

%Elector name%
 %Address 1%
 %Address 2%
 %Address 3%

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

Dear %Elector name%

We'd like to hear what you think about changing your council's boundary.

The Local Government Change Commission has been asked to assess a proposal to transfer the suburbs of Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview from the Livingstone Shire Council to the Rockhampton Regional Council.

You can have your say by completing an online survey **or** the survey attached to this letter. We've also enclosed summaries of the arguments for and against the proposed change.

The survey opens 9am Monday, 20 June 2022 and closes at 5pm Monday, 4 July 2022.

To complete the online survey:

1. Scan the QR code to access the survey form **OR** click on the link to the boundary review page at www.ecq.qld.gov.au.
2. Enter your surname and unique participant code: %unique code%
3. Review the question and select either the 'Yes' or 'No' response.
4. Click the 'submit' button.



To complete the postal survey:

1. Detach the survey form attached to this letter (see the perforated slip).
2. Review the question and select either the 'Yes' or 'No' response.
3. Seal your completed survey in the reply-paid envelope by 5pm Monday, 4 July.
4. Return your response. It must be received by 5pm Thursday, 14 July to be counted. Please allow enough time for postal delivery to Brisbane.

Public feedback will be an important consideration however, the survey is voluntary. You can only submit one response and the result will not be binding.

For more information, see the ECQ website www.ecq.qld.gov.au, email ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au, or call 1300 881 665.

Yours sincerely

Pat Vidgen PSM

Electoral Commissioner | Local Government Change Commission

Do you support the proposed transfer of the three (3) suburbs of Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview from the Livingstone Shire Council to the Rockhampton Regional Council?

Yes

No

** Note: If the transfer occurs, there will be financial and other impacts to the councils that will require further negotiation between the councils.*



More information – Proposed boundary change

LIVINGSTONE & ROCKHAMPTON BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Minister responsible for Local Government has asked the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) to assess a proposal to transfer the Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview suburbs from Livingstone Shire Council to Rockhampton Regional Council.

A voluntary survey is open from **20 June to 5pm 4 July 2022**. Respond by answering:

- **‘Yes’** - if you support transferring the suburbs to Rockhampton Regional Council, **OR**
- **‘No’** - if you support the suburbs remaining in Livingstone Shire Council.

Background

In 2008, Livingstone Shire and the surrounding councils were merged to form Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC).

In 2013, a de-amalgamation poll asked electors from the former Livingstone Shire whether a Livingstone Shire Council (LSC) should be created (with costs of any change to be met by LSC). Participants returned a 56.59 per cent ‘yes’ response¹ and in 2014 the LSC was established.

Since this time, the RRC and purportedly many Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview residents, have formed the view that these suburbs should be part of the RRC.

The LSC opposes this proposed change.

Local Government Change Commission

The Change Commission is established under the *Local Government Act 2009* to assess if proposed local government changes are in the public interest.

For this review, the Change Commission includes:

- Pat Vidgen, Electoral Commissioner,
- Wade Lewis, Casual Commissioner,
- Peter McGraw, Casual Commissioner.

The Change Commission is supported administratively by Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) staff.

Financial assessment

The Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) has assessed the viability of the proposed change, working with both councils to estimate the financial impacts.

See the ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ cases for a high-level summary of findings or read the QTC’s report on the ECQ website.

Hard copies of the QTC report can be accessed from both councils’ offices.

Public consultation

People on the electoral roll in LSC and RRC at the end of May 2022 have received this mailout and survey.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and the results are non-binding.

In addition to the survey, any interested persons can lodge a written submission up until 5pm Monday, 4 July 2022.

Written submissions can be made through the online form on the ECQ website, by email or by post.

Results of public consultation

Participation in, and results from the survey, as well as feedback from written submissions will form an important part of the Change Commission’s assessment.

Survey results and written submissions will be published on the ECQ website in early August 2022.

¹ De-amalgamation poll results: <https://results.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/local/LIVINGSTONE/results/district97.html>

The 'Yes' argument – a case for changing boundaries.

Your view is sought on a proposal to transfer the Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview suburbs from Livingstone Shire Council (LSC) to Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC).

Message from Rockhampton Regional Council – Statement in favour of change

We need you to vote YES to secure our futures. This is your chance to support the transfer of Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview back to the Rockhampton Region and your **YES** vote will define the Rockhampton Region and Livingstone Shire for decades to come.

Rockhampton is running out of room to build our future and the Northern Suburbs is where our population will grow. Our growth is constrained to the East by the Berserker Range and to the West and South by floodplain. **The North represents another 50 years of growth for the Rockhampton Region.** When Rockhampton is left to grow this Northern Corridor, Livingstone can continue to focus on the Coast and together we will secure the future for both regions.

Residents in these suburbs already voted three times to return to the Rockhampton Region and have been blocked from coming back. So this is your chance to do the right thing by your friends, family and work colleagues and support what they want.

For those of us in the Rockhampton Region, it means more people will contribute to our rate base and share the load felt by current ratepayers. Northern Suburbs Residents live their lives in Rockhampton and want to contribute, so it is fairer for everyone that we let them.

When it comes time to vote, we want you to ask yourself - what do you want your region to be? **A vote YES is better and fairer for everyone.**

For more information, see the **RRC's submission** on the ECQ website.

Financial considerations

The Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) has prepared a report on the financial impacts of the proposed boundary change*. The report found the change may result in:

- A marginal positive impact on RRC's financial profile.
- An expected increase in RRC's total revenue by \$36 million from 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- An increase in RRC's ratepayer base by 3.4% in 2024-25.
- An increase in RRC's property, plant and equipment by 1.3% in 2024-25.
- An increase in net operating results for RRC of \$5.7 million over the forecast 2024-25 to 2030-31 period. If the full financial impact is passed on to residents, this positive impact would potentially equate to a \$36 decrease in average rates and charges per rateable property in 2024-25, though this is forecast to decrease to \$14 per rateable property by 2030-31.
- Based on RRC estimates at the time of the financial review, an average rates and utilities bill for Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview of \$4,627 in 2024–25, compared to LSC's forecast rates and utility charges of \$5,300 for that year (\$673 less per property).

** The QTC report provides an indication of the potential financial impacts on the councils and residents. If the boundary change were to occur, any terms and conditions would have to be negotiated between LSC and RRC. Note the figures above do not reflect any potential transfer of cash from RRC to LSC that may be agreed.*

The **QTC's full report** is available on the ECQ website.

W: www.ecq.qld.gov.au

E: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

T: 1300 881 665

P: Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

The 'No' argument – a case against changing boundaries.

Your view is sought on a proposal to transfer the Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview suburbs from Livingstone Shire Council (LSC) to Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC).

Message from Livingstone Shire Council – Statement opposing the change

Removal of the northern suburbs of Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview will have diabolical financial impacts to our way of life and prosperity. It creates a **strong precedent** for further 'attempts' not only to our shire but other Local Governments across the State. The proud Shire of Livingstone was established in 1903. Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview have never **belonged to Rockhampton!**

The Queensland Government's financial analysis clearly states that our property rates will need to increase **between \$161 and \$250 annually** to fund the boundary change alone! Our ratepayers are **already burdened** by some of the highest rates in Queensland due to the unfair financial impacts imposed at de-amalgamation in 2014. The Rockhampton Mayor says a boundary change is fairer for all. It's not. It only advantages Rockhampton. It's certainly **not fairer** for our residents who are going to experience the **financial impost of this blatant land grab**.

Livingstone is currently experiencing **strong population** and investment growth. Strategic confidence is needed to strengthen the foundation of our shire. We must be able to establish and properly maintain amenities and services that match community and statutory expectations. The capacity to do this will be **seriously undermined by the transfer of these suburbs**.

We value all areas of the shire **equally** and we have a stronger economic future together– **all 11,758 square kilometres!** Implications are for current and future generations - **Vote NO - Leave Livingstone Alone!**

For more information, see the **LSC's submission** on the ECQ website.

Financial considerations

The Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) has prepared a report on the financial impacts of the proposed boundary change*. The report found the change may result in:

- A negative impact on LSC's financial profile.
- An expected decrease in LSC's total revenue by \$59 million from 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- A decrease in LSC's ratepayer base by 6.7% in 2024-25.
- A decrease in LSC's property, plant and equipment by 3.7% in 2024-25.
- A decrease in net operating results for LSC of \$26.4 million over the forecast 2024-25 to 2030-31 period. If the full financial impact is passed on to residents, this negative impact would potentially equate to a \$161 increase in the average rates and charges per rateable property in 2024-25 and this is forecast to increase to \$250 per rateable property by 2030-31.

** The QTC report provides an indication of the potential financial impacts on the councils and residents. If the boundary change were to occur, any terms and conditions would have to be negotiated between LSC and RRC. Note the figures above do not reflect any potential transfer of cash from RRC to LSC that may be agreed.*

The **QTC's full report** is available on the ECQ website.

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