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To: [LG CC Submissions](#)
Subject: (56671) Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council - External Boundary Review - [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, 25 June 2022 12:14:25 PM
Attachments: [PROPOSED-BOUNDARY-CHANGE.docx](#)

Online submission for **Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council**
- External Boundary Review from [REDACTED]

Submission Details

Name: [REDACTED]

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Submission text:

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PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE

LIVINGSTONE & ROCKHAMPTON SHIRES

I am a Livingstone Shire rate payer in the Locality of Rockyview.

Rockhampton always has been and always will be the service centre for the “Northern Suburbs”. Yeppoon and the Capricorn Coast have little relevance to the majority of those living in our area.

This is a fact that is never going to change.

Paying some of the highest property rates in Queensland, has long been an issue for the residents in the “Northern Suburbs”.

Livingstone Shire Council has to a large degree neglected our area, while at the same time spending significant amounts of money on beatification and other projects on the Capricorn Coast.

It is clear to the rate payers in the “Northern Suburbs” that we are viewed as a source of revenue for the advancement of Yeppoon and the Capricorn Coast.

While I support the development of the Capricorn Coast, it should not be at our expense.

A fairer method of property rating in the Livingstone Shire, would be to lower the rates for those who live further away from the service centres on the coast.

Those who choose to live on the coast and enjoy the benefits of council spending should pay more in rates.

Those who choose to live further away from the coast and do not benefit from council spending, should pay significantly less in rates.

In a recent Livingstone Shire Council Community meeting in Glendale, I suggested to the Mayor that Council consider lowering the rates in our area to reflect the fact that we do not benefit from the high rates that are charged.

I further suggested that most rate payers would be content to remain in Livingstone Shire if our rates reflected the lack of benefits received.

In response to the proposition to the Mayor, **“wouldn’t a compromise of retaining the Northern Suburbs on a lower rate basis be better than losing 100% of the rates to RCC”**, the Mayor’s only response was **“that’s your opinion”**.

Yes, it is my opinion and I am confident that it is an opinion shared by most of the property owners in our area.

It is clear from the Mayor's response along with the comments from other councillors present on the day, that they are not prepared to recognise the absence of benefit for the rates paid in our area.

As another rate payer stated on the day, **“council is not giving the rate payers a reason to want to stay in Livingstone”**.

This is the truth.

I understand and appreciate why the coastal communities in Livingstone would oppose this proposed boundary change, as it would no doubt lead to an increase in rates to the remaining property owners.

However, this situation was/is entirely avoidable.

If Council simply recognised the fact that our area pays very high rates and receives very little benefit in return and then adjusted the rates accordingly, support for a move into Rockhampton Shire by the “Northern Suburbs” would disappear.

As it stands, there is little doubt that the majority of the “Northern Suburbs” will again vote **Yes**.