

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

Divisional Boundary Review

2023

ISAAC 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 Isaac 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 1 March 2023, the Isaac 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) informing him that the number of electors in Divisions 1, 2 and 8 are not within the legislatively prescribed quota.

In accordance with sections 18 and 19 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Deputy Premier referred the Isaac 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/isaac-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 manmade 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 Isaac 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	8	8
Enrolment	11,852	11,969
Quota per division	1,481	1,496
Quota (-10%) per division	1,333	1,346
Quota (+10%) per division	1,629	1,646

Table 2 below outlines the current enrolment for each division of the Isaac Regional Council, and the projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028. As at 9 March 2023, Divisions 1, 2 and 8 are out of quota and, based on enrolment projections, Divisions 1 and 8 are projected to remain out of quota for the 2028 quadrennial elections.

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	Deviation from quota
Division 1	1,277	-13.80%	1,281	-14.38%
Division 2	1,635	10.36%	1,600	6.94%
Division 3	1,426	-3.75%	1,515	1.26%
Division 4	1,493	0.78%	1,468	-1.88%
Division 5	1,487	0.37%	1,543	3.13%
Division 6	1,389	-6.24%	1,375	-8.10%
Division 7	1,459	-1.52%	1,460	-2.41%
Division 8	1,686	13.80%	1,727	15.43%

Summary of proposed changes

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

The Change Commission did not receive a submission from the Isaac Regional Council on the proposed boundary changes, but did consider previous submissions from the Council on the 2019 divisional boundary reviews and the Council's correspondence with the Deputy Premier. In particular, the Change Commission notes that, in its letter of 1 March 2023, the Isaac Regional Council requested towns and communities not be split where possible in considering any divisional boundary changes.

The Change Commission proposes the following changes:

- a. the entire localities of Gemini Mountains and Wolfgang to be transferred from Division 2 to Division 1
- b. the locality of Coppabella to be transferred from Division 8 to Division 1
- c. the balance of the locality of Clermont to be transferred from Division 2 to Division 1, reuniting the entire locality into one division, and
- d. the Valkyrie locality to be transferred from Division 8 to Division 7.

No changes are proposed to the boundaries of Divisions 3, 4, 5 and 6 to maintain those divisions within quota.

The proposed changes do not create new divisional boundaries that split towns or communities. However, Moranbah is currently split across several divisions, including Division 7, and this is proposed to remain under the proposed arrangements to balance elector numbers across divisions.

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.

The Change Commission notes that, due to the low number of electors in the Isaac local government area, relatively small population changes can have a significant impact on divisional enrolment, and a further boundary review may be required before the 2028 elections. While the Change Commission has considered projected enrolment its priority has been to ensure all divisions are within quota for the 2024 local government elections.

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 2028	Deviation from quota
Division 1	1,449	-2.19%	1,457	-2.61%
Division 2	1,546	4.35%	1,507	0.73%
Division 3	1,426	-3.75%	1,515	1.26%
Division 4	1,493	0.78%	1,468	-1.88%
Division 5	1,487	0.37%	1,543	3.13%
Division 6	1,389	-6.24%	1,375	-8.10%
Division 7	1,516	2.33%	1,515	1.26%
Division 8	1,546	4.35%	1,589	6.20%

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.