

DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY REVIEWS

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) periodically reviews the internal boundaries of divided local governments in Queensland to ensure each division or ward has a 'reasonable proportion of electors' (quota).

These reviews ensure there is an even distribution of electors across a local government's divisions at local government elections, thereby upholding the key democratic principle of 'one vote, one value'.

Divisional boundary reviews are conducted in accordance with the [Local Government Act 2009](#) and the [City of Brisbane Act 2010](#).

Quota

The quota is calculated by dividing the total number of enrolled electors in a local government area by the number of councillors, excluding the mayor.

For divided local governments that have more than 10,000 enrolled electors, a range of 10% above or below the quota is allowed. For any other local government area, a 20% range above or below the quota is accepted.

Boundary changes

Should one or more divisions of a local government be out of quota, some internal boundaries will have to change to balance enrolment across the divisions.

The Change Commission endeavours to align boundaries to easily recognisable landmarks within a local government area, for example:

- roads

- railways
- waterways
- national parks, mountain ridges, forests, reserves
- other official boundaries –
 - state electorates
 - localities (suburbs).

Review timeframes

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) must confirm the number of enrolled voters within the divisions/wards of Queensland's divided local governments and notify the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) and the local governments of the results by no later than 1 October, two years before the next local government elections.

If a review of divisional boundaries is required, this must be conducted in the year before the local government elections, following referral by the Minister responsible for Local Government. For the City of Brisbane, the Minister, the ECQ or the local government itself, may refer a review to the Change Commission.

The Change Commission will publish review information including key milestones on the ECQ website. Once its assessment is complete, the final determination report is provided to the Minister for implementation by the Governor in Council under a regulation.

Divisional boundary reviews are generally finalised by October in the year before the local government elections, to allow time for implementation.