

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Minister's Referral**



Minister for Local Government,  
Minister for Racing and  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC19/1127

17 APR 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM  
Electoral Commissioner  
Electoral Commission Queensland  
GPO Box 1393  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

1 William Street  
Brisbane Queensland 4000  
PO Box 15009  
City East Queensland 4002  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560  
Email [lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au](http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au)

ABN 65 959 415 158

*Dear Pat*

I am writing to you in relation to a Local Government electoral review that was undertaken by the Redland City Council in preparation for the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections.

I have received correspondence from Mr Andrew Chesterman, Chief Executive Officer of the Council dated 25 February 2019, advising of the results of the review, including that the projected number of electors in 2020 would be out of the quota of a reasonable proportion of electors as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) in Divisions 3 and 6.

As you are aware, section 18 of the Act provides that only I may apply to the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) for an assessment of a proposed Local Government change. Further, under section 19 of the Act, the Change Commission must consider whether the Local Government change is consistent with the Act and must consider my views on any proposed changes.

I consider it appropriate to refer the matter to you for independent assessment and determination by the Change Commission. I have no additional recommendations on how the Change Commission conducts its assessment of the changes required to the divisional boundaries of Divisions 3 and 6.

Mr Chesterman also advised that at its meeting held on 20 February 2019, the Council resolved to apply for approval to conduct the 2020 Local Government election by postal ballot, on the basis that the Local Government area includes a large rural sector and extensive island areas. This application will be assessed in the context of the Government's proposed Local Government reforms that would include legislative amendments to require the Councils to apply for postal ballots to the Electoral Commission Queensland. I have advised Mr Chesterman that the Council's application for a postal ballot will be assessed separately and that a final response will be provided in due course.

I have asked for Mr Daniel Westall, Manager, Governance, Local Government Division in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact Mr Westall on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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