LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

Review of Divisional Boundaries

2023 FINAL REPORT

TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Introduction

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) has finalised its assessment of the proposed change to the divisions of the Tablelands Regional Council, specifically whether the town of Herberton should be moved from Division 2 to Division 1. This report outlines the Change Commission's recommendation about whether the proposed change should proceed and sets out the reasons for the Change Commission's decision.

About the Change Commission

The Change Commission is an independent body established under the *Local Government Act 2009*. The Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a proposed local government change, such as a change of local government boundaries or electoral arrangements, is in the public interest. In doing so, the Change Commission must consider:

- whether the proposed change is consistent with a Local Government Act,[1]
- the views of the Minister, and[2]
- any other matters prescribed under a regulation.[3]

Except in relation to changes proposed to Brisbane City Council boundaries, the Change Commission may only assess local government changes proposed by the Minister responsible for Local Government.

The Change Commission for this review consists of:

- Mr Pat Vidgen PSM, Electoral Commissioner
- Mr Wade Lewis GAICD, Casual Commissioner
- Ms Jennifer Lang, Casual Commissioner
- Mr Peter McGraw, Casual Commissioner.

The casual commissioners were appointed by the Governor in Council on 1 November 2021.

[1] s19(2)(a) *Local Government Act 2009*
[2] s19(2)(b) *Local Government Act 2009*
[3] s19(2)(c) *Local Government Act 2009*

About the review

On 28 February 2023, the Tablelands Regional Council wrote to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Deputy Premier) seeking a review of the council's divisional boundaries (**Appendix 1**).

While all Tablelands Regional Council divisions are currently within the legislatively prescribed quota with approximately the same number of electors, the council asked the Deputy Premier to consider whether the town of Herberton should be moved from Division 2 to Division 1 in order to better distribute the workload of councillors.

In accordance with sections 18 and 19 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Deputy Premier referred the Tablelands Regional Council to the Change Commission to determine if the proposed change is in the public interest.

Regulatory framework

A proposed local government change referred by the Minister must be assessed by the Change Commission to determine whether it is in the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

In assessing this change, the Change Commission gave particular consideration to enrolment requirements the responsibilities of councillors, and the 'local government principles' under the *Local Government Act 2009.*

In discharging its responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission must also perform its functions in accordance with the local government principles, which include using transparent and effective processes.

The review process

The Change Commission may conduct its assessments in any way it deems appropriate[4], unless the Deputy Premier provides specific directions[5].

The process for this review was:

1. Invite a submission from the Tablelands Regional Council.
2. Prepare a proposal for new divisional boundaries that would implement the change, based on insights from the council's submission and other considerations outlined in the methodology.
3. Publish the Change Commission's proposal for new divisional boundaries that would implement the change.

[4] s19(3) *Local Government Act 2009*
[5] s19(4) *Local Government Act 2009*

4. Invite public submissions on the potential change.
5. Publish the Change Commission's final recommendation and report.
6. Provide the final report to the Deputy Premier.

For the divisional boundary review of the Tablelands Regional Council, the Deputy Premier did not provide any specific directions.

Assessment

Number of electors per division

When considering proposed divisional boundary changes for the Tablelands Regional Council, the Change Commission must first ensure each division continues to have approximately the same number of electors. Transferring the township of Herberton to Division 2 has impacts on other divisions, meaning further boundary changes would be necessary to ensure the number of electors remains balanced, as required under the *Local Government Act 2009*[6].

Each division is required to have a 'reasonable proportion of electors', also known as a 'quota'. The quota is determined by dividing the total number of electors in a local government area by the number of councillors (excluding the mayor).

This calculation provides the average number of electors per division. For a local government area with more than 10,000 electors, the quota for each division must remain within plus or minus 10 per cent of the average number of electors[7].

Table 1 shows the council's enrolment quota as at 9 March 2023 and the projected quota for 31 March 2028.

Table 1 – Current and projected enrolment quota

	9 March 2023	31 March 2028
Number of divisions	6	6
Enrolment	19,087	20,001
Average enrolment per division	3,181	3,334
Lower limit (-10%) per division	2,863	3,000
Upper limit (+10%) per division	3,499	3,667

[6] s15(2)(a) *Local Government Act 2009*
[7] s15(2)(b) *Local Government Act 2009*

In addition to ensuring each division's enrolment is within the quota, the Change Commission takes into consideration a number of other factors when determining the proposed boundaries. These considerations include:

- projected enrolment data for each division prepared by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (based on enrolment data as at 9 March 2023) to reduce the likelihood that divisional boundaries will require change in the future
- natural and constructed markers such as rivers and roads
- the council's advice on proposed boundaries, and
- suggestions and feedback arising from public consultation.

Additional considerations

Ensuring all divisions in the Tablelands Regional Council have approximately the same number of voters was only one consideration for the Change Commission in this review. As all divisions are currently in quota, the primary reason provided to support the change request was to better distribute the workload of councillors.

Accordingly, the Change Commission has considered other relevant factors to determine if the proposed change is in the public interest, specifically whether it is consistent with relevant Local Government Acts.

Relevant provisions include section 12 of the *Local Government Act 2009* which outlines the responsibilities of councillors, and the local government principles outlined in section 4 of the *Local Government Act 2009*. These include the principle of "democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement".

To assist in assessing whether the proposed change is compatible with this principle, the Change Commission requested submissions from the community to gauge the level of support for the proposed change and whether electors considered the proposal would enhance democratic representation.

Existing divisional enrolment

As at 9 March 2023, the Tablelands Regional Council had 19,087 voters and was divided into six single-member divisions, plus a mayor.

Table 2 shows the current and projected enrolment for the council's existing divisional boundaries. As at 9 March 2023, all divisions are in quota and are projected to remain in quota in 2028.

Table 2 – Summary of enrolment for the existing divisions				
Division	**Enrolment as at 9 March 2023**	**Deviation from quota***	**Projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028**	**Projected deviation from quota***
Division 1	3,180	-0.04%	3,381	1.42%
Division 2	3,167	-0.45%	3,206	-3.82%
Division 3	3,108	-2.30%	3,161	-5.17%
Division 4	3,306	3.92%	3,468	4.03%
Division 5	3,277	3.01%	3,443	3.28%
Division 6	3,049	-4.15%	3,342	0.25%

* In the table above, percentage deviations above the average enrolment are in black and percentage deviations below the average enrolment are in red.

Maps of the existing divisions are provided in **Appendix 2.**

The current boundaries were recommended by the Change Commission in 2019 and have demonstrably achieved the goal of remaining within quota over the consecutive quadrennial elections.

Notably, the 2019 divisional boundary review included an assessment of the division in which Herberton should be located.[8] The final determination report outlined the reasons for situating Herberton in Division 2, in particular to balance enrolment more evenly across divisions and reduce the likelihood that future divisional boundary reviews would be required.

Proposed divisional boundaries

The Change Commission determined that it was possible for the proposed boundary change to be implemented with divisions still having approximately the same number of voters at the 2024 and 2028 local government elections. This would be possible by moving:

- the entire localities of Herberton and Moomin from Division 2 to Division 1, and
- the entire localities of Wondecla and Upper Barron from Division 1 to Division 2.

No changes would be required to the boundaries of Divisions 3, 4, 5 and 6 to maintain those divisions within quota.

[8] 2019. Review of Divisional Boundaries: 2019 Final Determination – Tablelands Regional Council

To assist with public consultation, the Change Commission prepared proposed divisional boundary maps that would transfer Herberton from Division 2 to Division 1, and sought feedback on the proposed boundaries, including requesting feedback on whether the change should proceed. Maps of the proposed boundaries released for consultation are at **Appendix 3**.

Table 3 shows the current and projected enrolment for the proposed divisions.

Table 3 – Summary of enrolment for the proposed divisions

Division	Enrolment as at 9 March 2023	Deviation from quota	Projected enrolment as at 31 March 2023	Projected deviation from quota
Division 1	3,035	-4.59%	3,206	-3.82%
Division 2	3,312	4.08%	3,381	1.39%
Division 3	3,108	-2.30%	3,161	-5.17%
Division 4	3,306	3.92%	3,468	4.03%
Division 5	3,277	3.01%	3,443	3.28%
Division 6	3,049	-4.15%	3,342	0.25%

* In the table above, percentage deviations above the average enrolment are in black and percentage deviations below the average enrolment are in red.

Consultation and outcomes

To inform its assessment, the Change Commission conducted consultation with the public to seek their view on whether the change should proceed by moving the town of Herberton from Division 2 to Division 1.

The proposed divisional boundaries were made publicly available and submissions from the community were invited from 31 July 2023 to 14 August 2023. Advertisements about the proposed divisional boundaries and public consultation were placed in the Mareeba Express (The Express) newspaper and on the ECQ's website and social media channels. Electors who had provided an email address on the electoral roll were also emailed information about the potential change and invited to make a submission.

Submissions could be made by any person via post, email or online form. This allowed any interested party, including residents and stakeholders to provide their views for consideration by the Change Commission.

Submissions suitable for release were published on the ECQ's website following the conclusion of the consultation period in accordance with publication guidelines for the review. A copy of the publication guidelines is at **Appendix 4.**

Summary of written submissions

A total of 48 submissions were received during the two-week consultation period comprising of 18 submissions supporting the proposed change, 25 submissions that did not support the proposed change, and five submissions that did not express a definitive position. The written submissions are at **Appendix 5**.

While the submissions received do not present a representative sample that can be generalised to the whole community, the Change Commission considered the submissions indicate mixed and limited public support for the proposed change.

The submissions opposing the change raised concerns about increasing the geographical area of Division 2, which in turn may result in difficulty for the Division 2 councillor to service the division adequately. Other submissions raised the issues of cost and time to make the change when the divisions are currently within quota.

The submissions with no clear position for or against the proposed change expressed concern that there was not enough information outlining the benefits and disadvantages of the proposed change.

The submissions in favour of the change supported a view that it would balance councillor representation and the workload more evenly. The submissions noted that this would allow for the Division 1 councillor to service one whole township, allowing for more equitable representation, as Division 1 currently covers parts of several localities.

The Change Commission received submissions from four current councillors and one former councillor. Three of these submissions were in favour of the change, whilst two were against.

The submissions in favour supported the view that the proposed change would contribute to more balanced representation across the region. Those submissions not in favour argued the divisions are currently within quota, and supported the view that the change would cause confusion as the boundaries were recently changed in 2019.

Public interest considerations

As the enrolment for the existing divisional boundaries remain in quota, in coming to its final recommendation, the Change Commission must consider whether the proposed change is in the public interest. Accordingly, the Change Commission examined other relevant issues to assess whether there is a demonstrated public interest benefit in implementing the change.

Council submission

To support the assessment of the proposed change, the Change Commission wrote to the Tablelands Regional Council under section 19(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, requesting the council make a submission addressing the following issues:

1. Supporting reasons Herberton should be moved from Division 2, consistent with requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*.
2. Whether the council would support a significant increase to the size of Division 2 to maintain divisional enrolment within the required quotas.
3. Whether the council has implemented or considered any additional administrative support to assist councillors manage their workloads.

On 20 June 2023, the council responded to advise the transfer of Herberton from Division 2 to Division 1 would enable more effective councillor representation of the community and better meet community expectations.

It was the council's contention that councillors must keep in touch with their electors, which includes attending meetings of local organisations participating in functions held in the local area. The council advised Division 2 contains several localities, each with a school and multiple community organisations, meaning there are more events and meetings for the Division 2 councillor to attend compared to other divisions. The council argued the current distribution of townships between divisions does not optimise the opportunity for communities to engage with their divisional councillor.

The council noted the proposed change may lead to an increase in the geographical area of Division 2, but did not further address the impact or any consequential impact to other councillors under revised boundaries.

The council advised there are limited financial resources to provide additional administrative support to councillors, and that this solution would not resolve the issue of community groups and organisations expecting their divisional councillor to attend meetings.

The Change Commission's letter and council's submission can be viewed at **Appendix 6.**

Consideration of council submission

The Change Commission considered the responsibilities of councillors, as outlined in section 12 of the *Local Government Act 2009*. Relevant elements of this provision include:

- A councillor must represent the current and future interests of the residents of the local government area.
- All councillors have the following responsibilities:
    - providing high quality leadership to the local government and the community
    - being accountable to the community for the local government's performance.
- When performing a responsibility, a councillor must serve the overall public interest of the whole local government area.

The key reason provided by the Tablelands Regional Council to support the proposed change was to reduce the workload of a councillor serving multiple townships in their division. However, a reasonable interpretation of the councillor responsibilities outlined above include requirements for councillors to serve the interests of the entire local government area, not just a division. This means the council as a whole is responsible for serving the requirements of each division within the council.

The Change Commission is sympathetic to the issues faced by the councillor in representing the communities that make up their division and comply with the local government principle of democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement. The councillor is making a concerted effort to meet their constituents and represent them at the council.

The Change Commission, in its letter to the Tablelands Regional Council requested information about additional support available for the councillor. While the council may not have the resources to provide additional administrative support to this councillor, it would be appropriate for other councillors to assist with community engagement activities as they too also have responsibility to make decisions in the public interest of the entire local government area.

The Change Commission recently undertook a mid-term review of the electoral arrangements in the Ipswich City Council. It also assessed concerns about community access to councillors. In its final report the Change Commission stated:

> *The issues raised by Ipswich City Council about access to councillors could potentially be addressed through administrative improvements or changes in approach to outreach and representation rather than through further changes to the Council's electoral arrangements* (pg 16).[9]

The Change Commission considers that this principle is also relevant for the purposes of the current review and that all available administrative options should be considered prior to introducing structural changes to divisional boundaries in the absence of a statutory requirement for change.

[9] 2023. Ipswich City Council: Electoral Arrangement Review

Conclusions

The Change Commission has considered the legislative criteria and submissions from the public and council and is not persuaded that the proposed change to the Tablelands Regional Council's divisional boundaries is in the public interest. There are several key reasons the Change Commission came to this conclusion.

Firstly, there was a limited degree of community support for the proposed change, demonstrated by the small number of public submissions, of which less than half supported the proposal. The submissions also indicated there is not a clear consensus within the council administration itself regarding the proposed change.

Secondly, the Change Commission was not persuaded by the arguments that the community would receive improved access to the councillor, or that the community engagement work of individual councillors would be more equitably distributed as a result of the proposed change.

In considering these issues, the Change Commission had regard to section 12 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, which requires councillors to represent the interests of the residents of the whole local government area, and to serve the overall public interest of the whole local government area, rather than just their own division.

The issues raised by the Tablelands Regional Council regarding councillor workload could potentially be addressed through administrative changes or adjustments to outreach and representation processes, rather than through changes to the council's divisional boundaries. It has been the position of the Change Commission during similar reviews that other options should be examined prior to implementing structural changes that could be in place for many years.

Finally, the Change Commission noted that enrolment across council's six divisions remains within the quota prescribed under section 15 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, and that the council's divisional boundaries currently meet all legislative requirements under the Act.

The Change Commission undertook a divisional boundary review of the Tablelands Regional Council in 2019, which included an assessment of the division in which Herberton should be located[10]. The final determination report outlined the reasons Division 2 could not retain its existing boundaries and why the alternatives proposed by submitters who wished to retain Herberton in Division 1 could not be accommodated.

The Change Commission has concluded that this rationale remains valid, and that a public interest benefit that would support a change in boundaries despite compliance with the enrolment quota has not been demonstrated.

[10] 2019. Review of Divisional Boundaries: 2019 Final Determination – Tablelands Regional Council

Recommendation

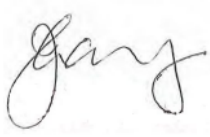
The Change Commission does not consider that the proposed transfer of Herberton from Division 2 to Division 1 is in the public interest and recommends that there be no change to the divisional boundaries of the Tablelands Regional Council.

The results of the Change Commission's review have been provided to the Deputy Premier.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission has published a notice of results in the Queensland Government Gazette and on the ECQ's website.

Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner

Wade Lewis GAICD
Casual Commissioner



Jennifer Lang
Casual Commissioner

Peter McGraw
Casual Commissioner

APPENDIX 1

Ministerial referral

Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

Our ref: MC23/706

20 MAR 2023

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone + 61 3719 7100
Email deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission of Queensland
ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Vidgen

I write to you in relation to the Tablelands Regional Council's application for a boundary change.

I have enclosed a copy of correspondence from the council advising that following a workshop to review its electoral boundaries, the council resolved to propose a boundary change with a view to move the township of Herberton from Division 2 into Division 1.

The council is requesting the referral of this change to the Local Government Change Commission to conduct a divisional boundary review and assessment. It is noted that the change may also impact on the other divisions in the council.

The current boundary for Division 2 contains the towns of Herberton, Ravenshoe, Mt Garnet, and Innot Hot Springs. It is proposed by the council that the workload for the councillors would be better distributed if the divisional boundaries could be realigned.

I have decided to refer this matter to you for a review by the Local Government Change Commission and an assessment and recommendation as to whether this application should be approved.

I have asked for [redacted], Principal Program Officer, Strategy and Service Delivery, Local Government Division in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact [redacted] or by email at [redacted]

Yours sincerely

STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on
Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

Enc

From: Hilary Jackson <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 6:18 PM
To: Deputy Premier <deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: CEO (Shared) <ceo@trc.qld.gov.au>; LGBoundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au
Subject: 59 - LTR - CEO Tablelands RC - LGCC enrolment monitoring

Good afternoon,

Further to the letter of February 3 from Pat Vidgen (PSM) in his capacity as Commissioner of the Local Government Change Commission regarding the process for completing Divisional Enrolment Reviews, I am writing as acting CEO of Tablelands Regional Council on behalf of Gary Rinehart who is on annual leave.

Following receipt of the letter of Feb 3, a workshop was conducted with all elected representatives on 9 February to discuss the current electoral boundaries. By majority, Councillors considered that it would be worthwhile having the boundaries reviewed to include the town of Herberton in Division 2. It was noted that to ensure that all divisions remain within quota, further changes to other divisions adjoining Division 1 or 2 may be required.

As a result of this workshop, at its Ordinary Meeting of February 23, Council resolved:

"That Council advise the Minister for Local Government and the Electoral Commissioner that Council seeks a review of the boundaries of Division 1 and Division 2 so that the to wn of Herberton is included in Division 1."

Please accept this as written advice of the above request.

It is understood that it is for the minister to determine if the matter is referred to the Change Commissioner for consideration.

Please contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Regards,

Hilary Jackson (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

Hilary Jackson
General Manager Community & Corporate Services

Tablelands Regional Council
[redacted]

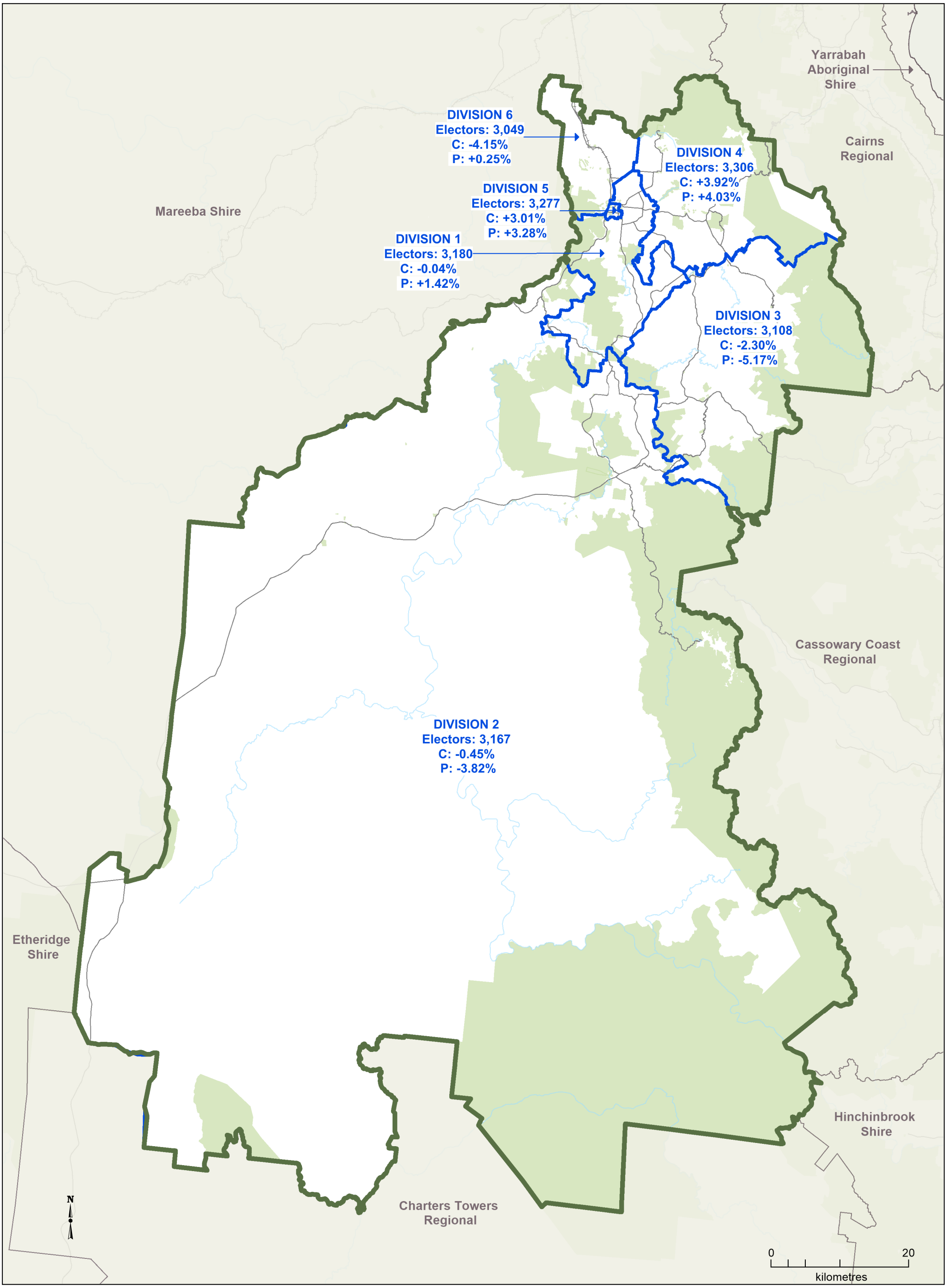
We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Tablelands region and recognise their continuing connection to country.
We pay respect to Elders past, present and future.

APPENDIX 2

Maps of existing divisional boundaries

TABLELANDS REGIONAL

Current Electoral Divisions



This product was created using datasets from various authoritative sources and is intended as a guide only to display current divisional boundaries. Elector deviation is referenced as C (Current) and P (Projected).

INSET

Railway Line
DIVISION 6
Grove Street
Maunds Road
Dalziel Avenue
Twelfth Avenue
First Avenue
DIVISION 5
Railway Line
Boundary of Agricultural Land
Kennedy Highway
Rockley Road
DIVISION 1
0
0.5
kilometres

Tolga Kairi Road
Barson Road
Kazim Road
Manthey Road
Kattenberg Road
Forsyth Road
Mazlin Creek
Barron River
Sylvia Creek
SEE INSET
ATHERTON
DIVISION 4
Herberton Range State Forest
CARRINGTON
Barron River
Gwynne Creek
Baldy Mountain Forest Reserve
Wongabel State Forest
Mareeba Shire Council
WONGABEL
Barron River
Malanda Atherton Road
DIVISION 1
Claringbold Road
Wongabel Locality Boundary
Herberton Range National Park
Upper Barron Locality Boundary
UPPER BARRON
Johnstone River
Herberton Range Conservation Park
Upper Barron Locality Boundary
Wild River
WONDECLA
Upper Barron Road
Longlands Gap Herberton Road
Mckell Road
DIVISION 2
Rock Road
DIVISION 3
Upper Barron Locality Boundary
Mckell Road
Wondecla Locality Boundary
The Bluff State Forest
Wondecla Locality Boundary
0
5
kilometres

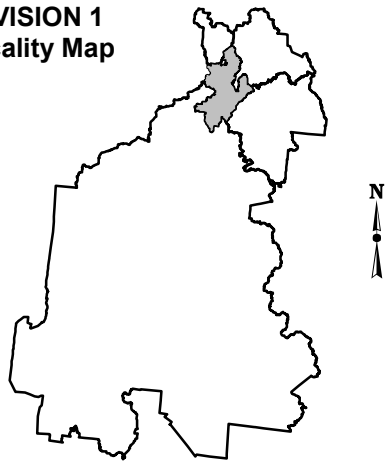
Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

2023 Local Government Area Divisional Boundary Review

TABLELANDS REGIONAL DIVISION 1

Current Division Boundaries

DIVISION 1 Locality Map



LEGEND

- SA1 Boundary
- Division Boundary
- Adjacent Division
- Adjacent Council
- Main Road
- Suburb Boundary
- Reserve, Parkland
- Waterbody
- Wetland
- Railway

DISCLAIMER

Statistical Local Area (SA1) data used in compilation sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. SA1s are spatial units defined in the 2021 ASGS (Australian Statistical Geography Standard).

INSET

OVERVIEW

SEE INSET

Mareeba Shire

MOOMIN

Herberton Range State Forest

Herberton

HERBERTON

DIVISION 1

Herberton Locality Boundary

Wild River

Longlands Gap Herberton Road

KALUNGA

Kalunga Locality Boundary

Evelyn Locality Boundary

The Bluff State Forest

Evelyn Locality Boundary

MOUNT GARNET

SILVER VALLEY

Mount Garnet

Innot Hot Springs

Tully Falls National Park

Cassowary Coast Regional

INNOT HOT SPRINGS

KOOMBOOLOOMBA

GUNNAWARRA

Koombooloomba National Park

DIVISION 2

GLEN RUTH

MINNAMOOLKA

KIRRAMA

Etheridge Shire

Girringun National Park

WAIRUNA

Hinchinbrook Shire

0 20 kilometres

Charters Towers Regional

KABAN

EVELYN

East Evelyn Road

Sluice Creek Road

Evelyn Locality Boundary

Tumoulin State Forest

DIVISION 3

TUMOULIN

Tumoulin

Tumoulin Forest Reserve

Ravenshoe Locality Boundary

Beatrice River

Ravenshoe Locality Boundary

The Bluff State Forest

DIVISION 2

Ravenshoe

Ravenshoe State Forest 3

RAVENSHOE

Sutties Gap Road

Koombooloomba Locality Boundary

MILLSTREAM

Millstream Falls National Park

Ravenshoe State Forest 3

KOOMBOOLOOMBA

Cassowary Coast Regional

Tully Falls National Park

0 5 kilometres

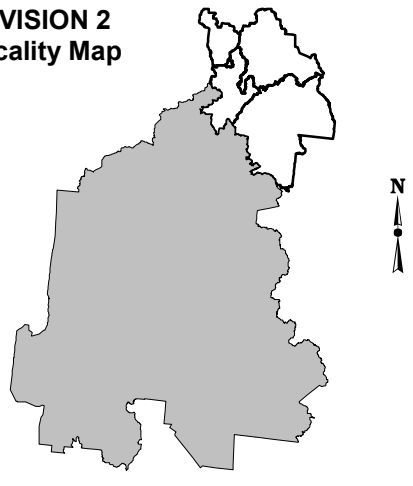
Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

2023 Local Government Area Divisional Boundary Review

TABLELANDS REGIONAL DIVISION 2

Current Division Boundaries

DIVISION 2 Locality Map



LEGEND

- SA1 Boundary
- Division Boundary
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- Railway

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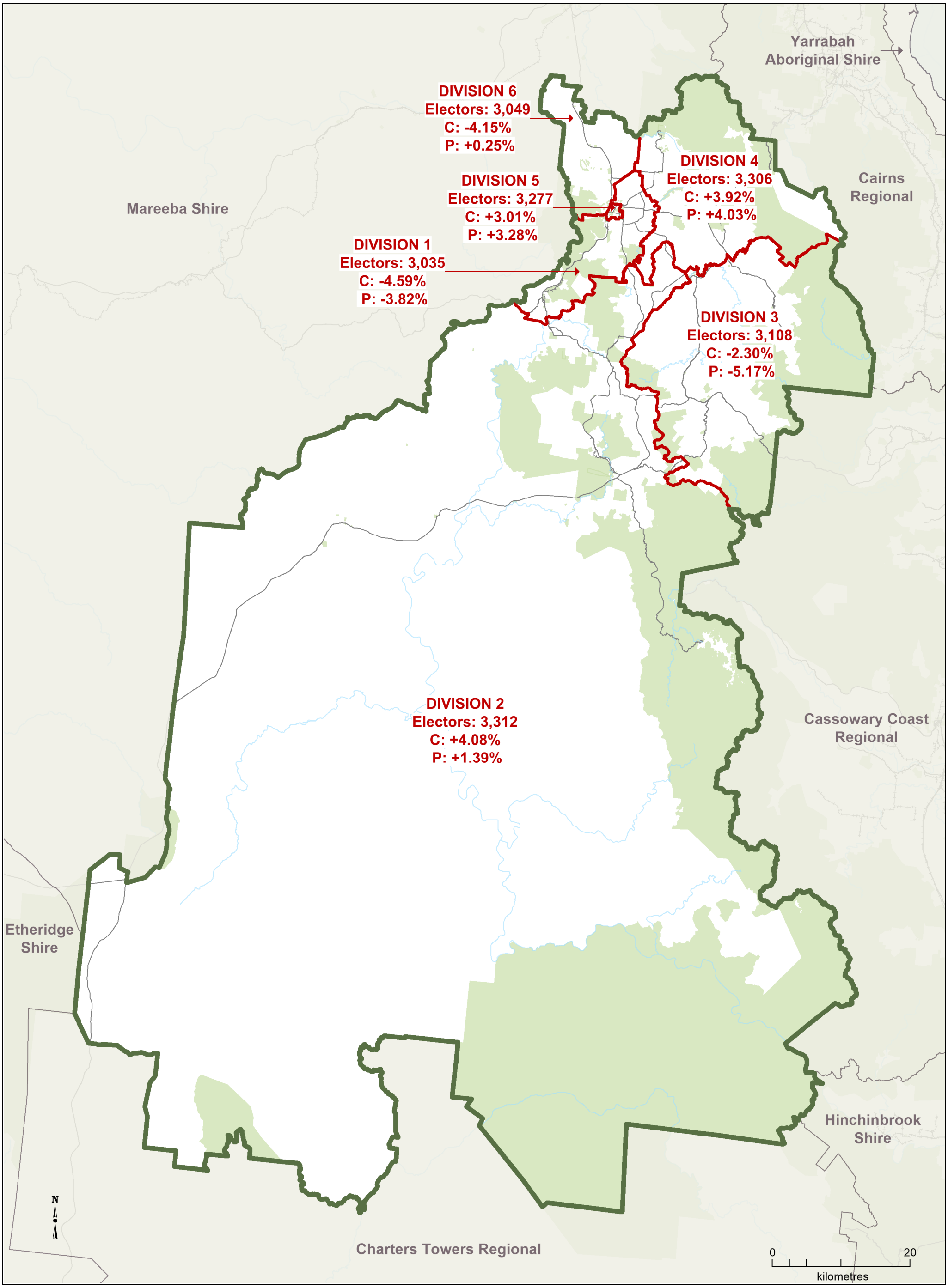
Statistical Local Area (SA1) data used in compilation sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. SA1s are spatial units defined in the 2021 ASGS (Australian Statistical Geography Standard).

APPENDIX 3

Maps of proposed boundaries released for consultation

TABLELANDS REGIONAL

Proposed Electoral Divisions



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

This product was created using datasets from various authoritative sources and is intended as a guide only to display proposed divisional boundaries. Deviation of elector enrollment from the average is referenced as C (Current - 2023) and P (Projected - 2028).

INSET

Railway Line
Grove Street
Maunds Road
Dalziel Avenue
First Avenue
Twelfth Avenue
Railway Line
Boundary of Agricultural Land
Kennedy Highway
Rockley Road
Atherton
DIVISION 6
DIVISION 5
0
0.5
kilometres

DIVISION 6
DIVISION 4
Tolga Kairi Road
Tolga Kairi Road
Barson Road
Kazim Road
Kattenberg Road
Manthey Road
Forsyth Road
Mazlin Creek
Barron River
Sylvia Creek
SEE INSET
Atherton
Herberton Range State Forest
Carrington
Hasties Swamp National Park
Barron River
Mareeba Shire
Baldy Mountain Forest Reserve
DIVISION 1
Wongabel State Forest
Barron River
Wongabel
Herberton Range National Park
Wongabel Locality Boundary
Moomin
Moomin Locality Boundary
Herberton
Herberton
Herberton Petford Road
Herberton Locality Boundary
Herberton Locality Boundary
DIVISION 2
DIVISION 3
0
5
kilometres

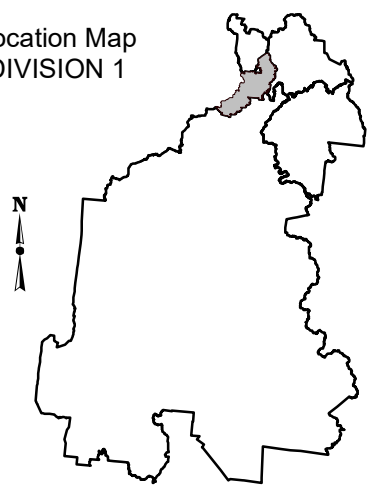
2023 Local Government Area Divisional Boundary Review

PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES

TABLELANDS REGIONAL DIVISION 1

Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

Location Map
DIVISION 1



LEGEND

- Proposed Division Boundary
- Proposed Adjacent Division
- Locality Boundary
- Adjacent Council
- Reserve, Parkland
- Waterbody
- Railway
- 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.

INSET

DIVISION 1

DIVISION 4

DIVISION 3

DIVISION 2

Mareeba Shire

Gwynne Creek

Malanda Atherton Road

Upper Barron Locality Boundary

Barron River

Claringbold Road

Johnstone River

Wondecla Locality Boundary

Kalunga Locality Boundary

Upper Barron

Herberton Petford Road

Herberton Range Conservation Park

Upper Barron Locality Boundary

Kalunga

Wondecla

Silver Valley

Kaban

The Bluff State Forest

The Bluff State Forest

Evelyn Locality Boundary

Evelyn

East Evelyn Road

Sluice Creek Road

Evelyn Locality Boundary

Tumoulin

Tumoulin

Tumoulin Forest Reserve

Ravenshoe Locality Boundary

Beatrice River

Ravenshoe Locality Boundary

Ravenshoe

Ravenshoe State Forest 3

Ravenshoe

Sutties Gap Road

Cassowary Coast Regional

Millstream

Koombooloomba

Tully Falls National Park

Ravenshoe Forest Reserve 1

Charters Towers Regional

0 20 kilometres

0 5 kilometres

OVERVIEW

SEE INSET

Mareeba Shire

Mount Garnet

Innot Hot Springs

Mount Garnet

Innot Hot Springs

Cassowary Coast Regional

Koombooloomba

Gunnawarra

Glen Ruth

DIVISION 2

Kirrama

Minnamoolka

Wairuna

Girringun National Park

Charters Towers Regional

0 20 kilometres

2023 Local Government Area Divisional Boundary Review

PROPOSED DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES

TABLELANDS REGIONAL DIVISION 2

Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

Location Map
DIVISION 2

LEGEND

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

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

APPENDIX 4

Publication guidelines

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

Publication Guidelines – Written Submissions

The following information has been developed to assist those making submissions to the Local Government Change Commission's (Change Commission) 2023 divisional boundary reviews.

Publishing submissions

The Change Commission is committed to transparency, open access to information and informed public debate.

Under section 19(3)(b) and 19(6) of the *Local Government Act 2009* the Change Commission intends to publish all submissions received as part of a review where it is appropriate to do so, and unless the submitter has requested it remain confidential. Further, the Change Commission reserves the right to redact content, or not publish submissions, at its own discretion.

What happens after I make a submission?

Once your submission has been received, it will be reviewed to determine whether it is able to be published as part of the review material.

If you do not wish your submission to be published, you should mark your submission as confidential. Submissions which are not marked as confidential will be published on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website with submitters' names, however, contact details will be redacted.

The Change Commission may decide not to publish all or part of a submission for reasons such as:

- it is not relevant to the divisional boundary review
- it contains content or wording which may be considered offensive or defamatory
- it refers to matters that are sub judice (before the courts), or
- content within the submission is confidential (e.g. commercial in confidence).

If accepted, the information in your submission will be published with your name but with contact details redacted.

Confidential submissions

The Change Commission prefers to publish submissions where possible to promote public discussion and provide transparency in the review process.

If you wish all or part of your submission to be kept confidential and not published, or that your submission be published without your name, you should:

- Include the word 'confidential' clearly in your submission and state the reasons for your request.
- Consider including any confidential information in an appendix to the submission to allow the body of the submission to be published and publicly referred to by the Change Commission.
- If requesting anonymity, make sure that your name and contact details are on a separate page and not in the main part of your submission.

The Change Commission will consider requests for confidentiality but cannot guarantee that submissions will not be published. Ultimately, it is for the Change Commission to determine whether it is in the public interest to publish the submission.

Can I amend my submission?

If there are further matters you wish to raise after you have lodged your submission, or you wish to amend information provided previously, you can submit an additional submission outlining your requested additions or changes. However, submissions provided after the consultation period are only accepted at Change Commission's discretion.

Any personal information collected by the Change Commission will be managed in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009.*

W: www.ecq.qld.gov.au
T: 1300 881 665
E: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
P: GPO Box 1393, BRISBANE QLD 4001

APPENDIX 5

Public submissions

Public submissions

Submission number	Name	Submission number	Name
S1	Confidential	S25	Name withheld
S2	Stephen and Pamela Evans	S26	Name withheld
S3	Sharon George	S27	Name withheld
S4	Name withheld	S28	Sue Hunt
S5	Robin Snow	S29	Confidential
S6	Confidential	S30	Name withheld
S7	Harvey Mitton	S31	Geoff Needham
S8	Maxim Enfield	S32	Wendy Cannon
S9	Confidential	S33	Confidential
S10	Dave Bilney	S34	Darren Symes
S11	Keoni Kidner	S35	David Clifton
S12	Kevin Cardew	S36	Name withheld
S13	Catherine Eden	S37	Name withheld
S14	Confidential	S38	Name withheld
S15	Name withheld	S39	Name withheld
S16	Name withheld	S40	Maureen Roberts
S17	Confidential	S41	Name withheld
S18	Name withheld	S42	Confidential
S19	Annette Haydon	S43	Name withheld
S20	Name withheld	S44	Russell Lynch
S21	Name withheld	S45	Kevin Cardew
S22	Louise Livingstone	S46	Confidential
S23	Confidential	S47	Confidential
S24	Name withheld	S48	Confidential

*Confidential submissions are not published

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 7:08 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: RE: Tell us what you think. Boundary review of Tablelands Regional Council

HI

We wish to advise that we am NOT in favour of this boundary change.

The reason is

- **The area size should be considered as part of the review not just the elector numbers**
- **Division 2 has the largest area of all the rest of the divisions**
- **It is currently very obvious that Division 2 does not receive the attention to its current roads in the current boundaries as the roads around these areas (in the below picture) are in a very poor condition for 80% of the year**
- **With Upper Barron being included in the large Division 2 area I have concern that our roads and infrastructure is going to be disadvantaged.**
- **I have logged a WHS road issue with TRC in Upper Barron area at the start of this year and still to date this has not been resolved and continues to be a WHS issue**
- 

Thanks
Stephen and Pamela Evans

From: Local Government Change Commission <noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 4:56 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Tell us what you think. Boundary review of Tablelands Regional Council

Having trouble viewing this email? View Online

Dear STEPHEN JAMES EVANS,

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) wants to hear your views.

The Change Commission is reviewing the Tablelands Regional Council's divisional boundaries to consider whether the town of Herberton should be moved from Division 2 to Division 1. This review has been initiated at the request of the Council, and the Change Commission will assess if the proposed change is in the public interest.

The Change Commission is asking for submissions from members of the public about whether they support or do not support this change.

The Change Commission has reviewed the current boundaries of the Tablelands Regional Council and prepared proposed new divisional boundaries that would implement this change. An overview of the proposed changes and maps of the proposed boundaries can be viewed here.

The Change Commission would like to hear your views about whether the change should be made, and any impacts on the local community, if the proposed new boundaries are implemented.

Public feedback will form an important part of the Change Commission's assessment. The Change Commission will also need to make sure any changes comply with requirements under legislation about distribution of voters, and how the boundaries should be drawn.

How can I have my say?

You can have your say by providing your feedback to the Change Commission through any of the following channels:

- Online form: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/tablelands-boundary-review
- Email: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
- Post: Change Commission GPO Box 1393 BRISBANE QLD 4001

The Change Commission will be accepting public submissions from **9am Monday 31 July 2023 to 9am Monday 14 August 2023.**

How do I get more information?

For more information, go to the ECQ website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au, email LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au, or call 1300 881 665.

Yours sincerely

Pat Vidgen PSM

Local Government Change Commissioner

1300 881 665 | ecq.qld.gov.au | L20/1 Eagle Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 7:09 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Divisional boundary reviews - Sharon George

Online submission for **Divisional boundary reviews** from **Sharon George**

Submission Details

Name: Sharon George

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I don't believe that moving Herberton away from the Wondecla area is a good idea. Herberton and Wondecla are only a couple of kilometres apart and everything that affects Herberton affects Wondecla and vice versa. I can't see that changing it from one division to another has actually been proved to be worthwhile and one has to ask if this is being funded by rate payers what is in it for them? Surely if population/voter numbers determine divisions this change will have a knock on effect with the other divisions and nothing has been provided to prove that this will be in any way beneficial to the rate payers in Herberton or Wondecla. If the council can prove that this will benefit the rate payers then the proposal will have some value.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 31 Jul 2023 7:08pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews?a=[redacted]

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 8:22 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for [redacted] from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I support the divisional boundary change to include the town of Herberton in Division 1. I believe that the interests of private residents and businesses in Herberton will be sufficiently close to those of Division 1 to ensure ample representation at Council level. Further, I believe that the hamlets and rural enterprises in Division 2 will be better served under the proposal.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 31 Jul 2023 8:22pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 6:33 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Robin Snow

Online submission for [redacted] from **Robin Snow**

Submission Details

Name: Robin Snow

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I want to know the benifits of moving to division 1 and any disadvantages and why the decision was made

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 31 Jul 2023 6:33pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 11:53 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Harvey Mitton

Online submission for [redacted] from **Harvey Mitton**

Submission Details

Name: Harvey Mitton

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: To change the boundary reminds me of the grand old Joh Bjelke days and rigging the boundaries to suit the encumbant party, so no, l don't want it changed because it's just a political grab for power.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 31 Jul 2023 11:53pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: android-app://com.google.android.gm/

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 3:47 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Maxim Enfield

Online submission for [redacted] from **Maxim Enfield**

Submission Details

Name: Maxim Enfield

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: The proposal to move the Herberton from Tablelands Regional Council's Division 2 to Division 1 is supported. A change of boundaries, would see Herberton removed from the large Division 2 that includes Innot Hot Springs and Mt. Garnet, to the smaller more closely settled Division1 that includes the southern part of Atherton and Wongabel.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 3:46am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 9:51 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Dave Bilney

Online submission for [redacted] from **Dave Bilney**

Submission Details

Name: Dave Bilney

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I support the proposed Boundary changes for Division 1 & 2 based largely upon equity of Civil responsibilities for the incumbent Councillor. Currently, Division 2 services 4 towns (Herberton, Ravenshoe, Innot Hot Springs and Mount Garnet) whereby Division 1 as it stands has no representation at all. In the 2016 LG Election, Herberton was serviced by the Div 1 Councillor and was changed at last Election. Geographically, Division 2 still remains the largest and will also service an increased number of residents. By supporting the changes, a more balanced Council responsibility will be achieved. Need to also take into account Councillor safety when traversing such a large area particularly at night with substantial wildlife active at this time.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 9:50am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: Keoni Kidner [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 12:28 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: Fwd: Tell us what you think. Boundary review of Tablelands Regional Council

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Agree Herberton should be moved from Division 2 To Division 1

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Local Government Change Commission** <noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au>
Date: Mon, 31 July 2023, 3:59 pm
Subject: Tell us what you think. Boundary review of Tablelands Regional Council
To: [redacted]

Having trouble viewing this email? View Online

Dear KEONI KIDNER,

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) wants to hear your views.

The Change Commission is reviewing the Tablelands Regional Council's divisional boundaries to consider whether the town of Herberton should be moved from Division 2 to Division 1. This review has been initiated at the request of the Council, and the Change Commission will assess if the proposed change is in the public interest.

The Change Commission is asking for submissions from members of the public about whether they support or do not support this change.

The Change Commission has reviewed the current boundaries of the Tablelands Regional Council and prepared proposed new divisional boundaries that would implement this change. An overview of the proposed changes and maps of the proposed boundaries can be viewed here.

The Change Commission would like to hear your views about whether the change should be made, and any impacts on the local community, if the proposed new boundaries are implemented.

Public feedback will form an important part of the Change Commission's assessment. The Change Commission will also need to make sure any changes comply with requirements under legislation about distribution of voters, and how the boundaries should be drawn.

How can I have my say?

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- Online form: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/tablelands-boundary-review
- Email: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
- Post: Change Commission GPO Box 1393 BRISBANE QLD 4001

The Change Commission will be accepting public submissions from **9am Monday 31 July 2023 to 9am Monday 14 August 2023.**

How do I get more information?

For more information, go to the ECQ website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au, email LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au, or call 1300 881 665.

Yours sincerely

Pat Vidgen PSM

Local Government Change Commissioner

1300 881 665 | ecq.qld.gov.au | L20/1 Eagle Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 12:40 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - Kevin Cardew

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Kevin Cardew**

Submission Details

Name: Kevin Cardew

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I am against changing the boundaries for the following reasons :- - Division 1 already has parts of the townships of Atherton, Malanda and Wondecla included within the Division - The numbers in all divisions are approximately equal with no need for change. - Increasing the geographic land area of division 2 to make up the numbers lost by taking out Herberton Township increases the geographic area of Division 2 to approximately 80% of the whole shire. This would be difficult to manage by a single Councillor, and the representation of the people within the division would be diminished. - A single Councillor competing for budgetary outcomes for such a vast area would also be diminished leaving residents / rate payers at a disadvantage.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 12:40pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 12:45 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - Catherine Eden

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Catherine Eden**

Submission Details

Name: Catherine Eden

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I support the proposed boundary change to include Herberton in Division 2 rather than Division 1 and it makes sense to include Upper Barron in Division 2, although not Wondecla because the Wondecla population identify with Herberton as their closest town. That being said, I understand the population percentages so to make this work, Wondecla has to be included in Division 2 because it does not make sense for the Atherton part to be in Division 2 and Division 5 and 4 are already populated sufficiently. If Herberton remains in Division 2, it is not really fair on the Division 2 councillor because Division 2 is the largest geographically, plus Herberton identifies more with Atherton as a neighbouring service town than Ravenshoe.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 12:45pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 1:30 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for [redacted] from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I support the suggested change to include Herberton in Division 1 because the current role of the Div 2 Councillor covers a large geographical area and several towns - Ravenshoe, Herberton, Mount Garnet and Innot Hot Springs.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 1:30pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 4:24 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for [redacted] from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: After considering the Divisional Maps provided, I agree that the Tablelands Regional Council boundaries should be modified to include the town of Herberton from Division 2. I believe this change would provide positive governance and benefit for the town of Herberton and offer more opportunity for the development of the Tablelands Region promoting business, agriculture and tourism.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 4:23pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted] S18

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 6:53 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - [redacted]

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: Dear Commissioner, I support moving changing the divisions in Tablelands Regional Council and moving Herberton area to Division 2. I am a resident of Wondecla and work in Herberton. I am involved in 4 committees/organisations which all have regular meeting that are attended by our councillor. I know that there are other organisations in town, eg Lions Club, CWA, Pony Club, that all invite her to their meetings. With 4 centres in her division... Herberton, Ravenshoe, Innot Hot Springs and Mt Garnet... and all these having a number of community groups and committees she is very stretched to attend all these, in fact it is an impossible task for her or anyone to do. The division also covers huge distances. I was at a meeting she attended last night and she left at about 8pm. I know it was at least an hours drive home for her and I think the safety aspect also needs to be considered when travelling at night on dark bush roads with wildlife and livestock. If the divisions were restructured it would spread the workload for councillors more fairly and facilitate a better communication channel between community groups and council. I ask you to please reconsider the boundaries and make Herberton part of Division 2. Thanks [redacted]

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 02 Aug 2023 6:52am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review?fbclid=IwAR1qdxh-ojFg0AZpUQBBi7jqjbfN2LfARtki3CWAMrSVsp-q322naYVGm-E

[redacted]

S19

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 7:51 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Annette Haydon
Attachments: Boundry-Change.pdf

Online submission for [redacted] from **Annette Haydon**

Submission Details

Name: Annette Haydon

Privacy preferences: Keeping your submission and name confidential (i.e., not publishing it)

Submission text:

File upload: Boundry-Change.pdf (39.8 KB)

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 02 Aug 2023 7:50am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: http://m.facebook.com

Boundary Change for Tablelands Regional Council Division 1 and Division 2

I support the boundary change as the area.
Division 1 has no town areas and therefore does not support the workload of other Divisions.
Division 2 has four towns and the work load is sometimes so over whelming, with meeting nearly every week some going well into the evening and no help from other Divisional sitting Councillors.
It is only moving boundaries so the number of residents can fit into an area to make it equitable.
The area will have no consequences as the representative can travel through Herberton or via highway to Upper Barron Road and cover the area.

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 7:52 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for [redacted] from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I do not support the divisional changes proposed by the Tableland Regional Council. I do not support the current divisional boundaries, specifically the areas of Herberton and Wondecla being in separate Divisions. Herberton is the village centre used by those who live in Wondecla. Atherton is the town and service centre used by both Wondecla and Herberton. I believe both Herberton and Wondecla should both be in the same Division and my preference would be that they both be in Division 1. My reasons for this preference are that Division 2 is geographically a very large area for any councillor to traverse. This is evident from the article published in the Express Newspaper in March quoting Cr Annette Haydon requesting the Divisional change as she was finding it difficult with Division 2 being such a large area. The main township in Division 2 is Ravenshoe and those in Herberton and Wondecla do not see this as their village/service centre. As previously mentioned, Atherton is the township the people of Herberton and Wondecla prefer with many people working in Atherton and having children attending schools in Atherton. I have read the Local Government Regulation 2012 and specifically Chapter 2 Communities of interest (1) The external boundaries of a local government area should be drawn in a way that has regard to communities of interest, including that the local government area should generally— (a) reflect local communities, for example, the geographical pattern of human activities (where people live, work and engage in leisure activities), and the linkages between local communities; and (b) have a centre, or centres, of administration and service easily accessible to its population; and (c) ensure effective elected representation for residents and ratepayers; and (d) have external boundaries that— (i) do not divide local neighbourhoods or adjacent rural and urban areas with common interests or interdependencies, including, for example, economic, cultural and ethnic interests or interdependencies; Based on this legislation, the current Divisional Boundaries are indeed dividing Wondecla and Herberton and Ravenshoe is not the most easily accessible service centre for these areas.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 02 Aug 2023 7:51am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: http://m.facebook.com

[redacted]

S21

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 11:10 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - [redacted]

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: According to Council meeting records, this boundary change request was triggered by concerns over Div2 distances and safety of night travel. Moving Stonehouse Rd / Upper Barron Rd to Div2 will increase distance substantially. Residents of this area (myself included) are within the Malanda catchment/community inferring the Div2 Councillor will either delegate engagement to Div4 or have to attend Malanda events. How will Div2 Councillor ensure these community members are engaged and represented without increased travel / safety risks? Divisional boundary decisions need to consider and reflect workload rather than focusing exclusively on balancing electoral numbers. By all means move Herberton back to Div1 if justified by workload, but leave the Stonehouse/Upper Barron Road area under either Div1 or Div4. Moving this area is an empty gesture that benefits neither the Div2 Councillor or the residents concerned.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 02 Aug 2023 11:09am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 3:11 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Louise Livingstone

Online submission for [redacted] from **Louise Livingstone**

Submission Details

Name: Louise Livingstone

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I agree with this change and the town of Herberton should be moved from Division 2 to Division 1. It creates a more equitable distribution of the small communities within our region. Travel time is Division 2 is very large and travelling between the towns can take several hrs. By moving to Division 1 the town of Herberton will be within a appropriate Division for the counsellor to provide a service.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 02 Aug 2023 3:11pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 9:46 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: It seems to make sense to change the boundary but only if rates aren't increased because of it.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 9:45am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 2:06 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: Submission one makes the most sense, but it should include Wondecla in the Boundry being that it is part of the Herberton community

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 2:05pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 3 August 2023 3:02 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I n my opinion this is not a good idea as Wondecla is considered almost a suburb of Herberton, being approximately 3 or 4 kms from the town of Herberton. It would seem to split the 2 close knit areas. Also, the proposed change could be against your guidelines . If the proposed change is due to a councillor requesting it as the workload is too much, perhaps another councillor could be appointed. The cost of the proposed change also would be borne by ratepayers (not good)

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 03 Aug 2023 3:02pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 3 August 2023 4:35 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - [redacted]

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I am a resident of Herberton and support the proposed boundary changes to include the township of Herberton in Division 1. TRC concerns regarding access to councillors are exactly the concerns I raised with the relevant councillors when the current boundaries were set. I think the proposed changes would be in the best interests of the residents of Herberton township.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 03 Aug 2023 4:35pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 4 August 2023 8:22 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Sue Hunt

Online submission for [redacted] from **Sue Hunt**

Submission Details

Name: Sue Hunt

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I would prefer that there be no changes to the boundarys as this would incure cost to Herberton property owners I'm sure in the future. Thank you

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 04 Aug 2023 8:22am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Saturday, 5 August 2023 7:21 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: Waste of ECQ funds and time, request was from a somewhat lazy TRC councillor prepared to ditch a major township from her division 2-- Div 1 has part of the townships of Atherton and outskirts of Malanda to service (perhaps Div should be abolished and the 6 div work together -as proposed Div 2 will be 80% of the Shire a vast area of limited infrastructure together with only two very small settlements therefore this div will be forgotten in regard to funding allocation(Atherton stands alone in receiving a vastly higher funding share eg the proposed $20 million Playground in Main CBD of Atherton)as TRC is divided into 6 div at present the population numbers are almost equal, in all devisions perhaps if ECQ revisits the full Council question in private they will NOW find Councillors agreed to the Div2 councillors request they will learn it was a quick off the cuff dissection to keep this Councillor Happy---

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 05 Aug 2023 7:20pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 6 August 2023 11:03 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Geoff Needham

Online submission for [redacted] from **Geoff Needham**

Submission Details

Name: Geoff Needham

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: There is not enough information available to enable me to make an informed submission.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 06 Aug 2023 11:03am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 6 August 2023 12:29 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - wendy maree CANNON

Online submission for [redacted] from **wendy maree CANNON**

Submission Details

Name: wendy maree CANNON

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: Reconfiguration should be on hold 'till the March 2024 Local Govt elections- this request to Ditch the Herberton township is only coming from the present sitting Div 2 Councillor ,that has publicly stated she is retiring at the end of this term -Herberton Township has always been part of this division 2 and ppl id as being their div since 1879, the division 2 covers 80 % of the TRC shire at present therefore to gain equal representation this Div 2 due to the loss of the township population Div 2 will have to increase vastly in area -Div 1 has parts of the ever expanding towns of Malanda and Atherton -perhaps if TRC abolish the 6 Div representation system it may be better for Div 2 gaining a fairer funding share -- ECQ will be better occupied by placing the townships of Watsonville and Irvinebank adjoining Herberton village within the TRC shire rather than being part of a remote townships with No near connection to Mareeba Shire

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 06 Aug 2023 12:29pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 7 August 2023 9:44 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] - Darren Symes

Online submission for [redacted] from **Darren Symes**

Submission Details

Name: Darren Symes

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: Yes amalgamation preferable

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 07 Aug 2023 9:44pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 8 August 2023 3:05 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - David Clifton
Attachments: electoral-boundaries.docx

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **David Clifton**

Submission Details

Name: David Clifton

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text:

File upload: electoral-boundaries.docx (24.0 KB)

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 08 Aug 2023 3:04pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

Tableland Regional Council
Proposed Boundary Changes

As a Councillor, I voted in favour of a review of Boundaries between Divisions 1 & 2 but on closer reflection I don't think a change between those 2 divisions is a good idea because of the emerging population growth pattern.

These views are based primarily on the current and projected figures supplied by the ECQ.

1. Growth will slow in Div 2 so a reduction goes against the pattern which has already emerged. There will still be growth but at a reducing rate. The transfer of Herberton would significantly adversely affect the population numbers to the point that there may have to be an additional boundary review before 2028 to increase population

2. On the other hand Div 1 is directly adjacent to Div 5 where growth is relatively constant and already 3.28% above quota. Consideration should be given to amendments to the Div 5 boundary to overspill to Div.1.

3. In the same way Div 6. is lagging behind in growth so that it would make sense to take overspill additional population from Div 5.

4. Div 3. Appears to be problematic now and in the future with a significant shortfall in both quota and projections. This Division's boundaries will have to be amended to accommodate overspill from Div 4.which is already over quota and with a growth pattern which is extending. It would better to consider the transfer of a part of Division 4 to Division 3.

Given the emerging patterns I believe that it is counter productive to consider changes to Division 2 because it is expected to remain below quota until at least 2028.

The population quota and growth shortfalls in Division 1 are better accommodated by the change of boundary of Division 5 in the course of time.

In addition to the above, the transfer of Herberton, which has been mooted, may cause some older residents concern and confusion because Herberton, Ravenshoe and Mt Garnet were all part of the former Herberton Shire before amalgamation. I recognize that this relationship may have little relevance to electoral boundaries but it can be an important component in community comfort.

David Clifton
Councillor
Tableland Regional Council

8 August 2023

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 9 August 2023 1:28 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - [redacted]

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I would request that info regarding what benefits should be provided to all constituents affected. Why now? Population numbers and location of same have not changed Is the councillor who is responsible for this area finding the distance too much? Maybe a change in councillor should be considered. We have NEVER seen nor heard from our rep councillor since we have moved here over 4years ago at Wondecla Will this mean a rise in rates? Pls arrange some more info to be distributed or made available I do not believe a change is necessary based on current info Rgds [redacted]

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 09 Aug 2023 1:28pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 9 August 2023 10:35 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for [redacted] from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I'm not against the proposed change, but I'm perplexed by the separation of Wondecla from Herberton. Wondecla is usually described, or thought of, as an extension, or suburb, of Herberton. For those of us living in Wondecla, Herberton (not Ravenshoe) is our nearest and most convenient town. It's where many of us get our mail and do any local shopping. According to the 2016 census, Wondecla had a population of 638; Herberton had 855. As a percentage of the total population of 1493 of the combined areas, then, Wondecla contributed almost 43%. A very significant proportion, I would argue, and certainly enough to consider Wondecla as essentially a part of 'greater' Herberton. In short, I see the proposed change as probably positive for the township of Herberton, but not so good for Wondecla. I therefore feel that the map should be redrawn to include moving Wondecla, as well as Herberton, to Division 1. Frankly, it's hard for me to imagine why this request should be necessary.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 09 Aug 2023 10:34pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 10 August 2023 2:16 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - [redacted]

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I believe both the current situation and the proposed boundary are untenable for effective representation. While taking Hertberton from Division 2 is the correct thing to do and adding to Division 1 the community of Wondecla should also be included into Division 1. I believe the Division 1 boundary should include the Longland Gap Road area this keeping similar/neighboring areas together. Regards

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 10 Aug 2023 2:15pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review?[redacted]

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 11 August 2023 8:00 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - [redacted]

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I am against the boundary changes proposed for Tableland Regional Council. These boundaries were only changed before the last election which confused people who had been in the same division for some time. Now that people have accepted and know what division they are in why go and change it again. Is it a change for the better or just making it confusing for everyone again? Making Division two's area bigger so as to include a whole town in Division 1 when it already includes part of Atherton and Malanda I feel hinders the Division Councillor being able to travel around their division in a timely manner. This is not a change for the better and should be left as it is. Thankyou

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 11 Aug 2023 7:59am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 11 August 2023 2:49 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: TRC boundary change Herberton from Division 2 to Division1

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon
I am responding to an email received regarding the above.
I have endeavoured to find out why TRC wants the change but this has not been forthcoming.
Herberton is one of only three small townships in Division 2 and is the largest – the others being Mt. Garnet and Innot Hot Springs.
If Herberton is changed to Division 1 TRC there will be only 2 small townships left in Division 2. There appears to be no apparent reason to change
the boundary which will also incur high costs which presumably the rate payers will expected to pay. This money needs to be allocated to increasing
and extending current infrastructure.
TRC has and is approving large residential developments in Division 1 with no apparent increase in infrastructure such as Hospitals,
Medical Centres, Doctors, Dentists, Schools, Education facilities such as TAFE, shopping, parking, sporting facilities and the list goes on.
To extend the Division to include Herberton is not in the best interests of the public in either Division1 or 2.
Regards,
Maureen Roberts

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 11 August 2023 3:41 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: I think that the proposed changes are of benefit to the Atherton Tablelands for the following reasons. Division 1 currently does not have a township to look after and is substantially smaller in area than Division 2. Division 2 is the largest by area and has Herberton, Ravenshoe, Mt Garnet, Innot Hot Springs, Millstream. It is a long drive from one end of the current Division 2 to the other end. This makes it difficult for the elected member to service all the electorate. I believe it would be fairer and in the best interests of the public/residents to reallocate the Herberton area to Division 1. It would also add more diversity to Division 1 which is dominated by farmers/graziers/growers by adding town dwellers with varying occupations to its population base.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 11 Aug 2023 3:41pm
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 13 August 2023 8:53 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted]

Online submission for from [redacted]

Submission Details

Name: [redacted]

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: There was a 2011 survey of the area, which points to a requirement for maintenance of our rural centres. Putting Herberton into a centralised power centre with Atherton WILL bias decision-making. This has already been seen with Atherton being favoured in projects and how the entire region is managed. The current situation, where representation is on an area basis and Herberton lies on the northern edge of the local "Ravenshoe - Innot Springs-Mt. Garnet" zone would result in an undeniable bias. Essential that no change be instituted.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 13 Aug 2023 8:52am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL:

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 13 August 2023 4:02 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION (TRC DIVISION 1 & 2 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES)

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to put forward my views on the Proposed Divisional Changes to Division 1 & 2 of the Tablelands Regional Council.
As of yet, no parties, have put forward a reason as to why the shift of Divisional Boundaries are required or necessary.
Do we the people within Division 1, Division 2, benefit by better representation from our elected Councillors, does the TRC as a Council benefit from
these changes, or does a division benefit from having a whole town encompassed within that said Division?
As pointed out in the Divisional Boundary Review 2025, under both the present Division Boundaries, and the Proposed Division Changes the quota's
remain relevant and within the accepted quota deviation up to and for the 2028 Quadrennial Elections.
Until someone explains the foreseeable benefits of the Proposed Division Changes, or the foreseeable problems in the future by not changing the
boundaries, then I believe that the status quo should remain.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Lynch

[redacted]

From: noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 14 August 2023 7:27 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: [redacted] Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review - Kevin Cardew

Online submission for **Tablelands Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Kevin Cardew**

Submission Details

Name: Kevin Cardew

Privacy preferences: [redacted]

Submission text: As the Deputy Mayor of Tablelands Regional Council I DO NOT support the proposed boundary changes to Division 1 & 2 Boundary changes occurred at the last election and I think its is unfair on our community to change them again when the current boundaries are fine with the number of voters in each division being almost equal. At Councils February 2023 meeting Cr. Hayden moved to have the Township of Herberton taken out of Division 2 and included in Division 1 and for Council to write to the Qld Electrocal Commission to effect the change and realign the boundaries, this was supported by all Councillors other than myself. The main reason the Div. 2 Councillor put this forward is that she was dissatisfied over Division 1 not having a whole town incorporated in the division even though Division 1 incorporates part of Atherton and Malanda townships and Wondecla, and that the travel distances to Herberton from her place of residence is extensive. Division 2 is already the largest Division by land mass and the proposed changes will significantly increase this to encompass approximately 80% of the Shire and this in my mind would significantly decrease the serviceability of the Councillor of the proposed new division and its occupants, and increase travel distances. I have put together some comments below for Consideration:- • Division 1 already incorporates part of Atherton and Malanda townships and Wondecla • The numbers in all divisions are approximately equal with no need to change. • Increasing the geographic land area of Division 2 by realigning boundaries to make up the numbers lost by taking out Herberton Township increases the geographic area of Division 2 to approximately 80% of the whole Shire. This would be difficult to manage by a single Councillor and the representation of the people within the new division would be diminished. • A single Councillor competing for budgetary outcomes for such a vast area would also be diminished leaving the residents/rate payers within the new division at a disadvantage. There is absolutely no community benefit to changing the boundaries it will not only disadvantage community it will also disadvantage the incoming Councillor.

File upload: No file uploaded ()

Submission ID: [redacted]
Time of Submission: 14 Aug 2023 7:26am
Submission IP Address: [redacted]
Referral URL: https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/tablelands-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review

APPENDIX 6

Tablelands Regional Council submission

File number: 264

Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

23 May 2023

Mr Gary Rinehart
Chief Executive Officer
Tablelands Regional Council
PO Box 573
ATHERTON QLD 4883
Email: ceo@trc.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Rinehart

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February 2023 regarding the Tablelands Regional Council's review of its divisional enrolment as required under section 16 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) received a referral on 20 March 2023 from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure to review the divisional boundaries for the Council.

Currently, all Tablelands Regional Council divisions are within the required quota as set out in section 16 of the *Local Government Act 2009*. I note the referral requests the Change Commission assess moving the township of Herberton from Division 2 to Division 1 on the basis that it would better distribute the workload for the councillors.

The Change Commission undertook a divisional boundary review of the Tablelands Regional Council in 2019, which included an assessment of the division in which Herberton should be located. The final determination report outlined the reasons Division 2 could not retain its existing boundaries and why the alternatives proposed by submitters who wished to retain Herberton in Division 1 could not be accommodated. The final report in 2019 stated:

> *Separating Atherton and Herberton into different divisions balances enrolment more evenly across the Council's divisions. In doing so, this makes it more likely the boundaries will endure for more than one election.*
>
> *As the size of Division 2 was a concern for the submitters, it was noted that the proposed boundary increases the size by approximately four square kilometres (4km^2) whereas adding Wondecla and Upper Barron (while excluding Herberton) increases the size of Division 2 by approximately one hundred and thirty-two square kilometres (132km^2).*

If the proposed transfer of Herberton to Division 1 proceeds, it is highly likely the size of Division 2 would need to significantly increase in size to include electors from other areas such as those localities assessed in 2019. This on the assumption it is still possible to realign the divisional boundaries so that all divisions are within the required quotas.

As part of its current review, the Change Commission will assess the feasibility of a change to divisional boundaries on the basis of redistributing the workload of councillors. In assessing a local government change proposal, the Change Commission must consider whether the proposed change is in the public interest, including whether it is consistent with relevant local government Acts.

Section 12 of the *Local Government Act 2009,* which outlines the responsibilities of councillors, states that a councillor must represent the current and future interests of the residents of the local government area and that they must serve the overall public interest of the whole local government area. Therefore, the Change Commission will need to assess whether the proposed change on the basis of redistributing the workload of councillors would be consistent with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

In this respect, I note that in a recent review undertaken into electoral arrangements in the Ipswich City Council, the Change Commission considered issues raised about the community access to councillors. In its final report the Change Commission stated:

> *The issues raised by Ipswich City Council about access to councillors could potentially be addressed through administrative improvements or changes in approach to outreach and representation rather than through further changes to the Council's electoral arrangements* (pg 16).[1]

The Change Commission considers implementing any local government change a significant action and is not inclined to make structural changes to a local government area unless there is an overriding public interest to do so. Therefore, to support the Change Commission's assessment of the proposed divisional boundary realignment, and under section 19(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2009,* additional information is sought addressing the below issues:

1. Supporting reasons Herberton should be moved from Division 2, consistent with requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*.
2. Whether the Council would support a significant increase to the size of Division 2 to maintain divisional enrolment within the required quotas.
3. Whether the Council has implemented or considered any additional administrative support to assist councillors manage their workloads.

A response to the issues outlined above, and any additional information that the Council is able to provide to demonstrate the public interest benefits of the proposed divisional boundary realignment, would be appreciated by **Friday, 16 June 2023.**

I will provide further details about the process for conducting the review after receiving the Council's response. However, I can advise that the Change Commission is proposing to finalise its reports on all divisional boundary reviews by October 2023 to provide to the

[1] 2023. Ipswich City Council: Electoral Arrangement Review

Deputy Premier for implementation prior to the 2024 local government quadrennial elections.

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact [redacted] Project Officer, Strategy, Policy and Governance, ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by email at LGboundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner

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

20 June 2023

File Ref
Your Ref

Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission Queensland
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via Email: LGboundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au

Dear Commissioner

TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL DIVISION BOUNDARIES

I refer to correspondence of dated 23 May 2023 and provide the following responses.

1. **Supporting reasons why Herberton should be moved from Division 2.**

The Western Australian Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries notes that "To be effective, council members need to understand the views of the people they represent. Communication needs to flow both ways to be effective. Councillors provide information to the community about the policies and decisions of council, and the community relays its desires, concerns, and opinions to the council through the councillors. To represent both electors and the council effectively, a councillor needs to be a good communicator and keep in touch with the local community.

Councillors can keep in touch with electors in a variety of ways, such as:

- attending meetings of local organisations.
- being available and responding to residents who wish to raise issues or concerns;
- attending events arranged by the local government;
- participating in functions held in the local area;
- communicating with the community regarding council matters via a newsletter, email or website"

It is Council's contention that in addition to the responsibilities of a councillor set out in the Local Government Act 2009 "attending meetings of local organisations" and "participating in functions held in the local area" are a key part of the role of a councillor. Division 2 contains the towns Ravenshoe and Herberton and the villages of Innot Hot Springs and Mt Garnet. Each of these localities has a school and multiple sporting and not for profit organisations. This means there are more meetings and events for the divisional 2 Councillor to attend than occurs in other divisions. Organisations expect the local councillor to attend meetings and provide the 2-way communication referred to above.

Council does not consider that the current distribution of townships between divisions optimises the opportunity for the community to engage with their divisional Councillor through Councillor attendance at meetings of local organisations. Accordingly, Council considers that it is in the public interest to align boundaries in such a way that the community is afforded the best opportunity to engage with a local Councillor including the opportunity to engage face to face via local community group meetings.

2. **Would council support a significant increase in the size of division 2 to maintain the divisional enrolment within the required quotas?**

Council is aware that removing Herberton from division 2 may lead to an increase in the area of division 2.

3. **Has Council implemented or considered any additional administrative support to assist councillors to manage workloads?**

Council has limited financial resources and provides minimal administrative support to Councillors (1 EP for the Mayor and all Councillors). The workload that council seeks to best manage by moving Herberton from Division 2 is the representative role referred to at point 1. Providing additional administrative resources is not seen as a solution to the issue of community groups and organisations expecting their divisional councillor to attend at meetings to provide and receive feedback.

I apologise for the delay in providing this response. Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact Tablelands Regional Council on 1300 362 242 or info@trc.qld.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

GARY RINEHART
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

W: www.ecq.qld.gov.au

E: LGBoundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au

T: 1300 881 665

P: Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND