

# Public submissions

<b>Submission number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Submission number</b>	<b>Name</b>
S1	Name withheld	S21	Name withheld
S2	Name withheld	S22	Confidential
S3	Name withheld	S23	Confidential
S4	Name withheld	S24	Name withheld
S5	Submission removed*	S25	Name withheld
S6	Name withheld	S26	Name withheld
S7	Garry Williams	S27	Ian Hills
S8	Name withheld	S28	Confidential
S9	Pam McKenzie	S29	Confidential
S10	Name withheld	S30	Confidential
S11	Rodney Armstrong	S31	Confidential
S12	Confidential	S32	Gary Richards
S13	Graham Parr	S33	Confidential
S14	Brian Reynolds	S34	Confidential
S15	Confidential	S35	Confidential
S16	Kevin Grose	S36	Confidential
S17	Confidential	S37	Mary Walsh
S18	Confidential	S38	Confidential
S19	Name withheld	S39	Confidential
S20	K Sibley AR		

\*Submission was deemed as unsuitable by the Change Commission and subsequently removed as per the publication guidelines.

\*\* Confidential submissions are not published.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 July 2023 12:17 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** I proposed that divisional boundaries are removed entirely

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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**Submission ID:** [REDACTED]  
**Time of Submission:** 31 Jul 2023 12:16pm  
**Submission IP Address:** [REDACTED]  
**Referral URL:** <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 12:08 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** It isnt for the people its for control. Blind freddie can see it. Wolf in sheeps clothing as usual  
Waste of time

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 12:07pm

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 12:12 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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### Submission Details

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** Only have one concern.... What is this going to cost?

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]  
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 12:11pm  
Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]  
Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 12:19 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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### Submission Details

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** Personally, I am opposed to Divisional Voting and would much rather Councillors were considering decisions based on the whole electorate. The notion that I need a Councillor to fight for me in my division is naive, in my opinion. I would much prefer to have the opportunity to vote for ALL councillors around the table, and the councillor who receives the most votes is elected Mayor. We lose so many GOOD people who nominate and run for Mayor that can't also run for a role as Councillor. Also I think that non divisional voting, and the opportunity to vote for ALL councillors around the table provides less chance for factions to form and provides an opportunity for someone well known who does not have the supplementary budget of a party to have a chance to successfully run and bring some new blood in the area. I also believe that if Councillors are the ones who decide whether an area should be divisional or non divisional voting, they will never vote to vote themselves out, so it'll never happen. It should be a decision made by the State Government.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 12:19pm

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 2:03 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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### Submission Details

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** nothing we say will make any difference as the government will not do any thing the general public say

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 2:03pm

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 2:11 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - Garry Williams

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Garry Williams**

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### Submission Details

**Name:** Garry Williams

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** There should be no divisional voting. All eligible voters should vote for all councillors they wish to represent them on council. Divisional voting deprives voters of their vote if only one person nominates for a particular division. Divisional responsibilities should then be allocated at a full meeting of council.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 2:10pm

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 2:32 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** change to the proposed changes.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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**Submission ID:** [REDACTED]

**Time of Submission:** 01 Aug 2023 2:32pm

**Submission IP Address:** [REDACTED]

**Referral URL:** <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 2:35 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - Pam McKenzie

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Pam McKenzie**

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### Submission Details

**Name:** Pam McKenzie

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** Will representation improve How much will it cost. Everything government of any description does costs too much

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 2:35pm

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 2:50 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** I believe that electoral boundaries should reflect the numbers of electors equally, and I support actions that enable equality in voter numbers

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]  
Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 2:49pm  
Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]  
Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Rodney Armstrong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** Boundary review.

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

More waste of resources.  
Rodney Armstrong

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 4:11 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - Graham Parr

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Graham Parr**

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### Submission Details

**Name:** Graham Parr

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** Too large an area with too few residents making it impossible to cater to the current population , limited infrastructure that can't cater for the population , bad organisation that is more concerned with retirement than looking at industrial growth with a growing youth population and limited job opportunities because it's so hard to get job growth unless it's farming . Bundaberg has huge potential but council is playing catch up with bad roads , limited water services

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 4:11pm

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

**From:** Brian Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 5:23 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** Change to electoral boundaries

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to electoral boundaries.

The one vote one value principle on which electoral boundaries are determined is flawed, outdated and discriminatory.

This principle leads to multiple electorates in densely populated areas which over-represents these areas and reduces the number of electorates proportionately in less dense areas. This leads to densely populated areas being able to unduly influence the distribution of funding, resources and representation. This discriminates against regional areas. The value of a regional vote is minimal compared to a city vote. This is not fair.

In a worst case scenario we have the current Qld State electoral boundaries which have nearly all electorates in the south east corner and so can unduly influence gullible political parties to spend up big there whilst the rest of Qld has poor roads, services and so on and on. The biggest example of this is the proposed Olympics which will waste billions on a fortnight sporting event whilst homelessness rises, crime is out of control, there are inadequate ambulance and hospital services and need I go on... Victoria made the best decision to scrap the games and hopefully the Gold Coast will not take it up. However the SE has all of the electorates so we in the regions can go to h... See what the problem is with population based electorates!!!!

The electorates should be determined on the commonality of needs. In the above example, nearly all of the electorates in the south east have the same issues so these can be amalgamated into larger electorate densities without compromising needs. Regional electorates have vastly different needs to cities such as population, services, mining, drought, fire and so on. Electorates in regional areas can be amalgamated based on their specific needs also. Ideally there should be one vote one vale for both regions and cities. This would lead to better and fairer distribution of funding and services across the State.

On a micro scale we have the same problem in Bundaberg. The city electorates lord it over the beach electorates and force through changes to building heights, development standards and so on to the beach residents who have no voting power to stop them. There are NO budget camping facilities at all at the beaches because the Bundaberg weighted Council owns all of the caravan parks and uses protectionism to prohibit any competition to their parks. Voting out the current Council wont help as all the electorates are around Bundy.

Again I state that I am opposed to changes of electoral boundaries based on population only and urge you change the parameters for the determination of electoral boundaries based on needs.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 6:04 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - Kevin Grose

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Kevin Grose**

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### Submission Details

**Name:** Kevin Grose

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** Proposed changes to BRC Divisional Boundaries.... Thank you for allowing Public submissions on the above. The BRC submission , considering the BRC having the resources to research the proposed changes is to be recommended. However, the proposed changes will interact on the residents of the changes, so I urge caution before proceeding. Thank You. Kevin Grose. Div. 3.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 01 Aug 2023 6:04pm

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 11:25 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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### Submission Details

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** Having read through the proposed summary, and having reviewed the online maps, I am satisfied that the proposed boundary divisions appear to be fair, and in the broader community's best interests.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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**Submission ID:** [REDACTED]

**Time of Submission:** 01 Aug 2023 11:24pm

**Submission IP Address:** [REDACTED]

**Referral URL:** <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

**From:** k Sibley AR [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 11:40 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** Reject, rebut division boundaries

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

It is impractical to change the bundaberg boundaries just because of votes, especially when the population is constantly changing and its another cost that is a mismanagement of peoples funds.

This money should be spent on other things that people of the local communities would benefit from, like raising road causeways to prevent people from being flooded in or out and being able to get to the drs or their work! That is what the community wellbeing payment on the rate notice (tax notice) is for, isnt it?

With this email i rebut and reject changing the boundaries due to how many voter are in certain areas and that the current boundaries should remain the same.

Regards  
Kathleen-patricia:  
Property owner Gin Gin

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 August 2023 9:58 AM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** if it ain't broken don't fix it

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]  
Time of Submission: 02 Aug 2023 9:57am  
Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]  
Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 August 2023 11:36 AM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** I find it very difficult and time consuming to try to understand the information that is provided.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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**Submission ID:** [REDACTED]  
**Time of Submission:** 02 Aug 2023 11:35am  
**Submission IP Address:** [REDACTED]  
**Referral URL:** <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 August 2023 3:21 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review -

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from

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### Submission Details

**Name:**

**Privacy preferences:**

**Submission text:** The areas from Agnes Water to Rosedale, including Deepwater, Baffle Creek and Rules Beach carry out business, groceries, health services and social activities in Bundaberg. More than 85% travel to Bundaberg instead of Gladstone. Under Community of Interest a survey ought to be undertaken by the Electoral Commission Queensland to assess the value of changing our areas from Gladstone Council to Bundaberg Council.

<http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-councils/governance/how-to-change-local-government-arrangements> advises that the Minister accepts requests for a proposed council change from: - the community Changes The information on this page applies to councils operating under the Local Government Act 2009. The types of changes available include: changes to the external shared boundary with a neighbouring council changes to the divisional boundaries, names of divisions and the number of councillors per division The Change can happen if the proposal is supported by a reasonable level of community support and the proposal will not adversely affect the sustainability of the affected local government/s. The Bundaberg business sector is supported by the Agnes and surrounding community carrying out business, minor and major purchases. We travel on the Rosedale Road to Bundaberg, not the road to Gladstone. We attend medical in Bundaberg, not Gladstone. We are of the opinion that our rates would further be better used in Bundaberg where we carry out all of our business and lifestyle activities.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID:

Time of Submission: 02 Aug 2023 3:20pm

Submission IP Address:

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 August 2023 10:13 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - [REDACTED]

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from [REDACTED]

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**Submission Details**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** I am in agreeance to the proposed Regional Council divisional boundary reviews.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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**Submission ID:** [REDACTED]

**Time of Submission:** 02 Aug 2023 10:12pm

**Submission IP Address:** [REDACTED]

**Referral URL:** <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** noreply@ecq.qld.gov.au  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 August 2023 2:37 AM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review - Ian Hills

Online submission for **Bundaberg Regional Council divisional boundary review** from **Ian Hills**

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### Submission Details

**Name:** Ian Hills

**Privacy preferences:** [REDACTED]

**Submission text:** A number of divisions include areas north and south of the river, i.e.the river cuts these divisions in two. In most cases people living north of the river have limited social contact with those living south of the river and they have different views on important issues. There is a substantial case for redrawing divisions so that they fall on one side of the river only.

**File upload:** No file uploaded ()

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Submission ID: [REDACTED]

Time of Submission: 03 Aug 2023 2:36am

Submission IP Address: [REDACTED]

Referral URL: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews/divisional-boundary-reviews/bundaberg-regional-council-divisional-boundary-review>

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Gary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 5 August 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** Boundaries

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,  
All you need to do is put boundaries equal and fair, it is not hard to do.

Regards Gary Richards.

**From:** Mary Walsh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 7 August 2023 4:34 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission -Boundary Review - Bundaberg Regional Council  
**Attachments:** ECQ BOUNDARY REVIEW Aug 2023.pdf; ECQ submission BRC boundary review Aug 2023.supplementary..pdf

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

**To Whom It may Concern**

On behalf of the Kepnock Residents Action Group , and social media followers, we provide a submission to the above Review.

The current call for boundary review should include the history of amalgamation – since back to 1994. For this reason we provide historical data which is relevant to the performance, and unpopularity, of the current Council.

There is no lack of Local Government expertise in the current leadership triumvirate of Messrs. Dempsey, Trevor and Johnston.

Our supplementary submission has specifically provided that history to confirm an underlying systemic failure, not a lack of Council expertise.

We contend that systemic failure is divisional representation.

We rely on the historical and current facts to validate that contention.

We believe that any objective analysis of the history, and the experience of those who have been involved in Local Government in Bundaberg, over their lifetimes, and in both *divisional* and "*whole of Council*" governance, would concur with our analyses.

We rely on this submission and its supplementary historical facts for the Change Commissioner, and the relevant Minister, to consider the solution we propound.

Thank you for this opportunity  
Mary Walsh OAM, CPA, AIFS,JP(Qual)  
Community Advocate  
[REDACTED]

**Keppock Residents Action Group**



**BOUNDARY REVIEW OF BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL**

6 August, 2023

Change Commissioner,  
GPO Box 1393  
Brisbane Q4001

Email to [LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au)

On behalf of our members we respond to the call by the ECQ for submissions on the review of divisional boundaries for the Bundaberg Regional Council.

We are aware that this Review contemplates adjustments to existing divisional boundary electoral numbers, however we contend that this is but a waste of resources, time and energy because the real problem with this Council is that the divisional system has not, and will not in the future, deliver good local governance for this LGA.

**The current Council**

- Comprises two Councillors who were not elected – but returned because no candidates stood against them in their divisions. Those Councillors became the Deputy Mayor and Spokesperson for Finance. Our criticism is not of the individuals, but of the system which facilitated this result. That result, deprived 14,000 voters of their democratic vote for their representative for the next 4 years, This is a repeat of the scenario in 2012 when there were 4 Councilors returned because there were no opposing candidates in those divisions. (*Refer Appendix 1&1A*).
- Removed the Portfolio of Planning & Development, and delegated ultimate planning decision power to the CEO and/or substitute. (*Refer Appendix 2*)

The record of this Council's poor decision making:-

1. of the Mayor's conviction for contempt of Parliament in using his power, and that of the CEO, to access submissions made by certain persons to a guaranteed confidential Public Enquiry into the Office of the Independent Advocate. (*Refer Appendix 3*)

2. of the demolition of the 100 year old Anzac Memorial Swimming Pool, by the CEO under delegated power – just to prevent it from being heritage listed- WHILST it was in the process of, and had been recommended for, heritage listing (*Refer Appendix 4*)

3. of the CEO authorizing the bull-dozing of 4 ha of 80 year old growth timber from the Environmental Park to establish a commercial dump, of refusing to have it rezoned from low density Res A and not obtaining the necessary licenses and permit, workplace health and safety that we demand of similar private enterprise competitors. (*Refer Appendix 5*)

are not the consideration of this submission, but these are the symptoms of an underlying system which is dysfunctional.

We contend this dysfunction results (greatly) from the system of divisional representation for all the reasons we have previously nominated and now re-iterate. This has become increasingly obvious and frustrating, as the abuse of power has escalated under the current Council.

- 1. We now have 10 Kingdoms with 12 Kings – being the Mayor, 10 Councillors and a CEO who is unelected and doesn't have to answer to the voters. Under previous Councils we had 11 Kings but they were, in the most part, elected.**
- 2. All Councillors have regional portfolios. They must act for ALL voters in the regional areas for which they have been designated responsibility. Their regional responsibilities are not ameliorated by geographical distance or time, so why do these factors dictate the region must be serviced by divisional representation and not regional representation? This was never the recommendation put forward by the ECQ on amalgamation. (*Refer Appendix 6*).**
- 3. Divisional representation means that the region does not get the best candidates because divisional voting means that possible good candidates are lost to the system as there is only one winner in a divisional system.**
- 4. Divisional representation enables Councillors to protect their patch (kingdom) at a cost to regional benefits because only voters in "their patch" can vote for them.**
- 5. Local Government in Australia is a system of "representative democracy". There is NO "representative democracy" if 2/5<sup>th</sup> of the voters in 2012 were denied a vote and if, in the current**

- Council 1/5 are denied a vote. The latter equates to 14,000 voters out of 70,000. The proportion in 2012 was much higher as depicted in *Appendix 1A*
6. **The divisional system here has never worked – not from the 1994 amalgamation or the later 2008 one. Historical “donut shires” – where essential services are centralized to service outlying shires – have never worked here. History confirms that, and so do Council and public records. (*Refer Appendices 7, 8 and 8A*).**
  7. **The once valid argument that good candidates can’t afford to contest an election from a regional base because of the added costs of geographical distance, local recognition and/or time, is no longer valid. Social media and the digital divide mean it is less costly and more easily managed now than ever.**
  8. **The current divisional system, unbalanced power base and the Belcarra Report have instilled a sense of “territorial ownership” – a protective instinct by Councilors to be aggrieved if ratepayers approach a Councilor other than their divisional Councilors. This is seen by the divisional Councilor as a “threat” to their particular kingdom. It leads to formal complaints, a waste of time, resources and destroys the necessary collegiate regional approach.**
  9. **Social media and the Council’s own media platform (*Refer Appendices 9 &10*) also strengthen the Council ability to control the agenda of the Mayor and selected Councilors. This is further strengthened by the existing digital divide (*Refer Appendix11*) being exploited by the Council to control consultation and the results therefrom – especially with specific projects which could be regionally controversial. The demolition of the Anzac Memorial Pool is an excellent example of sacrificing regional benefit for city-centric (personal kudos ??) benefit and the disenfranchisement of the regional electorate. Some 25,000 Anzac Pool users have been displaced (annually), and will remain so until the new facility is operational – possibly late 2024/2025). That’s not good Government – that’s exploitation**

We provide this submission to demonstrate that the failure to “*axe divisions*” – as requested by the Council of the day back in 2015, and the recommendation of the

Commissioner post amalgamation has resulted in bad, and very questionably unaccountable Council governance.

Whilst we understand the reasons for the Commissioner's refusal in 2015 – we point out that this, also, symbolizes a failure of divisional representation. The Regional Council (10 separate divisions – including the Mayor of the Day) voted for the region to – “*axe divisions*”. This was, after all, consistent with the recommendations put forward with the 2008 amalgamation, and was meant to correct the anomaly and deprivation of voting rights for 25,000 voters in the previous Council election of 2012.

The region had a right to believe that this would carry the matter to the regional benefit of the Councilors elected by the region. Eight votes to three is a fairly significant indicator of support. However, the regional outcome of “public consultation” was influenced by two separate petitions campaigning for retention of divisions by divisional system campaigners. There is little doubt there was complacency about the public consultations by those who believed their Council, and the majority of divisional councilors within that Council, would have their formal request upheld. But those two petitions provided paper numbers which outweighed physical consultation, the voted decisions of the Council acting for the region, and the public recommendation of the Commissioner when(then) Isis Mayor Trevor campaigned for de-amalgamation of his LGA from the State Government enforced Bundaberg Regional Council amalgamation.

We present a case which argues, once again, for the Change Commissioner to consider “axing divisions” – in the interest of good, regionally focused governance. History confirms that undivided representation is the primary ingredient for returning the balance of power back to the people – to ALL of the people.

**Divisions do what the name implies. They DIVIDE.  
Here in Bundaberg that has been carried one step further.  
It has become ‘DIVIDE & CONQUER’.**

**The State Government must now consider changing legislation to prevent other Councils from using the loopholes created by THIS Council as a precedent for other Councils to imitate. Refer *Appendices 3 & 4*.**

This Submitted is provided on behalf of our residents and social media followers.

**Mary Walsh OAM, CPA, AIFS, JP(Qual)  
Community Advocate**

██████████

## Appendix 1

### **Questia excerpt** Bundaberg

News-Mail -February, 2012

### Article excerpt

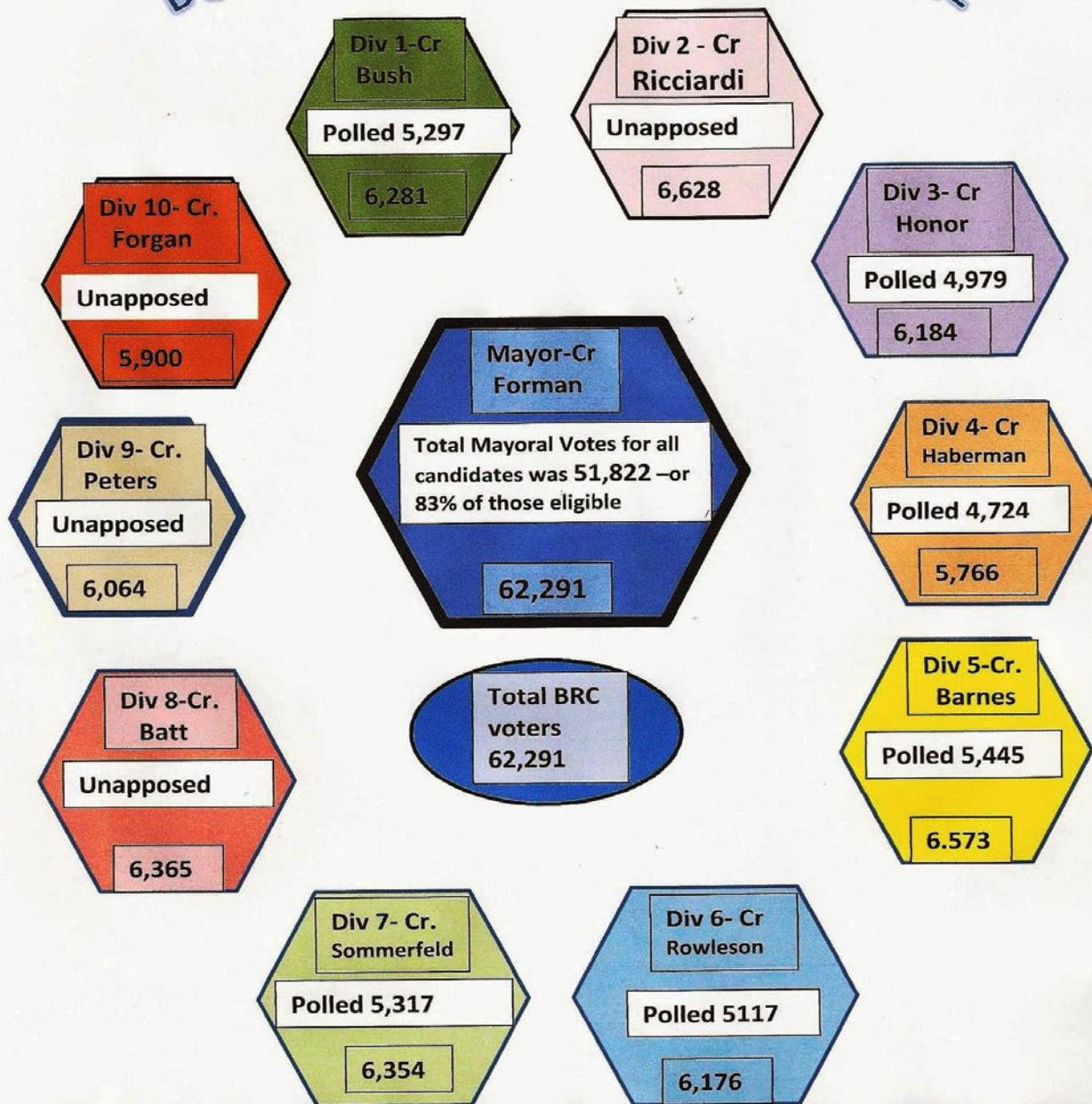
Byline: Lea Emery

FOUR existing Bundaberg regional councillors have been re-elected unopposed after yesterday's close of nominations revealed a lack of competition in four divisions.

Division 2's Tony Ricciardi, Division 8's David Batt, Division 9's Judy Peters and Division 10's Lynne Forgan were the only people to lodge a candidacy for their wards, meaning they were automatically returned to the position.

## Appendix 1A

# BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL



Council covers an area of 6,451 sq. klm, has a population of over 90,000 with approximately 43,000 homes. There are 10 divisions and 11 Councillors, including the Mayor, who is separately elected. In the 2012 elections there were 62,291 enrolled voters, of whom 11,469 or 17% did not register a mayoral vote. Four sitting councillors were elected unopposed, so 24,957 eligible voters of Divisions 2, 8, 9 and 10 were denied a representative vote for their division. Council is now considering a random telephone poll of 500 residents to determine whether or not to keep divisions. That's approximately .008% of the eligible voting population. E&OE

## Appendix 2

06 NEWS

THURSDAY APRIL

# Planning clarity sought

CHRIS BURNS

BUNDABERG construction representatives are seeking clarity after planning and development was removed from the council's list of portfolios.

Bundaberg regional councillors formally approved the list of portfolios in their first ordinary meeting of the term yesterday, and although they did so unanimously, four of them questioned the absence of planning and development.

Cr Greg Barnes seconded the portfolios, but also suggested a motion for a planning and development committee made of three councillors be brought to the next council meeting in May.

They would then advise the rest of the councillors on if development applications should be approved.

A vote was then taken with eight votes supporting this decision to bring the motion to the next meeting, although Mayor Jack Dempsey, deputy mayor Bill Trevor, and Cr Wayne Honor voted against.

Cr Barnes said that although the State Government's Belcarra legislation tackling local government

transparency may have made the responsibilities of local planning more difficult, the community expected an elected representative to be involved in the decision making process.

"The community would expect we would not assign such an important role simply to protect our tails, that's not what we're here for," Cr Barnes said.

Cr Dempsey said the running of a "modern council" had been guided by the Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland, as well as the impacts that the Belcarra legislation has had on larger councils.

He said councillors would receive an update of all planning applications every Friday.

"Every councillor has the opportunity to query every application, not just the applications in their particular division, for openness and transparency," Cr Dempsey said.

Bundaberg builder Michael Randall said the portfolio was important because the local industry needed an elected council official to be able to consult with, which had pre-



MOU: Mayor Jack Dempsey and UDIA branch president Nathan Freeman signed a Memorandum of Understanding last year.

viously been former Division 7 representative Ross Sommerfeld.

"That's why all levels of government have elected officials taking responsibility of the whole shebang because you've got a person who you can go to who champions that particular industry," Mr Randall said. He did not support having a committee of three councillors as an alternative. "Whose overall responsibility is it? Who's championing the development and constructions cause in Bundaberg?" Mr Randall said.

"Because if you give it to three, then theoretically everybody owns it and nobody owns it."

Urban Development Insti-

tute of Australia's branch president Nathan Freeman hoped the council would explain its decision further.

He said the UDIA and the council normally consulted frequently through a memorandum of understanding, but meetings had been impacted by the pandemic, as well as the election transition.

"There's obviously pros and cons as far as different structures but we really just want to work with council to see what the best practice is," Mr Freeman said.

"They're only fresh into it, and they're going to be looking at how they structure everything, so it will now be up to council to let everyone know what their thinking is around

this."

Mr Freeman said a reason for the decision was the absence of a councillor experienced to take on the role, such as former councillor, Mr Sommerfeld.

"Because it is such a big portfolio, it is difficult to get somebody with that experience to sort of take the role on. It might be that they are spreading the load across all the councillors."

Cr May Mitchell said the portfolio should continue to be represented by a councillor.

"We're the decision makers and we shouldn't be agreeing to dismantle a process that gives confidence to ratepayers that their elected councillors are accessible and prepared to face the community," she said.

"Planning and development is an area that creates public interest and generates the most robust community discussions and engagement."

Cr Tracey McPhee said "I'm not 100 per cent convinced it's in our community's best interest" not to have the portfolio.

"I'm not versed in how these meetings work but I do just want it noted for the record I do have hesitations."

**Town Plans and Town Planning are not an exact science. There needs to be give and take on both sides. There is now no longer any Councillor involvement – just the bureaucratic dictate with more P&E Appeals.**

## Appendix 3

*(d) that would be privileged from production in a legal proceeding on the ground of legal professional privilege. or,*

*(e) that would contravene a legislative provision, standing order, or resolution of this Assembly or a committee of this Assembly, relating to the publication or confidentiality of a parliamentary record as defined in Sections 48 and 49 Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.*

*Another alternative is to incorporate a reference in similar terms to s 58 Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 but that would also require further consideration of whether there is in fact a lacunae in the drafting I have identified, in that the section does not refer to a parliamentary committee.*

124. The committee is of the view that the House should consider amending the LGA to include parliamentary privilege as a relevant exemption to section 170A(4).

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends:

- (1) That the House make a finding of contempt against Mayor Dempsey for the unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings and, noting his apology dated 12 May 2023, take no further action in respect of this matter; and
- (2) That the Minister for Local Government considers proposing an amendment to the *Local Government Act 2009* to include parliamentary privilege as an exemption under section 170A, any proposal to be considered by the House as soon as practicable.



Ms Jennifer Howard MP  
**Chair**

May 2023

### ETHICS COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Standing Order 211B(3) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter, the committee shall at the same time, table in the House:

- (a) The minutes of its proceedings relevant to the matter; and
  - (b) Any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter (including transcripts of hearings)
- unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

The relevant minutes and evidence in respect of this matter are attached to this report.

**A need for State Government legislative change to close this loophole developed by our Mayor & others.**

## Appendix 4

★ After making its decision, the Heritage Council wanted to record in the notice of decision its dissatisfaction with the circumstances under which it had to do so. This was due to the Bundaberg Regional Council (BRC) proceeding with demolition after the heritage recommendation for the Anzac Pool, and the lack of a proactive approach to applications being made. ★

The Heritage Commission considered the application for heritage listing of the Pool. The State Government had recommended it and the Deputy Premier assured the committee that it wouldn't be demolished during that process.

It was deliberately demolished in a way which meant that every feature had some initial destruction. This was to ensure that the facility could not be heritage listed.

The land – gifted 100 years ago was now valuable land on the river Bank. Council decided that it should be turned into an entertainment centre – the land was more valuable in attracting “visitors’ to the CBD.



The only beneficiaries of the new entertainment centre would be the nearby commercial food, drink and gambling outlets – NOT the veterans who owned it and were not consulted.

The State Government must now ensure this new loophole is not repeated by other Councils

## Appendix 5



The Wetlands are heritage listed  
 3.87ha of 80year old growth trees were removed to establish this dump – with no reference to the Council appointed group of environmental advisers – or the Councillors. It was the CEO’s decision and he refuses to re-zone the land, obtain licences or approvals . This Environmental Park is classed as the “jewel in the crown of the region’s CBD”

**BALDWIN SWAMP ENVIRONMENTAL PARK**

**This is owned by Council - in trust for future generations**

**Location**  
 Baldwin Swamp Environmental Park is a beautiful, natural wetland just 3km from the Bundaberg Post Office. Described as a, 'slice of Kakadu' it is an important habitat area for native fauna and flora as well as providing a healthy and inspiring recreational area for people to visit.

**History**  
 The Baldwin Swamp wetland was formed around one million years ago. Water draining to the Burnett River carved a narrow valley along the edge of a lava flow from the Hummock. Over time a build up of eroded sediment slowed the flow of water and created the wetland.

## Appendix 6

# Council Media Release

## COUNCILLORS SUPPORT CHANGE TO REGIONAL ELECTION PROCESS

16 Dec 2014

Voters across the Bundaberg Region may have a say in the election of all ten Councillors at the 2016 Local Authority elections.

This follows a Council recommendation today to abolish its ten divisions represented by individual Councillors.

In a further move that may spell the end of a traditional polling day turnout, Council has also recommended that future elections be conducted by postal ballot and that the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) be appointed as Returning Officer.

Acting Mayor David Batt successfully moved the three recommendations at today's ordinary meeting of Council.

Cr Batt said Councillors had undertaken significant discussion over an extended period of time regarding a Council based on the current divisional representation or moving to become undivided.

He said that while three Council surveys conducted since 2009 had all returned support for Council divisions to remain, the result was far from conclusive.

"Obviously there are individual opinions for both sides of the argument.

"I draw attention to a recommendation made by the Boundaries Commissioner Colin Meng two years ago in his report into the proposal by the former Isis Shire to de-amalgamate from Bundaberg Regional Council.

"The Commissioner recommended that Council, in the interest of moving forward from amalgamation, would be better suited by transitioning to an undivided Council at the 2016 elections.

"The Commissioner said that an undivided Council would foster regional over divisional decision making and would better suit the Bundaberg situation."

In support of a proposal to move from attendance voting to a postal vote system Cr Batt said postal voting offered a more cost effective alternative than traditional polling day voting.

He said it was evident at the 2012 council elections that more than 40% of people had cast a vote prior to the dedicated polling day indicating that voters were open to options other than attendance voting.

The three recommendations put forward by Cr Batt were supported by eight votes to three with Crs Rowleson, Barnes and Honor voting against. Mayor, Cr Mal Forman who is on leave, supported the motions through a phone hook-up to the meeting.

Cr Batt said the recommendations would be forwarded to Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience, David Crisafulli for determination.

"The Minister will direct the Change Commissioner to prepare a report for his consideration. Council will supply all the anecdotal evidence and information it has in support of its recommendations but ultimately the decision regarding electoral change for Bundaberg Regional Council rests with Minister Crisafulli."

All Media Enquiries: [communications@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:communications@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)

## Appendix 7

Cr DJ Batt then moved:-

### Council Minutes - 2014

That Council make application to the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience to request a voluntary change to its electoral arrangements by abolishing the election of Councillors by Division in favour of election across the whole Council area for the 2016 Local Government elections.

Seconded by Cr JA Peters.

Following discussion thereto during which:-

- Cr GR Barnes spoke against the Motion;
- Cr JA Peters spoke for the Motion;
- Cr DE Rowleson spoke against the Motion;
- Cr AL Ricciardi spoke for the Motion;
- Cr WA Honor spoke against the Motion;
- Cr VJ Habermann spoke for the Motion;

- the Motion was put - and carried by 8 votes to 3 votes.

#### For

Cr M Forman *now Dempsey*  
 Cr AG Bush *now Bartels*  
 Cr AL Ricciardi *now Trevor*  
 Cr VJ Habermann *now Blackburn*  
 Cr CR Sommerfeld *remains*  
 Cr JA Peters *remains*  
 Cr LG Forgan *now Learmonth*  
 Cr DJ Batt *now Cooper*

#### Against

Cr WA Honor *remains*  
 Cr GR Barnes *remains*  
 Cr DE Rowleson *now Cr Scott*  
*Rowleson*

Meeting held: 16 December 2014

**KRAG comment - March, 2019**

This is not a narrow margin result – and included the Mayor

## Appendix 8

# NEWS

## Bundaberg council votes to axe councillor divisions

By Kallee Buchanan

Posted Wed 17 Dec 2014, 12:01pm

**The Bundaberg Regional Council has voted to abolish councillor divisions.**

The council will ask the Local Government Minister to forgo the 10 divisions in favour of direct election of all councillors.

Acting Mayor David Batt told the council meeting, there was community support for all residents having a direct say in the election of each councillor.

However, Division Five representative Greg Barnes said three community surveys since amalgamation called for the divisions to be retained.

"Why go to the community consultation and ask ... a very pointed question and that question by the way was actually worded unanimously by council, so it's a very carefully worded motion so that it wasn't going to be leading, it wasn't going to be ambiguous and yes unfortunately we've had the result that we have," he said.

"So I just hope that the Minister shows more respect for the community consultation than we do."

The motion to scrap the divisions was carried eight votes to three.

Topics: local-government, bundaberg-4670

## Appendix 8A



### Bundaberg council divisional representation remains as electoral commission rejects abolishment bid

By Frances Adcock  
Posted Mon 29 Jun 2015, 12:07pm

**The 10 council divisions will remain in the Bundaberg Regional Council electorate, in southern Queensland, after the electoral commission rejected council's request to abolish them.**

The council voted to abolish councillor divisions late last year.

It said at the time there was enough community support for all residents to have a direct say in the election of each councillor.

Earlier this year, the council was accused of deliberately failing to inform the Minister about a survey on the issue which found most of the community wanted to keep the existing system.

A survey of 400 people undertaken by the Change Commission found there was a 5 per cent margin of error which was not large enough to base a decision on.

It also received less than 20 public submissions in favour of removing divisions but 681 against during its public consultation. 

The commission found there was insufficient public support for the change but it will redraw boundaries, as electors in divisions five and six outnumber the other eight divisions.

Submissions on that close in a fortnight.

Bundaberg Mayor Mal Forman said the decision was disappointing and felt abolishing divisions would have given better balance.

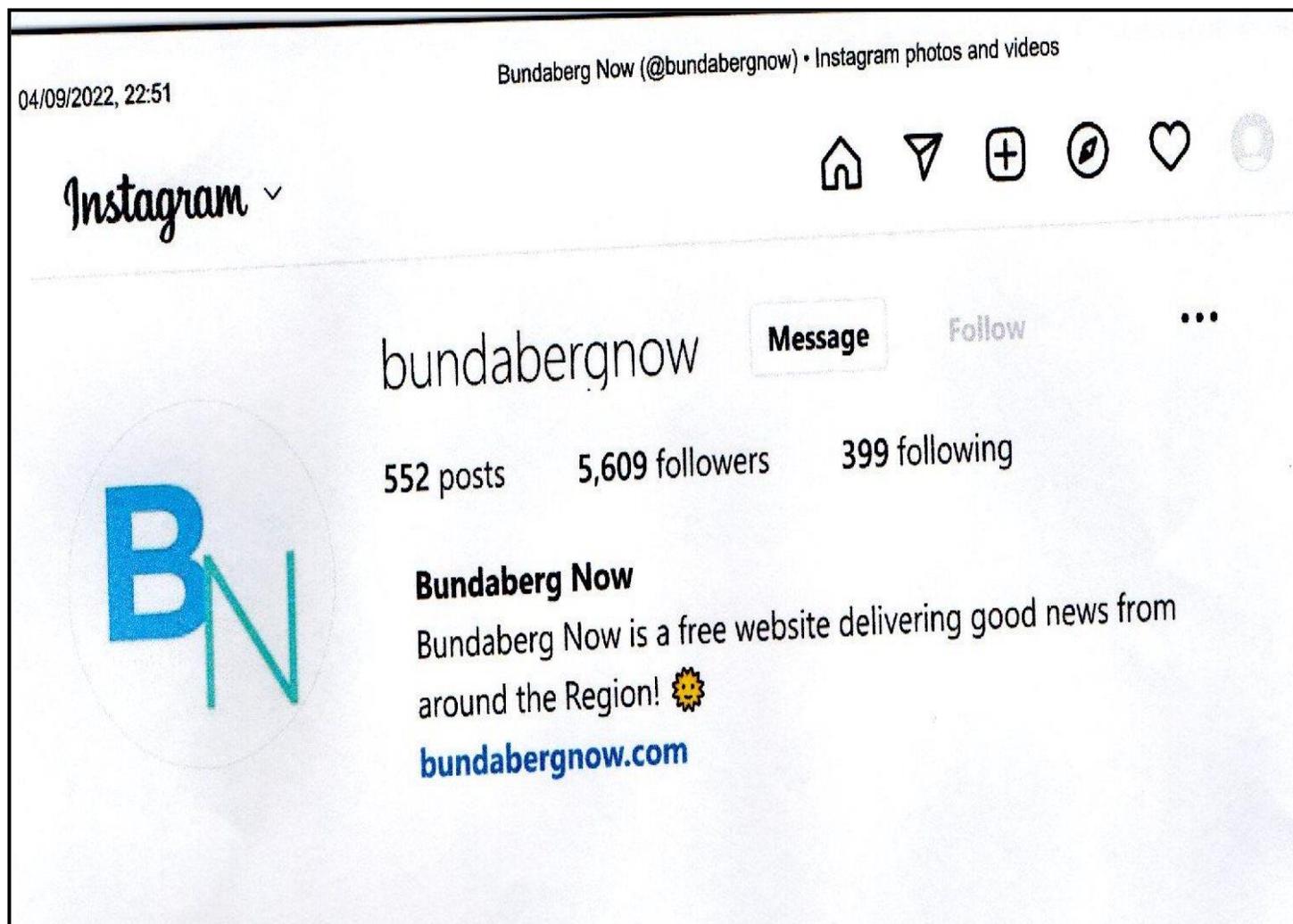
Topics: local-government, bundaberg-4670

**We were informed that the bulk of these 681 submissions took the form of 2 petitions from 2 divisions.**

**Yes, complacency existed for the majority of residents, because they believed that the Council vote, based on divisional representation – not just “surveys” – would represent the wishes of the wider region.**

**The current Council and its dysfunction is not “representative democracy” – neither is it accountable, or transparent.**

## Appendix 9



**This media platform is NOT free.**

**It is the subject of great national, local and constituent concern.**

**It did not cover the parliamentary contempt of our Mayor, or any subject which could reflect adversely on the Council, the Councilors or this Council's agenda to refuse to consult if the result is likely to be contrary to their agenda/s.**

## Appendix 10

10/02/2022, 17:27 Refusal to answer questions about Bundy Now news website gains negative publicity | The Courier Mail

Read Today's Paper Tributes & Notices 5:26pm Thursday, February 10th, 2022 Rewards

Brisbane Today ☀️ 20°/32° >

**The Courier Mail** Hi, Mary ▾

News Queensland Bundaberg

### Refusal to answer questions about Bundy Now news website gains negative publicity

Bundaberg council's 'nothing to see here' approach to its controversial ratepayer funded news site in the face of ongoing transparency and cost questions is ensuring the service designed to promote 'only the good' is now doing the opposite.

 **Scott Kovacevic** Reporter [Follow](#)

less than 2 min read February 10, 2022 - 11:13AM [0 comments](#)

**Bundaberg**

It'd be disingenuous to believe the question "what does running Bundy Now cost the council?" happily excludes wages and advertising.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/bundaberg/refusal-to-answer-questions-about-bundy-now-news-website-gains-negative-publicit...> 1/5

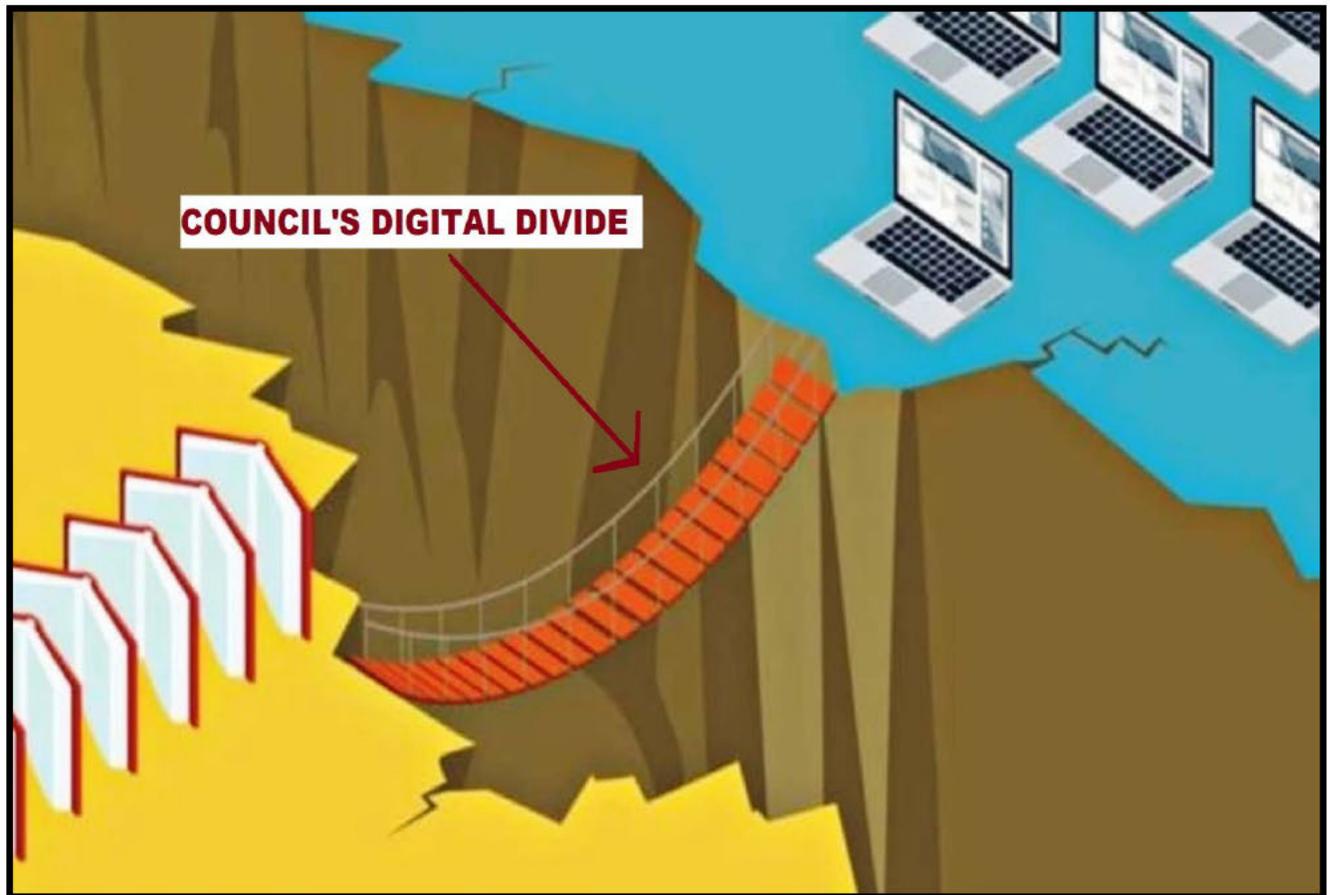
**The Council's media team would outweigh that of local media  
It is aligned with its own legal team – to handle the increasing number of P&E  
Appeals resulting from excluding Councilor input, and sense of balance, from the  
planning and development activities of our Council.**

**To date Council refuses to articulate the actual costs or report on anything which  
provides a “negative” side to any Council publicity.**

**Bundaberg Now is perceived, locally, as nothing more than a propaganda machine.**

**Even Councilors seeking essential information about the reportedly rising costs of  
the Aquatic Centre being built in a former landfill site, and already having  
budgeted costs which have doubled – are directed, by the CEO, to get their  
information from the FOI system.**

## Appendix 11.



**The Council insists they consult – and did so with demolition of the Pool, but it was all done on-line. Vulnerable veterans are not computer literate – at least not the ones who publicly raised their concerns. They were simply “thrown under the bus”.**

**There is no record of Councillors ever voting for the demolition of the Anzac Pool – because they didn’t.**

**There is acknowledgement that the CEO obtained the approval for demolition from an out-of-town private certifier, under his delegation power.**

**Council has NO specific disposal of assets policy and argued that the controversy relates only between individual Councillors – and there was none.**

Copy of the CEO delegation powers is as follows:-



## Delegations Policy

**Every Bundaberg resident who offers an opinion on the demolition of the Anzac War Memorial Pool needs to understand that the CEO organised the approval using his delegated power. Should he have acted without a specific Council resolution.?**

**HEAD OF POWER**

- *Local Government Act 2009*, section 257 to 259

**INTENT**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the framework for reviewing, making, recording and exercising delegations made pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009*.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all employees, Councillors and Councillor Advisor (Mayor's Chief of Staff).

**DEFINITIONS**

**Employee** means a local government employee as defined in the *Local Government Act 2009*.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

1. Council seeks to achieve the best possible results for the region ensuring effective, transparent, and efficient management of operational and administrative matters. To achieve this, Council regularly reviews and provides a delegation of certain legislative powers where it is practical, lawful, and administratively responsible to do so.
2. The *Local Government Act 2009* provides that Council may, by resolution, delegate a power under an Act to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.
3. Delegation by Council is not permitted:
  - If the relevant legislative provision provides that the power be exercised "by resolution" or that Council "adopt";
  - To an individual Councillor; and
  - To employees other than the Chief Executive Officer.
4. Council keeps three registers which contain particulars of delegations made by:
  - Council to the Mayor;
  - Council to the Chief Executive Officer; and
  - Chief Executive Officer to Employees and Contractors of Council.
5. Legislative provisions to be enacted by the Chief Executive Officer can be delegated to other employees, including powers delegated by Council to the Chief Executive Officer.
6. A delegation is revocable and does not prevent Council from acting in a matter, should it be necessary. ★
7. Where a matter is contentious, controversial, or otherwise warrants consideration by Council, the delegate should not act or exercise any delegated power or function in relation to that matter. ★

Printed copies are considered uncontrolled. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version.

Policy No. CP-3-055 Page 1 of 2  
 Approved Date: 01/07/2022 Version: 2.1  
 Responsible Department: Corporate Services

**This is current. Was approved and adopted by the Councillors on 1/7/2022. Residents need to ask their divisional councillors why they refused to act in this matter**



## Kepnock Residents Action Group



6 August, 2023.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION – REVIEW OF BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL BOUNDARIES**

This historical information is provided for convenience of the Commission and to justify and strengthen this and previous submissions for our Council to be changed to an undivided Local Government Authority (LGA).

The data has been sourced from local and State media and the following ECQ web-site [https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/2241/2015-FINAL-DETERMINATION-Bundaberg-Regional-Council.pdf](https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/2241/2015-FINAL-DETERMINATION-Bundaberg-Regional-Council.pdf)

It re-iterates the Council and community view for removal of the divided representation of the Bundaberg Regional Council – back to 2014. That’s almost a decade.

That view remains, but is now much stronger, as our Council has become more unaccountable and less transparent in its dealings with the community.

Our current CEO, Mr. Stephen Johnston, was the Acting Director General for the Department of Local Government when electoral review was raised, by him, in February, 2015 is his (then) State Government role (2010-2017)

This supplementary submission confirms

- Mr. Johnston became our CEO in December, 2016. He was previously the CEO (2000-2008) to then Mayor of Isis , Cr. Bill Trevor  
<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/bundaberg/revealed-meet-bundy-councils-new-ceo/news-story/2abc19d491cb0f0b80fa43166f436dee>
- Our current Mayor Dempsey was a State Government Minister and Member for Bundaberg from 2006 to 2015. Following his defeat in 2015 he stood for the mayoralty of the Bundaberg Regional Council and became Mayor in March 2016.
- Our current Deputy Mayor – Cr. Trevor was Mayor of Isis Shire (1993-2008) until the Regional Council amalgamation of 2008. He actively campaigned against the inclusion of Isis in the new Regional Council – post amalgamation  
<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/bundaberg/former-mayor-continues-fight-for-deamalgamation/news-story/fe88e5f47c8474ff169de0206e735c87>

In March 2016, Bill Trevor contested and won Division 2 (the Isis ) in the Council elections. He became Deputy Mayor to the newly elected Mayor Jack Dempsey in those elections. Mr. Johnston became the new CEO in December of the same year.

It is obvious that leadership of the current Council does not lack professional Council expertise. However, their joint decision-making indicates a dysfunctional systemic problem. We contend that is lack of consultation with the community, and an apparent lack of accountability, compounded by the lack of regional cohesion, resulting from a system of divisional- not regional- representation.

A “divide and conquer” mentality has not been helped by the ratepayer redundancy pay-out of over \$700,000 in 2008 to the former “interim” CEO and then his re-employment 8 years later as our CEO. This issue is referenced in the hard copy media release included and in the electronic link provided.

The 2008 forced amalgamation was not readily received by Bundaberg whose experience with the 1994 amalgamation also saw divisional voting returned to “*whole of Council*” in 1997, for the same reasons.

The matters raised by Mr. Christopher Joosen, Bundaberg Regional Council Governance Manager back in 2014 are even more relevant to-day than they were 8 years ago. Our community has been swamped by COVID and the Digital Divide

Mr. Joosen was a highly respected Council officer, with excellent communication skills. . We rely on the issues he enunciates as a supplementary part of our submission because they not only provide a Council officer and Councilor perspective, they mirror the majority community perspective. .

Thank you for that consideration.

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## Isis CEO given new contract until 2013

26th Apr 2007 8:00 AM

By Larine Statham

NO matter how the Beattie government decides to slice the East Burnett council there will be three chief executive officers who continue to receive pay cheques well after amalgamation.

While Isis Shire Council CEO Stephen Johnston's contract has been extended until 2013, the fact remains there will be only one CEO position if a new super council is formed.

With Bundaberg CEO Peter Byrne and Burnett CEO Tim Rose's contracts also valid until 2010, Isis Mayor Bill Trevor said there would be other jobs and roles available for executives.

"It was a unanimous vote... it would be foolish for any council not to renew contracts to retain good staff," Cr Trevor said.

Cr Trevor confirmed CEOs placed in lower-paying positions would continue to be paid as per their contractual salary.

As one of the four Burnett Shire councillors who earlier this month voted against renewing CEO Tim Rose's contract until 2010, Gail Anderson said management sector jobs would be the most vulnerable.

"If amalgamation occurs, there can only be one CEO," Cr Anderson said.

Cr Trevor said there was a clause in Mr Johnston's contract for a review period, where the CEO was required to let council know if he wished to continue his employment.

"The biggest problem councils have these days is retaining good staff, employees are looking for job certainty," he said.

"And whatever the shape of the new council, we will still need good staff."

Mr Johnston would not disclose the details of his contract, but argued Isis Shire Council had used the same process to renew his contract several years ago. "I started with council in 2000 and I've had one contract renewed prior to this," Mr Johnston said.

"And on both occasions I approached council 12 months before it was due for renewal."

Mr Johnston said all councils had to continue business as usual, despite 11 months of uncertainty.

"We don't know what changes will affect us - if any, but we can't put everything on hold."

[MAFS intruder's secret awkwardly exposed](#)  [an hour ago](#)

[Bob Sherwell, adored dad and mentor to many, gone](#) 

[MAFS bride's dramatic makeover](#)  [3 hours ago](#)




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News Queensland Bundaberg

## REVEALED: Meet Bundy council's new CEO

BUNDABERG Regional Council's new CEO has returned to the region after eight years and a \$700K payout.

By Jalouat

2 min read December 13, 2016 - 5:19PM



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HE'S BACK: New Bundaberg Regional Council CEO Stephen Johnston is currently the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Local Government, Infrastructure and Planning. Picture: Chris Ison ROK131115ccqroc1

### Bundaberg

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BUNDABERG Regional Council has appointed a new chief executive who it says is "the best candidate for the job" and may be a familiar face to many in the community.

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07/08/2023, 12:39

REVEALED: Meet Bundy council's new CEO | The Courier Mail

Former Bundaberg Regional Council deputy CEO and Isis Shire Council CEO Stephen Johnston has been appointed in the role, taking over from outgoing Peter Byrne who will retire next year.

"I am really excited about the opportunity to come to the Bundaberg region as CEO of the Bundaberg Regional Council," Mr Johnston said in a statement.

"I am looking forward to renewing my association with the region and assisting the council in realising a range of exciting opportunities during the coming years."

Independent recruitment agency Aston Carter managed the selection process.

Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey said it was an exhaustive international and national search.

"Aston Carter is highly regarded to CEO appointments right across Australia," Cr Dempsey said.

"I think he will bring experience as well as expertise across all three levels of government."

Mr Johnston is currently the deputy director-general at the Department of Local Government, Infrastructure and Planning.

In June, Mr Johnston was the State Government adviser appointed to try to fix the chaotic and dysfunctional Fraser Coast Regional Council.

But his appointment to the council's top job has raised some eyebrows.

Prior to amalgamation in 2007, Mr Johnston renegotiated his employment with Isis Shire Council for a five-year contract.

★ Then in 2008, Mr Johnston left his role as deputy CEO with Bundaberg Regional Council pocketing a reported figure in excess of \$700,000 after he received a redundancy payout for the remaining 46 months of his contract.

But a council spokeswoman said that at the time Mr Johnston was faced with a difficult decision: remain as deputy CEO or access his employment entitlements as CEO of the former Isis Shire Council.

"Mr Johnston saw the opportunity for career advancement and the opportunity to gain new skills outside the role of deputy CEO of Bundaberg Regional Council and opted for the conditions of employment that he was entitled to at the time and left the Bundaberg region," she said.

The spokeswoman said Mr Johnston was returning to the region with valuable skills and was the best candidate for the job.

"He is viewed as a top administrator with a second-to-none understanding of local government and state government," she said.

"Mr Johnston has accrued a massive amount of knowledge both in the public and private sector with positions in local government dominant in his career."

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how particular assessments should proceed (e.g. that the Commission conduct a public meeting in the local government area).

- *Assessment* – the Change Commission conducts an independent assessment of whether the proposed change is consistent with the Act and in the public interest.
- *Recommendation* – the Commission lets the Minister and the public know the results of its assessment (the findings must be published in a newspaper circulating generally in the local government area, in the Government Gazette and on the Electoral Commission's website). The Commission's final recommendation is not subject to appeal.
- *Implementation* – if the Change Commission ultimately recommends adoption of a particular proposal, the Governor in Council may implement the change under a regulation.

#### The review process

On 19 February 2015 the Bundaberg Regional Council wrote to Stephen Johnston, Acting Director-General, Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience requesting a change to its electoral arrangements by moving from a divided council of 10 councillors to an undivided council with the same number of councillors. On 2 April 2015 the Minister in turn referred the proposal to the Change Commission for assessment. Copies of relevant correspondence are at Appendix A.

The Change Commission is made up of the Electoral Commissioner or a combination of the Electoral Commissioner, the Deputy Electoral Commissioner and a casual commissioner.

The Change Commission for this review is made up of:

- Mr Walter van der Merwe, Electoral Commissioner; and
- Mr Gregory Rowe, casual Commissioner (appointed on 13 November 2015 for three years by Governor in Council).

When the matter was referred, the Minister provided no directions as to how the assessment should be conducted. However, to gauge public sentiment, the Change Commission elected to conduct public hearings as well as provide members of the public with the opportunity to make submissions in writing or online.

The Change Commission held two public meetings in Bundaberg on 12 May 2015. A total of 40 persons and four councillors attended the hearings, with all in attendance given the opportunity to address the meeting. Members of the public were also invited to lodge submissions with the Commission. Copies of relevant advertisements may be found at Appendix B. The Commission established a special section on the Electoral Commission of Queensland website to facilitate the lodgement of submissions. Copies of submissions received are at Appendix C.

The Change Commission received 25 submissions in favour of abolishing divisions and 681 submissions in favour of maintaining divisions.

In addition there were petitions from three organisations, one for abolishing divisions and two for maintaining divisions. Overwhelmingly those respondents to the petitions that are on the electoral roll within the Bundaberg Regional Council area favoured maintaining divisions with some 646 electors preferring to maintain the status quo.

Under the Act the Change Commission is afforded a high degree of discretion as to how to undertake its assessment. Noting the diverse nature of the Bundaberg Regional Council and



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19 February 2015

Stephen Johnston  
Acting Director-General  
Department of Local Government, Community Recovery & Resilience  
PO Box 15009  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Steve

Re: Electoral Arrangements (Your Ref: DGBN15/69)

I refer to correspondence from the Acting Director-General, Stephen Johnston dated 6 February 2015 regarding preparation for the 2016 quadrennial election. This correspondence states that Council's current internal boundaries, namely Divisions 4 and 5 are out of quota.

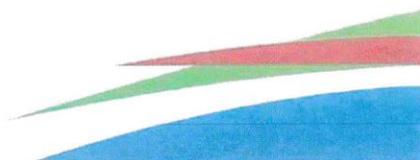
In accordance with Section 16 for the Local Government Act 2009 and on the basis of the data supplied by your Department and the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ), Council hereby makes application for a review of its internal boundaries.

On the wider question of the electoral arrangements that should be in place for the 2016 election, I advise Council has been actively reviewing and assessing the suitability and appropriateness of the current arrangements.

As you may be aware, the current electoral arrangements are a divided Council with 10 Councillors and the Mayor elected in the 10 divisions across the area. Both the 2008 and 2012 elections were conducted with attendance voting.

At its meeting held 17 December 2014, Council resolved to make application for the following arrangements to apply for the conduct of the 2016 poll:

- i. That the ECQ be appointed as the Returning Officer for the conduct of the poll.
- ii. That the 2016 election be conducted by way of a postal ballot for the entire region.
- iii. That Council request a change to its arrangements by abolishing the election of Councillors by Divisions.



Council considers there is a public benefit in postal ballots and having non-divided arrangements. Postal ballots are considered less resource intensive and consequently are considered less a financial impost on Council and its ratepayers. Council anecdotal evidence supports the view that residents favour this form of voting and Council notes there has been an increasing State trend to pre-poll and postal voting.

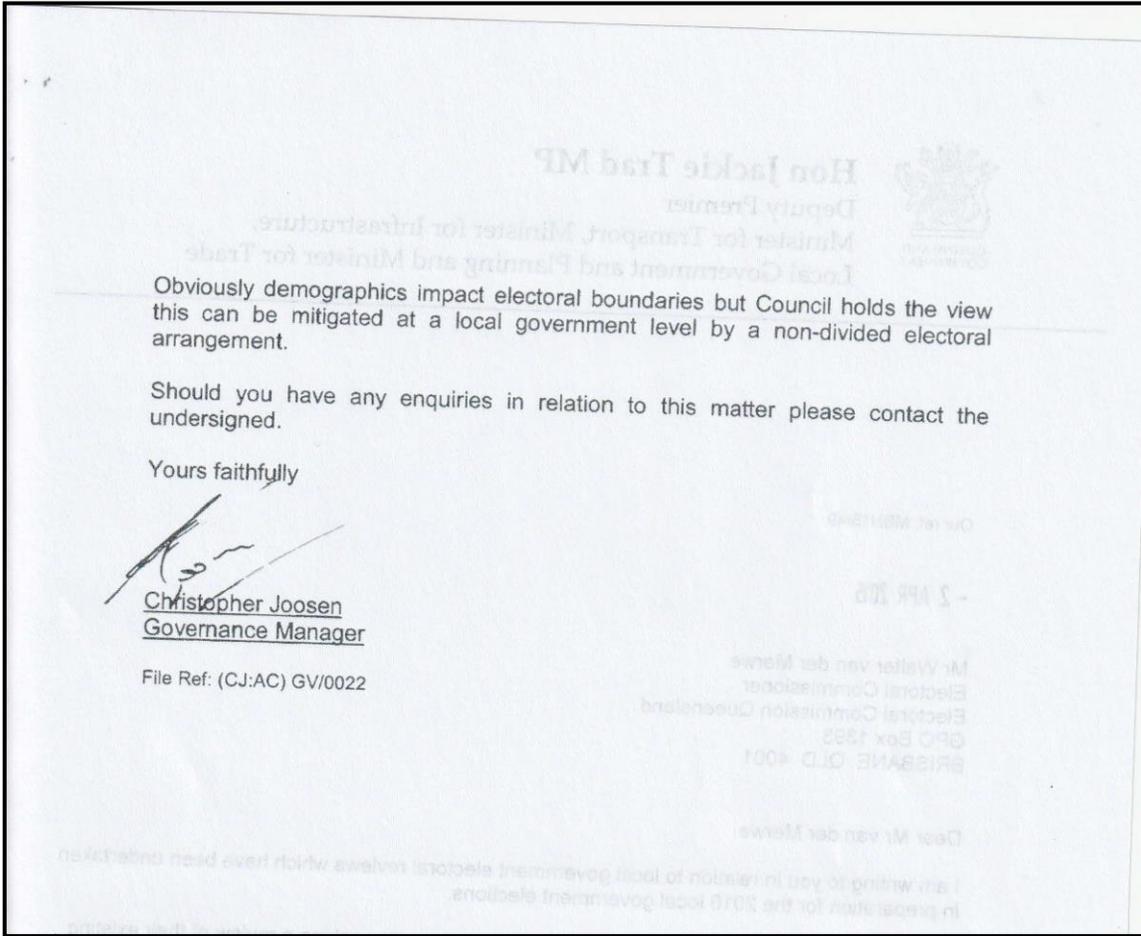
It would appear logical that with technological advancements and connectivity the functionality of postal voting will increase markedly. It is also salutary to note that the demographics of Council's regional area is a high percentage of 60+ aged residents. At the 2011 Census, the electorate of Bundaberg had 27.3% of its population aged 60+ and Burnett 26.1%. This compared with a statewide 18.7%. It may be reasonable to conclude that an ageing population favours the flexibility afforded by postal voting.

Council considers that demographic change, community expectation and technological developments advance the view that postal voting is an appropriate arrangement for its 2016 quadrennial election.

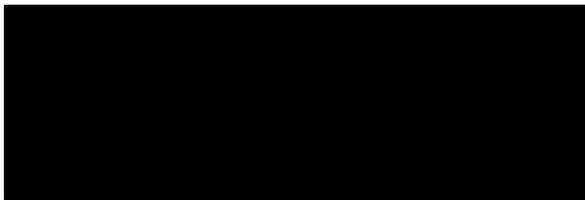
Regarding the application to go undivided, Council generally notes the following factors in favour of this arrangement:

- Divisions can foster parochialism, whereas Councillors should be required to decide the issues before them in accordance with the interest of the entire community.
- Because all electors get to vote for all candidates, the community as a whole has a greater say in who runs their local government.
- The quality of Councillors in an undivided system may be higher because electors are able to choose from amongst the best candidates across the entire region.
- Minority groups have a better chance of being represented in an undivided system.
- Councillors are accountable to the entire electorate, not just electors in a particular locality.
- An additional argument may be that due to quota issues, divisions can become large in geographic areas and lead to a heavier workload for some Councillors.
- Some divisions may be uncontested (as occurred in 2012) and this can foster the view that electors are not given an adequate choice and anecdotal feedback to Council was that electors feel disenfranchised in this circumstance.

It is also worth noting that non-divisional representation obviates the need to consider internal boundary quotas prior to an election. The ongoing notification of internal boundaries leads to elector confusion as to what division they reside and who their representative is. This issue is exacerbated with many electors already uncertain of their division / electorate across Federal, State and Local Government elections and frustrated with continual amendment.



Provided as a supplementary submission to our submission dated 6 August, 2023.



**Mary Walsh**  
**Community Advocate**

