

Electoral Arrangement Review

2019 FINAL DETERMINATION
CLONCURRY SHIRE COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) is an independent body established under the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* (the Act). The Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a proposed local government change 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.

The Change Commission has finalised its assessment of the Cloncurry Shire Council's electoral arrangements on Friday, 22 November 2019. This report outlines the recommended total number of Council representatives (councillors) and sets out the reasons for the Change Commission's decisions.

The Change Commission for this review consists of:

- Mr Pat Vidgen PSM, Electoral Commissioner; and
- Mr Wade Lewis, Casual Commissioner.

The casual commissioner was appointed by the Governor in Council on 1 November 2018.

Background

On 10 January 2019, the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, referred a change proposal from the Cloncurry Shire Council. The Council had requested a change to its electoral arrangements to increase the number of councillors by two. Currently, the Cloncurry Shire Council is represented by four councillors and a mayor (five councillors in total) and it has requested this increase to six councillors and a mayor (seven councillors in total) for the 2020 quadrennial election. The Minister's referral and the Council's request is included at Appendix A.

In the referral, the Minister did not provide a directive for how the Change Commission was to conduct its assessment, however noted his support for an increase in representation to five councillors and a mayor (six councillors in total). On 4 June 2019, the Minister sent a subsequent letter advising that he had met and discussed the matter with Councillor Campbell, Mayor of the Cloncurry Shire Council, and that the Mayor was also comfortable with an increase of one councillor to five councillors and a mayor (see Appendix A).

The Review Process

The process for the Change Commission's review of the Cloncurry Shire Council's electoral arrangements is as follows:

1. Review the Minister and the Council's correspondence.
2. Seek further supporting documentation to aid its decision-making from the Cloncurry Shire Council.
3. Publication of the Change Commission's final determination report.
4. Final determination report provided to the Minister for Local Government, for implementation by the Governor in Council.
5. Increased representation comes into effect at the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Election.

ASSESSMENT

The Change Commission is required to form an independent view of the merits of a proposed change in accordance with section 19(2) of the Act. As the Act does not prescribe how the Change Commission should conduct such assessments beyond considering consistency with the Act and especially the 'local government principles' in section 4(2), the Change Commission in this case generally looked for evidence that:

- there is demonstrable community support for the proposed change;
- the proposed change would be financially sustainable; and
- the proposed change would improve democratic representation and result in more meaningful community engagement.

Community Sentiment

The Change Commission notes that the Cloncurry Shire Council undertook community consultation through a survey from 19 April 2018 to 6 May 2018 (see Appendix B). Of the 306 responses received, 85% were in support of increasing the number of councillors and 15% opposed the change. The Council in its correspondence to the Minister on 20 August 2018, noted it had removed 'duplicate' responses received from the same IP address, lowering the number of respondents to 186. Of the 186 respondents, 82% supported additional councillors and 18% opposed the change.

The Change Commission determined that it would consider all 306 responses, noting that many households have more than one adult and that submissions sent from the same household would likely have the same IP address. Some of the paraphrased feedback in support of increased representation include:

- Cloncurry will have comparable representation with other councils;
- it will make decision voting fairer;
- a lack of councillors has caused problems in the area;
- the current system is not working;
- meetings have had to be cancelled due to a lack of councillors;
- allows a broader section of the community to be considered;
- currently there aren't enough councillors to be present at community events;
- two extra councillors will cover leave and availability issues with decision making;
- help to increase community access to their representatives;
- support due to the growth corridor in the northwest;
- support one more councillor;
- increases the number of people making decisions, when some cannot be at meetings or have a conflict of interest;
- is the only way to get a consensus of opinion and is essential for democracy;
- need more councillors to cover meeting absences and provide varied representation;
- extra councillors will broaden the pool of ideas and energy, leading to a more vibrant community and improved economic landscape; and
- Cloncurry must have adequate representation and increasing the number of councillors will help make sure the right decisions are made for Shire's growth and prosperity.

Some of the paraphrased feedback opposing an increase in representation include:

- voters need to take responsibility for electing four councillors from a cross-section of the community;
- current representation is adequate, and it is an unnecessary change;
- additional costs to increase representation is not warranted;
- oppose any additional costs to ratepayers considering how much is already paid;
- nothing gets done now and another two councillors won't help;
- councillors should work full-time hours rather than it being a part time job;
- use the money for more staff on the ground;
- spend the money on more important things, such as opportunities for Cloncurry's youth;
- spend the money on the Shire and not more councillors; and
- the number of councillors is immaterial, the calibre of individuals elected is what matters.

The Change Commission has considered the feedback received through the Council's consultation process and notes that most of the public sentiment was in favour of an increase in Council representation.

Financial Sustainability

A key consideration was ascertaining the financial sustainability of the proposed change. Section 12 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires local governments to have a sufficient resource base to exercise its jurisdiction and operate facilities, services and activities and to do so both flexibly and responsively. It should be noted that the Change Commission relies upon the Council to provide a true and accurate account of its fiscal circumstances and supporting documentation which supports these circumstances.

In the community survey conducted by Council, the documentation indicated that the minimum cost would be \$59,000 per councillor, per year, which equals \$118,000 per year (see Appendix A). The Change Commission requested additional information and sought assurance from the Council that its proposed change was financially sustainable (see Appendix B). The Council noted in its letter on 3 July 2019 that the budget impact for two additional councillors will be in the order of \$110,000 including travel and expenses. While there is a slight discrepancy between the expense as noted in the survey compared to the Council's letter, the 2018 Remuneration Report by the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal (p.13)¹ allocates a councillor salary of \$53,049 commencing 1 July 2019 for 'Category 1' councils such as Cloncurry. The Change Commission also reviewed the Council's 'Councillor Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy'² to better understand the types of additional expenditure, such as mobile phones, internet, travel and secretariat support. Having reviewed this information, the Change Commission is of the view that the estimated costs provided by Council for two additional councillors (approximately \$110,000 - \$118,000 per year) appear accurate.

¹ Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal 2018, 'Remuneration Report 2018', The State of Queensland, Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, <<https://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/local-government/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission.html>>.

² Cloncurry Shire Council 2016, 'Councillor Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy', <<https://www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au/council/governance/policy-documents>>.

Council highlighted its robust mining sector and extensive cattle industry as evidence of the revenue and employment opportunities within the community. It also provided a ten-year forecast to support its view that council's forward budgets would sustain the expenditure associated with the additional councillors. The Change Commission notes that Council's Operating Result is in deficit in 2019-20 and steadily transitioning to surplus by 2023-24. In an email on 9 October 2019, the Council's Chief Executive Officer advised that councillors will be funded through Council's General Revenue and that an increase of two councillors would not result in general rates being increased to fund the cost.

The Change Commission has considered the financial information and supporting documentation provided by Council as well as through its own research and notes that the change requested appears feasible from a financial sustainability perspective.

Local Government Principles

In a letter on 26 February 2019, the Cloncurry Shire Council highlighted its need for additional councillors, providing a comparison of representation to population in neighbouring councils in west Queensland. The Council also noted Cloncurry has a young median age of 34 years and stated there is not enough broad representation across the community with only five elected members.

The Change Commission notes that the Act does not provide criteria or guidance as to the recommended number of councillors based on population. It is therefore of the view that each council area must be considered unique and so too must its representation requirements. However, this makes drawing a conclusion from such comparisons challenging for the Change Commission. Regarding the desire for broader representation, as mentioned in both the Council's letter and in public responses to the Council's survey, the Change Commission notes that the diversity of the councillors is ultimately determined by the candidates who nominate and are elected by the community. The Change Commission is therefore not convinced that having more councillors will result in broader representation.

In additional correspondence on 3 July 2019, the Cloncurry Shire Council provided more detailed reasoning for requiring additional representation. It noted the councillors regularly attend community events and meet with business and community groups, and that having more councillors will spread the workload and provide relief to the existing representatives. The Council advised this would improve the relationships in the local government area by increasing the level of involvement of councillors with the community (i.e. supporting both the 'democratic representation' and the 'meaningful community engagement' local government principles).

The Council stated that adding two councillors would be more efficient and improve the quality of debate and decision making and noted meetings and decision-making are often impacted by sick leave, holiday leave and conflicts of interest. The Change Commission noted that conflicts of interest have had a significant impact on Council meetings and decisions between May 2018 and June 2019. In its letter on 3 July 2019, the Council advised there were 91 declarations of conflicts and more than 25 exclusions during this period, where councillors had to excuse themselves from deliberations. It is noted that while Council's preferred position is to increase its representation by two councillors, it is accepting of an increase of one councillor as recommended by the Minister for the upcoming 2020 election.

The Change Commission was persuaded that increasing representation will support both the 'democratic representation' and the 'meaningful community engagement' local government principles by reducing the impact of leave and holidays on decision-making and by providing additional community representation. Regarding conflicts of interest, it is noted that this will be dependent upon the candidates elected and any business or other interests they may hold.

DECISION

In light of the above considerations, the Change Commission has been persuaded of the need to increase representation within the Cloncurry Shire Council. The Change Commission is of the view that an increase of one councillor for the 2020 election will address the immediate representation concerns of the Council and community, while also providing scope for a future increase if it is still deemed necessary.

By adding one councillor for the 2020 quadrennial election, the Change Commission believes this offers the Council and the community an opportunity to review the organisational, community and financial outcomes of having an additional representative and then if required, apply for a further increase based on those outcomes.

Regarding the financial outcomes, the Change Commission notes that for each financial year Queensland councils must prepare a community financial report and both a current-year and long-term financial sustainability statement. Preparation of these instruments of financial accountability will provide a useful measure of the sustainability of adding one councillor and an important evidence base should the community seek another review of its representation in the future.

RECOMMENDATION

The Change Commission has provided its assessment to the Minister for Local Government and recommends the Governor in Council implement its final decision.

The Change Commission's final recommendation is as follows:

- for the purpose of the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Election, representation in the Cloncurry Shire Council increase to five councillors and a mayor (six councillors in total).

In accordance with the Act, the Change Commission has published a notice of results in the Government Gazette, a newspaper circulating in the local government area and on the ECQ website.



Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner



Wade Lewis
Casual Commissioner

APPENDIX A

Minister's Referral



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

19

Our ref: MC18/5251

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Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560
Email lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158

10 JAN 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission Queensland
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Pat

I refer to the Cloncurry Shire Council's letter of 20 August 2018 requesting a review of its Councillor numbers. A copy of the Council's letter is enclosed.

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, I refer the Council's request for an increase in its Councillor representation from four Councillors and a Mayor to six Councillors and a Mayor for assessment.

I am supportive of an increase to five Councillors and a Mayor.

The request by the Council includes the Council's rationale for requesting this Local Government change.

I have asked for Ms Jo Stephenson, Regional Director, Local Government and Regional Services in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact Ms Stephenson on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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

Enc

Cloncurry Shire Council

38-46 Daintree Street
PO Box 3
Cloncurry QLD 4824
ABN: 76 581 540 914



Our ref: 228023

COPY

20 August 2018

Hon. S Hinchliffe
Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002
lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister Hinchliffe

REQUEST TO INCREASE COUNCILLOR NUMBERS - CLONCURRY

I am writing on behalf of Cloncurry Shire Council's Councillors who wish to make a submission to increase the number of elected representatives for our Shire. Cloncurry Shire Council is a Category 1 Council and currently has one Mayor and four Councillors and is seeking to increase to one Mayor and six Councillors.

The Shire of Cloncurry has a total population of approximately 3,200 with a voting population of 2,350. Our Shire has a very diverse community which is supported by our four economic pillars of Agriculture, Mining, Transport and Tourism. Unlike many other western communities Cloncurry has a relatively young median age of 34 years, which keeps focus placed on pivotal topics such as liveability, growth, economic development and sustainability. With this diversity comes the responsibility to represent the broad spectrum of issues and develop initiatives raised by the community.

At present there are concerns that with the current composition of elected members that there is not enough broad representation across the community. In particular some of the challenges experienced with only five elected members in a small community is that there are often instances where conflicts of interest exist in which a Councillor or multiple Councillors may be required to abstain from being involved in the matter. Additionally, there are occasions where Councillors are unable to be present at Council meetings due to absences which can be disruptive to continuation of council matters. Furthermore, having additional Councillors for the size of our population will have the potential to offer a wider representation to the Cloncurry community.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 24 July 2018 Council passed the following resolution.

Moved: Cr Swalling

Seconded: Cr V. Campbell

1. That Council resolve to increase Councillor numbers by requesting that two (2) additional Councillors be appointed to the Shire of Cloncurry taking the numbers from 1 Mayor and 4 Councillors to 1 Mayor and 6 Councillors; and
2. That Council commences the process of increasing Councillor numbers and approves for the Chief Executive Officer to make a submission to the Minister to increase Councillors numbers.

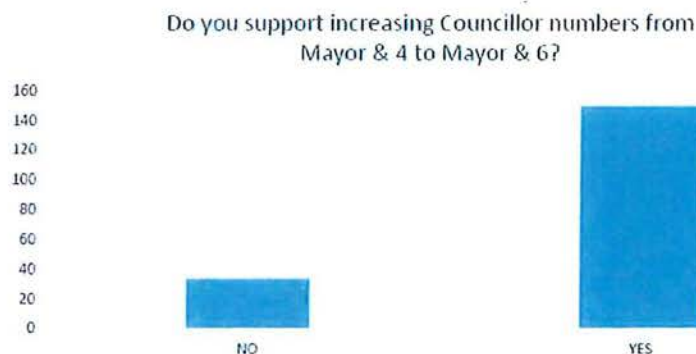
CARRIED: 21.180724

In order to make a full assessment of the Shire's interest to increase Councillor numbers a community survey was released. The survey was released on 19 April 2018 and closed on 6 May 2018 and posed one succinct question, "Do you support increasing Councillor numbers from Mayor and 4 Councillors to Mayor and 6 Councillors". Respondents were also offered the opportunity to provide a comment, which many took the opportunity to provide justification for their decision and general feedback.

The total number of responses received to this survey was 306 however after the completion of cleansing of the responses for identifiable duplicates a total of 186 surveys were counted. The survey identified that there was positive consensus by the community with 82% indicating support to increase Councillor numbers. The survey results are shown below.

Increasing Councillor Numbers Survey - Results

Total Responses	306	
Total Responses (Cleaned)	184	100%
NO	34	18%
YES	150	82%



122 responses were removed in cleaning duplicates from same IP address / entered directly after each other (ie same respondent)
Prior to cleaning data response was Yes (85%) No (15%)

Furthermore, as part of Council's internal determination to pursue this increase a benchmarking exercise of other Councils in the region was undertaken. The results of this assessment determined that there are several other western Councils who have a similar if not smaller population base with higher numbers of elected representatives than Cloncurry. Such shire's include Carpentaria, Flinders, Richmond, Winton and Longreach.

Based on Council's desire and the views of our community, I ask that you please look favourably upon the request to increase the number of Councillors for Cloncurry Shire and refer this request to the change commission for further consideration.

If you require any further information to assess this request, please do not hesitate to contact myself on [REDACTED] or alternatively I can be contact on my mobile [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully


Joanne Morris
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Encl: Copy of Cloncurry Shire Council – Community Survey – Increasing Councillor Numbers



Community Survey - Increasing Councillor Numbers

Cloncurry Shire Council is seeking your opinion on increasing councillor numbers in the future from Mayor and four Councillors, to Mayor and six Councillors.

There are occasions where Councillors are unable to be present at Council Meetings due to absences and conflicts of interest.

By comparison neighbouring Councils have the following number of Councillors.

McKinlay (Julia Creek) – Mayor and 4 Councillors Carpentaria – Mayor and 6 Councillors

Flinders (Hughenden) – Mayor and 6 Councillors Richmond – Mayor and 5 Councillors

The minimum cost to increase the Councillor numbers would be \$59,000 per Councillor per year.

Additional Councillors have the potential to offer a wider representation of the Cloncurry community.

Survey

Do you support an increase from **Mayor and 4 (four) Councillors** to **Mayor and 6 (six) Councillors**?

YES ☐

NO ☐

COMMENT

OPTIONAL - Please provide details should you wish to be included in further consultation:

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

ADDRESS



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

Our ref: OUT19/3064

04 JUN 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission Queensland
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
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City East Queensland 4002
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560
Email lgma@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158

Dear Pat

I refer to my letter of 10 January 2019 where I referred the Cloncurry Shire Council's request for an increase in its Councillor representation for assessment in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

At the time of referral, the Council was requesting an increase for its Councillor representation from four Councillors and a Mayor to six Councillors and a Mayor. In my letter, I advised that I was supportive of an increase to five Councillors and a Mayor.

On 29 May 2019, I met with the Mayor, Councillor Greg Campbell, to discuss the matter. I wish to advise that Councillor Campbell is now comfortable with an increase to five Councillors and a Mayor.

With this clarity, I would appreciate the Local Government Change Commission's further consideration of the Council's request to potentially be finalised prior to the 2020 Local Government Elections.

In making this request, I acknowledge the significant workload ahead of the Change Commission, given the large number of Local Government Divisional Boundary Reviews referred for consideration. However, if there is potential for Cloncurry Shire Council's request to be considered for the next election I believe this would bring this Council's representation in line with other comparative councils, and also support the Council's representation of their community.

I have asked for Ms Jo Stephenson, Regional Director (North), Local Government Division in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact Ms Stephenson on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

P.S. I only raise this as
it does not involve any
boundary issues.


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

APPENDIX B

**Council Correspondence
& Supporting Documentation**

Correspondence Log

Date	Author	Recipient	Summary
14.2.19	Change Commission	Cloncurry Shire Council	Letter seeking additional information regarding financial viability, LG comparison information and Council's views on an increase of one councillor.
26.2.19	Cloncurry Shire Council	Change Commission	Response from Cloncurry addressing the request for additional information.
25.3.19	Secretariat, Change Commission	Cloncurry Shire Council	Request for attachments
27.3.19	Cloncurry Shire Council	Secretariat, Change Commission	Email providing an overview of the survey statistics
5.4.19	Change Commission	Cloncurry Shire Council	Letter regarding the 10-year financial forecast and the Change Commission's capacity for 2019.
18.6.19	Change Commission	Cloncurry Shire Council	Request for information following the Minister's letter of 4 June 2019 (Appendix A)
18.6.19	Change Commission	Minister for Local Government	Acknowledgement of letter and progress update.
3.7.19	Cloncurry Shire Council	Change Commission	Full survey response and 10-year financial forecast provided.
9.10.19	Secretariat, Change Commission	Cloncurry Shire Council	<p>Email dated 3.10.19 – Seeking clarity on the financial impacts of the change request.</p> <p>Email dated 9.10.19 – Response from Council</p>
12.11.19	Secretariat, Change Commission	Cloncurry Shire Council	<p>Email dated 12.11.19 - Requesting advice about the 2017 population figures provided in the council demographic comparison table.</p> <p>Email dated 12.11.19 – Response from Council.</p>

File number: [REDACTED]

14 February 2019

Mr David Bezuidenhout
Chief Executive Officer
Cloncurry Shire Council
PO Box 3
CLONCURRY QLD 4824
Email: council@cloncurry.qld.gov.au



Dear Mr Bezuidenhout

On 10 January 2019 the Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs referred a proposed change by the Cloncurry Shire Council to increase its representation.

Before the Change Commission undertakes its assessment, I would appreciate if Council could provide information about the following:

- 1) The financial viability of the proposal. Section 12 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* stipulates councils should have a "sufficient resource base". I note the Council's community survey indicated the minimum cost for two councillors is \$118,000 (\$59,000 per councillor). To assess this proposal fully, I would appreciate if Council could provide documentation regarding its feasibility and any expected impacts to ratepayers or voters.
- 2) Material from the Council's benchmarking exercise regarding the size and representation of other western local governments. Council's submission noted this formed part of their internal determination process and is therefore of interest to the Change Commission.
- 3) The Council's views of the alternative increase in representation proposed by the Minister. As you are likely aware, the Minister's referral supported an increase to five councillors and a mayor. Section 19(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* requires the Change Commission to consider "the views of the Minister". Therefore it would be helpful to understand the Council's position regarding this alternative proposal.

I am aware Cloncurry is currently dealing with the aftermath of a devastating flood and I wish to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to the whole community. I also wish to assure the Council that the Change Commission understands there are likely other priorities for the Council given the current circumstances.

Should you require further information. I can be contacted on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]. Alternatively the Change Commission's secretariat can be contacted on 1300 881 665 or at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pat Vidgen', is written over the typed name.

Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner

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Cloncurry Shire Council

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Telephone: (07) [REDACTED]
Facsimile: (07) [REDACTED]
Email: council@cloncurry.qld.gov.au
Website: www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au

Ref: [REDACTED]

26 February 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen
Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission Queensland
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE Queensland 4001



Dear Mr Vidgen

RE COUNCILLOR INCREASE REQUEST – CLONCURRY SHIRE COUNCIL

Thank you for the follow up of the Cloncurry Shire Council request for an increase in the number of elected representatives for the Shire from the current Mayor and four councillors to Mayor and six councillors.

Below is the additional information requested in your letter of 14 February 2019:

1. Council has discussed the additional cost to ratepayers and based on the 10 year forecast is confident that council's forward budgets will sustain the additional expenditure. *(Copy attached)*

As with all of Council's deliberations regarding budget expenditures the needs of the community and value for money are at the forefront of the decision-making process and Council is confident that the cost of two additional councillors will have positive flow on effects for the Shire and not become a financial burden for the community.

The benefits that will be derived from the addition of two more councillors are included in the responses below.

2. Council conducted a survey on 19 April 2018 (closing 6 May 2018) and received 306 responses and after removing those that were received from the same IP address 184 responses were analysed. *(Survey results and comments attached)*

The survey identified that 82% indicated support for an additional two councillors, there was a variety of comments that accompanied the vote and the majority supported Council's view that the additional representation will benefit the Shire, the major benefits being:

- A lessening of the impact to council decision making when absenteeism due to a declared conflict of interest or scheduling issues result in a reduced number of councillors being eligible to vote at a council, the additional representation will ensure that a broad range of views is debated around local issues.
- The Cloncurry Shire has a population of 3,250, the community hold a variety of events annually and maintain a variety of focus groups that rely on Council support, the addition

of two additional councillors will spread the existing workload which can become quite a burden with only five elected members, this is important as in most regional centres' councillors hold down full-time employment thereby limiting the time available for their attendance at community events and meetings.

- The addition of two additional councillors will allow for a broader representation from the community to assist in developing the initiatives required to encourage growth and economic development throughout the region.
3. Council appreciate the support from the Minister in agreeing with Council that additional representation is warranted and while the suggested increase of one extra councillor would be of benefit to Cloncurry Shire Council, the results from the community survey and the position of Council is that an additional two councillors is required to provide the level of support the Cloncurry Shire community need to progress the opportunities available to the region.

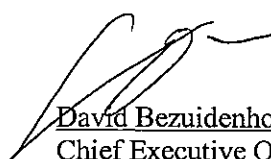
When comparing the demographics of the neighbouring councils the residents of Cloncurry would be much better served with a Mayor and six councillors, Cloncurry's population of 3,250 is significantly higher than the neighbouring shires of Carpentaria (Mayor and 6 councillors), Flinders (6), Richmond (5) and Winton (5).

Queensland Local Government Areas - West Queensland					
Local Government	Area (Sq Km)	% of Total	Pop'n at 2017)	% of Total	No of Councillors (excl Mayor)
Cloncurry	47,971	13%	3,250	32%	4
Carpentaria	64,370	18%	1,994	19%	6
Flinders	41,200	11%	1,519	15%	6
Richmond	26,580	7%	802	8%	5
Winton	53,813	15%	1,148	11%	5
Boulia	60,905	17%	424	4%	4
Croydon	29,498	8%	292	3%	4
McKinlay	40,736	11%	810	8%	4
	365,073		10,239		

Cloncurry Shire has a young median age of 34 years and the issues raised by the community focus on liveability, growth, economic development and sustainability. The elected members have agreed that there is not enough broad representation across the community with only five elected members. Council is confident that the addition of two councillors is needed to enable Council to better support the needs of the community.

Should you require further information in regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided.

Yours Faithfully


David Bezuidenhout
 Chief Executive Officer

From: LG Boundaries
Sent: Monday, 25 March 2019 11:31 AM
To: council@cloncurry.qld.gov.au
Cc: Elise Arklay; Katherine Bail
Subject: request for attachments to Electoral Commission correspondence
Attachments: 139 - LTR - CSC - Councillor increase request - Cloncurry Shire Council.pdf

Good morning,

I phoned your office last week to discuss some correspondence received by the Electoral Commission on 18 March 2019. As discussed, can I please request the 10 year forecast that was mentioned as an attachment to the letter. Can I also please request the survey results and comments that were also mentioned in the letter under point 2.

I have attached the original letter for your reference.

Thank-you and please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,
Katherine



Katherine Ball | Assistant Secretary
Local Government Change Commission
Integrity
Electoral Commission of Queensland
Level 20 | 1 Eagle Street | Brisbane Queensland 4000
[Redacted]
ecq.qld.gov.au

From: Executive Support [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 March 2019 2:29 PM
To: Katherine Bail
Subject: FW: request for attachments to Electoral Commission correspondence
Attachments: 139 - LTR - CSC - Councillor increase request - Cloncurry Shire Council.pdf; Additional Councillors Survey.pdf

Hi Katherine,

Thank you for your email and sorry for the delayed reply.

Please see attached for the requested extra information regarding Councillor Survey for your convenience.

I am still yet to clarify the 10 year forecast material with our CEO – I will have to get back to you on this one sorry.

Kind regards, Alli

[REDACTED]



CLONCURRY SHIRE COUNCIL

Phone: 4742 4100

Fax: 4742 1712

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Office: 38-46 Daintree Street

Mail to: PO Box 3

Cloncurry Q 4824

www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au

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[Find Council on Facebook](#)

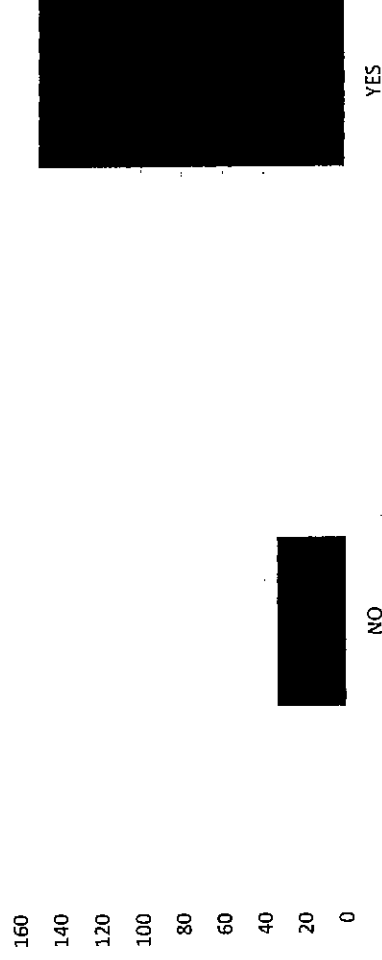
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Increasing Councillor Numbers Survey - Results

Total Responses	306	
Total Responses (Cleaned)	184	100%
NO	34	18%
YES	150	82%

Do you support increasing Councillor numbers from Mayor & 4 to Mayor & 6?



122 responses were removed in cleaning duplicates from same IP address / entered directly after each other (ie same respondent)
Prior to cleaning data response was Yes (85%) No (15%)

File number: [REDACTED]

5 April 2019

Mr David Bezuidenhout
Chief Executive Officer
Cloncurry Shire Council
PO Box 3
CLONCURRY QLD 4824
Email: council@cloncurry.qld.gov.au



Dear Mr Bezuidenhout

Thank you for your letter dated 26 February 2019 and for providing additional information regarding the proposed change to the Cloncurry Shire Council's representation. I note the Change Commission's secretariat is liaising with Council, as some of the attachments to your letter were not received, including the 10-year forecast and the survey results and comments.

I am writing today to discuss the Change Commission's capacity and workload in 2019. As the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Elections are less than a year away, I wanted to take this opportunity to advise you of the Local Government Change Commission's (Change Commission) priorities and capacity for 2019.

The Change Commission is legislatively obligated to conduct divisional boundary reviews in 2019, thereby ensuring each division of a divided council has a similar number of voters at the election. It expects to conduct at least 16 divisional boundary reviews in 2019. Considering this workload, the Change Commission has determined it does not have the capacity to assess any external boundary or electoral arrangement changes until after the 2020 elections. I therefore regret to advise that Cloncurry's electoral arrangement review will be deferred until after the elections. I appreciate that Council would like this review resolved prior to 2020, however there are simply too many divisional boundary reviews in 2019 for this to be feasible.

The Change Commission has decided to make one exception for the Ipswich City Council. It will conduct an electoral arrangement review in 2019 if one is referred to it by the Minister. Due to Ipswich's exceptional circumstances, the Change Commission feels it must provide stability by settling the electoral arrangements in time for the 2020 elections.

The Change Commission will continue liaising with Council regarding its review schedule and will advise when it expects to commence this assessment. Information will also be published on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) website.

Should you require further information, please contact the Change Commission's secretariat on 1300 881 665 or at LGBoundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner

File number: [REDACTED]

Your reference: [REDACTED]

18 June 2019



Mr David Bezuidenhout
Chief Executive Officer
Cloncurry Shire Council
PO Box 3
CLONCURRY QLD 4824
Email: council@cloncurry.qld.gov.au

Cc: Councillor Greg Campbell
Mayor
Cloncurry Shire Council
PO Box 3
CLONCURRY QLD 4824
Email: council@cloncurry.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Bezuidenhout

As discussed in our phone call on 14 June 2019, I am writing regarding updated advice received from Minister Hinchliffe about the Cloncurry Shire Council's request to increase its representation.

In the Minister's letter on 4 June 2019, he advised that Mayor Campbell is supportive of an increase of one councillor instead of the two initially requested and that it would be desirable to finalise this review prior to the 2020 Local Government Election.

As discussed in my letter on 5 April 2019, the Change Commission is conducting 17 divisional boundary reviews in 2019. Therefore, if a review of Cloncurry is to occur this year the Change Commission will require the Council to provide the following supporting documentation as soon as practicable:

1. Council's official position regarding an increase of one councillor (five councillors and a mayor), as opposed to the two initially requested.
2. The complete survey method and results from Council's public consultation, noting half of the respondents were excluded from the results reported due to shared IP addresses.
3. Budget information highlighting any financial impacts of increasing the number of representatives and how this will be funded. I note in your letter on 26 February 2019 that an attachment regarding forward budgets / 10-year forecast was not attached.
4. Any additional information about expected growth in the area, or justifications for increased Councillor representation.

I appreciate Council would like this matter resolved prior to the 2020 elections and pending the receipt of the above information, the Change Commission will try and work to this timeframe.

Should you require further information, I can be contacted on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]. Alternatively, the Change Commission's secretariat can be contacted on [REDACTED] or at LGboundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner

File number: [REDACTED]

Your reference: [REDACTED]

18 June 2019



The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 4 June 2019, updating your advice regarding the referral of the Cloncurry Shire Council's request for increased representation.

I note that the Mayor now supports an increase of one councillor (five Councillors and Mayor in total), instead of the two initially requested. On 14 June 2019, I telephoned the Council's Chief Executive Officer and have written to him seeking official confirmation of the Council's support for this revised proposal and additional supporting documentation to assist with the review.

If the requested information is received in a timely manner, it is likely the Change Commission will complete its assessment of Cloncurry prior to the 2020 Local Government Quadrennial Election. I will provide you with an update in due course.

By way of an update for the 17 divisional boundary reviews, the Change Commission has determined the proposed boundaries for six councils including the Cassowary Coast, Fraser Coast, Gold Coast, Isaac, Scenic Rim and South Burnett Councils. The reports and maps are being finalised and will be published on the Electoral Commission's website soon.

I can also advise that proposals are also being prepared for Brisbane and Ipswich and I will continue to keep you updated regarding the Change Commission's progress.

Should you require further information, I can be contacted on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]. Alternatively, the Change Commission's secretariat can be contacted on [REDACTED] or at LGboundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner

Cloncurry Shire Council

38-46 Daintree Street
PO Box 3
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Website: www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au

Our ref: [REDACTED]

3 July 2019

R 9/7 → Wade / Met
Mr Pat Vidgen
Electoral Commissioner
Electoral Commission Queensland
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001



Dear Mr Vidgen

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COUNCILLORS (2)

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 April 2019 requesting further information.

We take this opportunity to provide the survey result and the Ten Year Forecast Comprehensive Income Report (attached marked annexure 'A' and 'B').

The budget impact for an additional two councillors will be in the order of \$110,000 including travel and other expenses.

The Cloncurry Shire has both a very robust mining sector and extensive cattle industry that provides significant revenue and employment opportunities for the community. Council's focus is on maintaining positive relationships with these businesses to ensure that economic development within the Shire continues to grow.

Councillors meet regularly with the business community in addition to community groups and attending community events throughout the year. The addition of two more councillors will spread the workload providing relief to our current hard working councillors and this will improve the positive relationships that exist within the Cloncurry Shire Community by increasing the level of involvement that seven councillors can provide.

With only five elected members, council meetings at the Cloncurry Shire Council have too often been reduced in numbers due to regular conflicts of interest declarations and the impact of sickness or holidays. Increasing the number of councillors to seven will improve the quality of debate and decision making that make for an efficient council.

Cloncurry Shire Council's preferred position remains in favour of two additional councillors and the issue has been discussed regularly in both workshops and council meetings including at the most recent council meeting held on 18 June.

Noting our preferred position and the Ministers approval of one extra, one is better than none for the upcoming 2020 Election.

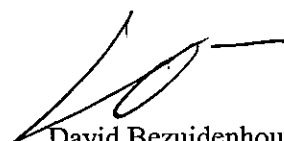
The table below shows councillor declarations in the latest 13 meetings you will see that there has been a total of 91 declarations of conflict, one councillor has 40 declarations while on 26 occasions councillors had to leave the room leaving only three or four councillors to deliberate.

Cloncurry Shire Council Meetings Summary - Councillor Declarations										
	Cr Swalling		Cr McGee		Cr Campbell		Cr Rix		Mayor Campbell	
	Declarations = 40		Declarations = 26		Declarations = 11		Declarations = 11		Declarations = 3	
	<i>Remained in Meeting</i>	<i>Left Meeting</i>	<i>Remained in Meeting</i>	<i>Left Meeting</i>	<i>Remained in Meeting</i>	<i>Left Meeting</i>	<i>Remained in Meeting</i>	<i>Left Meeting</i>	<i>Remained in Meeting</i>	<i>Left Meeting</i>
May-18	6	2	2	1		1				1
Jun-18	2		2				1			
Jul-18			4		4		1	1	1	
Aug-18										
Sep-18	2		1			1	1	1		
Oct-18	3	1								
Nov-18	3		2	1						
Dec-18	1	1	2			1	1			
Jan-19	2	2	1							
Feb-19	1		1	1						
Mar-19	3	1	1			1				
Apr-19	1		3							1
May-19	4					2		2		
Jun-19	3	2	2	2		1	2	1		
Totals	31	9	21	5	4	7	6	5	1	2

Declarations		91
Exclusions		28

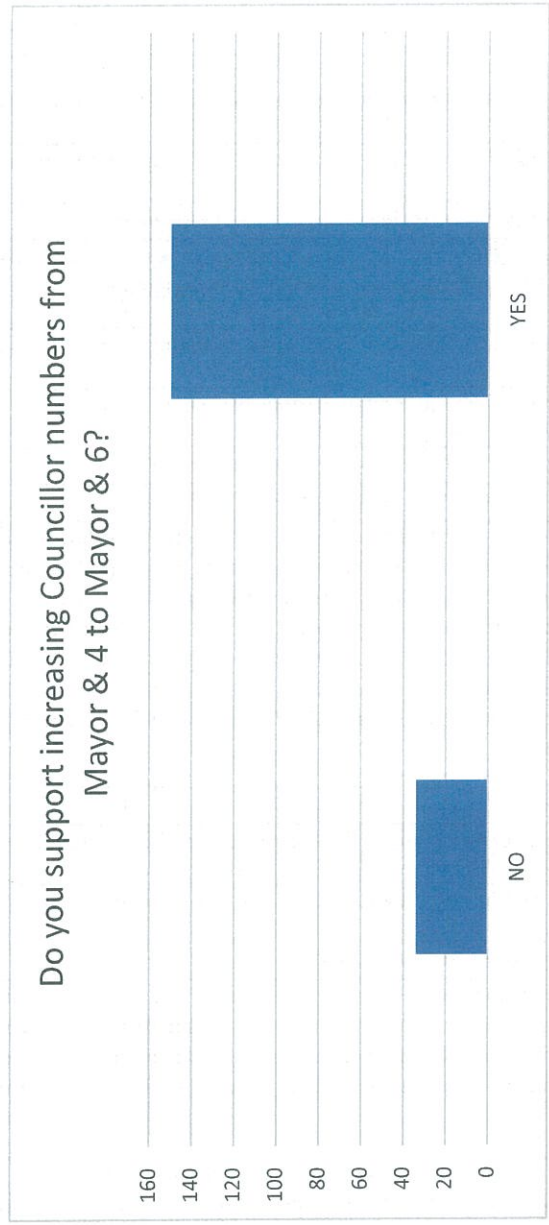
Should you have any questions or concerns in respect of this matter please contact Council's Director, Corporate Services, Martin Cookson, at this office.

Yours faithfully


David Bezuidenhout
Chief Executive Officer

Increasing Councillor Numbers Survey - Results

Total Responses	306		
Total Responses (Cleaned)	184	100%	
NO	34	18%	
YES	150	82%	



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Prior to cleaning data response was Yes (85%) No (15%)

"A"

Comments
- to be in line with other councillor numbers in the west - makes decision voting more fairer
This situation came about by a terrible decision by Peter Beatty State Government , it has caused problems in our council since it was implicated , We need 6 and a Mayor with out a doubt
Indipendant non business owners need who will stand up a speak on behalf of the community on issues that affect everyone
Because the current system is NOT WORKING!! To give an example, currently a couple of the councillors elected are only there to feather their own nest it seems. At least if there was an increase in councillor numbers, the councillors with the wrong intentions or selfish agendas would have a diluted vote. It's called democracy!!
1 Mayor and 5 Councillors
I agree as I have seen where Meetings have been cancelled due to not enough Councillors
Need 1 rural, 1 Dajarra and 4 Town residents for a fair wider representation
As long as they have the know how of treating the rate payers right and seeing the town is brought back to the way it was. Have input into addressing and help deal with crime, drugs, unemployment, water being paid by use not bulk amount that many rate payers are not using. Have a voice to standup and be heard to get improvement to services for town and the north west. And not be afraid to speak up when they know something is not right that is being planed. The town is the ratepayers and business not the councillors and mayors.
The increase by 2 additional councillors will allow a broader section of the community to be considered. While I currently feel that the existing councillors are doing a great job I feel that some due to there other work commitments aren't able to be present are enough community events etc
Voters need to take responsibility for voting for 4 councillors from a cross section of the community. Issue sorted.
The community it adequately represented by 4 + 1. Additional costs are not warranted
Other shires around region have 5-6 why not Cloncurry. Extra 2 will counteract leave and availability for important decision making. Difference of opinions and priorities in community needs will have greater representation
Not necessary. And the additional cost worn by ratepayers is ridiculous considering how much we already pay.
I believe they will help to increase the access from the community and allow councillors to beway because of some unbreakable commitments occasionally without it affecting voting.
Yes, I support that there should be an increase in Councillors from 4 to 6 in Cloncurry
Why bother, nothing gets done now for the community another two won't help.
My opinion is that four councillors is enough. Rates are dear enough as it is. I presume \$59,000 is the salary the councillors are on. In my eyes this amount is an average full time wage. I don't think the hours all of the Councillors put in are full time. Therefore the Councillors should be spending more time representing the council and earning their keep, rather than it being a part time job for them. I do understand there would be times in which the job would have pressure involved and some big decisions to be made. I think the councillors should remember how much previous councillors were paid to do the job years ago. Most of those people did it for the love of their community, not so much the cash. If six councillors do come in, maybe the allocation of wages for four councillors should be spilt between the six?? Also I think the rural ratepayers should also have a voice within council. Maybe 50,50 rural and town residents for councillors?
Absolutely. Growth Corridor for the Northwest.
We need to have Councillors that represent different areas of the Shire, not just the people in town.
I would support 1 more councillor. Who pays for the extra councillors? Why isn't this money put into more staff on the ground?
I fully support the increase to get a fairer view of the community
Definitely time to increase the number of councillors! On the occasions where one Councillor is unable to be present at Council Meetings due to absences and conflicts of interest, you're left with four people making the decisions for a town. If two are for and two are against a decision, then a casting vote is used, it only takes two people to agree with that decision for it to be passed. That's not a good representation of our community at all. I hope the Council finally does the right thing and increase the councillor numbers!
The only way to get a consensus of opinion is to increase the number of Councillors to Mayor and 6 (six) Councillors. This is essential for a democracy to work in any community - especially one that is now divided between local rate payers and the FIFO community who do not support our community. It worked perfectly well in Cloncurry for years and will work again in the future.

Yes we should have more councillors on the council. At present major decisions are voted on by only 4 councillors and the mayor. This often leaves the deciding vote down to three people. There is not enough varied representation by only 4 councillors and the public opinions they each receive that form the basis of their decisions. Please elect 6 councillors instead of 4.
I think the extra money could be spent on more important things in this town. We need to be looking into more opportunities for the youth of Cloncurry. We are in need of things the youth can get involved in that doesn't involve a lot of travelling and is more community based eg bmx track, upgrade to the facilities at the Dam so it is more welcoming and looking into water activities.
While I don't live in Cloncurry anymore, I was a keen participant in the community during my time there. When the idea to increase Councillor numbers was first floated it seemed like a good idea, and the longer I live in NW Qld the more sense it makes. Carrying 2 extra Councillors effectively adds an extra half to the size of the 'network' that Council relies on in small communities, where ideas for governance can often be broached in casual/social situations. Where scheduling or conflicts of interest occur for some Councillors it makes it more likely a meaningful vote can still occur on an issue. Small rural/regional towns like Cloncurry require fresh ideas and energy to ensure they continue to thrive. Extra elected positions will broaden the pool of ideas and energy, leading to a more vibrant community and an improved economic landscape (and the wide range of follow-on benefits these bring). Additional Cr positions would also improve the chances for 'non-local' or newer residents to become involved in town governance, which (in my opinion) would be a boost to the local community. While there is great pride and ownership shown by long term residents, a community needs new energy and enthusiasm, new points of view and new energy to ensure they grow and prosper.
You need 6 councillors to ensure that the decisions are being voted on fairly and if there are councillors away for certain meetings you still have enough councillors to vote on the discussion that are being discussed at the meetings.
I want a broader perspective
We need more variety and differing opinions on our council
Wider representation? What rubbish. If the public want wider representation vote in a wider variety of Councillors. If conflicts of interest are a problem, vote in councillors who are impartial with nothing to potentially gain. Seems pretty simple. Adding two more Councillors won't fix either of these reasons. Spend money on the Shire not more Councillors.
only way to get good results over wide community input and less chance of collusion
Definitely need extra Councillors so as more varied representation and not as easy to stack meeting
We need a broader range of opinions hence the need for six councillors and a Mayor
An increase in councillor numbers spreads the views of the community around between more people to give a more even perspective.
Yes !! This is a must !!
Good idea, and I believe that all councillors and Mayor should be a rate payer.
Agree as not all are present and also it allows more home owners of Cloncurry to participate
We could potentially even have more Councillors due to the size of our Shire.
Will give better voting rights instead of the mayor having the casting vote.
Yes!
The number of councillors is immaterial, the calibre of the individuals elected is what matters.
A Shire as diverse and as rich as the Shire of Cloncurry must have adequate representation on its Council. Increasing the current council from the Mayor and four Councillors to the Mayor and six councillors is an effective way to make sure the right decisions at a Local level are made for the continued growth and prosperity of this Shire. I was not born nor raised in Cloncurry, but this town felt like home the moment I set foot in it. My only wish is that we as a community can continue to work with a great team within our council office to see this town prosper for future generations to come.

In principal, provided an increase in Councillors does not have an adverse impact on productive and constructive outcomes. The effectiveness of a larger group of Councillors would be dependent upon their ability to work cohesively to represent the the best interests of their constituents, not their own business interests or personal agendas. Wouldn't it be great if each new prospective Councillor could undergo the rigorous behavioral and emotional intelligence psych testing undertaken by employees of some innovative private and public sector companies? The ability to collaborate, conduct constructive conversations, encourage, and have respectful debate with constructive tension to generate and explore new ideas or ways of working, be outcomes focussed, and display highly-developed interpersonal skills with a high-level of behavioural flexibility; are some of these valued attributes. Some existing Councillors do appear to demonstrate some of these positive attributes. The others? Not so much. So, yes to two more Councillors with positive behaviours and attributes. But it is a risk. Some research has found that an increase in the number of committee members has inversely affected the quality and number of decisions and actions implemented.

Increasing the Councillor numbers to 6 is a great idea as long as the people elected into these new positions do it for the community and love of the town, and not to benefit themselves. For example, it is quite clear with our current 4 Councillors that 2 do it for the community, and 2 have done it for self interest. Seems to be the same couple of Councillors turning up to all events, and actually wanting to be a part of the community and stand for the community. More councillors with this commitment and love for the town would make a great team.

The quantity does not necessarily mean quality. With the current arrangement there are councillors that do very little for the town and community. There needs to be more requirements regarding attendances at mandatory meetings with a specific number of approved absences per year with either a specific notice period or medical evidence. In addition, community involvement should be monitored with required attendance and involvement within community gatherings. We currently have a councillor who thought 'my comment wouldn't be suitable to print' was an appropriate answer when asked for comment. There needs to be more accountability for the members elected to these positions and if not meeting the requirement, they shouldn't be getting paid the salary.

We just need 4 'good' councillors, something we don't have at the moment.

if they are to busy to fulfill their duties then they should not have that position.

We currently have a progressive and proactive Mayor, who is working with the community and all levels of government to strengthen and develop the Cloncurry District. To increase councillor numbers does give a wider representation of community, but the number of councillors isn't the issue, the issue in particular is the open and destructive nature of two of the councillors, whose intent is to undermine the processes of local government, and that their sole intention is for personal gain under the guise of 'supporting the community'. Cloncurry has one councillor who is active in the community and demonstrates the responsibility of the role they were voted in to do. The remaining councillor completes the basic requirements, and remains actively uninvolved. The accountability and intention of councillors is the cause of the fractured nature of this elected group who were chosen to represent the Cloncurry Shire. It's not the number of people who represent us, it's the calibre of person, one who can see the long term gains in developing growth and has the passion and drive to bring our community forward. This term of councillors need to discuss, debate and progress the growth of the Cloncurry Shire, 4 or 6 doesn't matter, suitability for the role does. 3 of those 4 people aren't suitable as demonstrated by their actions during this election term. Creating alternative reasons for this wastes time, and demonstrates the level of thinking - self victimisation is a tool, for tools.

Conflict of interest & absences I agree.

Not required - if all the current elected members pulled their weight equally then there should be no reason for additional councillors. You are elected for the community, so let's get on with it and focus on the big picture - investment and growth of our Shire.

Better representation for the community. Helps if people are away. Better debate and less decisions made by followers.

Councillors need to be there for the community interests and not their own, and support a good Mayor now that we have one.

Yes, but compared to how much work the mayor does current councillors get paid too much already. Especially when 2 are not there for the whole community!!!!

Yes, hopefully with more Councillors the good mayor we've got gets the support required.

Councillors get paid a lot and some do very little and need to work with the mayor now we've got a good one.

a couple of the councillors we have already are only there to look after a handful of people - more councillors may not fix that. They are elected to do the best for the majority and take the community forward. At least we have a mayor who does that,
We've got a good mayor now. What we need is the 4 councillors to work in well with the mayor. I dont think we need any more.
Yes, but as long as the councillors are there for the betterment of the community like the current mayor, and NOT to feather their own nest like a couple of the current councillors.
I voted against 4 councillors when it was brought up last time , there should have always been the 6 .

Comments entered by same user / household

ABSOLUTELY!!!! MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

100% YES

Why is this going to a survey? It needs to happen for the council to function successfully. The current councillors should have the balls to just go ahead with it even against popular opinion. Most people won't understand how important this is and will just see it as a waste of rate payer money.

Yes, we need more councillors and we need the existing councillors to attend more local events.

It would be good to see some more councillors to represent Cloncurry. It probably shouldn't go out to a survey as most people don't see the value in it, just the cost. This is something councillors should have just decided and stood by as it's just common sense. Putting it out to a survey is just deferring responsibility.

Cloncurry has way more people/industry than some of the other places... why are we always behind the times here?

YES!!! Thank you for doing this survey!

YES

I reckon some more representation would be a good thing for the Curry.

yes we need more

Yes, someone recently explained to me how important this would be for the town. For example, the most controversial decisions i.e. those supported by 3 councillors and opposed by 2, only need 3 people to support it. This is not enough representation and should change as soon as possible.

well and truly time for more counsellors

Yes, there's lots of benefits to having one or two additional councillors. It would make it easier to catch up with them and raise issues for a start. Then, as mentioned in your post above, when one or two councillors are away there is still enough to proceed with meetings. I would imagine it would ease the workload for the existing councillors also. There would also be significantly more experience and more variety in the areas of expertise in council. I am definitely supportive of this and will be encouraging as many people as I can to vote "yes" on this survey. It would be an excellent thing for Cloncurry.

YEAH WE NEED AT LEAST 6 PLUS MAYOR. YEARS AGO THERE WAS 9 PLUS MAYOR. THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS.

This would be a game changer for Cloncurry. It needed to happen years ago. The more experience within council leads to better input and decisions. Cloncurry has fallen behind the surrounding towns in a lot of ways (town planning, water parks, number of councillors, presentation of businesses and town). Let's move forward!

Yes, too many dodgy decisions and not enough experience. we need more people on council who are actually invested in town.

yes we need at least 2 more

If places like Hughenden have 6 so should Cloncurry. Cloncurry is bigger and more diverse then those towns.

100% YES!

More councillors will improve the integrity of the decision-making process, so YES two more councillors.

We absolutely need more Council representation in Cloncurry. The lack of representation and experience in Councillors has had a negative effect on the town since it was cut from 9+mayor to 4+mayor. It needs to change.

To provide a greater representation of the community and more suitable to Cloncurry's population.

Of course we need more Councillors. The poor decisions that are being made due to lack of experience and representation in Council is costing the town far more than two additional Councillors would.

Yes! Yes! Yes! This needs to happen for Cloncurry! More councillors mean better representation, more transparency, more accountability, more input, more insight, as well as ensuring the Council is more approachable! It'll be worth every cent!

Increase the numbers, more voices for our community are strongly needed

Yes increase the numbers

Believe the increase in Councillor numbers is extremely important

Council is spending millions of \$'s on town projects, \$59,000 by two is small in comparison and we need the extra voices so we can rest assure the decisions are being made wisely - One wrong decision would cost Council more than 2 additional Councillor salaries.

YES!!!!

Strongly believe we need to increase our towns Councillor number for a better representation across the whole Community. More voices more say!

Strongly agree that additional Councillors are required for the progression of our Community

We need 6 so that at least three of them can stop the council [REDACTED] up

6 is ideal

We need the representation

Would rather invest money into town than councillors to argue and accomplish nothing.

Do the right thing and increase the numbers for the better of the community

Strongly agree to the increase in Councillor numbers

Great addition

Need a property owner

More councillors. Better decisions

Need more voices to represent our community voices

Yes!!!!

So overdue, increase the Councillor numbers please!

6 councillors would see the balance of power with the majority rather than the minority

This is a no brainer, increase the Councillor numbers so we have a greater representation across the whole of our community!!

The mayor is weak [REDACTED] we need 6 councillors to pull his head in

Great idea mayor and 6

Yes we need 6

Definitely a good thing.

This would see the democracy rather than dictatorship

Better representation of community

QTC Local Government Forecasting Model—Cloncurry Shire Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income

Income	Jun-20B	Jun-21F	Jun-22F	Jun-23F	Jun-24F	Jun-25F	Jun-26F	Jun-27F	Jun-28F	Jun-29F
Revenue										
Operating revenue										
Net rates, levies and charges	15,243	16,054	16,908	17,807	18,753	19,748	20,796	21,899	23,060	24,281
Fees and charges	4,866	5,109	5,364	5,633	5,914	6,210	6,520	6,846	7,189	7,548
Rental income	290	299	308	317	327	337	347	357	368	379
Interest received	859	710	813	953	1,062	1,189	1,336	1,497	1,549	1,581
Sales revenue	1,422	1,493	1,568	1,646	1,728	1,815	1,906	2,001	2,101	2,206
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	6,938	7,174	7,419	7,673	7,935	8,208	8,490	8,782	9,085	9,399
Total operating revenue	29,618	30,840	32,380	34,028	35,719	37,506	39,395	52,383	43,351	45,395
Capital revenue										
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	28,211	14,487	10,030	10,135	10,824	9,461	9,767	9,842	9,764	10,119
Total revenue	57,829	45,327	42,411	44,163	46,544	46,967	49,162	62,225	53,115	55,514
Capital income										
Total capital income	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total income	57,859	45,327	42,411	44,163	46,544	46,967	49,162	62,225	53,115	55,514
Expenses										
Operating expenses										
Employee benefits	9,588	9,793	10,211	10,645	11,097	11,568	12,058	12,568	13,099	13,652
Materials and services	10,750	10,890	11,433	12,002	12,600	13,228	13,887	14,579	15,305	16,068
Finance costs	752	708	662	613	563	512	472	429	385	337
Depreciation and amortisation	9,590	10,158	10,512	10,894	11,292	11,808	12,311	12,868	13,480	14,151
Other expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total operating expenses	30,680	31,549	32,818	34,154	35,552	37,116	38,728	40,444	42,269	44,208
Capital expenses										
Total capital expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total expenses	30,680	31,549	32,818	34,154	35,552	37,116	38,728	40,444	42,269	44,208
Net result	27,179	13,778	9,593	10,009	10,992	9,851	10,434	21,781	10,846	11,306
Tax equivalents										
Net result before tax equivalents	30,680	31,549	32,818	34,154	35,552	37,116	38,728	40,444	42,269	44,208
Tax equivalents payable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net result after tax equivalents	30,680	31,549	32,818	34,154	35,552	37,116	38,728	40,444	42,269	44,208
Other comprehensive income										
Items that will not be reclassified to net result										
Increase (decrease) in asset revaluation surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous comprehensive income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total other comprehensive income for the year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year	30,680	31,549	32,818	34,154	35,552	37,116	38,728	40,444	42,269	44,208
Operating result										
Operating revenue	29,618	30,840	32,380	34,028	35,719	37,506	39,395	52,383	43,351	45,395
Operating expenses	30,680	31,549	32,818	34,154	35,552	37,116	38,728	40,444	42,269	44,208
Operating result	(1,062)	(709)	(438)	(126)	167	390	667	11,939	1,082	1,187

From: David Bezuidenhout
Sent: Wednesday, 9 October 2019 10:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Information required for LGCC - urgent
Importance: High

Dear Melanie

Response to queries re 10 year forecast-

- While the 10 year forecast does not specifically include an additional two councillors the forecast does allow for additional staff as a means to cater for organisational changes, so an extra \$110,00 would be available to be allocated for new councillors within the 10 Year Forecast.
- Councillors will be funded through Council's General Revenue – General Rates Income, this is forecast to increase at a steady rate.
- An increase of two councillors will not result in general rates being increased to fund the cost of the new councillors.

Please also consider the Cloncurry Shire Council Cash Flow and Balance Sheet as to financially stable it is, the 10 year forecast consistently shows a healthy cash balance accompanied with low debt.

Regards

David Bezuidenhout
Chief Executive Officer

CLONCURRY SHIRE COUNCIL

Phone: 4742 4100

Fax: 4742 1712

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Office: 38-46 Daintree Street

Mail to: PO Box 3

Cloncurry Q 4824

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council@cloncurry.qld.gov.au

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From: Melanie Mundy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 October 2019 11:18 AM
To: Executive Support [REDACTED]

Cc: LG Boundaries [REDACTED]
Subject: Information required for LGCC - urgent
Importance: High

Good morning

I am the Director responsible for the Local Government Change Commission (LGCC) Secretariat and this email is to touch base regarding the Cloncurry electoral arrangement review currently being considered by the LGCC. I would appreciate this email being directed to the Chief Executive Officer and any other relevant staff member dealing with the request for the electoral arrangement review.

The LGCC has received your earlier correspondence regarding the reasoning behind council's request for an increase in representation by two and the Minister's referral requesting the LGCC consider an increase of one additional councillor. We have also considered the additional information provided by the Council such as the 10 year forecast table and the outcome of the community survey regarding increased representation. Thank you for this information.

We note that Council's Operating Result is in deficit in 2019-20 and steadily transitioning to surplus by end of 2023-24 and based on the 10 year forecast and the Council is confident that its forward budgets will sustain the additional expenditure. To assist the LGCC in assessing the financial viability of the proposal, it would be appreciated if the Council would clarify the following -

- Whether the 10 year forecast provided includes the additional costs for the two councillors?
- Which revenue stream will fund the two additional councillors?
- Confirmation that there will be no additional cost to ratepayers?

As we have previously communicated, these reviews are time critical to ensure arrangements are in place for the 2020 election. I would welcome a telephone call to discuss the information sought from the Council so that the LGCC can expedite its assessment. My contact details are in the signature block.

Thank you in advance for your urgent consideration of this request.

Warm regards

Melanie Mundy

Director
Funding, Disclosure & Compliance



☐ [REDACTED]

☐ [REDACTED]



☐ L20/1 Eagle Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000

ecq.qld.gov.au

[REDACTED]

From: Martin Cookson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 November 2019 6:28 PM
To: LG Boundaries
Cc: David Bezuidenhout; Executive Support
Subject: RE: Further information required for LGCC - Elise Arklay
Attachments: Population Flinders Winton McKinlay.pdf; My Council Story .pdf

Elise

Best place to obtain that information is from the My Council Story website – this is an initiative of the LGAQ and allow3s comparisons of neighbouring councils key statistics

The original data would have come from various sources – I have attached current data sites – Council Websites, Wiki, and My Council Story we only have limited access but if you have better then you could all councils in one go.

<https://www.mycouncilstory.com.au>

Regards

Martin Cookson
Director of Corporate Services



CLONCURRY SHIRE COUNCIL



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Please think of the environment before printing this email.

From: Executive Support [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:56 AM
To: David Bezuidenhout [REDACTED] Martin Cookson [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Further information required for LGCC
Importance: High

FYA – they need details on population figures below.

Kind Regards, Alli

From: LG Boundaries [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 November 2019 10:28 AM
To: Executive Support [REDACTED]
Cc: Council [REDACTED] Melanie Mundy [REDACTED]
Subject: Further information required for LGCC
Importance: High

Good morning Mr Bezuidenhout,

The Change Commission is in the process of assessing the representation change proposal for the Cloncurry Shire Council.

To assist the Change Commission, could you please advise where the 2017 population figures for the Council's demographics comparison table were obtained. The table was provided in the Council's letter on 26 February 2019 (Council's letter is attached and the table is provided below for your reference).

Queensland Local Government Areas - West Queensland					
Local Government	Area (Sq Km)	% of Total	Pop'n at 2017	% of Total	No of Councillors (excl Mayor)
Cloncurry	47,971	13%	3,250	32%	4
Carpentaria	64,370	18%	1,994	19%	6
Flinders	41,200	11%	1,519	15%	6
Richmond	26,580	7%	802	8%	5
Winton	53,813	15%	1,148	11%	5
Boulia	60,905	17%	424	4%	4
Croydon	29,498	8%	292	3%	4
McKinlay	40,736	11%	810	8%	4
	365,073		10,239		

Your earliest possible reply would be appreciated, as the Change Commission is aiming to finalise its review this month.

Should you require further information, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,
Elise

Elise Arklay



FLINDERS (L)
SHIRE COUNCIL



Council Website

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HISTORY OF COUNCIL

First settlement in 1863 was by Ernest Henry on Hughenden Station, beginning the foundation the pastoral industry. It was not until 1877 that the site of Hughenden Township was surveyed.

The Division of Hughenden was constituted by proclamation in the Gazette of April 22nd, 1882. The first meeting of the board was held on August 21st, 1882 the board consisting of Messrs. J.H. Harris (Chairman) J. R. Chisholm, Search Amos W. Price, J. Luckmann, and Dean. Captain T.J Sadler later to become the first town clerk of Hughenden.

On April 20th, 1887, the town of the Hughenden became a separate entity from the division of Hughenden by proclamation with the first election being held on June 1, 1887.

When the local Authorities Act of 1902 came into force on March 31, 1903, the Division of Hughenden became the Shire of Hughenden. On September 5, 1903, the name was altered to the Shire of Flinders. The Shire was divided into two areas by constituting portions there of into a new Shire by the name of Wyangarie now Richmond Shire, on October 23, 1915. The year 1958 saw the amalgamation of Hughenden Town Council and the Shire of Flinders.

Flinders Shire covers 41,632km, with a population of 1,569 residents. The shire encompasses the communities of Hughenden, Prairie, Torrens Creek and Stamford. Hughenden being the main centre is situated on the Flinders River, 386km west of Townsville and 519km east of Mount Isa in north western Queensland.

Flinders Shire Council currently has a mayor and six councillors and employs approx 135 staff. With Council's 2018/2019 budget provides for total operating income of \$25.908 million with total operating expenses of \$29.190 million, providing a balanced budget.

The Flinders Shire covers a variety of diverse landscape, with basalt caps and gorges to the north, desert country to the south east and open flat black soil plains to the south and west. With four distinct bio-regions within the shire, the natural surrounds are vast and ever changing, amongst these bioregions are four National Parks. Prehistoric history includes finds of a Muttaborrasaurus, Hughenden Sauropod and pieces of the Queensland Pterosaur as well as many ammonites, molluscs and sharks teeth dating back to the Cretaceous era.

COUNCIL WEBSITE

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About Council

McKinlay Shire is the gateway to the Gulf of Carpentaria. The shire spans some 41,000 square kilometres and embraces the townships of Julia Creek and Nella on the Flinders Highway, and McKinlay and Kynuna on the Matilda Highway. Julia Creek is the main town, and is located approximately 650 kilometres west of Townsville and 225 kilometres east of Mount Isa.

A rural and regional shire, McKinlay is home to a productive and innovative pastoral industry, as well as the world's richest single mine producer of silver, lead and zinc at Cannington, and a copper mine in Eloise. The world's largest natural aquifer, the Great Artesian Basin, underpins and supports our community and the diversity of rich grazing lands and unique animal life the shire has to offer.

McKinlay Shire has a proud history and flourishing industries, and is a close family community. Looking into the future, it is set to enter a steady growth phase as more people discover this little gem of the North West.

About McKinlay Shire Council

The Council exists to serve the interests of residents within the McKinlay Shire and is often the first point of call for those with a problem or query about local government services.

Our website provides a wealth of community information as well as information about McKinlay and details of town council activities. The site will continue to evolve as we make more information available. Please send us your comments via our contact page.

McKinlay Shire Profile

Scale

- Size - 40 818 sq/km
- Population - 1,050
- Key Localities - Julia Creek (500), McKinlay (30), Kynuna (20), Nella (10)
- Major Industries - Grazing, mining ventures at Cannington South32 (the largest producing of silver and lead in the world), Eloise Mine and Tourism.

Infrastructure

- Road lengths - 2088.17 km
- Council-owned road - 1679.26 km
- Aerodromes - 3
- SES buildings - 3
- Medical Centre - 2
- Caravan Park - 1



Shire of Winton

The **Shire of Winton** is a local government area in Central West Queensland, Australia. It covers an area of 62,000.7 square kilometres (23,938.6 sq mi), and has existed as a local government entity since 1887. Its administrative centre is located in the town of Winton. It is named after Winton, Dorset, England, the birthplace of Robert Allen, the first white settler in the Winton (Queensland) area.^[2]

The major industry in the shire is beef production and some opal mining. There has been some development of the known oil and gas reserves in the region.

Contents

- History
- Towns and localities
- Amenities
- Chairmen and mayors
- Population
- References
- Further reading
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History

The Winton Division was created on 23 September 1886 under the *Divisional Boards Act 1879*.^[3]

With the passage of the *Local Authorities Act 1902*, Winton Division became the Shire of Winton on 31 March 1903.

It subsequently lost an area in its northwest to the Shire of McKinlay on 24 July 1930.

Towns and localities

The Shire of Winton includes the following settlements:

- Winton
- Collingwood (ghost town)
- Corfield
- Middleton
- Opalton (ghost town)

Amenities

Shire of Winton Queensland



Location within Queensland



Population	1,144 (2017) ^[1]
 • Density	0.021211/km ² (0.054936/sq mi)
Established	1886
Area	53,934.9 km ² (20,824.4 sq mi)
Mayor	Gavin Baskett
Council seat	Winton
Region	Central West Queensland
State electorate(s)	Gregory
Federal Division(s)	Flynn



Website Shire of Winton (<http://www.winton.qld.g>

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C

Cloncurry Shire Council

Councils to compare



B

Boulia Shire Council



CARPENTARIA SHIRE
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C

Carpentaria Shire Council



M

McKinlay Shire Council

What does my council area look like?

2017-18 ▼

[Learn more Council says](#)

C

Cloncurry Shire Council

3091 Residents + 1707 non-resident workers

Population Growth

-1.31 %

B

Boulia Shire Council

425 Residents + 63 non-resident workers

Population Growth

0.24 %

C

Carpentaria Shire Council

1974 Residents + 133 non-resident workers

Population Growth

-1 %

M

McKinlay Shire Council

814 Residents + 833 non-resident workers

Population Growth

0.49 %

[Learn more Council says](#)

Area

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

W: www.ecq.qld.gov.au

E: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

T: 1300 881 665

P: Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001



**Electoral
Commission**
QUEENSLAND