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**To:** [LG CC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** (56895) Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council - External Boundary Review - Cr Drew Wickerson  
**Date:** Monday, 4 July 2022 3:39:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [08-Ltr-P-Vidgen.docx](#)


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**Online submission for Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council  
- External Boundary Review from Cr Drew Wickerson**

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** Cr Drew Wickerson

**Privacy preferences:** Publishing your submission with  your name

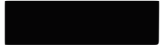
**Submission text:**

**File upload:** 08 Ltr P Vidgen.docx (193.7 KB)

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**Councillor Drew Wickerson**  
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4 July 2022

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM  
Electoral Commissioner  
Local Government Change Commission

Dear Mr Vidgen,

### **Submission for proposed transfer of Northern Suburbs**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Local Government Change Commission (LGCC) strongly supporting the transfer of the Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale (Northern Suburbs) from Livingstone Shire Council (LSC) to RRC.

There are diverse social and community arguments to support this transfer. The independent data collected, and subsequent Heat Map generated in the Rockhampton Regional Council written submission, indicate clearly the intensity of movements between the suburbs of Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview and Rockhampton City. The data also shows that 95% of the residents of the Northern Suburbs either work in Rockhampton or in their own suburbs. Many residents have contacted me personally to provide their story of how they feel a very real part of the Rockhampton Region Community. These people own businesses or work in local businesses in Rockhampton, they and their family shop, play sport and enjoy all of the recreational services provided here, and they socialise with friends who are Rockhampton residents. They are connected. They want to come back to the Rockhampton Community and they want to pay their way towards the services and lifestyle they enjoy so much.

Together with the Mayor and my fellow Region Councillors, I have actively engaged with many Rockhampton Region residents and residents of the Northern Suburbs at a number of community engagements and through social media. The message that I received very clearly showed the overwhelming desire of these people to once again be part of Rockhampton. These communities enjoyed four years with Rockhampton during amalgamation and have experienced the positive gains they could once again access. During this process, I have also gained a deeper understanding of these communities and believe the transition to RRC caring for the needs of these communities would be both natural and effective.

There are additional critical considerations relating to the 40-kilometre separation from Yeppoon. In time of disaster, whether that be an emergency such as bushfires, cyclone, flooding, traffic accident or medical emergency, it will be Rockhampton Region based services such as QPS, QAS, QFS or SES that will be rapidly deployed to respond.

In his formal statement to ECQ, Mr Christopher Aston, Acting State Planner, reiterates that 'the long-term northern growth corridor for the City of Rockhampton is in the direction of Glenlee and Rockyview, and ultimately Glendale and further that expansion north into Glenlee and Rockyview is the logical area of northern growth for the City of Rockhampton once residential development of Parkhurst has been realised'. RRC has previously objected to LSC continuing to solely approve large rural residential allotments that would effectively destine Rockhampton's only viable growth corridor to sparse low-density population. I believe that the strategy being pursued by LSC is short sighted, ad-hoc and opportunistic, with little consideration of long term sustainable development that would benefit the greater Central Region.

The Rockhampton Regional Council has a 30 – 40 year vision that could realise an additional 25 000 residents living in a sustainable mix of larger rural residential allotments and generously sized urban subdivisions along with landscaped parklands and open space. This would require new service centres, shops, medical, childcare services and education facilities, and naturally create many jobs. Only Rockhampton Region can effectively and viably provide the trunk infrastructure, including sewerage, water supply and waste collection for example, to realise this growth. It does not take a great deal of imagination to realise the significant economic impact an additional population growth of 25 000 people would have on businesses across both Local Government Areas. The entire Region would greatly benefit from this foresight.

The Queensland Treasury Corporation Financial Assessment definitively states that both Local Governments will remain financially viable after the transfer of the Northern Suburbs back to the Rockhampton Region. While LSC has made economic impact a central feature of their campaign, this Council in fact is in a stronger economic position than RRC with greater capacity to absorb the short term and limited loss of revenue. LSC enjoys growth of 1.8%, twice that of RRC, and has significant land supply to accommodate this growth well into the future. Rockhampton Regional Council has no desire to see our near neighbour unfairly impacted and has offered \$23 million compensation equivalent to 50% rates and other charges income over ten years. That offer, in conjunction with RRC assuming all responsibility and obligations for service delivery, infrastructure upgrades and future new infrastructure development, would be accepted by most as fair and reasonable. Unfortunately, this offer has, to date, been rejected by LSC with that Council preferring to use the threat of a \$160 - \$250 rate rise as a campaign device.

Rockhampton Regional Council continues to demonstrate that we value all of our areas, and do not merely collect hard-earned rates to support centralised development. During the four years of amalgamation, RRC developed major sporting precincts at Barmaryee, constructed a \$50 million water service to Yeppoon, built a brand new Shire Hall, developed playgrounds and skateparks and much more. We have continued the strategy to support our outer suburbs with major investments in Gracemere and Mount Morgan. RRC will embrace the northern suburbs of Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview as we have Mt Morgan and Gracemere residents.



**Councillor Drew Wickerson**  
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Rockhampton Regional Council will invest \$31 million into trunk infrastructure for the Northern Suburbs in the same period that Livingston Shire has budgeted a meagre \$1.6 million.

Rockhampton Regional Council demonstrably has the capacity, vision, strategy and willingness to support the people living in the northern suburbs and sustainably grow these areas to the long term benefit of the greater Central Queensland Region. I am very confident that the broader community will also support the transfer of the Northern Suburbs of Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview back to the Rockhampton Region. I trust that you will take the compelling result of the vote, along with submissions and other supporting documentation to recommend the proposed boundary change.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Drew Wickerson  
Division 6 Representative  
Rockhampton Regional Council