

Rockhampton

Northern Boundary Review

Summary



Fairer for everyone.

Contents

Message from the Mayor	3
Introduction	4
Connecting our community	5
Securing future growth and prosperity	7
A fair go for everyone	11
Common sense	12





Tony Williams
Mayor



Mayor's Message

This is a defining moment for our whole region.

This is a defining moment for our whole region. The decision that will be made by the State Government this year – whether Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale will transfer back to Rockhampton Regional Council – will shape our community for decades to come. Before that decision is made, we have to ask ourselves 'What do we want our region to be?' The answer is simply this – better.

Just as every parent wants more for their children, and every worker wants a secure job and every person wants a place to call home. We want our region to be better and bringing the Northern Suburbs home will do that. And I believe it will do that not just for Rockhampton, but for Livingstone as well.

Because we will make these suburbs a true part of our community. They already are in everything but name – they live their lives in the Rockhampton region. They work here. They send their kids to school here. They shop here. They go to our libraries, our parks and they use our roads.

The residents of the Northern Suburbs want to come back. They have voted multiple times to transfer and have been blocked from coming home.

They want to contribute to the same community as you because they are a part of our region. In the years to come, these Northern Suburbs will be where we grow. It has the potential for thousands more people who will call our region home.

Rockhampton Regional Council will provide the services and infrastructure to nurture that growth. To create more jobs and more money flowing into our local economies. Provide more infrastructure and services to cater for our growing population.

Because the future we want is a bigger and better Rockhampton region. More people is the catalyst for so much more for all of us. More schools and more education opportunities, better healthcare, new businesses and the new jobs that come with them.

While we grow these Northern Suburbs, Livingstone will grow the Coast and both of our communities will benefit. This is the future of our region. And the decisions that are made now will impact on you and future generations.

I love the Rockhampton Region and I am proud to call it home. And I hope you do too. Because what happens next is in your hands. You have a choice to make, vote YES for the transfer to bring these suburbs home and secure our region's future.

You are important, your voice is important, and your vote is important. I hope you'll lend it toward a better future for all of us.



Introduction

The Rockhampton Northern Boundary Review is a State Government process to evaluate whether the Northern Suburbs of Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview (the Northern Suburbs) become a part of the Rockhampton Region Council area.

Boundary changes aren't a new thing and have been taking place across Queensland for over 100 years. They are used to help realign council boundaries to better service and connect communities as they change and evolve. Parkhurst, for example, moved from Livingstone Shire to Rockhampton City in 1984. Since that time, we've seen significant industrial, commercial and residential development in Parkhurst.

Why is this process underway?

You don't hear about most boundary changes as they are usually undertaken with agreement of the Councils involved. However, our two Councils are disputing why the changes to the Northern Boundary are necessary and should occur, and in such cases, your opinion is needed to assist the State Government make a final decision.

Why is Rockhampton Regional Council fighting to get the boundary changed?

This is an important change for the Rockhampton Region and there are many reasons why we continue to fight for the residents of the Northern Suburbs. This document addresses some of those reasons. A more detailed submission document provides evidence we feel is important for the Queensland Government to take these into consideration.

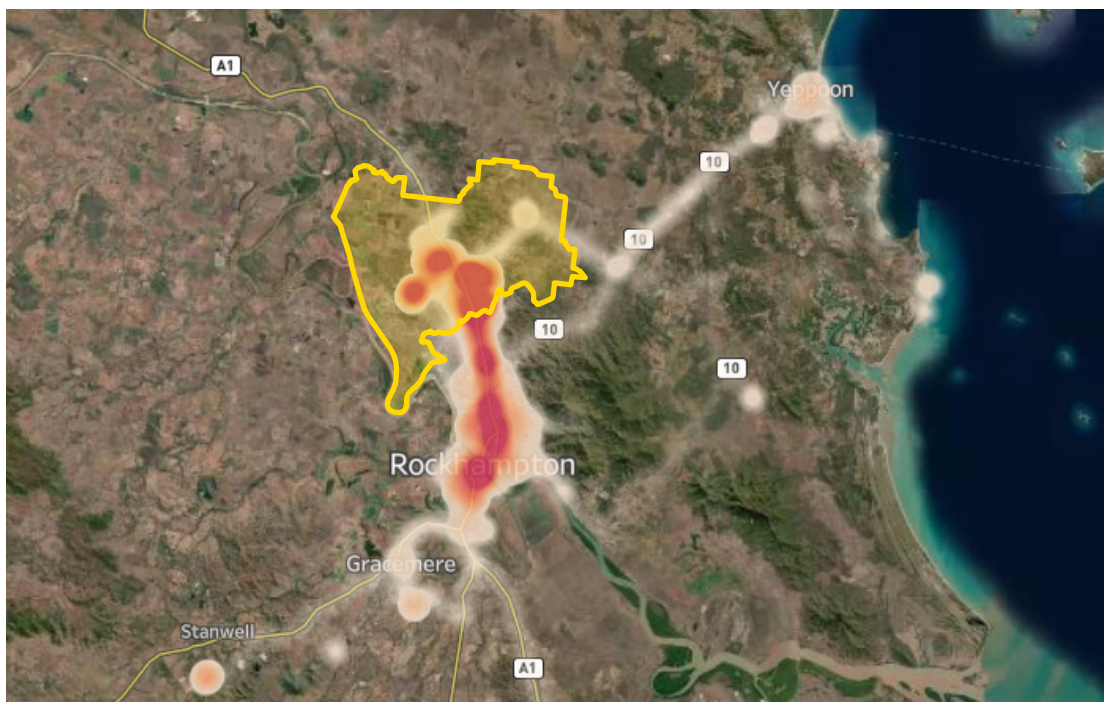
This summary provides some of the important points for you to consider when you vote and why you should vote YES to the northern suburbs boundary change and connect our community.

Connecting our Community

The Northern Suburbs are already part of Rockhampton

The Northern Suburbs are just that - the suburbs north of Rockhampton. The people who live there are already a part of the Rockhampton community.

Northern Suburbs residents may vote for and pay their rates to Livingstone Shire Council but are more connected to the community of Rockhampton. The majority of residents of the Northern Suburbs go to work, school and shop in Rockhampton. They eat out and enjoy their down time in our beautiful parks, gallery and theatre and play sport right here in Rockhampton. If you look at movement data between the two Councils over an entire year, Northern Suburbs residents spend 87% of their time in Rockhampton Regional Council area. The heatmap below shows just how much of Northern Suburbs residents' lives are spent in Rockhampton.



The residents of the Northern Suburbs have already said that they want to be a part of Rockhampton. Before de-amalgamation, residents there voted 75% in favour of staying a part of Rockhampton. In polling after the de-amalgamation in late 2014, the residents of Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale voted 75%, 71.5% and 61.9% respectively to return to Rockhampton Regional Council. These results reflect their inherent connection to Rockhampton. But perhaps most importantly, they want to have a say about the facilities and services they use on a regular basis.

Connecting our Community Continued

Working

Census data shows that 98% of Northern Suburbs residents either work within the Rockhampton Council area or locally within their own suburbs. When comparing recent movement data between the two Local Government Areas, it's clear that the vast majority of Northern Suburb residents choose to work in Rockhampton.

Playing

With everyone's life being so busy, where and how we spend our down time is important to us. What we found is that people in the Northern Suburbs spend most of their down time right here in Rocky.

Rockhampton Riverbank

Our data shows that Northern Suburb residents spend more than twice as much time enjoying our beautiful riverbank than heading down to Yeppoon's foreshore.

Southside Pool

We found that residents are nearly twice as likely to use the Southside Pool as the brand-new facilities at the Yeppoon Lagoon.

Kershaw Gardens

The Kershaw Gardens are truly one of the jewels of the region, with 25ha of beautiful green open space, a huge playground, and great BBQ facilities. It's no wonder that the gardens are used by people from far and wide. The Kershaw Gardens are hugely popular with Northern Suburb residents, being up to 5 times more popular than any public open space areas anywhere in the Livingstone Shire.

The facts above only represent a small portion of the facilities, services and infrastructure provided by Rockhampton Regional Council and used daily by the residents of the Northern Suburbs, while their rates are largely used to support facilities and services on the Capricorn Coast. This hardly seems fair to either the ratepayers of the Northern Suburbs or the ratepayers of Rockhampton.

Learning

The Northern Suburbs are part of the Parkhurst State School catchment and the Glenmore State High School catchment, and many residents attend the private schools right at their doorstep in Rockhampton. They are also in close proximity to the CQUniversity's two Rockhampton campuses.

Caring

The closest emergency response services are provided from Rockhampton, including critical fire, ambulance and police services, which are approximately 10 to 12 min away, compared to the closest emergency service from Livingstone which are approximately 25 to 28 minutes from the Northern Suburbs. The Northern Suburbs also have ready access to the Rockhampton Base Hospital and two private hospitals in Rockhampton.

98% of Northern Suburbs residents work within the Rockhampton Council area

Northern Suburb residents voted 75% in favour of staying a part of Rockhampton



Securing future growth and prosperity

The Northern Suburbs are Rockhampton's growth corridor

Why are the Northern suburbs so important to the future growth of Rockhampton?

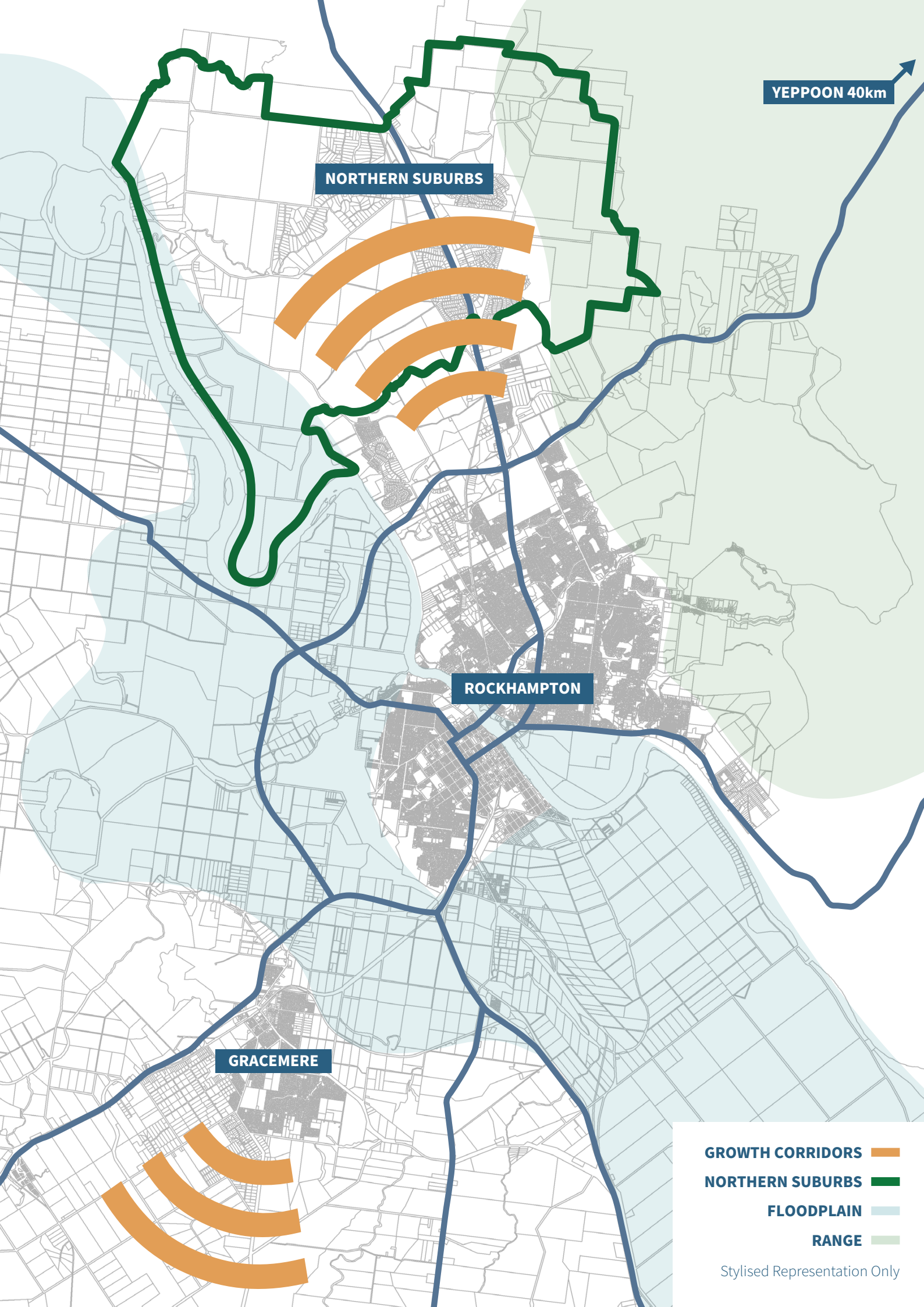
Rockhampton's future growth is constrained by the expansive Fitzroy River floodplain and the rugged Berserker Ranges. These natural features have shaped our growth over time and will continue to do so. They also present clear directions for future growth.

Livingstone Shire's growth is focused on the coastal towns of Yeppoon and Emu Park and their immediate hinterland.

Rockhampton's growth is currently focused on Parkhurst and Gracemere. Over the next 20 years Parkhurst's population will grow by some 10,000 people. With the longer-term in mind, Rockhampton needs to look beyond Parkhurst to the Northern Suburbs to support growth over the next 50 years.

Adding to the forecast growth is the mounting pressures of housing supply. Regional centres like ours are becoming more attractive to young families and first home buyers looking for affordable places to live and work. Planning for the future is a critical issue for our Region and now is the time to make decisions about how we choose to grow Rockhampton.

Over the next 20 years Parkhurst's population will grow by some 10,000 people



YEPPOON 40km

NORTHERN SUBURBS

ROCKHAMPTON

GRACEMERE

- GROWTH CORRIDORS
- NORTHERN SUBURBS
- FLOODPLAIN
- RANGE

Stylised Representation Only

Why planning for growth is so important

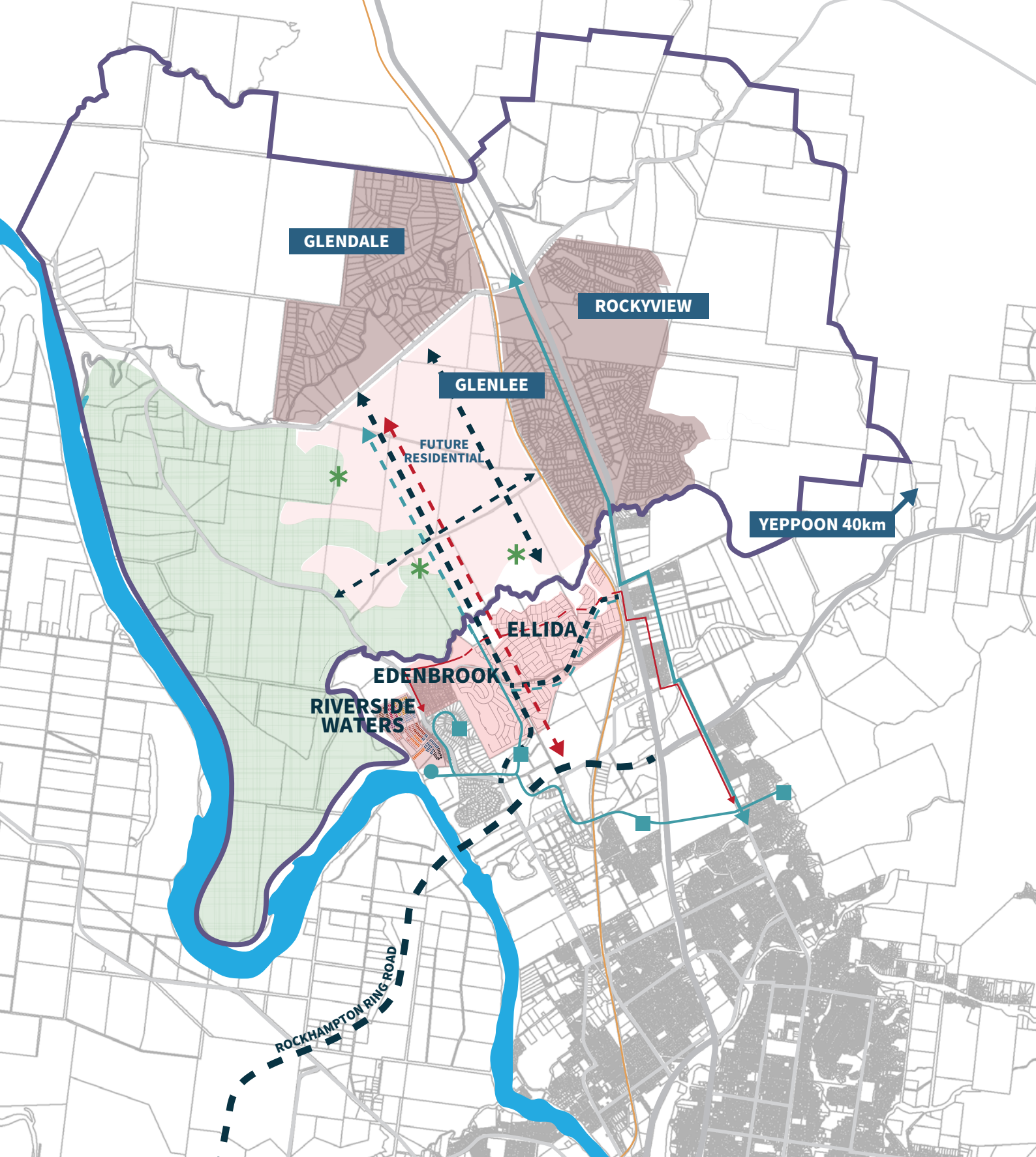
Why is it so important for this change to happen now when we are talking about growth that is potentially 20 years away?

Rockhampton Regional Council wants to prevent the large rural areas in the Northern Suburbs being cut up into rural residential lots. We want to ensure that this land can be available for future development, when large areas are needed for development down the track. This means that future communities can be planned properly to create better places to live, work and play. It also means that infrastructure can be planned and delivered in a logical and cost-effective way.

Even though the Northern Suburbs are vital for the future of Rockhampton, Livingstone Shire Council doesn't have any plans to develop the area to meet the Region's needs for urban expansion. Their focus is understandably on developing their own high-growth areas along the Coast.

The concept plan illustrates potential new residential areas in Glenlee along with future road and infrastructure connections to service that growth. This area could accommodate up to 25,000 people over the next 50 years. The concept plan clearly demonstrates the linkages between Rockhampton and the Northern Suburbs to connect to the services that Rockhampton supplies. Only Rockhampton Regional Council is capable of delivering this infrastructure so that the Northern Suburbs can grow sustainably and without wasteful duplication of services.

The future residential area identified in the concept plan could accommodate up to 25,000 people over the next 50 years



CONCEPT STRUCTURE PLAN

WATER PIPELINE		ROAD	
FUTURE WATER PIPELINE		RAIL LINE	
RESERVIOR		NORTHERN SUBURBS	
WATER TREATMENT PLANT		PLANNED ROADS	
GREENSPACE		SEWER	
		FUTURE SEWER	



A fair go for everyone

Northern Suburbs as part of RRC makes financial sense and is fairer for everyone

The bottom line for this Boundary Review is about getting a fair go for both the residents of Rockhampton and the Northern Suburbs. Any financial impact to Livingstone Shire Council from the boundary change will only be short-term. Their anticipated growth, which is currently outpacing Rockhampton, will see the number of ratepayers increase over time and effectively offset the loss of the Northern Suburbs.

Rockhampton Regional Council have put forward a proposal to mitigate some of the short-term financial pain, by offering to make payments to Livingstone Shire Council of 50% of the general rates and other charges such as road and environmental levies collected from the northern suburbs over the next 10 years. Unfortunately, this offer has been rejected.

What do we mean by a fair go?

A fair go for the residents of the Northern Suburbs - cheaper rates, improved services and a voice in the development of their suburbs and their city.

Currently, the Northern Suburbs pay their rates to Livingstone while they spend 87% of their time in Rockhampton and use services here. This is why keeping the Northern Suburbs in Livingstone is an attractive proposition for Livingstone Shire Council. While the Northern Suburbs and Rockhampton residents do use facilities on the Coast, it's largely for occasional recreation, not the day-to-day activities of life. Residents in the Northern Suburbs live, work and play in Rocky and deserve to have a say about the facilities and services they use.

A fair go for the residents of the Rockhampton - having one community contributing to the services and facilities of Rockhampton.

It is common for the residents of adjoining Council areas to freely use each other's public infrastructure and facilities. In the majority of cases its "swings and roundabouts" with a largely neutral effect, but the Northern Suburbs are somewhat unique in spending the vast majority of their time in Rockhampton and the effect is far from balanced.

If the Northern Suburbs are part of Rockhampton, then residents in those communities will contribute to the roads they drive on, the sporting fields they play on, the parks they play in, and other community facilities they use. They will help to support Rockhampton continuing to be a great place to live, work and play.



Common sense

We know that this boundary change makes sense

The risk is that if it doesn't happen now, Rockhampton's long-term growth will be severely compromised by poor planning and investment decisions. It will place further stress on Rockhampton's overall financial position and reduce future investment in community infrastructure.

While having the rates come into Rockhampton would increase our revenue, this money would be used to essentially balance the books on the facilities and services already used by the residents in the Northern Suburbs and to assist in the planning and investment in Rockhampton's future.

Based on the conceptual plan for future growth and development of the northern suburbs, there would need to be a significant investment in trunk infrastructure, including upgrades and extensions to roads, water, sewerage and drainage infrastructure.

While this will be challenging, only Rockhampton Regional Council has recognised the critical need for development of the Northern Suburbs. And we need to start planning now.

Rockhampton's size and Rockhampton Regional Council's vision and capacity will ensure that our planning will deliver a sustainable future for the Northern Suburbs and the Region.

Voting YES to the change in the Northern Suburbs boundary will recognise they are already an integral part of the Rockhampton community. It will protect a critical growth corridor for future development and will ensure Rockhampton residents will not be faced with unnecessary financial burdens now and in the future.

Vote YES to secure the future of our Region.

“

Sam's story

This is my family's story on the Northern Suburbs.

We bought our new home in Rockyview as Rockhampton Regional Council.

My parents lived with us at Rockyview until last year.

Our business is located in Rockhampton.

Most of our customers are from the Rockhampton Region.

Five generations of my family have lived in Rockhampton.

Our children attend both Rockhampton Primary and Secondary Schools.

Our family are members of Rockhampton sporting clubs, including Frenchville Sports Club, Glenmore Bulls, Rockhampton Basketball Association, Rockhampton Golf Club and Rockhampton Netball Association.

We attend a church in Norman Road Rockhampton.

A member of our family receives treatment at the Mater Hospital Rockhampton.

My Mother is a resident of Carinity Shalom Nursing Home.

My Father passed away last year and is buried at the Rockhampton Memorial Gardens.

At the last Council Election we had to drive all the way to Yeppoon to pre-poll as the Livingstone Council had not provided a pre-poll centre for the Northern Suburbs.

We are not Yeppoon people and never will be Yeppoon people.

We just want to come home to Rockhampton.

Sam

Rockyview.

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PO BOX 1860
ROCKHAMPTON Q 4700

PH 1300 22 55 77

ENQUIRIES@RRC.QLD.GOV.AU

ROCKHAMPTONREGION.QLD.GOV.AU