

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

Divisional Boundary Review

2023

FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

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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 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,
- the views of the Minister, and
- any other matters prescribed under a regulation.

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 is reviewing the divisional boundaries of the Fraser Coast Regional Council to ensure each division has approximately the same number of electors.

The Change Commission has proposed new divisional boundaries and wants to hear the views of the public.

About the review

In the year before each local government quadrennial election, divided councils must review whether their divisions are within the legislatively prescribed quota with approximately the same number of electors.

On 20 March 2023, the Fraser Coast Regional Council wrote to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Deputy Premier) informing him that the number of electors in Division 7 is not within the legislatively prescribed quota.

In accordance with sections 18 and 19 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Deputy Premier referred the Fraser Coast Regional Council to the Change Commission to prepare new divisional boundaries.

The Change Commission has prepared new divisional boundaries that maintain equitable enrolment across all divisions and wants to hear the views of the public. Details of the proposed boundary changes, including current and expected enrolment, are set out below.

Public submissions on the proposed divisional boundaries will be accepted from **9am on Monday 31 July 2023** until **9am on Monday 14 August 2023**.

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/fraser-coast-boundary-review
- Email: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
- Post: Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Methodology

Each division is required to have approximately the same number of electors so that each person's vote carries the same weight, maintaining the democratic principle of one vote, one value. This is known as a 'reasonable proportion of electors' or a 'quota'.

The quota is determined by dividing the total number of voters in a local government area by the number of councillors (excluding the mayor). For a local government area with more than 10,000 voters, the number of electors in each division must be plus or minus 10 per cent of the quota.¹

In addition to ensuring each division meets 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)
- natural and constructed markers such as rivers and roads, and
- the Council's advice on proposed boundaries.

Quota and enrolment for existing divisions

Table 1 below outlines the Fraser Coast Regional Council's current enrolment quota as at 9 March 2023 and the projected enrolment for 31 March 2028, being approximately when the 2028 local government quadrennial elections will occur.

¹ Section 15 of the *Local Government Act 2009*

Table 1 – Current and projected quota		
	9 March 2023	31 March 2028
Number of divisions	10	10
Enrolment	87,120	95,391
Quota per division	8,712	9,539
Quota (-10%) per division	7,841	8,585
Quota (+10%) per division	9,583	10,493

Table 2 below outlines the current enrolment for each division of the Fraser Coast Regional Council, and the projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028. As at 9 March 2023, Division 7 was out of quota. Based on enrolment projections, Divisions 1, 3, 7 and 10 are projected to be out of quota for the 2028 quadrennial elections.

Table 2 – Summary of enrolment for existing divisions				
Division	Enrolment as at 9 March 2023	Deviation from quota	Projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028	Deviation from quota
Division 1	8,901	2.17%	10,620	11.33%
Division 2	9,009	3.41%	9,572	0.34%
Division 3	8,204	-5.83%	8,507	-10.82%
Division 4	8,535	-2.03%	8,702	-8.78%
Division 5	8,642	-0.80%	9,384	-1.63%
Division 6	8,795	0.95%	10,365	8.66%
Division 7	9,825	12.78%	11,298	18.44%
Division 8	8,781	0.79%	9,650	1.16%
Division 9	8,445	-3.06%	8,860	-7.12%
Division 10	7,983	-8.37%	8,433	-11.60%

Summary of proposed changes

To ensure each division remains in quota, the Change Commission proposes changes to the boundaries of each division set out below.

Division 1

The Change Commission proposes to transfer:

- a. the entire locality of Aldershot from Division 1 to Division 3, and
- b. the balance of the locality of Maryborough West situated to the west of the Bruce Highway from Division 1 to Division 3.

Division 3

The Change Commission proposes to transfer:

- a. the entire locality of Aldershot from Division 1 to Division 3
- b. the balance of the locality of Maryborough West situated to the west of the Bruce Highway from Division 1 to Division 3. This reunites the entire locality into one division, and
- c. a small portion of Maryborough bounded by Tooley Street, Woodstock Street, John Street and Churchill Street from Division 3 to Division 4.

Division 4

The Change Commission proposes to transfer:

- a. a small portion of Maryborough bounded by Tooley Street, Woodstock Street, John Street and Churchill Street from Division 3 to Division 4.

Division 6

The Change Commission proposes to transfer:

- a. a portion of the locality of Pialba bounded by Boat Harbour Drive, Beach Road, Main Street and Charlton Esplanade and including Pialba Caravan Park from Division 6 to Division 9.

Division 7

The Change Commission proposes to transfer:

- a. a portion of the Torquay locality bounded by Bideford Street, Exeter Street, Tavistock Street and Boundary Road from Division 7 to Division 9
- b. a portion of the Wondunna locality bounded by Boundary Road, Denmans Camp Road, Doolong Road and Raward Road from Division 7 to Division 9, and

- c. a portion of the Kawungan locality bounded by the Boundary Road Extension, Denman Camp Road, Doolong Road and Kawungan Way from Division 7 to Division 9.

Division 9

The Change Commission proposes to transfer:

- a. a portion of the locality of Pialba bounded by Boat Harbour Drive, Beach Road, Main Street and Charlton Esplanade and including the Pialba Caravan Park from Division 6 to Division 9
- b. a portion of the Torquay locality bounded by Bideford Street, Exeter Street, Tavistock Street and Boundary Road from Division 7 to Division 9
- c. a portion of the Wondunna locality bounded by Boundary Road, Denmans Camp Road, Doolong Road and Raward Road from Division 7 to Division 9
- d. a portion of the Kawungan locality bounded by the Boundary Road Extension, Denman Camp Road, Doolong Road and Kawungan Way from Division 7 to Division 9, and
- e. a portion of the suburb of Torquay bounded by Bideford Street, Exeter Street, Charlton Esplanade and Robert Street from Division 9 to Division 10.

Division 10

The Change Commission proposes to transfer:

- a. a large portion of the suburb of Torquay bounded by Bideford Street, Exeter Street, Charlton Esplanade and Robert Street from Division 9 to Division 10.

No changes are proposed to the boundaries of Divisions 2, 5 and 8 to maintain those divisions within quota.

The Change Commission notes, in its submission, the Fraser Coast Regional Council is broadly happy with the current boundaries and requested minimal changes. The submission suggested moving a group of voters from Division 7 to Division 10. While this is feasible for the 2024 elections, the 2028 elector projections suggest there is a risk of other divisions being out of quota in the future.

The Change Commission has sought to create boundaries in line with the Council's views and aimed to propose minimal changes while also reducing the risk of divisions becoming out of quota by 2028.

Maps of the proposed divisions and detailed spatial data are available to view [here](#).

Effect of proposed changes on divisional enrolment

Table 3 below outlines the current and projected enrolment for the proposed divisions. All divisions are projected to remain in quota for 2028 under the proposed boundary changes.

Table 3 – Summary of enrolment for proposed divisions				
Division	Enrolment as at 9 March 2023	Deviation from quota	Projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028	Deviation from quota
Division 1	7978	-8.43%	9582	0.45%
Division 2	9009	3.41%	9572	0.34%
Division 3	8728	0.18%	9138	-4.20%
Division 4	8934	2.55%	9109	-4.51%
Division 5	8642	-0.80%	9384	-1.63%
Division 6	8359	-4.05%	9917	3.96%
Division 7	8287	-4.88%	9710	1.79%
Division 8	8781	0.79%	9650	1.16%
Division 9	9287	6.60%	9685	1.53%
Division 10	9115	4.63%	9644	1.10%

Finalising the review

After reviewing the public comments on the proposal, the Change Commission will make a recommendation on the Council's divisional boundaries.

The results of a Change Commission review must be provided to the Deputy Premier for consideration of implementation by Regulation. The report will be published on the Electoral Commission of Queensland website and a notice of results will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.