

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

External Boundary Review

2022 FINAL DETERMINATION

BARCALDINE REGIONAL COUNCIL
BLACKALL-TAMBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL
CHARTERS TOWERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL
ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL
LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) is an independent body established under the *Local Government Act 2009*. The Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a proposed local government change, such as a change of local government boundaries or electoral arrangements, is in the public interest. In doing so, the Change Commission must consider:

- whether the proposed change is consistent with the *Local Government Act*,
- the views of the Minister, and
- any other matters prescribed under a regulation.

Outside of the Brisbane City Council local government, the Change Commission may only assess local government changes proposed by the Minister responsible for Local Government. The Change Commission has finalised its assessment of a proposed change referred by the Minister for Local Government to the external boundaries between Barcaldine Regional Council and adjoining councils. This report outlines the recommended placement of 26 lots and sets out the reasons for the Change Commission's decision.

The Change Commission for this review consists of Pat Vidgen PSM, Electoral Commissioner; Wade Lewis GAICD, Casual Commissioner; and Peter McGraw, Casual Commissioner.

The casual commissioners were appointed by the Governor in Council on 28 November 2021.

Background

On 12 March 2021, the Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic Infrastructure (the Minister), referred a proposed change to the common boundary between the Barcaldine Regional Council and Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Flinders Shire Council, Isaac Regional Council and Longreach Regional Council (Appendix A).

Following receipt of the referral, the Change Commission determined and advised the Minister and all affected councils that this assessment would be completed after the finalisation of post-election activities following the 2020 State general election.

The Change Commission was required to examine the placement of 24 property lots currently dissected between the Barcaldine Regional Council and the six adjoining councils. During the conduct of the review, an additional two lots were identified which consequently had to be included within the scope of the review as they were wholly surrounded by other lots subject to review.

In his referral, the Minister did not provide directions for how the Change Commission was to conduct its assessment. However, the *Local Government Regulation 2012* sets out matters to

be considered by the Change Commission when assessing a proposed local government change.

Of relevance to this review, the *Local Government Regulation* provides that the external boundaries of a local government area should be drawn in a way that has regard to communities of interest, including that:

- the local government area should generally have external boundaries that do not dissect properties (section 9(1)(d)(iii)), and
- water catchment areas should generally be included in the local government area they service in accordance with the 'water catchment principle' (section 9(1)(d)(ii)).

The Change Commission's review involved:

1. Review of correspondence from the Minister and supporting documentation provided by the councils.
2. Consultation with the landholders, councils and other stakeholders to confirm their position in relation to the proposed boundary change.
3. The analysis of other relevant publicly available information, such as spatial data associated with water catchments.

Following consideration of all relevant information through the review, the Change Commission recommends that the lots be moved so that they are entirely within the boundary of the relevant councils. In making these recommendations, the Change Commission has taken into account the principle that external boundaries should not dissect properties, the water catchment principle, as well as the views of the respective landholders and councils.

The Change Commission's final determination report will be published and provided to the Minister for consideration and implementation by the Governor in Council.

ASSESSMENT

The Barcaldine Regional Council proposed the change to its external boundary to address the current situation whereby 24 lots have been split between councils. Generally, the proposed boundary change is for the smallest portion of land to transfer to the council that has the majority of land. As a result of the Barcaldine Regional Council's recommendation, 14 lots would be united within its own area and 12 lots would be transferred to the relevant adjoining council.

The Barcaldine Regional Council undertook significant consultation with all affected councils and landholders prior to the proposed change being referred to the Change Commission. The Barcaldine Regional Council sent correspondence to all affected councils on 31 December 2018 informing them of the proposed change and inviting feedback. On 26 February 2019, the Barcaldine Regional Council sent pro forma letters to all affected landholders requesting a signed agreement if they were in support of the proposed change.

The Change Commission is required to form an independent view of the merits of a proposed change. Section 9 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* notes the external boundaries of a local government area should have regard for communities of interest and should not divide adjacent rural areas with common interests nor dissect properties. To undertake its

assessment, the Change Commission wrote to all councils and landholders who were not in agreement with the proposed change as well as seeking clarification from the Barcaldine Regional Council on some anomalies identified in the referral documentation.

The Change Commission also considered the water catchment principle in the *Local Government Regulation* that stipulates water catchment areas should generally be included in the local government area they service. The Change Commission mapped the proposed change against the water catchment boundaries and noted that while one water basin runs through the Barcaldine Regional Council, it is not affected by the proposed boundary changes. The proposed changes do not dissect the local government area that are using a particular water basin. With this in mind, the water catchment principle was not a material consideration in the decision-making process.

After examining the referral attachments and receiving additional documentation from councils and landholders, the following information was reviewed. The relevant considerations and recommendation in relation to each individual lot is detailed by council area below.

BLACKALL-TAMBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Blackall-Tambo Regional Council advised the Barcaldine Regional Council that it is supportive of the proposed changes in a letter sent on 31 May 2019.

Lot	Proposed change	Council agreement	Landholder agreement	Change Commission recommendation
Lot 1 RP617241	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 10 MX814407	United in Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Blackall-Tambo Regional Council

Lot 1 RP617241

The referral documentation included a copy of the landholder's agreement signed on 5 March 2019, for the portion of this lot currently located in Blackall-Tambo Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council. However, on 15 December 2021, the Barcaldine Regional Council advised that ownership of that land parcel had changed. Subsequently, on 7 March 2022, the Change Commission wrote to the new landholder, requesting advice of their support or opposition on the proposed change. A response from the new landholder, supporting the proposed change was received on 4 June 2022. Both the Change Commission's request and the landholder's response are at Appendix B.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 1 RP617241 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 10 MX814407

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Barcaldine Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 9 March 2019 which is included in Appendix B.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 10 MX814407 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Central Highlands Regional Council advised the Barcaldine Regional Council that it does not support the proposed changes by email on 30 October 2019. This issue was considered at a general council meeting held on 24 September 2019, however the council resolved not to move forward with the motion. The Change Commission wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of Central Highlands Regional Council on 7 March 2022 to request confirmation of the council's position on the proposed change. The Central Highlands Regional Council wrote to the Change Commission on 9 June 2022 to advise that it did not support the proposed change, and provided the following reasons:

Not a significant financial benefit to either local government area for the boundary change.

It is not practical and is administratively burdensome to change local government boundaries based on changing ownership of properties. There is no guarantee that property sales or property amalgamations will not occur in the future that would prevent further requests for local government boundary realignment.

The boundary changes provide little impact on either community / local government.

Change Commission decision on council's position: While the Central Highlands Regional Council did not agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission determined that the proposed changes are in the public interest as they will no longer dissect properties and unite the lots in one council. Additionally, the proposed changes are for the smallest land portion to shift, creating a boundary that follows the locality border. The Change Commission also notes from the Central Highlands Regional Council correspondence received on 9 June 2022 that Central Highlands Regional Council does not collect rates from either Lot 3 DM2 or Lot 4 BE96. Therefore, each lot will be treated based on the landholder agreement and practical boundary alignment.

Lot	Proposed change	Council agreement	Landholder agreement	Change Commission recommendation
Lot 3 DM2	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	No	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council

Lot 1 DM6	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	No	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 2 DM6	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	No	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 4 BE96	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	No	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 2 PT353	United in Central Highlands Regional Council	No	Yes	Lot to be united in Central Highlands Regional Council

Lot 3 DM2

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 13 March 2019 which is included in Appendix C.

Change Commission recommendation: Considering the small amount of land that is required to shift to fulfil the proposed change and the landholder's agreement, the Change Commission supports the proposed change that the portion of Lot 3 DM2 currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 1 DM6

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 2 March 2019 which is included in Appendix C.

Change Commission recommendation: The proposed change is shifting the boundary so the smallest portion of land is moving and the lot is no longer split between the councils. Considering this, and the landholder's agreement, the Change Commission supports the proposed change that the portion of Lot 1 DM6 currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 2 DM6

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 6 March 2019 which is included in Appendix C.

Change Commission recommendation: The proposed boundary is drawn so the lot is no longer split between the councils. Considering this, and the landholder's agreement, the Change Commission supports the proposed change that the portion of Lot 2 DM6 currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 4 BE96

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 6 January 2022 which is included in Appendix C.

Change Commission recommendation: Considering the small amount of land that is required to shift to fulfil the proposed change and the landholder's agreement, the Change Commission supports the proposed change that the portion of Lot 4 BE96 currently located in Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 2 PT353

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Barcaldine Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Central Highlands Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 8 March 2019 which is included in Appendix C.

Change Commission recommendation: The proposed change will shift the smallest portion of the lot and ensure that it is not dissected between two local government areas. Considering this, and the landholder's agreement, the Change Commission supports the proposed change for the portion of Lot 2 PT353 currently located in Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely located within the Central Highlands Regional Council.

CHARTERS TOWERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Charters Towers Regional Council advised of its support for the proposed external boundary change for two lots split between the Barcaldine Regional Council in a letter dated 22 March 2019.

Lot	Proposed change	Council agreement	Landholder agreement	Change Commission recommendation
Lot 3606 PH507	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 4479 PH1927	United in Charters Towers Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Charters Towers Regional Council

Lot 3606 PH507

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Charters Towers Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 7 October 2020 which is included in Appendix D.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 3606 PH507 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Charters Towers Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 4479 PH1927

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Charters Towers Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 11 March 2019 which is included in Appendix D.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 4479 PH1927 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Charters Towers Regional Council.

FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL

The Flinders Shire Council responded to Barcaldine Regional Council's correspondence on the proposed change on 30 April 2019, providing its support for Lot 38 SP291988 being placed entirely within the Flinders Shire Council.

Lot	Proposed change	Council agreement	Landholder agreement	Change Commission recommendation
Lot 38 SP291988	United in Flinders Shire Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Flinders Shire Council

Lot 38 SP291988

The landholder consultation was not included in the original referral documentation. However, this was subsequently provided by the Barcaldine Regional Council on 24 March 2022 upon request. The landholder supported the proposed change and signed the agreement on 12 March 2019 which is included in Appendix D.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 38 SP291988 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Flinders Shire Council.

ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Isaac Regional Council advised the Barcaldine Regional Council that it had no objections to the proposed change affecting 12 lots in a letter dated 4 February 2021.

After reviewing the referral documentation, the Change Commission observed a number of anomalies and two additional lots that were considered as part of the proposed change. Further consultation with the Barcaldine Regional Council, landholders and the Isaac Regional Council was conducted and is detailed below.

Lot	Proposed change	Council agreement	Landholder agreement	Change Commission recommendation
Lot 3 DR26	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	No	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 3 BE57	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 4 BE57	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 2 SP253479	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 5 BE57	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 1 BF51	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 3 DR20	United in Isaac Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Isaac Regional Council
Lot 4 DR21	United in Isaac Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Isaac Regional Council
Lot 5110 PH604	United in Isaac Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Isaac Regional Council
Lot 7 BE164	United in Isaac Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Isaac Regional Council
Lot 10 BE164	United in Isaac Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Isaac Regional Council
Lot 681 PH406	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 8 BE164	United in Isaac Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Isaac Regional Council
Lot 2093 PH1883	United in Isaac Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Isaac Regional Council

Lot 3 DR26

It was noted in the letter from the Barcaldine Regional Council to the Minister's office that the landholder of this lot did not support the proposed change and wished to remain split between the two councils. The concerns of the landholder were included in the referral documentation (Attachment A):

The property has road access Alpha (in Barcaldine Regional Council) and Clermont (in Isaac Regional Council) and the owner has verbally advised that she is concerned that if the property is moved wholly within one Council, the other Council will take away her road. Council does not accept this argument and believes this property should be wholly within Barcaldine Regional Council because the homestead is within Barcaldine Regional Council and the property is on Degulla Road which runs north from Alpha and which is a significant road for cattle transport and mining activity and the property receives mail from Alpha.

The Change Commission wrote to the landholder on 7 March 2022 requesting confirmation of their position on the proposed change. A response was received on 25 March 2022 confirming they wish to remain split between both councils. Both the Change Commission's request and the landholder's response are at Attachment F.

Change Commission recommendation: The Change Commission notes the landholder's concerns and the Barcaldine Regional Council's assurance that the road will not be removed if the proposed change is implemented, as noted in the referral documentation (Attachment A). As such, the Change Commission supports the movement of this lot so that the portion of land currently in the Isaac Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council, in line with section 9(1)(d)(iii) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* that states local government areas should generally have external boundaries that do not dissect properties.

Lot 3 BE57, Lot 4 BE57, Lot 2 SP253479 and Lot 5 BE57

Lot 3 and Lot 4 BE57 and Lot 2 SP253479 are owned by the same landholder who agreed to the proposed change for the portion of these lots currently located in the Isaac Regional Council to be transferred so they are entirely located within the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 3 March 2019.

The Change Commission noted in its review of the referral documentation that Lot 5 BE57 would also have to transfer as a consequence of the proposed change as it is surrounded by Lot 2 SP253479. As the lot is owned by the Isaac Regional Council, the Change Commission wrote to both the Barcaldine Regional Council and Isaac Regional Council confirming the need for the lot to transfer. Both councils agreed to the movement of Lot 5 BE57 as part of the proposed change on 15 December 2021 and 27 May 2022 respectively (Appendix F).

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 3 BE57, Lot 4 BE57, Lot 2 SP253479 and Lot 5 BE57 so that the portion of these lots currently located in the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so that they are entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 1 BF51

In its review of the referral, the Change Commission found this lot was misquoted as Lot 1 BE51. The Change Commission wrote to the Barcaldine Regional Council who confirmed in its response on 15 December 2021 that the correct lot is Lot 1 BF51. The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 5 March 2019 which is included in Appendix F.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 1 BF51 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Isaac Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 3 DR20 and Lot 4 DR21

Both Lot 3 DR20 and Lot 4 DR21 are owned by the same landholder who agreed to the proposed change for the portion of these lots currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council to be transferred so they are entirely within the Isaac Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 1 March 2019 which is included in Appendix F.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 3 DR20 and Lot 4 DR21 so that the portion of these lots currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that they are entirely within the Isaac Regional Council.

Lot 5110 PH604

The landholders and councils agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Isaac Regional Council. The landholders signed the agreement on 5 and 12 March 2019 which is included in Appendix F.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholders and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 5110 PH604 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Isaac Regional Council.

Lot 7 BE164 and Lot 10 BE164

The landholder agreed to the proposed change for the portion of Lot 7 BE164 currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Isaac Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 12 March 2019 which is included in Appendix F.

Lot 10 BE164 was identified in the landholder agreement but not listed in the referral. Lot 10 BE164 is required to move as a consequence of the proposed change as it is surrounded by Lot 7 BE164 and owned by the same landholder. The Isaac Regional Council agreed to the addition of Lot 10 BE164 resulting from the proposed change in a letter dated 27 May 2022.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 10 BE164 and Lot 7 BE164 so that the portion of these lots currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that they are entirely within the Isaac Regional Council.

Lot 681 PH406

The movement of this lot was incorrectly quoted as moving to the Isaac Regional Council in correspondence from the Barcaldine Regional Council to the Isaac Regional Council. However, the proposed map and landholder agreement suggested the lot be entirely transferred to the Barcaldine Regional Council. Consultation with the Barcaldine Regional Council confirmed that the lot should move to the Barcaldine Regional Council. The Isaac Regional Council confirmed in a letter dated 27 May 2022 that it agrees this lot should be entirely transferred to the Barcaldine Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 2 June 2020 which is included in Appendix F.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 681 PH406 so that the portion of this lot currently in the Isaac Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 8 BE164

The landholder and councils agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Isaac Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 7 March 2019 which is included in Appendix F.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 8 BE164 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Isaac Regional Council.

Lot 2093 PH1883

The landholder and councils agreed to the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so that it is entirely within the Isaac Regional Council. The landholder signed the agreement on 21 November 2019 which is included in Appendix F.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 2093 PH1883 so that the portion of this lot currently located in Barcaldine Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Isaac Regional Council.

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Longreach Regional Council wrote to the Barcaldine Regional Council on 22 May 2019 to advise council considered the request on 13 May 2019 and is supportive of the proposed boundary change in line with each of the landholders' wishes.

Lot	Proposed change	Council agreement	Landholder agreement	Change Commission recommendation
Lot 52 SP112852	United in Barcaldine Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Lot to be united in Barcaldine Regional Council
Lot 9 RY118	United in Longreach Regional Council	Yes	Nil	Lot to be united in Longreach Regional Council

Lot 52 SP112852

The referral documentation indicated the landholder verbally wished to remain split with no reason provided. However, the Barcaldine Regional Council provided the landholder agreement (Appendix G), signed on 26 August 2020 supporting the proposed change for the portion of this lot currently located in the Longreach Regional Council to be transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Change Commission recommendation: As the landholder and both councils agree to the proposed change, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 52 SP112852 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Longreach Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Barcaldine Regional Council.

Lot 9 RY118

The landholder agreement was not included in the referral documentation. The Change Commission requested a copy from the Barcaldine Regional Council, however was advised that the signed landholder agreement was unable to be located. The Change Commission wrote to the landholder on 26 April 2022 requesting their views on the proposed change. No response was received at the time of the Change Commission's decision.

Change Commission recommendation: The Change Commission is required to make its decision based on the information it has available at the time, ensuring it has regard to the criteria for external boundaries set out in Section 9 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. This includes creating boundaries that do not dissect properties. While attempts to contact the landholder were unsuccessful, the Change Commission considered the Barcaldine Regional Council and Longreach Regional Council's agreement and determined the proposed change to be consistent with the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*. As such, the Change Commission supports the movement of Lot 9 RY118 so that the portion of this lot currently located in the Barcaldine Regional Council is transferred so that it is entirely within the Longreach Regional Council.

RECOMMENDATION

The Change Commission's final recommendations are as follows:

BLACKALL-TAMBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

- The portion of Lot 1 RP617241 currently located within the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 10 MX814407 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

- The portion of Lot 3 DM2 currently located within the Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 1 DM6 currently located within the Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 2 DM6 currently located within the Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 4 BE96 currently located within the Central Highlands Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 2 PT353 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Central Highlands Regional Council.

CHARTERS TOWERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

- The portion of Lot 3606 PH507 currently located within the Charters Towers Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 4479 PH1927 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Charters Towers Regional Council.

FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL

- The portion of Lot 38 SP291988 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Flinders Shire Council.

ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

- The portion of Lot 3 DR26 currently located within the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 3 BE57 currently located within the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 4 BE57 currently located within the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 2 SP253479 currently located within the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The entire Lot 5 BE57 currently located within the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so it is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 1 BF51 currently located within the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 3 DR20 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Isaac Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 4 DR21 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Isaac Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 5110 PH604 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Isaac Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 7 BE164 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Isaac Regional Council.
- The entire Lot 10 BE164 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so it is in the Isaac Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 681 PH406 currently located within the Isaac Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 8 BE164 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Isaac Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 2093 PH1883 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Isaac Regional Council.

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

- The portion of Lot 52 SP112852 currently located within the Longreach Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Barcaldine Regional Council.
- The portion of Lot 9 RY118 currently located within the Barcaldine Regional Council be transferred so the entire property is in the Longreach Regional Council.

By uniting the lots in question within the single relevant council, the shared boundaries will no longer dissect 24 lots, helping to reduce the administrative burden of the landholders holding property interests within two local governments.

The Change Commission notes that these transfers were supported by councils and affected landholders, with the exception of the Central Highlands Regional Council, the landholder of Lot 3 DR26 in Isaac Regional Council (who did not support the proposed change) and the landholder of Lot 9 RY118 in Longreach Regional Council (who did not provide a response to requests for advice of their agreement). The Change Commission has made its

recommendations on the basis of the available information and the communities of interest provisions of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

An overview and detailed maps of the recommended changes are provided in Appendix H.

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

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission has published a notice of final determination in the Queensland Government Gazette and on the ECQ website.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Governor in Council may implement the Change Commission's recommendation under a regulation.

The regulation may provide for anything that is necessary or convenient to facilitate the implementation of the local government boundary change.



Pat Vidgen PSM
Electoral Commissioner



Wade Lewis GAICD
Casual Commissioner



Peter McGraw
Casual Commissioner

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