Online submission for Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council - External Boundary Review from Craig Edmonston

Submission Details

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Privacy preferences: Publishing your submission and your name

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Submission to Electoral Commission of Queensland

Proposal to change the boundary between Rockhampton Regional Council and Livingstone Shire – June 2022

I, Craig Edmonston wish to object to the proposal to transfer the areas referred to as the Northern suburbs of Rockhampton, namely Glendale, Glenlee, and Rockyview, from Livingstone Shire Council (LSC) to Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC). I was born in Rockhampton and was educated in Rockhampton, then lived in Emerald for 36 years before retiring to live in Yeppoon in 2009. As a former President of the Central Queensland Local Government Association, I am appalled at what is nothing but an opportunistic land grab by the RRC from a neighbouring council.

I can understand RRC wanting the land but if LSC do not wish to transfer the land, that should simply be the end of the matter. This is not the case of a compelling and essential need to alter a boundary for a very particular purpose. It is the same as a property owner wanting a neighbour to agree to transfer land simply because the property owner would like to enjoy the use of the additional land, against the neighbour's wishes.

The extent of the land involved would not be generally known to the residents of both Council Areas. It has been described simply as the three suburbs of Glendale, Glenlee, and Rockyview, when in fact the total area is very much larger than would be understood by the general population. It is essential that all communication and voting information contains an accurate map of the total land area involved. I believe it has been deceptive to describe the transfer to be "the Northern suburbs of Glendale, Glenlee, and Rockyview". It should be noted that these "suburbs" would never have existed had not LSC been prepared to agree to the development of "Rural Residential" subdivisions. Are there any in the old RCC area?

The RRC seems to be suggesting that the subject land is the only land available for future growth of Rockhampton, when in fact RRC has unlimited land within its current boundaries for potential growth. However, it will be developers and commercial circumstances that will decide the future growth of any city. All the planning and wishful thinking in the world by the council will not make it simply happen where it thinks it should happen.

Allowing the transfer of the land to proceed sets in stone a dangerous precedent which would likely trigger future attempts in numerous local governments to grab a bit of extra land. After all why shouldn't Brisbane City just keep extending its boundaries to include neighbouring growth areas. On the other hand numerous councils seem to get on with each other, as in Sydney and Melbourne for example.

It would be far more beneficial for all concerned if RRC and LSC just agreed to cooperate with each other and work together for the greater good of the Capricorn Region.

Craig Edmonston.

22.06.2022