

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2022 9:21 AM
To: LG CC Submissions; 'David Pahlke'
Subject: IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY REVIEW closing 28 November 2022
Attachments: IMG_4871.jpg; 10Divisions.jpg

Categories: Response required

ELECTORAL CHANGE COMMISSION

GPO BOX 1393 BRISBANE 4001

Lodged by email LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

I was an elected Councillor on the Former Moreton Shire 1991-5 until we amalgamated with Ipswich in 1995 and remained a Councillor until August 2018 – 8 Elections and for nearly 28 years. When we amalgamated in 1995 Moreton had a Population of 50,000 and Ipswich 80,000. The new Ipswich in 1995 had 12 Divisions for the first five year tenure, until 2000 when it was changed to 10 Divisions. Ipswich today has a population of over 230,000 which means the current 4 Divisional setup has approx. 58,000 population. This is far too many and far too big in geographical area. Communities expect both Councillors at their meetings and this is simply not always possible.

So for some 18 years Ipswich had 10 Divisions, all with their own Divisional Community Office. The community loved it. Councillors were in touch with their communities. Then along came an Administrator who threw everything in the bin and recommended 4 x 2 Divisions for the whole of the Council. This was despite the community consultation/survey clearly suggesting the Community wanted single Divisions.

The geographical size of Divisions is also important. Keeping communities of interest in the same Division was always paramount in the last 3 decades when I was a Councillor. The current Division 1 has Grandchester in with Redbank – Absolutely ridiculous. My former Division 10 was a majority rural based Divisions with rural issues. Rural issues are much different to City issues.

I BEG YOU - Please return the 10 Divisions keeping in mind communities of interest and have one larger Rural Township Division.

David Pahlke Former Councillor 1991-2018 [REDACTED]

COUNCIL MODEL MUST REFLECT COMMUNITY

HOPEFULLY the Change Commission will listen to the people of Ipswich this time and create council divisions that function as communities of interest.

In 2019, the Change Commissioner followed the advice of Interim Administrator Greg Chemello to reduce the number of councillors by two and introduce multi-member divisions.

The decision went against the feedback received from the community.

Residents voted in favour of a single councillor per division model with more than 43 percent voting for that option as their first preference.

The Change Commission's decision was based on the warped logic that it selected the option which was the "least unpopular"; almost 90 percent of survey respondents voted for two to three councillors per division as either their first or second preference.

It has not worked.

The four divisions fail to represent any community of interest.

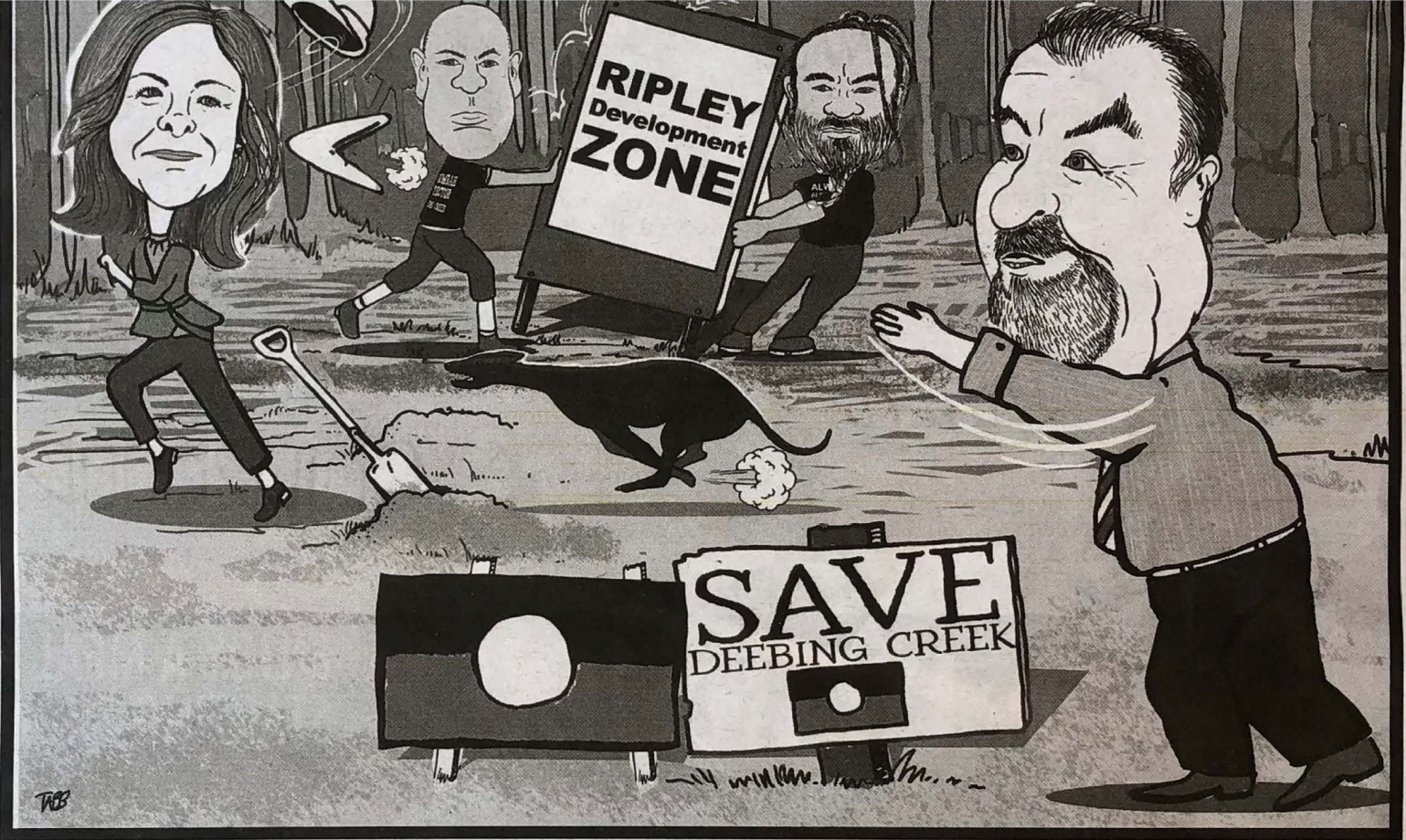
Division 3, which takes in much of the older, central Ipswich suburbs, also extends from Leichhardt to Goodna.

The country townships are split between two divisions.

While this was the decision of the independent body, you can't help being suspicious that the Palaszczuk Government interfered politically – after passing laws to dismiss the previous, democratically elected council – to make certain none of the former elected councillors could be re-elected.

That didn't work. The popularity of Paul Tully and Sheila Ireland resulted in them winning over new constituents.

You have to wonder what the Change Commission will dream up this time around – maybe the third option of no divisions. That would make re-election difficult for Councillor Tully.



YOUR SAY

TIME TO RECOGNISE BURIALS

THANK you for your report in last week's Ipswich Tribune about the Ipswich City Council opposing a proposal for a childcare centre near a site at Deebing Heights which is the location of a past massacre of First Nations people and near the site of the first Aboriginal Mission in Queensland.

Sadly, our State Government fails to recognise that there are human remains at this site.

It is great to see that the Ipswich City Council stepped up and acknowledged that there is substantial evidence that a past massacre took place there.

The recent SBS series about the

Nations land rights battle, right here in our own community. Property developers have plans to build on this site.

No police have come out to the site to investigate where the bones were found. This is also a culturally sensitive site to local First Nations people and an inappropriate site for any development for these reasons.

I commend the Ipswich Tribune for continuing to report on this issue.

Meanwhile Member for Ipswich Jennifer Howard continues to do nothing about this issue that is occurring in her own electorate. Not a peep, no visit to the Protection Camp and Ms Howard refuses to meet with the First Nations Protectors. Shameful.

Kate Kunzelmann and Russell Milligan.

The First Nations Protectors at Deebing Heights need people in our community to step up to provide help and support to continue the fight for justice, truth telling, healing and repatriation of the human remains. Sadly, the area has been deemed a priority development site by our State Government.

Follow the Facebook page - "Deebing Creek Justice - Jarjumbah Protection Site" and attend the next truth and healing circle and learn about why it is important that the land is not developed and how you can play a positive role.

If our local State MP won't do anything, it is up to the community to fight for justice alongside the Deebing Creek

Bid to return to 10 councillors

by BRIAN BENNION

IPSWICH City Council is pushing for a return to 10 councillors with either single divisions or an extra dual-member division.

The State Government this week approved a mid-term review of Ipswich's dual-member electoral model which will go out for public comment and independent assessment.

Mayor Teresa Harding said she had received confirmation of the review from the Change Commission, the independent body set up to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government on proposed changes to electoral arrangements.

As reported in the Tribune last year, Councillors voted in favour of a review at the September 16 meeting.

The Council's sub-

mission to the Change Commission argues that Ipswich is the fastest growing local government area in Queensland, but has the lowest number of elected representatives when compared with other local governments of similar size.

"That clearly is not in the best interests of the community, particularly for those divisions of a larger geographical size," Cr Harding said.

"The Local Government Act's principles emphasise transparent and effective processes, effective service delivery, democratic representation and meaningful community engagement, among others. These are harder to achieve when ratepayers are under-represented."

Cr Harding said the submission had no firm view on a preferred alternative to current elector-



Ipswich City Councillors have been pushing for a return to 10 councillors and a mayor representing the city. Photo: LYLE RADFORD

arrangements, instead proposing an increase in representation from the current one mayor and eight councillors to one mayor and 10 councillors.

In July 2019, following the sacking of the previous elected council by the Palaszczuk Government, the Local Government Change Commission recommended the unpopular option to di-

vide Ipswich City Council into four multi-member divisions.

At the time the Commission recommended the Local Government Minister consider a mid-term review and community consultation to gauge residents' thoughts on the arrangements.

Public submissions on multi-member electoral arrangements will open

on November 14 and close on November 28.

All submissions made, including Council's, will be publicly available on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website.

The Change Commission will then consider all submissions before providing a recommendation to Local Government Minister Steven

Miles for determination in early 2023.

If the Minister supports a case for change, further consultation will occur on what the model might look like.

To make a submission or read Ipswich City Council's submission, visit the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website www.ecq.qld.gov.au.