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**From:** [REDACTED] (S. Neumann, MP) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 November 2022 12:42 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** Ipswich City Council - electoral arrangements review  
**Attachments:** 221128\_ECQ\_ICC\_SHAYNE NEUMANN.pdf

Good afternoon

Please find attached a written submission from the Federal Member for Blair, Hon Shayne Neumann MP, in relation to the electoral arrangements review of Ipswich City Council.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards

**Madonna Oliver** *Office Manager*

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I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land upon which I work and live as the custodians of the land and waters we share, whose connection to country has been over tens of thousands of years.

I pay my respects to their ancestors and elders, past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of these proud peoples; and to all First Nations people throughout this land.

I recognise that their sovereignty was never ceded and this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



28 November 2022

ECQ Change Commission  
GPO Box 1393  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Via email: [LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au)

To whom it may concern

## **IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL - ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW**

I write to support the submission of Ipswich City Council in seeking to have Ipswich represented by ten (10) Councillors rather than the current eight (8).

The Federal Electorate of Blair includes over 70% of the population of Ipswich City. I've represented Blair for the past 15 years. I have all or part of every multimember Division (MMD) at local government level in Ipswich in my electorate of Blair.

The population of Ipswich currently and projected justifies more (and indeed better) representation at local government level.

With only eight Councillors in Ipswich there is asymmetric representation between Ipswich and the more sparsely populated regional councils surrounding such as Somerset, Lockyer Valley, and Scenic Rim.

The fewer the number of Councillors, the more difficult it is to carry out the duties of representation and the poorer the representation.

Some of the current Councillors in Ipswich represent areas bigger in area than State electorates and without anything like the administrative, staffing and electorate office support afforded to State members of parliament.

The case for an increase in the number of Councillors is compelling. Internally the representation would improve and beyond the city limits, more Councillors mean more people to champion the city's needs and lobby for its causes.

I note the Council has provided the ECQ with two options in its submission – both are better than the current 8 Councillor MMD representation.

Optimally, Ipswich would have ten local Councillors with ten local Divisions.

MMDs are confusing for voters in terms of its voting method whereby a "2" vote is equal to a "1" vote.



Voters in Federal, State and Ipswich Mayoral voting are accustomed to voting 1, preferencing 2 and then onwards on the ballot papers in terms of choice. They are not used to a system which is at odds with how they "normally" vote.

Having been elected, the common refrain Councillors have heard is "who is my local Councillor?"

Each of the Councillors would have heard this on numerous occasions. I have on multiple occasions.

Often surprise is the response when a resident has pointed out to them that they have two Councillors.

Ironically there has developed an expectation that both Councillors must attend to every meeting, organisation, or group.

Likely future redistributions inhibit a geographic carve up of Divisions by Councillors in the present.

The current MMDs are too big in area, especially Division 1.

These Divisions fail community of interest considerations at local government level. For example, Mt Mort and Redbank Plains in Division 1.

Engagement, advocacy, representation, and community of interest will all improve in Ipswich at a local level if there is one Councillor in one Division.

Further, I'm concerned for electors in rural areas in Ipswich who on current MMD arrangements do not have even one Councillor living there. Not even one to advocate on such rural issues as unsealed roads, dilapidated bridges, and flood prone culverts.

With ten individual Divisions, at least one and probably two Councillors would be rural focussed.

However, it is not just the rural areas which are disadvantaged by MMDs. Some of the largest populated areas such as Redbank Plains and the Springfield suburbs are without any Councillors living in them.

This would not be the case with individual Divisions.

If the ECQ does not accept my suggestion for individual Divisions, then at the very least an extra MMD meaning ten Councillors in a 5 x 2 arrangement is better than no change.

A new Division 5 should be focused on the fast-growing Springfield suburbs.

Division 1 could be redistributed to have a more southern focus with the Ripley Valley and Deebing Heights. The established suburbs of Flinders View and Raceview included. This significantly improves community of interest in Division 1 and the numbers of residents could be at the bottom of the range to allow for further growth.

Division 2 could be reformed into Goodna, Redbank Plains and Collingwood Park, with their shared community of interest in the east of Ipswich.

Division 3 would retreat from the east and become more Ipswich Central focused.

Division 4 would become the rural and northern Ipswich Division, from country towns like Rosewood to suburbs like Karalee. This Division would be not unlike the State seat of Ipswich West.

I trust the ECQ will improve the local government representation for the people of Ipswich.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shayne Neumann', written in a cursive style.

**SHAYNE NEUMANN MP**  
**Federal Member for Blair**