
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 28 November 2022 1:04 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: Submission: Ipswich City Council - electoral arrangements review
Attachments: The electoral commission is undertaking Public feedback on the Current ICC make.docx

To whom it may concern.
Please see my submission, in regard to The Electoral arrangements review.(Ipswich)

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Rosewood, QLD 4340

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Rosewood
Q4340

With respect to the following:

Herewith is my submission,

“The electoral commission is undertaking Public feedback on the Current ICC make-up. Public comments were open from 16th November to The 4th December 2022.

Here is the link: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/external-boundary-and-electoral-arrangement-reviews/ipswich-city-council-electoral-arrangements-review>”

The Past;

It is fact that for some 18 years Ipswich had 10 Divisions, all with their own Divisional Community Office, up until the change, to the new process and Divisions, set up by the authorities. I have lived in Rosewood 13 years and found that prior to the new process our community loved it. We had a Councillor that walked/ drove the streets and to see the situations, that when reported, most times directly in his office. Street and pavement cleaning were always occurring. Our then Councillor had his own office right in Rosewood. I honestly believe, Councillors were really in touch with their communities and our communities, Churches, NFP's and business all had a voice.

We ended up with Four Divisions with Two Councillors per division, for the whole of the Council. As I understand it, this was despite the community consultation/survey clearly suggesting the Community wanted single Divisions. I feel for our current elected Councillors, who are doing their best in a situation that they did not create. I wish them well.

Therefore Rosewood and its surrounding region which includes Grandchester are Rural, therefore, the former Division 10 was a majority rural based Division with rural issues. This clearly defines our needs as Rural and our issues are vastly different to City issues. We are a rural Township and District.

Current:

One of the flaws to this new process is that the geographical size of Divisions may not have been considered, more closely, in the new process.

The Australian Bureau of Statists clearly indicates that the population per square kilometre of Rosewood is:

1. "The 2021 Estimated Resident Population for Rosewood is 14,490, with a population density of 21.17 persons per square km."
2. "The City of Ipswich Estimated Resident Population for 2021 is 233,302, with a population density of 212.9 persons per square km".
3. Under the Current Divisional make up Grandchester is in with Springfield.

(Grandchester is a historical Rural Township in Queensland's history.)

It appears that a return to the old Divisional regions of 10 is in the bin. However a review of where the Suburbs, Townships are now placed in the current Divisions should be high on the agenda.

Future:

It is debatable if our current ICC Councillors could be employed on a part-time basis. This would then require more Administration staff to handle the Residents request, complaints directly. Many residents lodge requests; to our Divisional Councillors, mostly sight unseen by our Councillors. This is, time consuming for the Councillors as they then refer it to the ICC Departments for actioning.

However, the upside is that the Councillors on sight observance and gives them firsthand knowledge of the residents' concerns.

The Community Consultation does occur; by Local Councillors, however with residents work commitments, many cannot voice their concerns. (Refer to age demographics of the Australian Bureau of Statists re employed age groups Rosewood) Perhaps the feedback is from the older residents. The timing of the Community Consultations needs refining.

Whilst Our Councillors, cannot be available 24/7, a more accommodating schedule for this Communities Consultation as the timing of these sessions needs to overhauled. We have a high very young population and Rosewood has great new Library open Saturday mornings, (and maybe a Sunday once a month) with some ICC clerical assistance, to speed up the process for our Councillors, this may help those working during the week.

Conclusion:

Changing the process from Ten Divisions to four has it worked.

The following is my own personal experience:

1. Residents Communication once established with ICC departments is generally very good. . .
2. Residents accessibility to our Councillors, restricted. (Maybe time pressure and or allowing Weekend Community Consultation., might assist.)

3. Current Electorate suburbs urgently require a review.

It is highly debatable that the new system has worked. Under the present arrangement, we hardly see our Councillors; perhaps, they are all serving on Committees and are time poor.

“Democracy without representation might be a considered under the current arrangement.”

I am a local and involved in Community affairs;

My feedback is we want:

1. We want, and expect, Direct representation by our Councillors in the area in which we live.
2. We want our councillors to have local knowledge
3. We want agreed goals and expectations that can be met for our Township, with high collaboration with Councillors, residents, NFP's and Businesses.
4. We want our Councillors to have that insight into our Community. So that they are successful in their roles and we can build a better Ipswich together.

Regards,

