

APPENDIX B

Minister's Referral



Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC19/1380

17 APR 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission Queensland
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Dear Pat

I am writing to you in relation to a Local Government electoral review that was undertaken by the Townsville City Council in preparation for the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections.

I have received a copy of the correspondence sent to you from Councillor Jenny Hill, Mayor of the Council, dated 28 February 2019 advising of the results of the review. I note this correspondence indicates that the projected number of electors in 2020 would be out of the quota of a reasonable proportion of electors as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) in Division 2. In addition, the Council also identified that the number of electors in Division 8 is approaching the lower quota limit for the Division.

I note the Council has requested that the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) considers resolving the imbalance of electors in these Divisions by:

- excising a portion of Mount Louisa (perhaps a portion south of Bayswater Road) from Division 1 and including it into Division 8
- excising a portion of Deeragun (perhaps a portion south of the Pacific Coast Way) from Division 2 and including it into Division 1.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning advised the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs regarding several current and planned developments in the Local Government area. These include Division 1 (Western development), Division 2 (Northern Beaches development), Divisions 4 and 6 (Upper Ross and The Pinnacles development), Divisions 3, 9 and 10 (City Central development) and Division 10 (Elliott Springs development). Populations in these areas may increase significantly by the 2024 elections. However, at this time, growth is understood to be stagnant due to available tradespeople working on reconstruction following the recent floods. This is likely to continue for at least the next 12 months.

As you are aware, section 18 of the Act provides that only I may apply to the Change Commission for an assessment of a proposed Local Government change. Further, under section 19 of the Act, the Change Commission must consider whether the Local Government change is consistent with the Act and must consider my views on any proposed changes.

I consider it appropriate to refer the matter to you for independent assessment and determination by the Change Commission. I recommend that in assessing the proposed changes to divisional boundaries in Divisions 2 and 8, the Change Commission considers the Council's request to excise portions of Mount Louisa and Deeragun, and the potential population increases from current or planned developments in Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Daniel Westall, Manager Governance, Local Government Division in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs. You may wish to contact Mr Westall on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs