

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

Divisional Boundary Review

2023

BUNDABERG 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 Bundaberg 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 change proposal

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 17 March 2023, the Bundaberg 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 Division 2 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 Bundaberg 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/bundaberg-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,
- uniting any Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s)² split across divisions, and
- the Council's advice on proposed boundaries.

Quota and enrolment for existing divisions

Table 1 below outlines the Bundaberg 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*

² Enrolment information is organised around 'Statistical Area Level 1' (SA1). SA1s are geographical units used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the release of census data. According to the ABS most SA1s have a population of between 200 to 800 persons with an average population of approximately 400 people.

Table 1 – Current and projected enrolment quota		
	9 March 2023	31 March 2028
Number of divisions	10	10
Enrolment	75,707	79,149
Quota per division	7,571	7,915
Quota (-10%) per division	6,814	7,123
Quota (+10%) per division	8,328	8,706

Table 2 below outlines the current enrolment for each division of the Bundaberg Regional Council, and the projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028. As at 9 March 2023, Division 2 is currently out of quota and, based on enrolment projections, Divisions 2 and 10 are projected to be 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	7,689	1.56%	7,891	-0.30%
Division 2	8,756	15.65%	9,060	14.47%
Division 3	7,739	2.22%	7,937	0.28%
Division 4	7,339	-3.06%	7,522	-4.96%
Division 5	7,781	2.78%	8,258	4.33%
Division 6	7,511	-0.79%	8,407	6.21%
Division 7	7,111	-6.07%	7,460	5.75%
Division 8	7,163	-5.38%	7,467	-5.66%
Division 9	7,672	1.34%	8,100	2.34%
Division 10	6,946	-8.25%	7,047	-10.96%

Summary of proposed changes

To ensure all divisions remain in quota, the Change Commission proposes changes to the boundaries of each division as set out below.

The Change Commission notes that, in its submission, the Bundaberg Regional Council suggested transferring electors from Division 2 to Division 7, and from Division 7 to Division 10. Reallocating electors from Division 7 to Division 10 is expected to maintain projected enrolment above the lower limit. The Council noted that the Division 7 electors would have similar needs to those electors in Division 10.

The Change Commission sought to create boundaries in line with the Council's views while also aiming to ensure entire localities are within the same division, and to reunite previously split SA1s to create administrative and operational efficiencies in electoral roll administration.

Division 1

The Change Commission proposes only minor changes to the boundaries of Division 1 in order to reunite localities into the same division where possible or to reunite previously split SA1s.

To reunite localities within one division, it is proposed to transfer:

- a. the balance of the locality of Meadowvale from Division 3 to Division 1
- b. the balance of the locality of Sharon from Division 3 to Division 1, and
- c. the balance of the locality of Gooburrum from Division 4 to Division 1.

To reunite previously split SA1s, it is proposed to transfer:

- a. a portion of Bundaberg North bounded by Agnes Street, Gavin Street, Waterview Road and the northern dwellings of Steuart Street from Division 1 to Division 4
- b. a portion of Bundaberg North comprising the dwellings immediately north of Fagg Street between Queen Street and Agnes Street from Division 1 to Division 4, and
- c. a block on the corner of Batchlers Road and Loeskow Street from Division 1 to Division 4.

Division 2

The Change Commission proposes substantial changes to the boundaries of Division 2 to bring enrolment within quota. The Change Commission also took into consideration the Council's submission which suggested the transfer of the balance of the locality of Branyan from Division 2 to Division 7.

To reunite localities within one division, it is proposed to transfer:

- a. the balance of the locality of Alloway from Division 6 and 7 to Division 2
- b. the balance of the locality of Gregory Reiver from Division 3 to Division 2
- c. the balance of Elliott from Division 3 to Division 2
- d. the balance of the locality of Branyan from Division 2 to Division 7, and
- e. the balance of the locality of Booyal from Division 2 to Division 3.

Division 3

The Change Commission proposes minor changes to the boundaries of Division 3 to reunite localities into the same division where possible and to reunite previously split SA1s.

To reunite localities within one division, it is proposed to transfer:

- a. the balance of the locality of Booyal from Division 2 to Division 3
- b. the balance of the locality of Meadowvale from Division 3 to Division 1
- c. the balance of the locality of Sharon from Division 3 to Division 1
- d. the balance of the Gregory River locality from Division 3 to Division 2, and
- e. the balance of the locality of Elliott from Division 3 to Division 2

Division 4

The Change Commission proposes some changes to the boundaries of Division 4 to reunite split SA1s. Changes to the boundaries of Division 4 are also proposed to unite a locality.

To reunite previously split SA1s, it is proposed to transfer:

- a. a portion of Bundaberg North from Division 1 to Division 4, comprised of the dwellings immediately north of Fagg Street between Queen Street and Agnes Street
- b. a portion of Bundaberg North from Division 1 to Division 4, bounded by Agnes Street, Gavin Street, Waterview Road and the northern dwellings of Steuart Street
- c. a block in the locality of Millbank situated between Penny Street and Duffy Street from Division 8 to Division 4
- d. a block on the corner of Batchlers Road and Loeskow Street from Division 1 to Division 4, and
- e. a block in the locality of Millbank situated on the banks of the Burnett River from Division 4 to Division 8.

To reunite the localities within one division, it is proposed to transfer the balance of the locality of Gooburrum from Division 4 to Division 1.

Division 5

The Change Commission proposes a minor change to the boundaries of Division 5 to reunite a locality into the same division. It is proposed to transfer the balance of the locality of Bargara from Division 6 to Division 5.

Division 6

The Change Commission proposes minor changes to the boundaries of Division 6 to reunite localities into the same division. It is proposed to transfer:

- a. a portion of the locality of Alloway from Division 6 to Division 2, and
- b. the balance of the locality of Bargara from Division 6 to Division 5.

Division 7

The Change Commission proposes substantial changes to the boundaries of Division 7 to balance the enrolment quota and decrease the chance of the division being out of quota by 2028. The Change Commission also took into consideration the Council's submission which suggested the transfer of the locality of Avenell Heights from Division 7 to Division 10 to maintain predicted enrolment above the lower limit.

To reunite the localities within one division, it is proposed to transfer:

- a. a portion of the locality of Alloway from Division 7 to Division 2
- b. the balance of the locality of Avenell Heights from Division 7 to Division 10, and
- c. the balance of the locality of Branyan from Division 2 to Division 7.

Division 8

The Change Commission proposes only minor changes to the boundaries of Division 8 to reunite previously split SA1s. It is proposed to transfer:

- a. a block in the locality of Millbank situated between Penny Street and Duffy Street from Division 8 to Division 4, and
- b. a block in the locality of Millbank situated on the banks of the Burnett River from Division 4 to Division 8.

Division 10

The Change Commission proposes only minor changes to the boundaries of Division 10 to reunite the balance of the locality of Avenell Heights from Division 7 to Division 10. This reunites the entire locality into one division.

No changes are proposed to the boundaries of Division 9.

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

Effect of proposed changes on divisional boundaries

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 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	7,543	-0.37	7,743	-2.17
Division 2	7,396	-2.30	7,627	-3.64
Division 3	7,808	3.13	8,006	1.15
Division 4	7,488	-1.09	7,673	-3.06
Division 5	7,781	2.78	8,258	4.33
Division 6	7,507	-0.84	8,403	6.17
Division 7	7,916	4.56	8,340	5.37
Division 8	7,162	-5.40	7,466	-5.67
Division 9	7,672	1.33	8,100	2.34
Division 10	7,434	-1.81	7,533	-4.83

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.