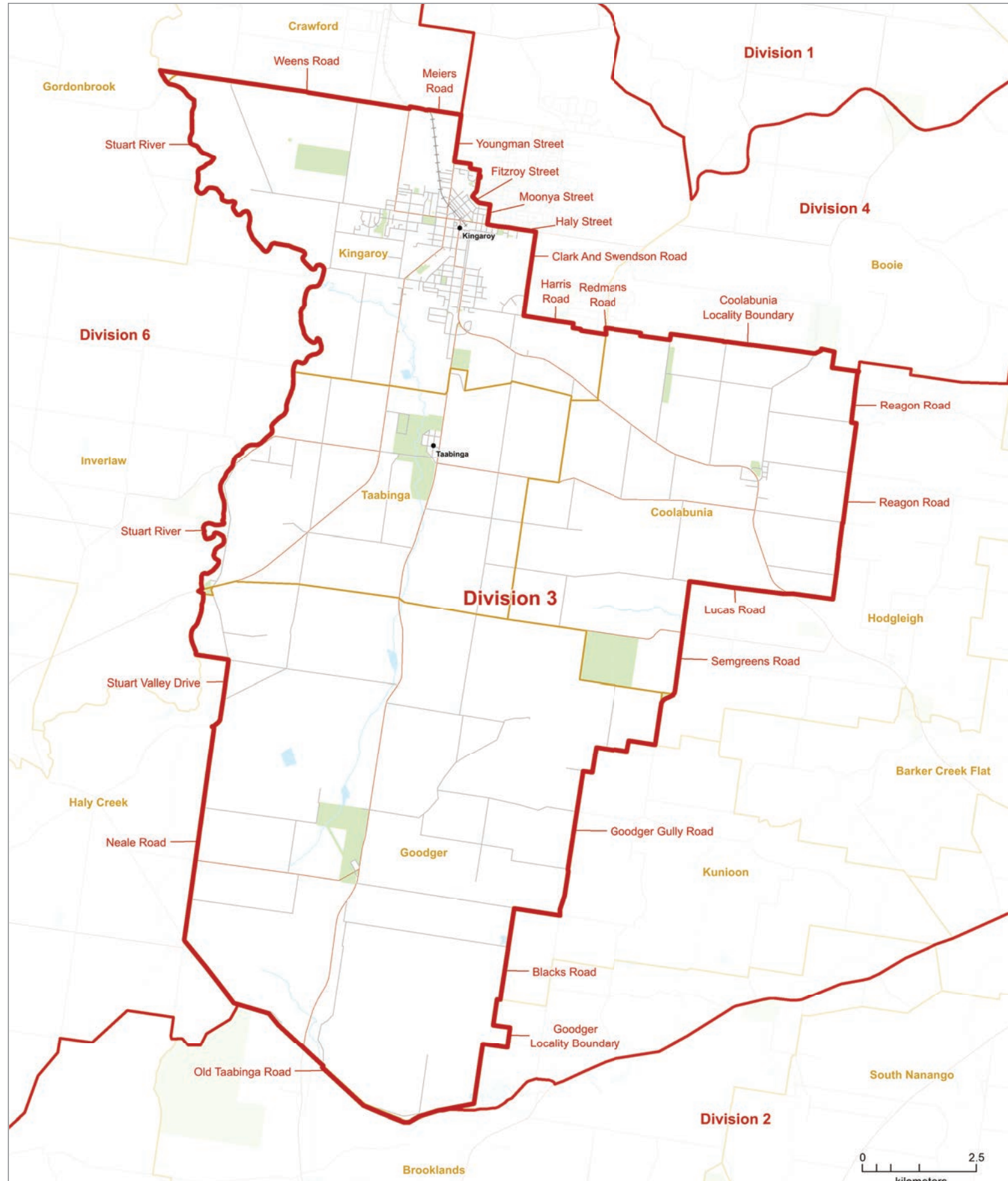


This product was created using datasets from various authoritative sources, and is intended as a guide only to display proposed divisional boundaries.

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

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2019
Local Government Area
Divisional Boundary Review
PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES
SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL
Division 3



Location Map
 Division 3



LEGEND

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

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

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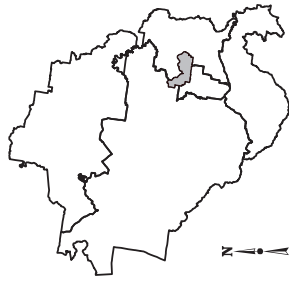
PROPOSED DIVISIONAL
BOUNDARIES

SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL
Division 4

LEGEND

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

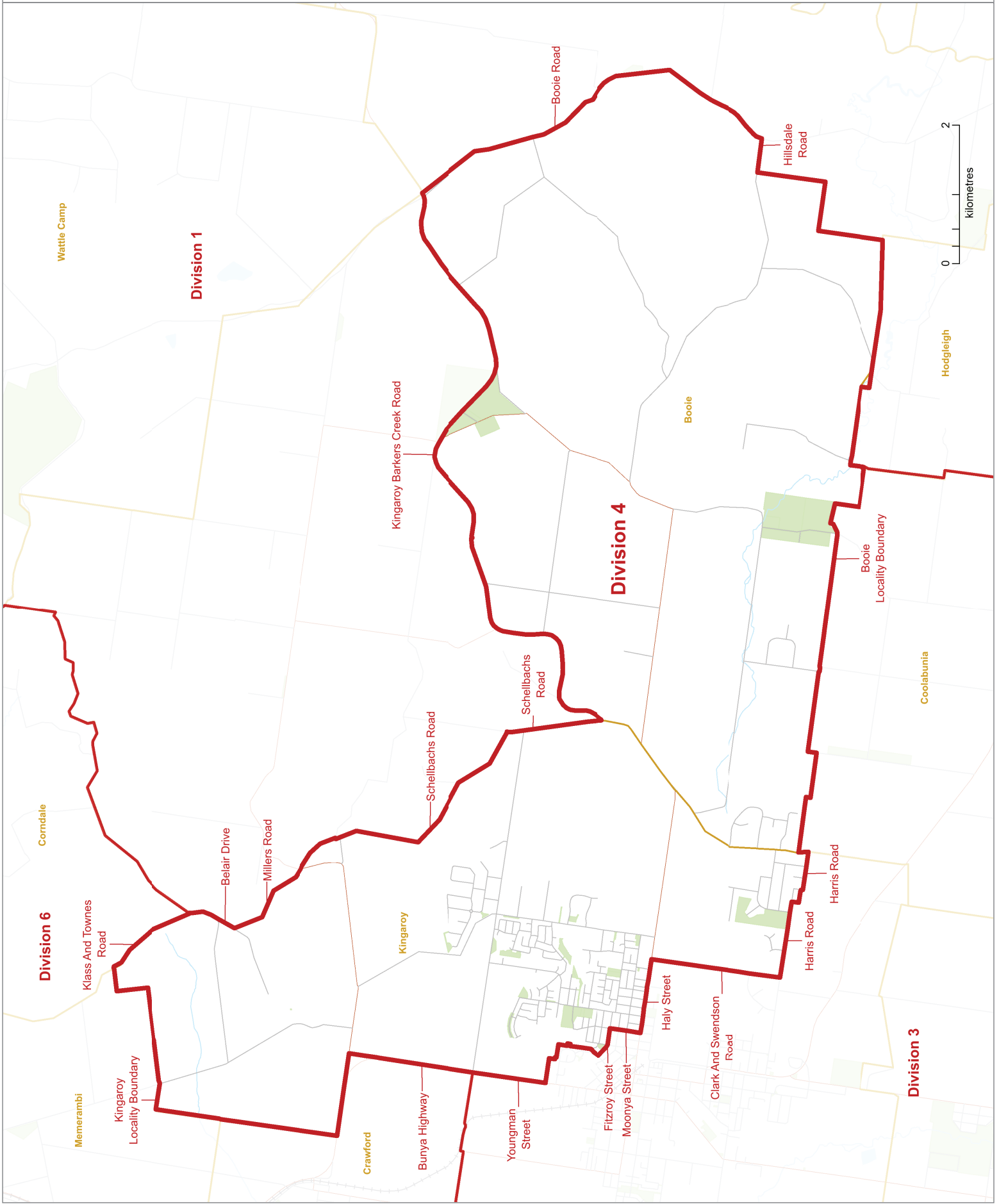
Location Map
Division 4



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



2019
Local Government Area
Divisional Boundary
Review

PROPOSED DIVISIONAL
BOUNDARIES

SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL
Division 5

LEGEND

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

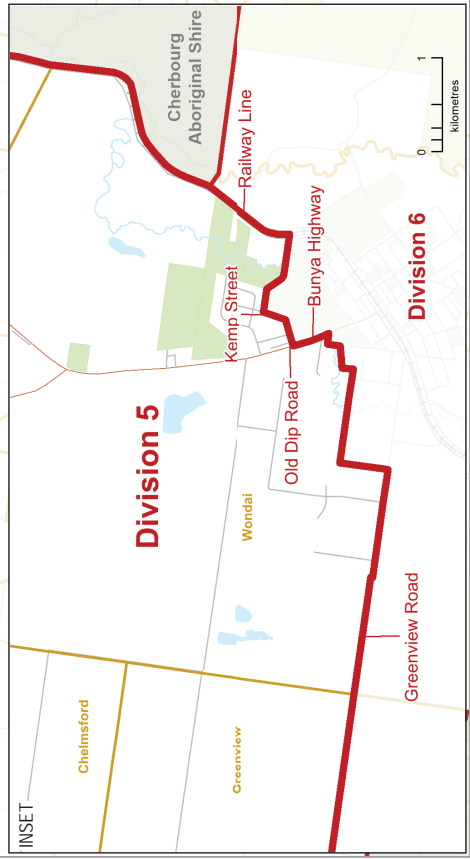
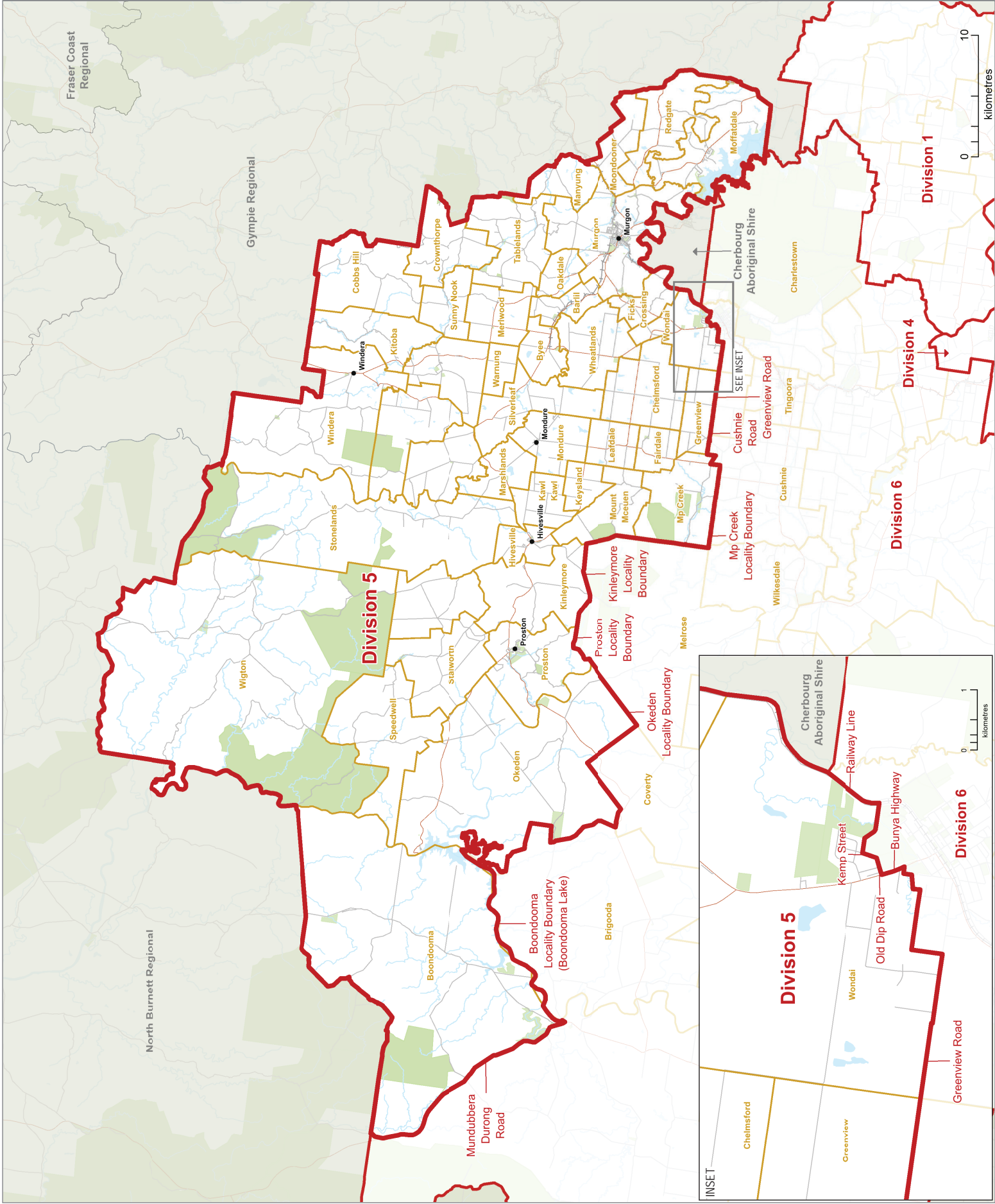
Location Map
Division 5



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PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES

SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL

Division 6

LEGEND

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

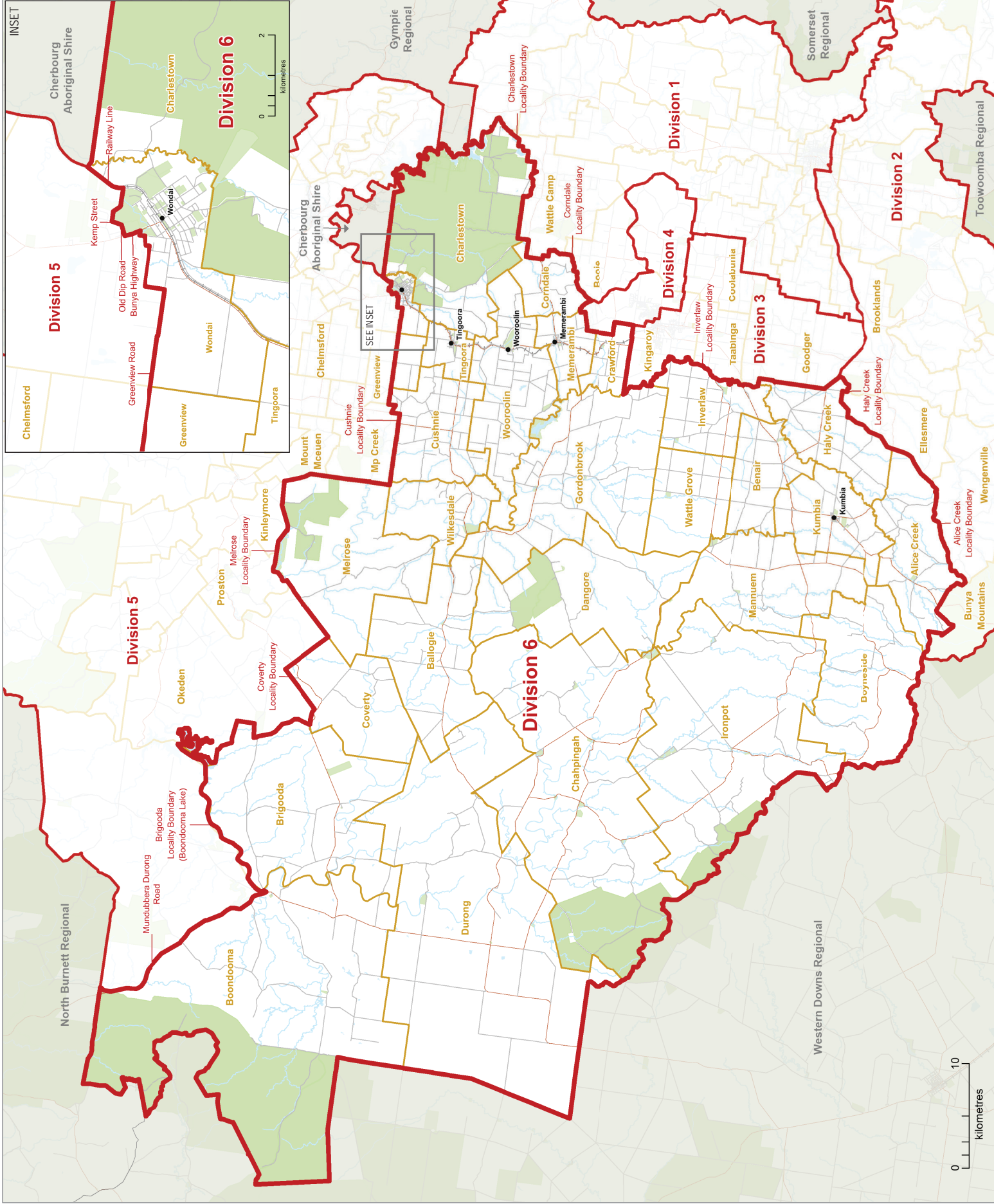
Location Map
Division 6



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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