

APPENDIX B

Minister's Referral



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

Our ref: MC19/1176

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02 APR 2019

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

Dear Pat

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

I have received correspondence from Mr Bruce Davidson, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Council dated 1 March 2019 advising of the results of the review, including that the proportion of electors in Division 2 is out of the quota of a reasonable proportion of electors as required by the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act).

Mr Davidson also advised that as part of any divisional boundary review, the Local Government Change Commission (the Change Commission) consider resolving the imbalance of electors by reviewing the boundary between Division 2 and Division 3.

I am advised there are several planned developments in the Whitsunday Shores (Bowen – Division 6) and Whitsunday Green/Sanctuary Living (Cannonvale – Division 2) areas. However, based on the current growth rate of the area it is highly unlikely that planned developments will be completed in full by 2024.

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.

Having examined the Council's submission, I consider it appropriate to refer the matter to you for independent assessment and determination by the Change Commission. I recommend that in assessing any changes to divisional boundaries, the Change Commission consider the need to balance the proportions of electors in Division 2 and Division 3, and the potential impacts on the proportions of electors in Division 2 and Division 6 arising from the planned developments described above.

I have asked Mr Daniel Westall, Manager Governance, 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 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

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