LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

External Boundary Review

NOVEMBER 2026

GOONDIWINDI REGIONAL COUNCIL

SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Introduction

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) is an independent body established under the *Local Government Act 2009*. The Change Commission assesses whether proposed local government changes, such as a change of boundaries or electoral arrangements, are 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[2]
- any other matters prescribed under a regulation.[3]

The Change Commission may only assess local government changes proposed by the Minister responsible for Local Government. The only exception is proposed boundary changes to the City of Brisbane, where the Minister, the Council or the ECQ may refer a boundary change for assessment.

In July 2026, the Change Commission received a referral to review a proposed change to the external boundary between the Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council. The Change Commission has finalised its assessment and the following report outlines the recommended placement of Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 and sets out the reasons for the Change Commission's decision.

For this review, the Change Commission is constituted by Mr Pat Vidgen PSM, Electoral Commissioner of Queensland.

Background

On 10 July 2026, the Honourable Ms Ann Leahy MP, Minister for Local Government and Water, Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (the Minister), referred a proposed change to the common boundary between the Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council (**Appendix 1**).

The referral requires the Change Commission to assess the placement of two lots which are currently dissected by the external boundary of the Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council. The proposed change is for Lot 14

[1] *Local Government Act 2009*, s. 19(2)(a)
[2] *Local Government Act 2009*, s. 19(2)(b)
[3] *Local Government Act 2009*, s. 19(2)(c)

on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 to be united within the Goondiwindi Regional Council.

The Minister's referral did not provide any directions about how the Change Commission was to conduct its assessment.

Accordingly, the Change Commission undertook the following process:

- reviewed correspondence from the Minister, the councils and the landholders
- prepared maps of the proposed change
- convened a formal meeting to review all documentation and make a determination.

Assessment

Regulatory framework

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a local government change proposed by the Minister is in the public interest.

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

In assessing this proposed change, the Change Commission considered the communities of interest provisions in section 9 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. Specifically, ensuring that the external boundaries of a local government do not dissect properties or divide neighbourhoods or adjacent rural and urban areas with common interests or interdependencies.[4]

The Goondiwindi Regional Council noted in its application to the Minister that the proposed change would unite Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 within a single local government area (refer to maps at **Appendix 2**).

The Change Commission also considered the interests of the landholder, noting the proposed change may decrease the administrative burden for the landholder, who currently must liaise with two councils regarding property matters.

[4] *Local Government Regulation 2012*, s. 9(d)

Goondiwindi Regional Council

On 21 May 2026, the Goondiwindi Regional Council requested a boundary change be referred to the Change Commission to determine the placement of two lots (Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758) that is split between itself and the neighbouring Southern Downs Regional Council. According to the council's correspondence, the landholder of the lots in question requested the council unite their property within the Goondiwindi Regional Council (see **Appendix 1**).

Southern Downs Regional Council

On 22 April 2026, the Southern Downs Regional Council held an ordinary meeting where it resolved to support the Goondiwindi Regional Council's request to refer the proposed boundary change to the Change Commission. The council also resolved to support the realignment of Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 within the Goondiwindi Regional Council (see in **Appendix 1**).

Landholder of Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758

On 18 August 2025, the landholder wrote to the Goondiwindi Regional Council to request a boundary realignment for Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 to be entirely within the Goondiwindi Regional Council (see **Appendix 1)**.

Recommendation

The Change Commission is required to form an independent view of the merits of a proposed change.

To do so, the Change Commission considered the views of the impacted stakeholders, as well as whether the change would be consistent with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012.*

Given there is unanimous support from the councils and the landholder, and noting that, if implemented, the external boundary of the councils would no longer dissect the property, the Change Commission finds the proposed change to be in the public interest.

The Change Commission therefore recommends:

- the portions of Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 currently in the Southern Downs Regional Council be transferred so the entire lots are in the Goondiwindi Regional Council.

An overview and detailed maps of the recommended changes are provided in **Appendix 2.**

Implementation

The Change Commission has provided the results of its assessment to the Honourable Ms Ann Leahy MP, Minister for Local Government and Water, Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission will publish notice of the results in the Government Gazette and this report will be available on the ECQ website.

The Governor in Council may implement the Change Commission's recommendation under a regulation.

The regulation may provide for anything that is necessary or convenient to facilitate the implementation of the local government boundary change.



Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner

APPENDIX 1

Ministerial referral

Minister for Local Government
and Water and Minister for Fire,
Disaster Recovery and Volunteers

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND | Queensland Government

Our ref: [redacted]

10 JUL 2026

1 William Street Brisbane
GPO Box 2247 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7420
Email lgwv@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.qld.gov.au

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner
Local Government Change Commission

Email: [redacted]

Dear Mr Vidgen

I refer to the enclosed letter from the Goondiwindi Regional Council (GRC) and signed statement from the Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC), both supporting a review of the local government boundaries.

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the LGA), I propose the following boundary change between GRC and SDRC for assessment to the Local Government Change Commission:

- Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 to be wholly incorporated within the GRC local government area.

The enclosed letter from GRC and the letter of support from SDRC demonstrate their agreement with this proposal. The GRC has also contacted the affected landholders and obtained their written consent to the proposed changes. A copy of this written agreement is enclosed.

A map of the proposed change is also enclosed.

If you require any further information, please contact [redacted] Senior Region Advisor, Local Government Division, Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers on [redacted] or email [redacted] who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

ANN LEAHY MP
Minister for Local Government and Water
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers

Enc (4)

Goondiwindi REGIONAL COUNCIL | REGIONAL AUSTRALIA at its best!

File: Rates & Valuation
Date: 21 May 2026

The Hon Ann Leahy MP
Minister for Local Government and Water
And Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
PO Box 15031
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister Leahy

Request to Review the Local Government Boundary between Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council

I refer to the above and advise that Council received a request from a ratepayer in relation to an anomaly (that is, whole lot dissected by local government boundaries) in the local government boundary between the Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council.

As a result of the application, Council resolved at its September 2025 meeting to proceed with the amendment of Council boundary with the Southern Downs Regional Council such that the following parcels of land are located within the Goondiwindi Regional Council are in their entirety (Lot 14 B34379 and Lot 15 SP332758).

Council has received confirmation from Southern Down Regional Council that it resolved at the April 2026 meeting to support the request to refer the Local Government Boundary realignment to the Local Government Change Commission; and further to support the request from Goondiwindi Regional Council, in regard to Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 SP332758, being wholly incorporated into Goondiwindi Regional Councils' local government area.

Council sees significant merit in resolving the anomaly created by Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council local government boundary dissection of Lot 14 B34379 and Lot 15 SP332758 which form the property 'Dungorm', Gore.

Council would appreciate consideration of the submission, and in accordance with the section 18 *Local Government Act 2009*, refer this matter to the Local Government Change Commission for assessment.

Postal LMB 7, Inglewood QLD 4387
Email mail@grc.qld.gov.au
Web grc.qld.gov.au
ABN 79 969 846 487

Goondiwindi Customer Service Centre 07 4671 7400
Inglewood Customer Service Centre 07 4652 0200
Texas Customer Service Centre 07 4653 2600

For your information, I have attached correspondence from the following:

- The landowner – Ratepayer
- Southern Downs Regional Council

Please contact Council's [redacted] should you require any further information in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Carl Manton
Chief Executive Officer
Goondiwindi Regional Council

Your Ref: ECM 4342301

Southern Downs
REGIONAL COUNCIL

25 May 2026

Carl Manton
Chief Executive Officer
Goondiwindi Regional Council
4 McLean Street
GOONDIWINDI QLD 4390
By email: [redacted]
mail@grc.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Manton,

LETTER OF SUPPORT – GOONDIWINDI REGIONAL COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT - LOT 14 ON B34379 AND LOT 15 SP332758 – RABBIT FENCE ROAD, KARARA QLD 4352

At its Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 April 2026, Southern Downs Regional Council (Council) resolved to support the request from Goondiwindi Regional Council (GRC), to refer the Local Government Boundary realignment to the Local Government Change Commission.

Council further resolved, to support the request from GRC, regarding Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 SP332758, being wholly incorporated into GRC's local government area.

The snips from the minutes of the Council meeting from the 25 February is noted below.

13.4 Local Government Boundary Realignment - Goondiwindi Regional Council - Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 - Rabbit Fence Road KARARA

Resolution

Moved Cr R Bartley **Seconded Cr J Richters**

THAT Council:

1. Supports the request to refer the Local Government Boundary realignment to the Local Government Change Commission; and
2. Supports the request from Goondiwindi Regional Council, in regard to Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 SP 332758, being wholly incorporated into Goondiwindi Regional Council's local government area.

Carried Unanimously

If you require further information in relation to this matter, please contact Council's Land Management Team on 1300 MY SDRC (1300 697 372) or via email to mail@sdrc.qld.gov.au

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Manager Governance

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 18 August 2025 1:38 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Realignment of the shire boundary request - Lots 14-B43479 and 15-SP332758
Attachments: image002 (4).png; image001 (5).png

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

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn [redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you for phone call earlier this afternoon.

I am writing to request a realignment of the shire boundary between Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council as it affects Lots 14-B43479 and 15-SP332758, which form the property Dungorm at Gore.

As is shown on the attached maps, three areas have been identified as falling within the SDRC boundary area.

The boundary in question also forms a section of the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board Fence.

Previously, the property was rated wholly by GRC. I am requesting the shire boundary be realigned so that Dungorm falls entirely within the GRC area.

kind regards

[redacted]

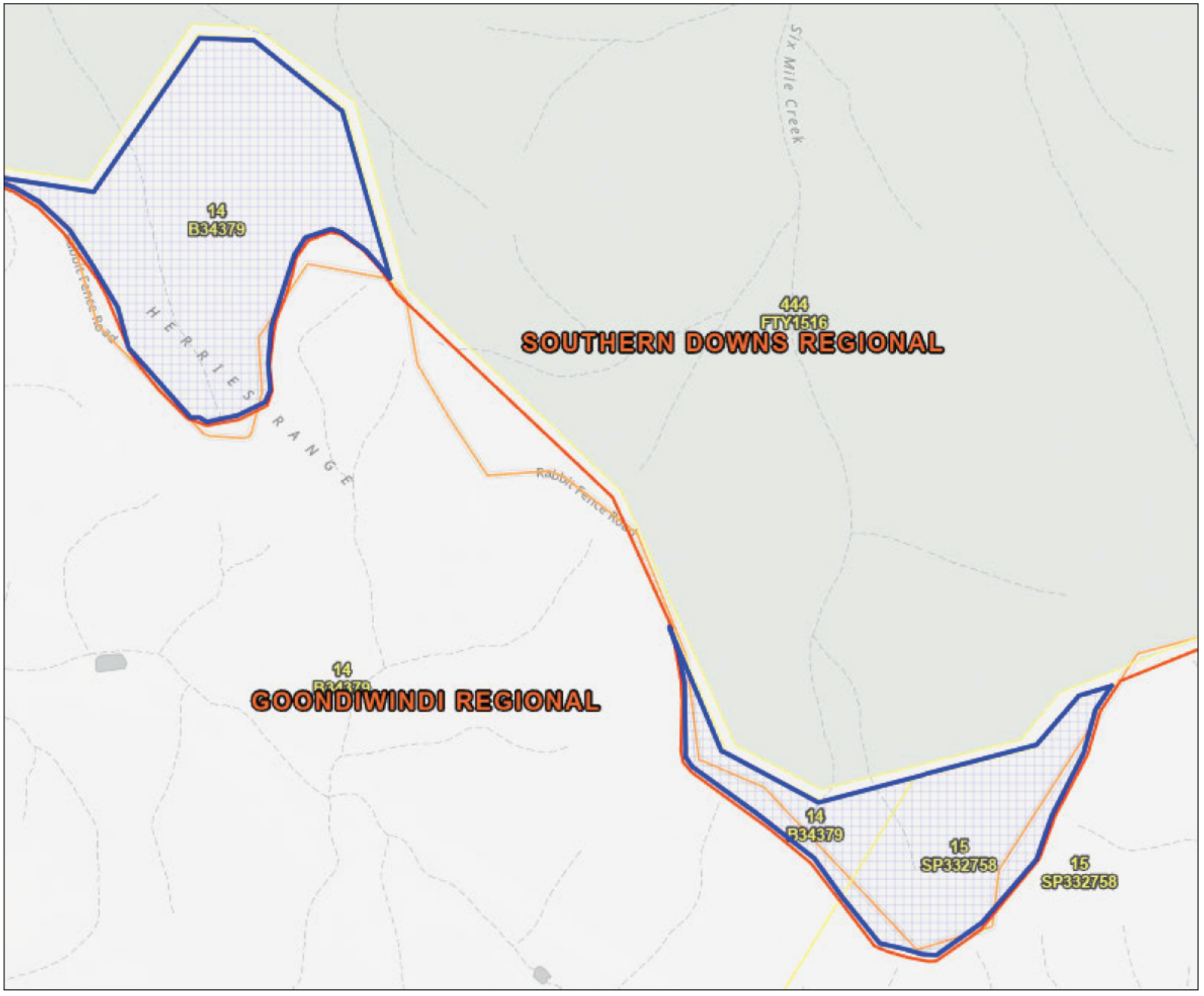
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Boundary Re-alignment

A product of Queensland Globe

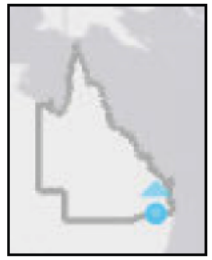
28°16'16"S 151°31'38"E

28°16'16"S 151°33'3"E



28°17'18"S 151°31'38"E

28°17'18"S 151°33'3"E



Legend located on next page

N

0 250 metres

Scale: 1:12538

Printed at: A4

Print date: 15/6/2026

Not suitable for accurate measurement.
Projection: Web Mercator EPSG 102100 (3857)

For more information, visit https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/help-info/Contact-us.html

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Queensland Government

Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development

Boundary Re-alignment

Legend

Local government

Land parcel label

Land parcel label - gt 1 ha

Land parcel label - gt 10 ha

Land parcel label - gt 1000 ha

Land parcel

Land parcel - gt 1 ha

Land parcel - gt 10 ha

Land parcel - gt 1000 ha

Places: My Places(1)

My Place 4

Roads and tracks

- Motorway
- Highway
- Secondary
- Connector
- Local
- Restricted Access Road
- Mall
- Busway
- Bikeway
- Restricted Access Bikeway
- Walkway
- Restricted Access Walkway
- Non-vehicular Track
- Track
- Restricted Access Track
- Ferry
- Proposed Thoroughfare

Bridges

Tunnels

Attribution

Vantor

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My Place 5

Railway stations



Railways

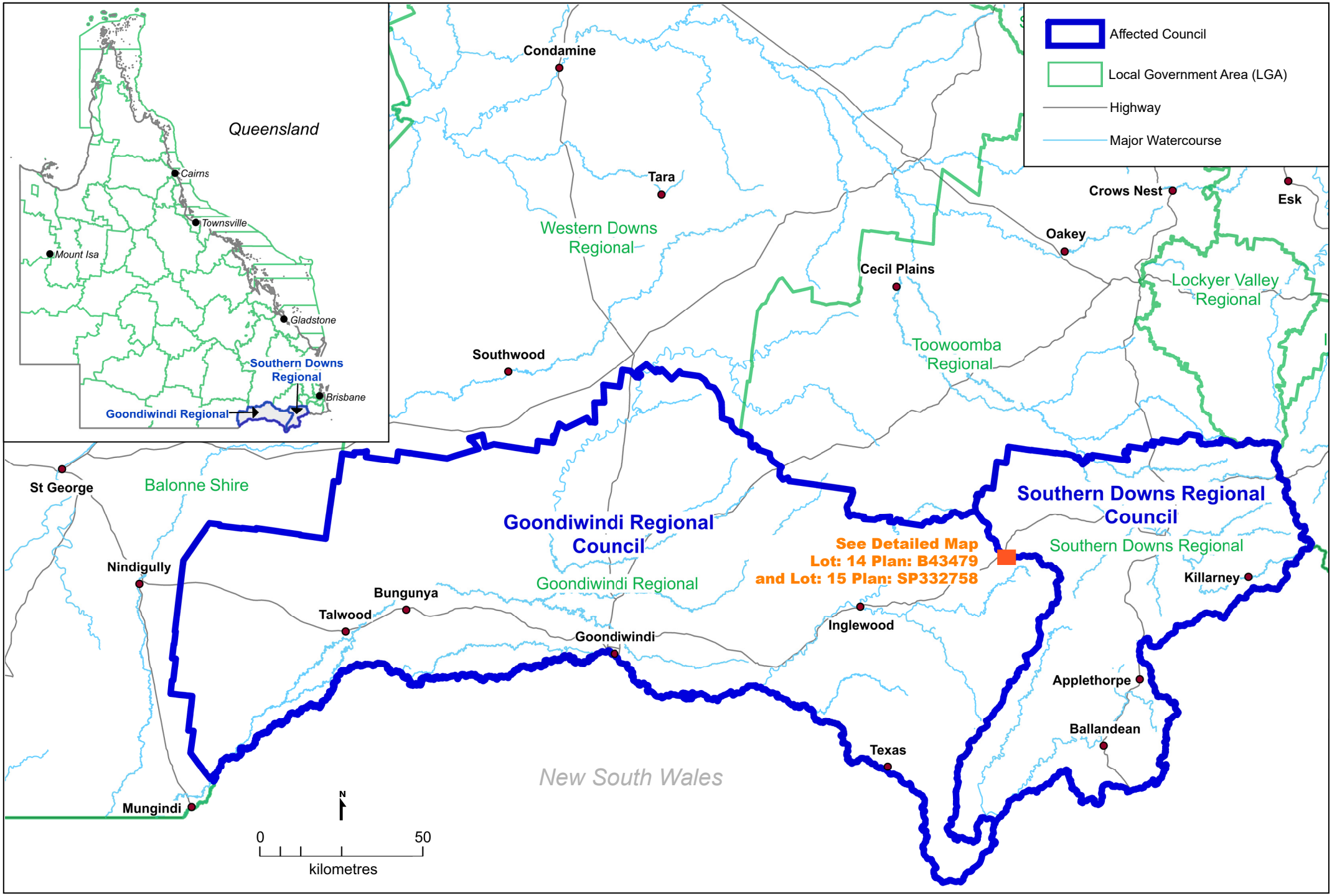
Green bridges



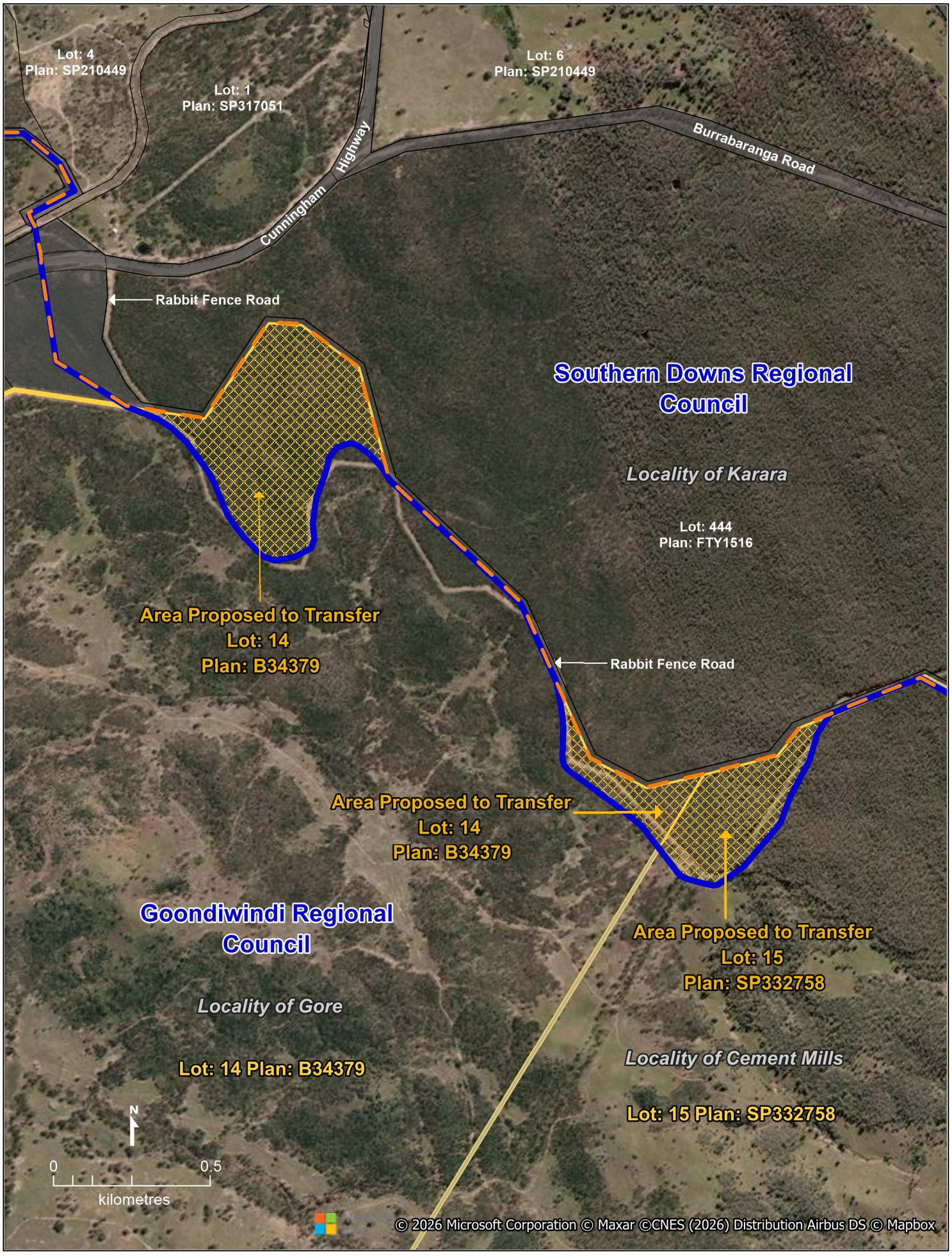
APPENDIX 2

Maps

Overview Map:
Proposed Transfer Lot: 14 Plan: B43479 and Lot:15 Plan: SP332758 from Southern Downs Regional Council to Goondiwindi Regional Council



Detailed Map: Proposed Transfer of Lot: 14 Plan: B43479 and Lot: 15 Plan: SP332758 from Southern Downs Regional Council to Goondiwindi Regional Council



Affected Areas Lot 14 Plan B43479 & Lot 15 Plan SP332758

Property Lot 14 Plan B43479 & Lot 15 Plan SP332758

Proposed LGA Boundary

Current LGA Boundary

Locality Boundary

Property Boundary

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

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