

# **APPENDIX D**

**Comments on Proposal Notice &  
Public Submissions**

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

## Divisional Boundary Review of Isaac Regional Council

The Isaac Regional Council advised its electoral divisions no longer meet the voter enrolment requirements set down in the *Local Government Act 2009*. As a result, the Minister for Local Government has referred the matter to the Change Commission for independent assessment.

The Change Commission has proposed changes to the Council's internal boundaries (divisions) following a period of public suggestions.

### **INVITATION FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL**

Comments on the Change Commission's proposal will be accepted until 5pm on 8 July 2019. Late submissions cannot be considered.

To view the proposal and make a submission, please see the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website: <https://ecq.qld.gov.au/lgr/isaac> or phone 1300 881 665.

When making a comment, please remember each division must have relatively the same number of voters (quota) to ensure each person's vote has the same value. The quota for the Isaac Regional Council is 1,416 with a lower limit of 1,274 (-10%) and an upper limit of 1,557 (+10%).

#### **Comments can be lodged through:**

**- Online Form (*preferred*)**

<https://ecq.qld.gov.au/lgr/isaac>

**- Email**

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

**- Personal Delivery** (Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm)

Electoral Commission of Queensland  
Level 20, 1 Eagle Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

**- Post**

Local Government Change Commission  
GPO Box 1393, BRISBANE QLD 4001

**Submissions will be made available for public inspection.** To discuss any privacy concerns, please phone 1300 881 665.

Pat Vidgen PSM

**Electoral Commissioner**

**Divisional Boundary Review of Isaac Regional Council**  
**List of Public Comments on the Proposal**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Name / Organisation</b>
1	Gary Stevenson, Chief Executive Officer Isaac Regional Council

SENT BY MAIL TO: [LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au)

5 July 2019

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM  
 Local Government Change Commission  
 GPO Box 1393  
 BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Vidgen

**RE REVIEW OF DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES - 2019 PROPOSED  
 DETERMINATION – ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the recently released Local Government Change Commissions report and recommendations within the 'Review of Divisional Boundaries – 2019 Proposed Determination Isaac Regional Council' (Report).

The Report acknowledged Isaac Regional Council's (Council) submission on proposed realignment of divisional boundaries in preparation for the 2020 Quadrennial Local Government Elections, however it went further to not only consider current enrolment data but also the projected enrolment data (out to 2024) from the Queensland Government statistician's Office of Queensland Treasury. The result has recommended realignment of all divisional boundaries within the Isaac local government area.

Council, at its ordinary meeting held 25 June 2019, considered the Report and resolved (#6128) to formally respond to the Change Commission. Council requests that elements of the recommendations be reconsidered to not attempt to project to 2024 and acknowledge existing and emerging projects and communities of interest to ensure appropriate Councillor representation, with a focus on 2020.

While Council appreciates the desire to forecast to 2024 and to ensure a reasonable proportion of enrolled voters ('quota') for each division, it requests that the Change Commission take into consideration the volatility and unpredictability of the resources industry, current activities and developments and the potential (and pending) impact that these will have on the disbursement of the population throughout the region.

Please find attached a further submission for the consideration by the Change Commission and as comment/feedback to the Report.

Council appreciates the time of the Change Commission to consider this submission and if you have any queries, please contact Gary Stevenson PSM, Chief Executive Officer on phone:

[REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully



GARY STEVENSON PSM  
 Chief Executive Officer

Encl.

# “Review of Divisional Boundaries – 2019 Proposed Determination Isaac Regional Council”

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND SUBMSSION OVERVIEW

Council appreciates the desire to forecast to 2024 and to ensure a reasonable proportion of enrolled voters ('quota') for each division. In the interest of focusing on the key concerns of Council, in reference to the "Review of Divisional Boundaries – 2019 Proposed Determination Isaac Regional Council' (Report), it is noted that the rationale of the proposed boundary alignments for Divisions 1, 2, 6 and 8 based on aligning of entire localities to Divisions has merit, however highlights that imminent commencements of projects in the region may contradict existing predictions.

This report focuses on the potential and identified unintended consequences of using the longer-term predictions on elector voters for the proposed boundary alignments for all the divisions, in particular for Divisions 3, 4, 5 & 7.

In considering the final proposed boundary alignments, it is requested that given the volatility and unpredictability of the resources industry and current activities in the region, that a shorter-term focus on enrollment/population data be utilised. Issues to be taken into account including the increase in non-resident workers in the region with the upsurge of activity, new resource projects on foot and the subsequent unknown impact on resident numbers and locations.

With the number of new major projects proposed for the Isaac Region, including developing mines in the Galilee Basin, it is suggested that the predictions being referred by the Change Commission may not account for the actual location of the potential growth.

It is suggested that utilising the predictions for 2024 may not be prudent for the Isaac Region and it is therefore requested that the Change Commission consider the existing (current) data for the Isaac Local Government area divisional boundaries.

As per Council's previous requested changes, Council's puts forward these proposed options for consideration for the 2020 local government elections:

1. Maintain the existing boundary alignments, excepting the realignment of Division 1 & 6 around the township of Clermont (the latter as proposed by the Change Commission); or
2. Progress the proposed boundary realignments for Divisions 1, 2, 6 and 8, however maintain the existing boundary alignments for Divisions 3, 4, 5 & 7

## INTRODUCTION

The Galilee and Bowen Basins have, in recent times, seen a significant increase in mining activity. In response to this increased activity and the potential impact on the community, the Isaac Regional Council (Council) has been proactive in forming a Land Development Advisory Committee (LDAC). The purpose of LDAC is to have oversight and provide advice to Council in relation to the planning and implementation of land and housing development projects to

meet mitigate supply/demand imbalance anticipated with escalating economic activity principally in the mining and renewable energy sector.

Through LDAC's research and analysis, and identification of the mining sector and resource industry related major projects, the unpredictability of the disbursement of the population (i.e. electors) is relatively high for the short term. The LDAC is keeping a watching brief on the major projects throughout the region and other economic opportunities that will be borne from these new initiatives and revitalisation of the industry.

The following information provides a collation of facts and comment that influence Councils position and level of comfort that longer-term predictions on population growth may not be relied upon as the region is experiencing significant resurgence of activity. This coupled with industry employment strategies and local knowledge of activities, strongly supports the a more conservative approach for the short term.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Legislation – local workforce

The introduction of the *Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017* (SSRC Act) was to ensure that residents of communities near large resource projects benefit from the construction and operation of the projects. The SSRC Act prioritises recruitment for projects from the local and regional communities first.

Social impact assessments that are required to be undertaken as part of any new project developments. The SSRC Act prohibits 100 per cent fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workforce arrangements. For example, a new mine nearing commencement anticipates 450-500 employees, and it must assess a target of no more than 50 per cent FIFO workforce during construction and no more than 25 per cent FIFO during operations to ensure the project benefits local communities. All FIFO workforces must be justified.

A byproduct of the implementation of the SSRC Act may potentially contribute to the increase of resident populations to support these projects, when existing residents have been exhausted and/or people relocate for employment opportunities.

The following aims to demonstrate that the predictions for 2024 may not actually come to fruition. The data predicts that Division 1, Clermont Rural and Glenden would shrink more than 12 per cent and Division 3, Moranbah will rise more than 15 per cent. However, it must be acknowledged that there is potential that these figures have not taken into account, the many imminent major projects and other industry activities (i.e. resumption of operations) that would quickly defunct these predictions once commenced.

### Current Major Projects & resumption of operations

There are currently 31 active mines in the Bowen Basin in and around the Isaac local government area. Several coal mining operations in the Bowen Basin expanded their labour forces in 2016–17. In total, the size of the region's coal mining workforce grew from 27,700 persons in June 2016 to 29,340 persons in June 2017, an increase of 1,640 persons. This supports the upturn in the industry, which is anticipated to continue. However, an important factor to acknowledge is workforce data for this period illustrate an increase in the use of contract labour, with growth in contractor numbers (2,820 persons) more than offsetting a decline in the number of employees (–1,180 persons) (DNRM, 2017b).

There are several new resource and renewable energy projects on foot within the Isaac local government area, with several close to commencement or scheduled to commence over the next few years. In total there are nine (9) confirmed projects in the Bowen Basin, with one of those being a multiple solar farm project (i.e. various locations from Clermont, Moranbah, Coppabella, Dysart and Middlemount). The other eight projects are geographically located in the south east of the Isaac local government area (Clarke Creek), between Nebo and Glenden, north of Dysart and another 160km northwest of Clermont.

One of these projects, based 20km south of Glenden may have a significant impact on this townships residential and non-residential population. This project, New Lenton Project, is set for construction in 2019-20. Earlier reference is made to the 2024 elector predictions for Glenden, where they are highlighted as reducing by 12 per cent. This project has the potential to distort these figures quite rapidly.

These nine projects do not take into account two other significant projects in the region, being the Carmichael Mine which has commenced early construction and the Winchester South Project.

The Winchester South Project, being a new project, must be consistent with the requirements of the SSRC Act and the Coordinator-General's Social Impact Assessment Guideline (March 2018). This project is scheduled to commence construction in 2021 and is 30 klm south east of Moranbah. While it could be expected that there would be a higher number of local employees, their residency may not necessarily be in Moranbah as Dysart is also a viable option for residency (2024 projections have a shrinking of electors in Dysart).

The attached table (Proposed major projects within Isaac Local Government Area) expands on the above information with predicted workforce numbers and locality.

The above demonstrates that in the short term, the disbursement of the potential electors in the Isaac region may not be as clear as the predictions to historical trends for the 2024 period. The projects and employment types will impact greatly on where the populations reside, and the current projects are not centred around the Moranbah township as the predictions imply.

#### Population – non-resident trends

The Bowen Basin region saw an increase of 3,265 persons or 22% in its non-resident population by the end of June 2018 to 18,410 persons. This growth was in addition to the 1,585 persons or 12% increase in non-resident population at the end of June 2017 to 15,145 persons in the Bowen Basin. This marks the second consecutive year of non-resident population growth following four years of decline from the peak in 2012 of 25,035. The full time equivalent population of Bowen Basin region increased from 92,295 to 95,050 of which 19% are non-resident workers.

#### *Isaac Region non-resident population*

Of the local government areas in the Bowen Basin, Isaac region has the largest non-resident population of 12,075 persons or 66% of the regional total. Isaac's non-resident population grew by 1,495 persons or 14% in 2017-18. This growth was in addition to the 1,135 persons or 12% growth of the non-resident population in 2016-17. Over the past two years the non-resident population in the Isaac Regions has increased by 2,630 persons.

#### *Isaac Region full time equivalent (FTE) population*

Isaac Region's full-time equivalent population as at June 2018 was 33,070 with non-resident workers on shift accounting for 37% of the total FTE. The increase being attributed to expanded production and scheduled maintenance activities at existing mines, one new mine, one reopened mine, the temporary construction workforces for the Caval Ridge Southern

Circuit Project and two solar projects. Whilst the non-resident population in the Isaac region increased in the 2017-18 year the resident population decreased by 250 persons to 20,990.

*Bowen and Galilee Basins Non-Resident Population Projections, 2018 to 2024*

The non-resident population of Isaac Region as at June 2018 of 12,075 persons exceeds the projection for Isaac in the Bowen and Galilee Basins Non-Resident Population Projections, 2018-2024 Report for 2018. The current non-resident population of Isaac region was not anticipated in the Bowen and Galilee Basins non-resident population projections for 2018-2024 until 2021 in Series D (which includes projects in preliminary planning stages).

**Table 4 Projected non-resident population, Isaac (R)**

Projection series	Number of non-resident workers on-shift at 30 June							
	Estimated	Projected						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Series A	10,580	10,630	10,330	10,110	9,920	9,790	9,760	9,720
Series B	10,580	10,730	11,110	10,820	11,580	11,760	11,170	11,130
Series C	10,580	10,740	11,170	11,020	11,860	11,900	11,310	11,260
Series D	10,580	10,740	11,250	11,350	12,200	12,550	12,370	12,230

Source: QGSO estimates, 2017; QGSO projections, 2018 to 2024



Bowen and Galilee Basins non-resident population projections, 2018 to 2024

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**Series A** projection is based on the number of non-resident workers on-shift who were engaged in existing resource operations at June 2017. The projection takes into account future changes to those operational workforces as advised by company sources, as well as the estimated construction and operational workforces of Category A projects (i.e. those that are approved and have reached financial close).

**Series B** projection includes the Series A projection plus projected growth in the non-resident population arising from Category B projects (those that are approved but have yet to reach financial close).

**Series C** projection includes the Series A and B projections, plus projected growth in the non-resident population arising from Category C projects (those that have lodged an EIS, but have yet to proceed through to final approval).

**Series D** projection includes the Series A, B and C projections, plus projected growth in the non-resident population from Category D projects (those that have yet to publish an EIS, including projects that have lodged an initial advice statement (IAS), as well as projects that have yet to begin the approvals process).

*In Summary:*

Projected non-resident populations for Isaac region through to 2021 have been exceeded by the June 2018 non-resident numbers of 12,075.

Since the release of the 2018 Bowen Basin Population Report, where the above information is obtained, there is concern the population forecasts predicted for the Isaac Region have once again been underestimated – even in the proposed high-growth scenarios

This demonstrates that the predictions have very quickly been outdated and it is difficult to maintain set predictions with the volatility of the region at the present stage.

This also demonstrates a seeming trend of non-residents in the region opposed to residents that would be electors in years to come.

### Councillor Representation – community impact of proposed changes

Council has concern that the proposed boundary realignment, particularly with Division 7 further encroaching into the Moranbah township, removes the purpose of divisions being for people to represent and be represented in their locality. Division 7 is significantly based on the Middlemount locality, approximately 150klm from Moranbah. The proposal has this Councillor representing a significant amount of the Moranbah constituency; which already has three Councillors.

Another key element of the Isaac community is the non-resident population, of whom can make up to one-third of the population at any one time. It is appreciated that while this doesn't influence the electoral role quota requirements for legislative purposes, it is a significant detail that mustn't be overlooked when considering representation of the population.

### Closing

The populations within the Isaac Region, in particular those directly related to mining operations/townships fluctuate considerably and it is suggested that general population trends that may meet the standard growth in predictable urban/regional centres, may not apply to the Isaac Region. The Change Commission is requested to acknowledge the current and emerging projects and resurgence of activities across the Isaac region and potential (and imminent) impact on populations throughout the Region.

Source: Bowen Basin population report, 2018 (QGSO unpublished)

Source: QGSO Bowen Basin Population Reports 2010-2018 Retrieved 13/08/2018

Proposed major projects within Isaac Local Government Area

Project	Proponent	Location	Status	Peak Workforce	Projected Start
Byerwen Coal Project (BCP)	QCoal Group	20 km west of Glenden	EIS approved with conditions July 2014 (SDPWO Act). Early works commenced 2017	Construction – 350 Operation - 545	2017
Olive Downs South	Pembroke	30km North East of Dysart, South of Moranbah,	Draft EIS submitted	Construction – 500 -700 Operations 480 (Note: Wilunga expansion proposed 2027)	Construction. 2019-20 Operations 2021
New Lenton Project (NLP)	New Hope Group	Approximately 65 km north-west of Nebo, 65 km north of Moranbah, and 20 km south of Glenden	Draft EIS being prepared (EP Act) Construction 2019-2020, operation from 2021	Construction -200 Operation - 300	Construction 2019-20 Operation 2021
Red Hill Mining Lease Project (RHMLP)	BMA	20 km north of Moranbah	EIS approved with conditions June 2015 (SDPWO Act) EIS assumed development from 2020	Construction - 2,000 Operation - 1,500	2020-21
Saraji East Mining Lease Project	BMA	Approximately 60 km south east of Moranbah and 30 kms north of Dysart	Draft EIS under consideration (SDPWO Act) Construction potentially from 2022, Operations from 2024	Construction – 1,000 Operation - 500	Potentially Construction - 2022 Operations 2024
Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project (CCM&RP)	Adani Mining Pty Ltd	Approximately 160 km northwest of Clermont	EIS approved with conditions May 2014 (SDPWO Act). Early works commenced October 2017	Construction - 2,475 Operation - 3,920	Unknown
China Stone Coal Project (CSCP)	MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd	Approximately 170 km northwest of Clermont	Draft EIS submitted September 2015 (SDPWO Act) – CG preparing evaluation report. Execution status unknown	Construction - 3,892 Operation - 3,391	Unknown

## Other renewable energy projects

Solar Farm projects	Multiple	Various locations – includ. (1) CLM, (1) MBH, (2) Coppabella, (2) DYS, (2) MMT, (1) IRC East	10 approvals in place, 2 of which are in construction – CLM Solar & Adani Solar	Construction - Est 100- 400 per project Operation <20	TBC
Lacour Energy Windfarm	Lacour Energy	Clarke Creek 150km north/west Rockhampton	Approval in progress	Construction 350	Unknown