

City of Ipswich

Submission to the Change Commission

Review of Divisional Arrangements

October 2022



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1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with section 16 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, local governments are obliged to review divisional arrangements no later than 1 March the year before each quadrennial election to assess whether each of the divisions has a reasonable proportion of electors and to ensure that they can be represented effectively by the elected body in the coming term.

The Ipswich City Council (council) local government area continues to experience significant growth and remains one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. Because of this, it is essential that electoral arrangements reflect the changing needs of our community, factoring in an increasing population and the right of each resident to have access to fair and equal representation.

Ipswich currently uses a multi-member, divided council electoral arrangement consisting of four divisions and eight Councillors plus the Mayor that commenced with the 2020 electoral term to represent the current and future needs of the 242,000 residents that live work and play in the city.

With our population set to top 558,000 by 2041, council is making this submission to enable consideration of the best arrangement and, via the Local Government Change Commission, consider the views of the Ipswich community to ensure that the representation model for future terms of Ipswich City Council best serves the challenges and needs of our rapidly growing city.

2. BACKGROUND

In preparation for the 2020 quadrennial elections, Ipswich City Council undertook substantial community consultation to help inform an electoral review of its divisional boundaries, the results of which were shared with the Local Government Change Commission and the then Minister for Local Government, The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe.

On 9 July 2019, the Local Government Change Commission published its electoral arrangement decision, recommending the Ipswich City Council be redivided into four (4) multi-member divisions with two (2) councillors representing each division.

As part of this final determination, the Change Commission made the following recommendation:

Given the unique situation in Ipswich and the significance of the changes being recommended by this review, the Change Commission recommends the Minister consider directing the Ipswich City Council, in consultation with the Change Commission, to conduct a mid-term review and community consultation in 2022 to gauge residents' experiences and satisfaction with the multi-member arrangement and divisional boundaries.

Due to the high-level growth anticipated in the Ipswich region, the Change Commission notes it will likely be reviewing Ipswich's divisional boundaries in 2023 prior to the next quadrennial election. Therefore, it is of the view that it will assist the 2023 assessment process to have a better understanding of the community's experiences, and

particularly whether the multimember arrangements are meeting the community's representation requirements.

The anticipated high-level growth in the Ipswich region is occurring as projected. Residents in the Ipswich City Local Government Area have now had over thirty (30) months of experience with the current divisional boundaries and multi-member arrangements.

At the Council Ordinary Meeting on 16 September 2021 Council considered a motion that was adopted. The adopted motion is:

That Council write to the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, The Honourable Steven Miles, requesting a mid-term review in 2022 to gauge residents' experiences and satisfaction with the multi-member arrangement and divisional boundaries.

Accordingly, Council made representations to the Minister on 18 October 2021 seeking a review of the current arrangements. A response was received 7 July 2022 enabling the Change Commission to commence a review of the electoral arrangements for Ipswich, including public feedback on the current arrangements. Ipswich City Council was also invited to make a submission at this time.

3. ABOUT IPSWICH

Between 2020 and 2022 Ipswich has rarely stood still.

It has experienced significant change on a daily basis, welcoming new residents, more building and construction, and life back to the city.

We have been growing constantly and it is not about to stop. Our population hit 242,000 this year and it is set to top 558,000 by 2041. While some local government areas are running out of available land to build new homes, Ipswich is still in an enviable position. We have more than 7.3 years of approved lot supply. Enough to cope with the 300–400 new dwellings built every quarter.

The past two years has brought another chapter in the exciting new story for the City of Ipswich and its redefined council. This council has dedicated itself to providing the best possible services, infrastructure and facilities to the community, with the city going through a transformation as it grows and evolves to meet the needs of its people.

As the region continues to attract new families, businesses and investors, council and its partners have been striving to make Ipswich a great place to live, work and play for everyone.

The \$250 million Nicholas Street Precinct redevelopment includes new retail spaces, a dining precinct, water features, two libraries including a children's library, a civic plaza, and likely a new cinema and go karting track. It has been built in phases and one of the first new tenants of the precinct was council itself. The new administration building is in the civic space, the heart of the new mall, Tulumur Place, and 750 staff have moved in. While a long time in the making, it has reinvigorated the city centre and provided people and local businesses with a bright and optimistic future.

Ipswich, first declared a municipality in 1860 and officially recognised as a city in 1904, is now the fastest growing in Queensland and one of the top 10 cities nationwide. Growth hotspots include the master-planned communities in Greater Springfield and Ripley; and the suburbs of Redbank Plains, Bellbird Park, Deebling Heights, Collingwood Park and Yamanto.

Mining and industry were the backbone of the economy and provided wealth for workers and business owners during the 1900s. The city was recognised as a major centre with coalmining, manufacturing and the railways providing the impetus for growth across the state. Today the city's industries

have grown and diversified. Defence, manufacturing, transport, logistics, construction, education, health care, tourism, hospitality and the retail sector are where the jobs abound.

In recent decades the city has gained a strong reputation for preserving built and natural heritage and historical spaces, with some 7,500 heritage protected places and about 600 parks and reserves across the region.

Ipswich has recorded a strong annual growth rate of approximately 4 per cent over five years. Our city's forecast growth rate is 4.5 per cent per annum over the next 15 years, unprecedented and extraordinary when compared to Queensland's expected growth rate of 1.6 per cent and Australia's forecast growth of less than 1 per cent. The rapid growth rate presents council with a range of opportunities and also some challenges.

The median age city-wide is 32, younger than the Queensland median age of 37. Perhaps surprisingly, one quarter of the Ipswich population is aged 15 years or younger. There are about 88,200 households across Ipswich. Young families make up nearly 46 per cent of all those households. There is a 50/50 split of females and males, with about 44 per cent married. Almost one in two people have a qualification, with about the same proportion having completed Year 12. Ipswich residents are culturally diverse, originating from 163 countries and speaking a collective 152 languages. Two out of three people have a religious affiliation. And, in a sign of the times, almost nine out of every 10 people are connected to the internet.

Occupying an area of 1,090km², with Brisbane 40km to the east and the rural and agricultural areas of the Brisbane, Lockyer and Fassifern valleys to the north, south and west and well connected to six major highways, rail, an intermodal transport hub, three airports and the Port of Brisbane, Ipswich enjoys a prime location in South East Queensland. The city is home to Australia's largest military base located at RAAF Base Amberley.

Young families can look forward to a bright future based on education with two university campuses, some of Queensland's oldest and most prestigious secondary schools and a tradition of job-focused vocational education. The city has set the stage for ongoing success by adopting a strategic approach to building industry capacity and capability to increase economic strengths across the city.

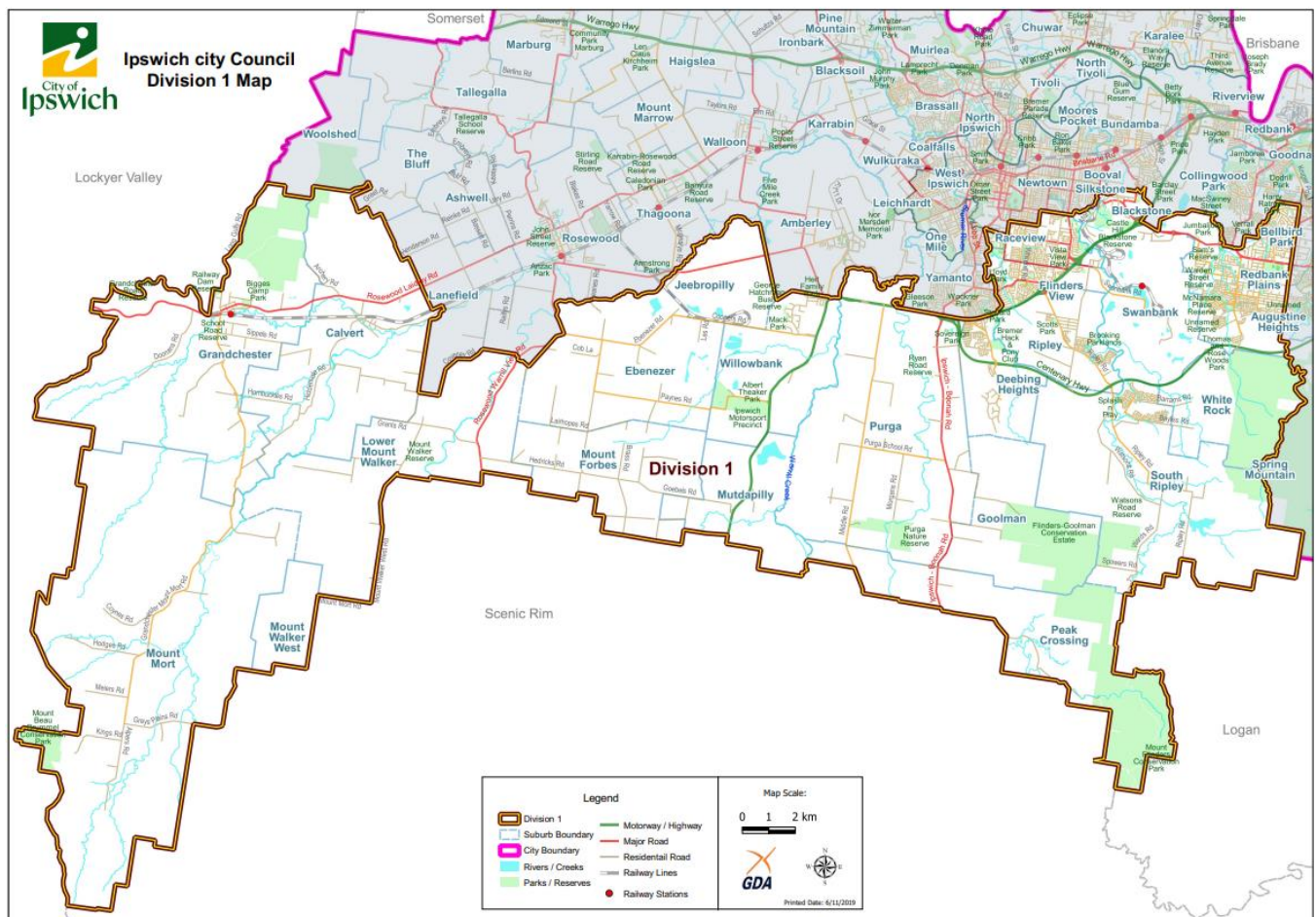
4. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Ipswich City Council is currently divided into four (4) multi-member divisions with two (2) councillors representing each division, plus a mayor (nine (9) councillors in total).

4.1 DIVISION 1

Division 1 is the largest of the four divisions and amalgamates both rural and urban suburbs. Covering an area of 611km² it contains areas with significant growth both now and projected future growth, such as the Ripley priority development area and surrounding localities. This division was deliberately set (prior to the 2020 elections) with the enrolment as close to the lower limit of the quota as possible and has a current population of approximately 63,633.

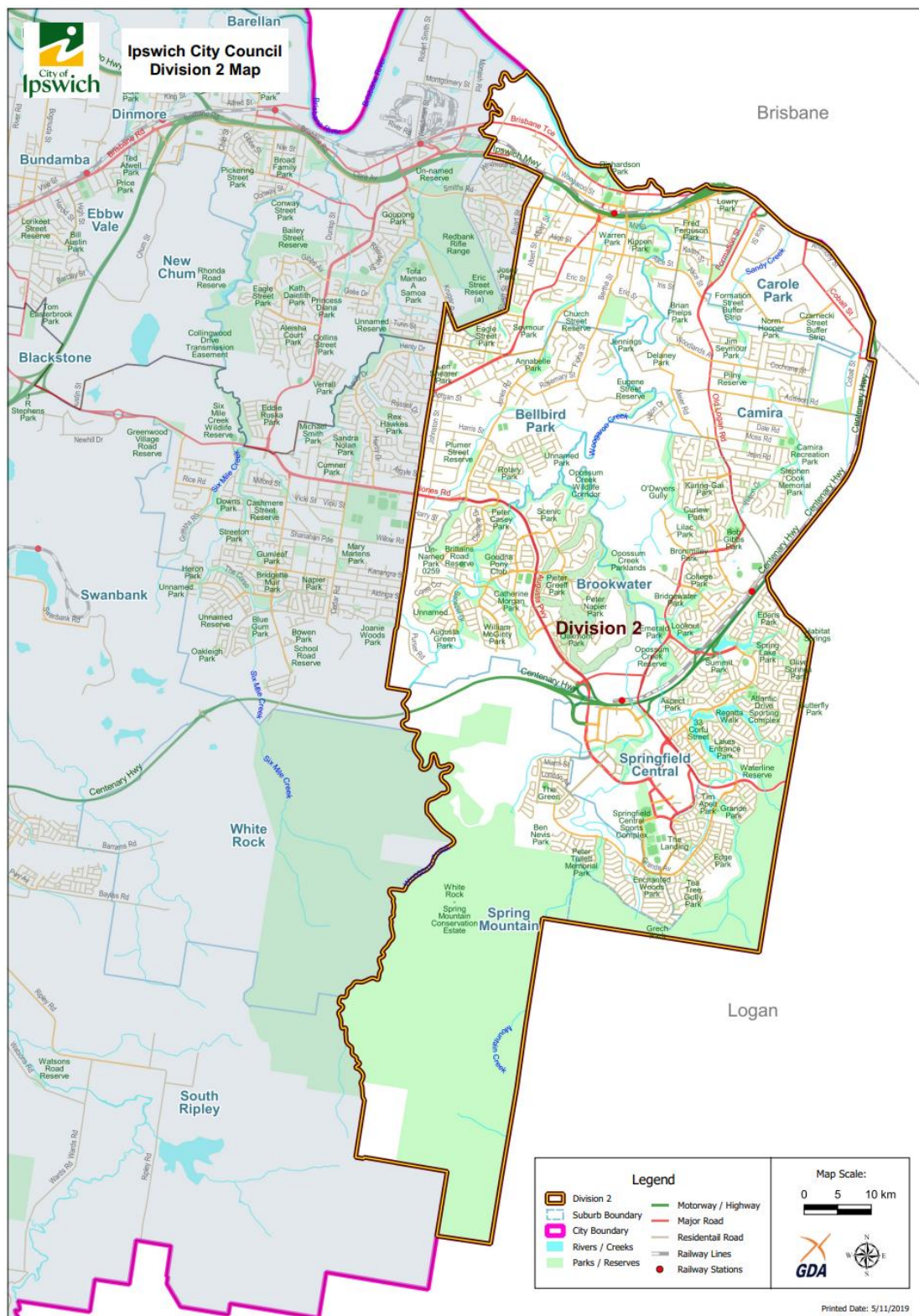
The Division is oriented in a west-east direction and includes the following suburbs: Grandchester, Mount Mort, Mount Walker West, Lower Mount Walker, Calvert, Ebenezer, Mount Forbes, Jeebropilly, Willowbank, Mutdapilly, Purga, Peak Crossing, Goolman, Deebling Heights, Raceview, Flinders View, Ripley, South Ripley, White Rock, Swanbank, Blackstone, and Redbank Plains.



4.2 DIVISION 2

Division 2 is a mostly urban electorate covering 74km² that includes those suburbs towards the eastern end of the LGA. With a population of around 70,494, the boundary contains several well-established suburbs and areas of growth to the south. The Division has united all the suburbs in the area, except for Goodna and Redbank.

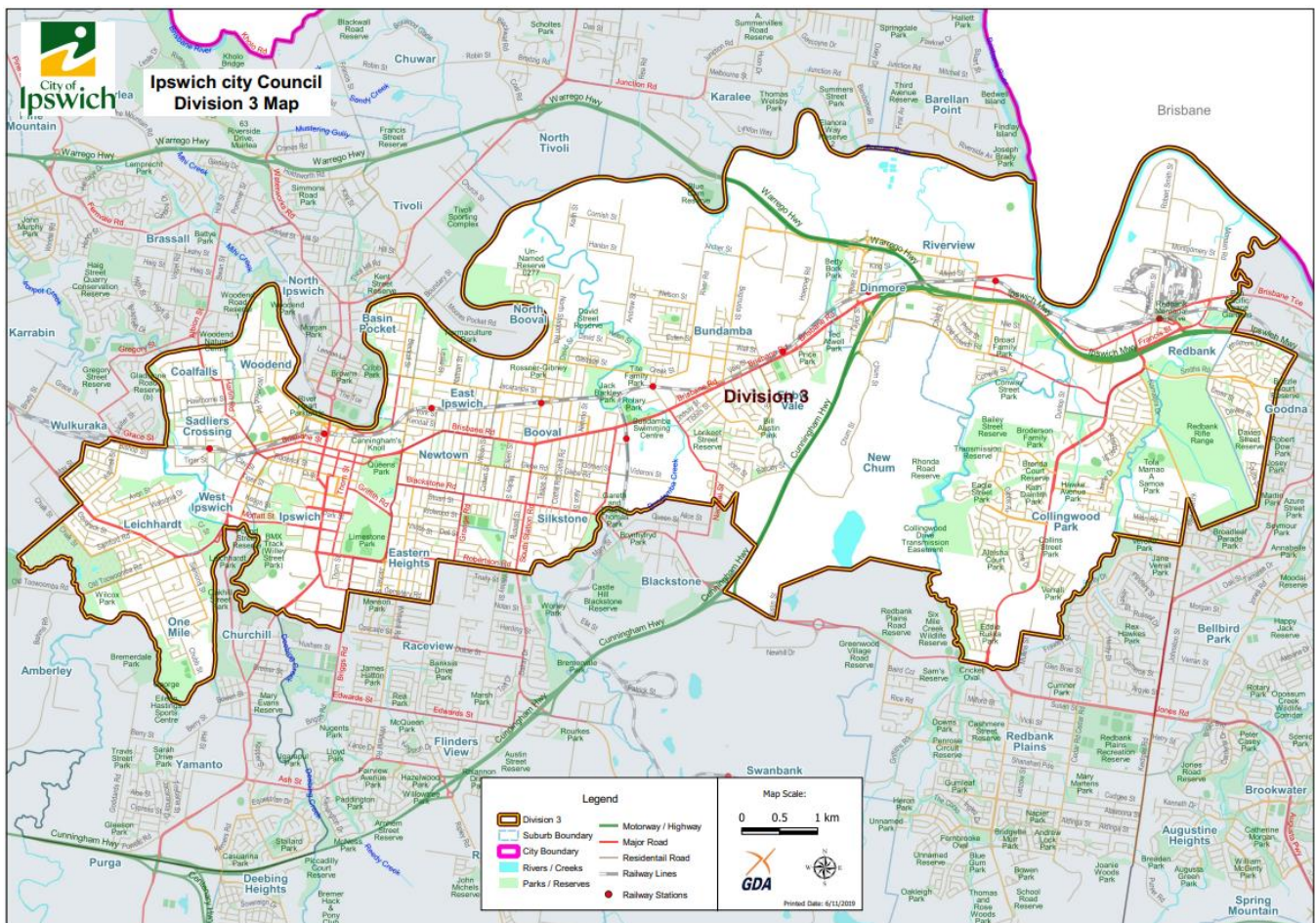
The Division is oriented in a north-south direction and includes the following suburbs: Spring Mountain, Springfield Lakes, Springfield Central, Springfield, Brookwater, Augustine Heights, Bellbird Park, Camira, Carole Park, Gailes and some of Goodna and Redbank.



4.3 DIVISION 3

Covering 68km², Division 3 contains many of the central Ipswich suburbs and the Central Business District. As suburbs are mostly well established, the amount of growth is limited when compared to other Divisions however the population is relatively dense at approximately 59,079.

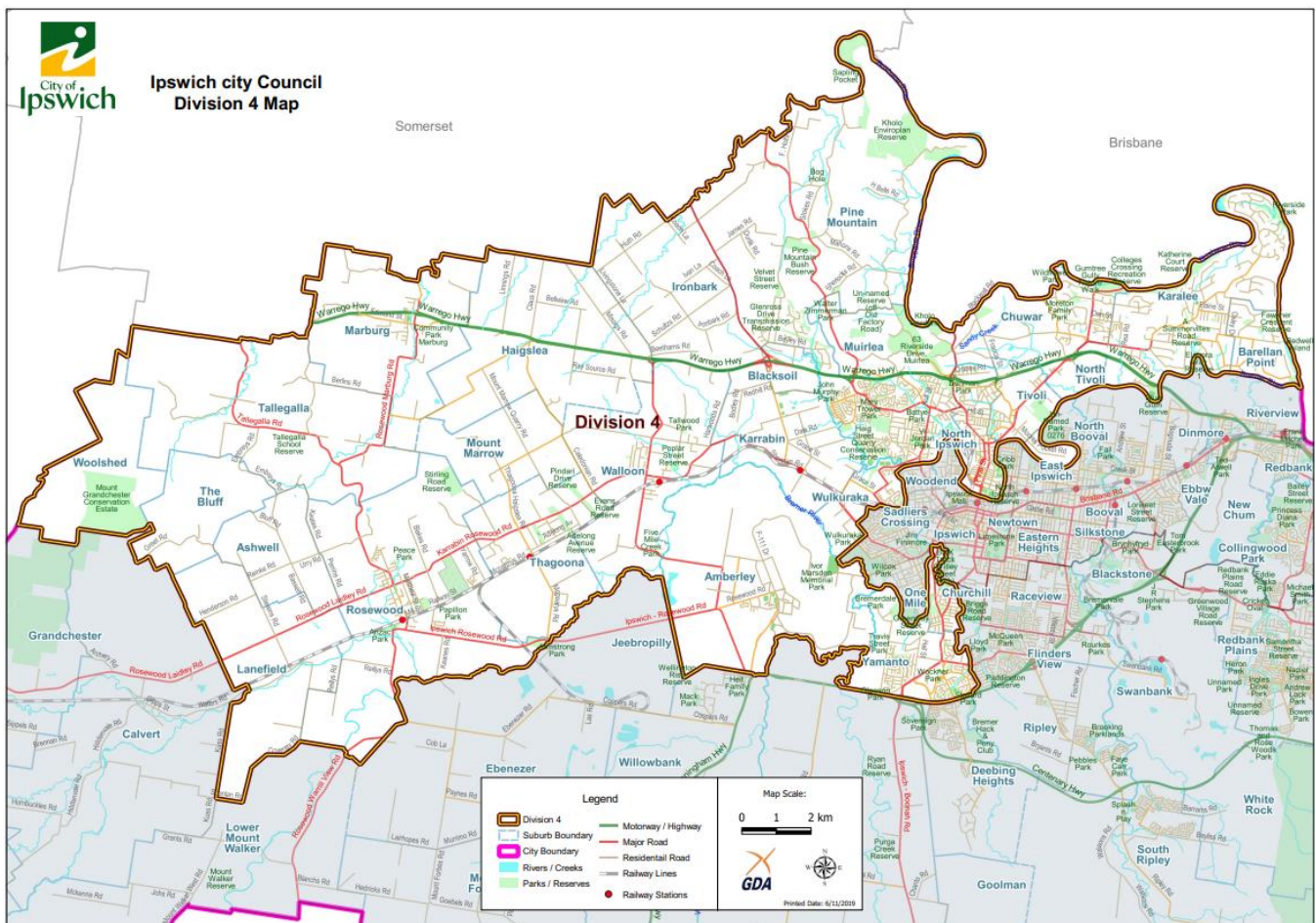
The Division is oriented in a west-east direction and includes the following suburbs: One Mile, Leichhardt, Coalfalls, Sadliers Crossing, West Ipswich, Woodend, Ipswich, Basin Pocket, East Ipswich, Newtown, Eastern Heights, Silkstone, Booval, North Booval, Bundamba, Ebbw Vale, New Chum, Dinmore, Riverview and Collingwood Park. It also includes a part of Wulkuraka that lies south of the railway line, most of Redbank excluding those houses situated east of Kruger Parade and includes part of Goodna that falls west of Stuart Street.



4.4 DIVISION 4

Division 4 amalgamates both rural and urban suburbs. It covers an area of 342km² and contains areas with significant projected growth, such as the Walloon to Rosewood corridor that contribute to the population of approximately 49,164.

The Division is oriented in a west-east direction and includes the following suburbs: Woolshed, The Bluff, Ashwell, Lanefield, Rosewood, Tallegalla, Marburg, Mount Marrow, Thagoona, Walloon, Haigslea, Ironbark, Pine Mountain, Blacksoil, Karrabin, Amberley, Yamanto, Churchill, Brassall, Muirlea, North Ipswich, Tivoli, Moores Pocket, North Tivoli, Chuwar, Karalee, Barellan Point and most of Wulkuraka that lies north of the railway line.



5. CURRENT CHALLENGES

Ipswich currently finds itself in a very exciting time of growth and revival. We are the fastest growing local government in Queensland with sustained population growth predicted over the coming years. It is vital that the elected representation model keeps pace with this growth.

Appendix A – Local Government Comparative Data shows that when compared with five local government areas of similar size, it is clear that Ipswich, with a projected population growth of over 41% over the next four years, is growing at a significant pace. The number of residents represented by each Councillor is averaged at over 30,000, and this number has almost doubled in the past five years. Despite this, Ipswich has the lowest number of councillors (8 Councillors, excluding the Mayor) when compared with other councils of a similar size including Redland (10 Councillors), Toowoomba (10 Councillors), Townsville (10 Councillors) and Logan (12 Councillors).

With the current growth and lower Councillor representation to resident ratios to comparable local government areas, the ability for residents to access representation is at risk of compromise.

Ipswich spans an area of 1,094 square kilometres, which is significant when compared to other Councils in South-East Queensland including Redland (537 sq kms), Logan (958 sq kms) and Moreton Bay (208 sq kms). However, each of those Councils are divided into 10 or 12 divisions, whereas Ipswich is divided into only four. Two of these divisions in particular are huge in size and contain both rural and urban communities and priority development areas. Division 1 itself takes up 55% of the entire Ipswich area. Similarly, Division 4 covers a substantial geographical catchment of 342 square kilometres and represents both rural and urban areas projecting significant future growth.

There are inherent challenges of rural vs urban representation with the needs of each group often being different. Rural populations are frequently more dispersed, harder to contact and have representation needs that can be more complex than those in urban areas. This can lead to a perception within the community that a councillor's time is not fairly divided between the population.

Ipswich is the only council in Queensland with multi-member divisions. Within each division, it is fair to expect that many of the issues which a Councillor may be called upon to address might be broadly similar in nature, allowing the two Councillors to 'share the load', however in practice this has proven to not be the case.

For example, when a single divisional councillor attends meetings with their community, they are asked where their counterpart is as the expectation is clear that they both represent the area and both should attend. Sometimes the community will contact one of their Councillors, and sometimes both. When only one Councillor replies, they will still expect a reply also from the other Councillor. There has also been some feedback received that the community is confused about who their Councillor is.

When advocating on behalf of the city, there is an expectation from the community that both divisional Councillors will hold the same view. When one Councillor puts forward their view, which is their statutory right, that view is by default applied to the other divisional Councillor, whether or not they share the same view.

The experience of this Council throughout the current term continues to show the community expects representation, engagement and advocacy duties be performed by both divisional Councillors. Where all Councillors are expected to be at every community meeting or event and concur on matters before it for decision, it becomes an inefficient use of resources. Particularly in the divisions which consist of large rural and lower density areas, the multi-councillor model with fewer overall councillors is not achieving the efficiencies that were intended of this model.

What works best for Ipswich?

The level of representation for Ipswich has gone from eleven (11) to nine (9) elected representatives in 2020 in a council that has now grown to over 242,000 and is expected to reach 558,000 by 2041. As the city continues to face all the additional challenges that this growth represents, it is essential that the divisional arrangements are correctly set to best deal with the needs of the community over the coming decade.

The rights of each resident to equal representation is being challenged not by any single aspect outlined above, but rather their combination; distance, diversity, competing priorities, representation ratios and duplication of workloads is having a genuine community impact.

This is an opportunity to seek feedback from the community on how it is working and analyse the responses. These challenges need to be considered. We need to think about what representation this city needs as we proceed toward the next election in 2024 and beyond.

6. COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

Ipswich is in a unique position having very high recent and projected population growth concentrated in a few areas of the local government area. It is important for this city moving forward that there is adequate representation to keep pace with the development and growth in this region.

Any model chosen going forward must benefit the community.

Ipswich has a strong community and to support this, Council must ensure communities of commonality and local values/characteristics are not inappropriately disadvantaged by a divisional representation model that don't allow sufficient focus on their specific requirements.

We have heard what the community expects of its elected body over the current term provided direct to Councillors.

This includes:

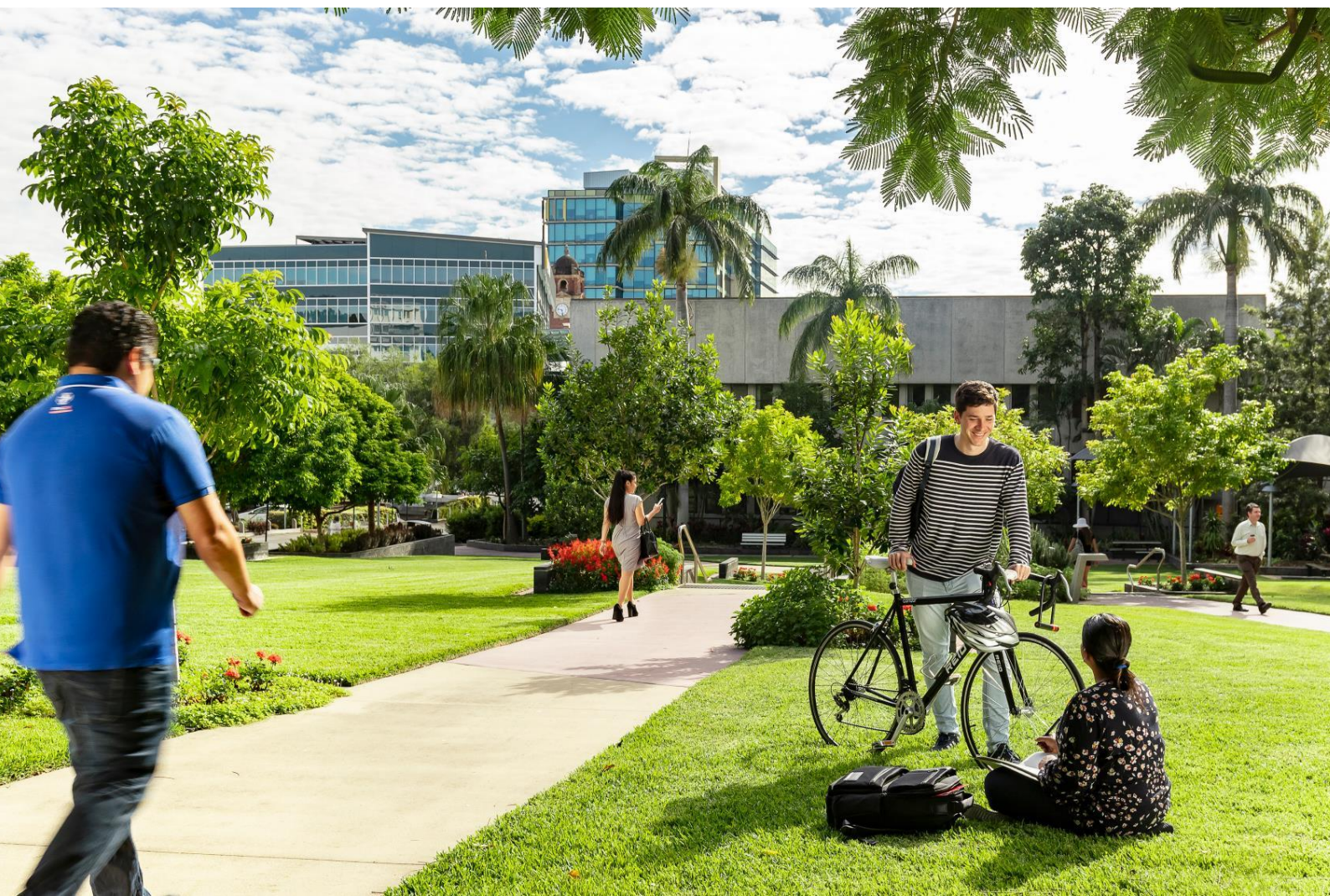
- direct representation for the area where they live;
- clear line of sight to Councillors achieving for the community;

- advocacy and cooperation – both within Ipswich and with other councils and levels of government;
- fostering cooperation between local community organisations, businesses and industries; and
- local knowledge.

The community rightfully has an expectation that they can elect leaders to perform their duties in their best interest for now and the future.

The community also expects that their ability to perform their legislated role is not arbitrarily constrained by divisional arrangements that are hindering their performance and preventing them from delivering their best.

We invite residents to consider what has been outlined in this submission and to put forward your points of view on what you believe would best serve Ipswich going forward.



Ipswich City Council

Case for Change



7. CASE FOR CHANGE

Ipswich City Council presents the following three key reasons as its case for change.

1. Ipswich, as the fastest growing local government area in Queensland, is represented by the lowest number of elected representatives when compared to other local governments of similar size.
2. The current divisional arrangement does not support the most effective achievement of the *Local Government Act 2009* Principles.
3. More Council representation is required, particularly in managing the work of divisions with a larger geographical size.

7.1 Point 1

Ipswich is the fastest growing local government area in Queensland, and yet it is represented by the lowest number of elected representatives when compared to other local governments of similar size.

As outlined under Current Challenges and detailed in Appendix A, the data speaks for itself. Ipswich is under represented.

For a city that is experiencing such a high rate of growth and progress, it is proposed that its representative body also needs to grow in tandem. This is vital to ensuring that this Council can continue to deliver on the expectations of the community for the coming term, and beyond.

Currently there is an average of over 30,000 residents per Councillor. When considering the projected population growth estimates, this figure is set to increase to over 40,000 by 2026. We need to look forward and plan for the future. We can reasonably assume that following on from the predicted growth will become an inevitable increase in Councillor obligations to the community.

The Customer Service Bi-annual Report Card presented to Council's Community, Culture, Arts and Sport Committee in September 2022 demonstrates strong and consistent growth in service requests.

This has been a year-on-year trend and the increase is reflective of the consistent increase in councillor workloads. And it needs to be addressed so that we have a viable model of representation for future terms of council.

7.2 Point 2

The current divisional arrangement does not support the most effective achievement of the *Local Government Act 2009* Principles

The current council has had 30 months of representation under a multi-member system. The general view of how this is operating is that having dual member divisions with fewer councillors does not present the efficiency gains anticipated.

When considering the *Local Government Act 2009* principles, it is clear from the examples provided that multi-member divisional representation in conjunction with fewer councillors than local governments of comparable size and category makes achievement of the following principles less effective:

- a) Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest
- b) Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement.

The multi-divisional model is not mainstream for Councils in Queensland or in Australia. In fact, Ipswich is the only Council with multi-member divisions in Queensland. Ipswich residents deserve the model of representation that services them best.

7.3 Point 3

More Council representation is required, particularly in managing the work of divisions with a larger geographical size.

The current divisions are particularly large and incorporate many rural communities. The geographical size of the divisions makes it hard to have a good connection with the numerous, diverse communities of interest contained within.

Diversity is a great thing and builds strength, but sometimes there is a downside in that you lose commonality. Areas with specific needs and how their needs differ from other areas would be better served by increased representation to support the views of these communities. Under the current model, there has been a real impact to the specific needs of these areas with divisions that have become too diverse to allow appropriate representation.

8. PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE MODELS

Ipswich City Council proposes an increase in representation from the current one (1) Mayor and eight (8) Councillors to one (1) Mayor and ten (10) Councillors.

Ipswich City Council have considered two potential options for how this may be achieved:

OPTION 1.

An increase from the existing four (4) dual member divisions to five (5) dual member divisions (one (1) Mayor and ten (10) Councillors across five (5) dual member divisions).

OPTION 2.

A change from the existing four (4) dual member divisions to ten (10) single member divisions (one (1) Mayor and ten (10) Councillors across ten (10) single member divisions).

Advantages

Either of these alternative models would provide the Ipswich community with a range of advantages over the current model of representation. An increased number of councillors will provide:

- a level of representation commensurate to the size of Ipswich;
- representation that can support the rate of growth predicted;
- better capacity to manage the diverse and specific needs of communities city-wide;
- improved community access to their elected representatives; and
- a reduction of workload impacting Councillors currently.

More representation also provides a more manageable portfolio of responsibilities for each councillor to monitor the performance of the local government to ensure the expectations of the community are being met.

Community sentiment to support change

Ipswich City Council seeks, via this submission and the subsequent change assessment process, to ensure that any proposed change is supported by the Ipswich community. The case for change and proposed solution outlined above does not seek to pre-empt an outcome. It outlines the factors that Ipswich as a city needs to consider as we approach the next local government election. Now is the time to listen to the views of the community to help shape the future electoral arrangements of Ipswich.

We encourage all those who reside within the Ipswich City area to consider the points raised via this submission and put forward their views on the proposal on whether to increase representation and the two options outlined above.

Financial impact of increasing the number of Councillors

The budget impact for an additional two Councillors would be approximately \$313,000 (which includes remuneration, superannuation contribution and vehicle allowance for two additional Councillors).

Ipswich City Council's operating result as at 30 June 2021 is in surplus and this additional cost will not negatively impact this position or the future financial forecasts of Council.

Improved representation and compliance with the *Local Government Act 2009* Principles

Councillors meet regularly with the local residents, community organisations and business community in addition to representing Ipswich at many events, both within the city and at other locations, throughout the year. The addition of two more councillors will spread the workload, provide more manageable working conditions and increase their level of involvement in community and council matters.

The table below shows the councillor to resident representation rates under the current arrangement and the proposed alternative arrangements, taking into account population projections. An increase in Councillors does reduce the rate of growth to a more manageable level for the next term of council.

| Proposed alternatives | Current | Option 1 | Option 2 |
|--|----------------|----------|----------|
| | 4:2 | 5:2 | 10:1 |
| Electoral Model | Divided | Divided | Divided |
| No. of Divisions | 4 | 5 | 10 |
| No. of Councillors per Division | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| LGA Area (sq km) | | 1,094 | |
| Sq km per Cr | 137 | 109 | 109 |
| Population (2021 projection) | | 246,090 | |
| Population per Cr (2021 projection) | 30,761 | 24,609 | 24,609 |
| Population (2026 projection) | | 325,092 | |
| Population per Cr (2026 projection) | 40,636 | 32,509 | 32,509 |

Table 1 – Councillor to resident representation

An increase in Councillors will also optimise achievement of the Local Government Principles, particularly democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement. As well as having more capacity to engage with the Ipswich Community, more representation means more voices speaking for the community and advocating for Ipswich.

PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED FOR PROPOSED BOUNDARY OPTIONS

Council has considered if a reasonable proportion of electors can be maintained for both Option 1 and Option 2. Indicative elector numbers are provided below.

NB. These are indicative only at this stage to demonstrate that each option is viable. This information has not been provided to indicate any specific future divisional boundaries.

In considering the potential alternative options, Ipswich City Council has ensured that boundaries of divisions will continue to reflect the “communities of interest” principles defined in the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

The Local Government Regulation 2012 provides that the external boundaries of a local government area should be drawn in a way that has regard to “communities of interest”. They must:

- a) Reflect local communities, for example, the geographical pattern of human activities (where people live, work and engage in leisure activities), and the linkages between local communities.
- b) Have a centre, or centres, of administration and service easily accessible to its population.
- c) Ensure effective elected representation for residents and ratepayers.
- d) Have boundaries that:
 - i. Do not divide local neighbourhoods or adjacent rural and urban areas with common interests or interdependencies, including, for example, economic, cultural and ethnic interests or interdependencies
 - ii. Subject to the water catchment principle—follow the natural geographical features and non-natural features separating different communities
 - iii. Do not dissect properties.

This principle of “communities of interest” provides a very useful framework for Ipswich City Council to also define any internal divisional boundaries.

Applying these principles to Ipswich

Given the specific challenges that have presented as a result of the current divisional arrangement, there are a number of aspects to consider in applying the “communities of interest” principle to any proposed alternative models for consideration:

1 Suburbs and estates

Suburbs and some housing estates have ‘personalities’, and residents often associate with their suburban or housing estate identity and particular sense of community. Residents know their address and in what suburb or estate they live, but there’s often confusion about representation when suburbs are split across divisions and hence councillors. Keeping suburbs and estates complete, in regards to divisional boundaries, allows for targeted advocacy and representation.

In short: Ipswich’s divisions should continue to include whole suburbs wherever possible – suburbs should not be split across divisions.

2 Non-urban areas

The City of Ipswich is geographically diverse. Less than 10 per cent of our population live in 80 per cent (approx.) of our geographical areas. The issues facing rural and small townships are often different to metropolitan areas and require advocacy across all councillors, not a potentially isolated or ‘lone voice’ councillor.

In short: Ipswich’s divisions should continue to include a number of councillors representing, at least in part, non-urban parts of the local government area.

3 Key centres

Ipswich is a city of varied centres. These centres include Ipswich Central, Springfield Town Centre, Goodna Town Centre and Ripley Town Centre. It is important that these and alike centres of economic growth and community facilities are each contained within a division and not split. Perhaps of equal importance is that any surrounding near centre areas that have strong connections to the centre are also included in that division.

In short: Ipswich’s divisions should continue to include whole town centres and surrounding areas – no centres should be split across divisions.

4 Key population growth areas

Ipswich’s key population growth areas are mostly in the eastern suburbs including Redbank Plains, Springfield and Ripley Valley. The latter two master planned communities have an existing and emerging sense of community and it is important that divisions do not cut across these communities.

In short: Ipswich’s divisions should continue to include the entirety of key population growth areas – emerging communities should not be split across divisions.

5 Employment growth areas

Similar to population growth areas, it makes sense to keep any key industrial area or zones in a single division, for ease of representation across common issues and needs.

In short: Ipswich’s divisions should continue to avoid dividing the primary industrial precincts of the city

These principles are considered appropriate to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available for revising the divisional boundaries of the city.

8.1 OPTION ONE

DIVIDED – 2 COUNCILLORS PER DIVISION (5 DIVISIONS)

As a proof of concept, Council has undertaken some preliminary work to determine if the above principles can be applied successfully to a five (5) division model while maintaining a reasonable proportion of electors for each division. The below table outlines the results from this and demonstrates that a reasonable proportion of electors can be maintained in a five (5) division model.

| Council | Division | Voters* | Councillors | Average Enrolment | Low Quota | High Quota | In/Out Current | Quota Percent (%) |
|---------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ipswich | 1 | 28,435 | 2 | 29,272 | 26,345 | 32,199 | IN | -2.86% |
| Ipswich | 2 | 31,766 | 2 | 29,272 | 26,345 | 32,199 | IN | 8.52% |
| Ipswich | 3 | 30,436 | 2 | 29,272 | 26,345 | 32,199 | IN | 3.98% |
| Ipswich | 4 | 26,826 | 2 | 29,272 | 26,345 | 32,199 | IN | -8.36% |
| Ipswich | 5 | 28,897 | 2 | 29,272 | 26,345 | 32,199 | IN | -1.28% |
| | Total | 146,361 | 10 | | | | | |

Table 2: Indicative proportion of electors for a 5 Division model (2 councillors per division)

*Current electoral enrolments as of August 2022

8.2 OPTION TWO

DIVIDED – 1 COUNCILLOR PER DIVISION (10 DIVISIONS)

As a proof of concept, Council has undertaken some preliminary work to determine if the above principles can be applied successfully to a ten (10) division model while maintaining a reasonable proportion of electors for each division. The below table outlines the results from this and demonstrates that a reasonable proportion of electors can be maintained in a ten (10) division model.

| Council | Division | Voters* | Councillors | Average Enrolment | Low Quota | High Quota | In/Out Current | Quota Percent (%) |
|---------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ipswich | 1 | 13,460 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | -8.04% |
| Ipswich | 2 | 15,564 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | 6.34% |
| Ipswich | 3 | 15,064 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | 2.92% |
| Ipswich | 4 | 13,597 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | -7.10% |
| Ipswich | 5 | 15,770 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | 7.74% |
| Ipswich | 6 | 15,333 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | 4.76% |
| Ipswich | 7 | 13,541 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | -7.48% |
| Ipswich | 8 | 15,220 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | 3.99% |
| Ipswich | 9 | 15,340 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | 4.81% |
| Ipswich | 10 | 13,476 | 1 | 14,636 | 13,172 | 16,100 | IN | -7.93% |
| | Total | 146,361 | 10 | | | | | |

Table 3: Indicative proportion of electors for a 10 Division model (one councillor per division)

*Current electoral enrolments as of August 2022

9. CONCLUSION

It is opportune to reconsider and re-evaluate council's divisional arrangements at this point in time, to assist council in being accountable, effective and efficient, and ensure responsibilities are undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*. There are some key points which this submission raises and seeks to validate or correct including why, with a significant forecast growth, Ipswich should continue with reduced representation. This submission also provides insight into how two years of the multi-member representation with fewer councillors overall works in operation.

The challenges highlighted in the report speak to the unique situation Ipswich is facing now and for the foreseeable future. Our focus needs to be on planning for the future and ensuring that our electoral arrangements can keep pace with the needs of this rapidly growing city. Impacts from council's experience with less representation in conjunction with the multi-member model in operation also shows that this model has affected the way the councillors operate as divisional representatives. Whether this is the best model for Ipswich is being questioned.

The case for change clearly identifies the key issues the council is experiencing and outlines how a change to the electoral arrangements may improve our current experiences. Again, we need to be representative of our size and growth, our community need to be represented by the best model to assist Councillors to achieve their legislated role required of them under the Act.

Ipswich City Council welcomes the views of the Ipswich community on how the current arrangement is working for them. What is the best model for Ipswich and how do we best set ourselves up for the next and future terms of Council?

Two proposed alternatives are put forward, highlighting that any increase would be of benefit and would bring Ipswich back on par with equivalent local councils.

We invite the Change Commission to consider the views we have put forward and further seek the views of the Ipswich community in making any recommendation back to the Minister.

Ipswich City Council is poised to succeed over the coming years and into the distant future, we do believe however that a key to our future success lies in having an appropriate model of representation going forward.



APPENDIX A - LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPARATIVE DATA

| Comparable LGA's | Redland | Toowoomba | Townsville | Ipswich | Logan | Moreton Bay |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Local Government Category* | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Current Electoral Model | Divided | Undivided | Divided | Divided | Divided | Divided |
| No. of Councillors (Ex. Mayor) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| Annual Budget | \$396M | \$519M | \$957M | \$621M | \$1014M | \$816M |
| Asset Base (2020-21)**** | \$2.9B | \$5.45B | \$5.4B | \$3.6B | \$6.3B | \$7.8B |
| LGA Area (sq km) | 537 | 12,957 | 3,731 | 1,094 | 958 | 208 |
| Population (2021 Census) | 159,222 | 173,204 | 192,768 | 229,208 | 345,098 | 476,340 |
| Projected Population (2021)*** | 161,027 | 170,925 | 204,262 | 246,090 | 350,599 | 483,743 |
| Projected Population (2021) percentage change | +1.13% | -1.32% | +5.96% | +7.36% | +1.59% | +1.55% |
| Projected Population (2026)*** | 170,996 | 179,030 | 222,284 | 325,092 | 392,602 | 533,881 |
| Projected Population (2026) percentage change | +7.39% | +3.36% | +15.31% | +41.83% | +13.76% | +12.08% |
| Number of Electors** | 110,412 | 115,153 | 128,601 | 130,000 | 196,035 | 306,121 |
| Sq km per Cr | 54 | 1,296 | 373 | 137 | 80 | 17 |
| Number of residents per Cr | 15,922 | 17,320 | 19,277 | 28,651 | 28,758 | 39,695 |
| Number of Electors per Cr | 11,041 | 11,515 | 12,860 | 16,250 | 16,336 | 25,510 |
| Population per Cr (2021 projection) | 16,102 | 17,092 | 20,426 | 30,761 | 29,199 | 40,311 |
| Population per Cr (2026 projection) | 17,099 | 17,903 | 22,284 | 40,636 | 32,716 | 44,490 |
| Remuneration - Mayor* | \$186,806 | \$186,806 | \$212,279 | \$212,279 | \$237,753 | \$237,753 |
| Remuneration - Deputy Mayor* | \$127,366 | \$127,366 | \$144,350 | \$144,350 | \$164,729 | \$164,729 |
| Remuneration - Councillors* | \$110,386 | \$110,386 | \$127,366 | \$127,366 | \$144,350 | \$144,350 |
| Total Remuneration per Council | \$1,307,646 | \$1,307,646 | \$1,502,923 | \$1,248,191 | \$1,990,332 | \$1,990,332 |
| Current Remuneration per resident (2021 projection) | \$8.12 | \$7.65 | \$7.36 | \$5.07 | \$5.68 | \$4.11 |
| Current Remuneration per resident (2026 projection) | \$7.65 | \$7.30 | \$6.76 | \$3.84 | \$5.07 | \$3.73 |

*Data sourced from the Local Government Remuneration Commission Annual Report 2020-21

**2020 Election

***Data sourced from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office - Qld population projections regions tables local government areas medium series data (proj-pop-lga-medium-qld)




****Data sourced from 2020-21 Annual Reports. Please note: the method used to classify assets and calculate total assets may vary by Council. Ipswich City Council's Asset Base (2020-21) figure does not include the annual budget and asset base for Urban Utilities of which Ipswich City Council is a shareholder.



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