



Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure

Our ref: MC21/4891

7 JUL 2022

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner
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Dear Mr Vidgen

I refer to the Ipswich City Council's (the council) letter of 18 October 2021 requesting a mid-term review of the electoral arrangements for the council area.

I have carefully considered the request from the council and your letter of 20 October 2021 about the council's request and advise I support the carrying out of a mid-term review of the electoral arrangements for the council. I believe it is appropriate to seek the views of the Ipswich community and to also determine whether these arrangements are working well.

The council's letter refers to the Local Government Change Commission's (the Change Commission) 2019 recommendation that "*the Minister consider directing the Ipswich City Council, in consultation with the Change Commission, to conduct a mid-term review and community consultation in 2022 to gauge residents' experiences and satisfaction with the multi-member arrangement and divisional boundaries*".

While the intent of the Change Commission's 2019 recommendation is understood, my powers under the legislation to direct a local government, do not include the ability to direct a council to undertake a mid-term review of its electoral arrangements. However, I do believe it is appropriate to refer this matter to the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ). The ECQ may wish to seek the council's cooperation and assistance in conducting a review and I have asked the council to consider any such request from ECQ.

I have asked for Ms Rebecca McAnalen, Principal Region Advisor (Southern), Local Government Division in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning to assist you with any further queries. You may wish to contact Ms McAnalen on (07) 3452 6738 or by email at rebecca.mcanalen@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

STEVEN MILES MP
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