

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHANGE COMMISSION

Divisional Boundary Review

2023

TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL
PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

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Introduction

The Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) is an independent body established under the *Local Government Act 2009*. The Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a proposed local government change, such as a change of local government boundaries or electoral arrangements, is in the public interest. In doing so, the Change Commission must consider:

- whether the proposed change is consistent with a Local Government Act,
- the views of the Minister, and
- any other matters prescribed under a regulation.

Except in relation to changes proposed to Brisbane City Council boundaries, the Change Commission may only assess local government changes proposed by the Minister responsible for Local Government.

The Change Commission is assessing a proposed change to the divisions of the Tablelands Regional Council, specifically whether the township of Herberton should be moved from Division 2 to Division 1.

The Change Commission wants to hear the views of the public regarding the proposed change.

About the review

On 28 February 2023, the Tablelands Regional Council wrote to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (Deputy Premier) seeking a review of the Council's divisional boundaries.

While all Tablelands Regional Council divisions are currently within the legislatively prescribed quota with approximately the same number of electors, the Council asked the Deputy Premier to consider whether the town of Herberton should be moved from Division 2 to Division 1.

In accordance with sections 18 and 19 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Deputy Premier referred the proposed change to the Change Commission to assess whether it is in the public interest.

The Change Commission, in assessing the proposed change, seeks submissions from the public on whether the proposed change should proceed. To assist the public to provide feedback on the proposal, the Change Commission has prepared potential new divisional boundaries for the Tablelands Regional Council that would implement the change and maintain balanced enrolment across all divisions.

Details of the proposed boundary changes, including current and expected enrolment, are set out below.

Public submissions on the proposed change, including feedback on whether the change should proceed and, if so, any comments on the proposed changes to divisional boundaries will be accepted from **9am on Monday 31 July 2023 until 9am on Monday 14 August 2023**.

You can have your say by providing your feedback to the Change Commission through any of the following channels:

- Online form: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/tablelands-boundary-review
- Email: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au
- Post: Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Methodology

When considering proposed divisional boundaries for the Tablelands Regional Council, the Change Commission must ensure each division still has approximately the same number of electors. Transferring the township of Herberton to Division 2 has impacts on other divisions, so other boundary changes would be necessary to ensure the number of electors remains balanced.

Each division is required to have approximately the same number of electors so that each person's vote carries the same weight, maintaining the democratic principle of one vote, one value. This is known as a 'reasonable proportion of electors' or a 'quota'.

The quota is determined by dividing the total number of voters in a local government area by the number of councillors (excluding the mayor). For a local government area with more than 10,000 voters, the number of electors in each division must be plus or minus 10 per cent of the quota.¹

In addition to ensuring each division meets the quota, the Change Commission took into consideration a number of other factors when determining the proposed boundaries. These considerations included:

- projected enrolment data for each division prepared by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (based on enrolment data as at 9 March 2023)
- natural and constructed geographic markers such as rivers and roads, and
- the Council's advice on proposed boundaries.

¹ Section 15 of the *Local Government Act 2009*

Quota and enrolment for existing divisions

Table 1 below outlines the Tablelands Regional Council's current enrolment quota as at 9 March 2023 and the projected enrolment for 31 March 2028, being approximately when the 2028 local government quadrennial elections will occur.

Table 1 – Current and projected quota		
	9 March 2023	31 March 2028
Number of divisions	6	6
Enrolment	19,087	20,001
Quota per division	3,182	3,333
Quota (-10%) per division	2,864	3,000
Quota (+10%) per division	3,500	3,666

Table 2 below outlines the current enrolment for each division of the Tablelands Regional Council, and the projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028. As at 9 March 2023, all divisions are within quota and, based on enrolment projections, all divisions are expected to remain within quota for the 2028 quadrennial elections.

Table 2 – Summary of enrolment for existing divisions				
Division	Enrolment as at 9 March 2023	Deviation from quota	Projected enrolment as at 31 March 2028	Deviation from quota
Division 1	3,180	-0.04%	3,381	1.42%
Division 2	3,167	-0.45%	3,206	-3.82%
Division 3	3,108	-2.30%	3,161	-5.17%
Division 4	3,306	3.92%	3,468	4.03%
Division 5	3,277	3.01%	3,443	3.28%
Division 6	3,049	-4.15%	3,342	0.25%

Summary of proposed changes

To accommodate the Tablelands Regional Council's request to transfer Herberton from Division 2 to Division 1, and ensure each division remains in quota, the Change Commission has prepared the following potential boundary changes:

- a. the entire localities of Herberton and Moomin be transferred from Division 2 to Division 1, and
- b. the entire localities of Wondecla and Upper Barron be transferred from Division 1 to Division 2.

No changes would be required to the boundaries of Divisions 3, 4, 5 and 6 to maintain those divisions within quota.

Maps of the proposed divisions and detailed spatial data are available to view [here](#).

Effect of proposed changes on divisional enrolment

Table 3 below outlines the current and projected enrolment for the proposed divisions. All divisions are projected to remain in quota for 2028 under the boundary changes, should they proceed.

Table 3 – Summary of enrolment for proposed divisions				
Division	Enrolment as at 9 March 2023	Deviation from quota	Projected enrolment as at 9 March 2028	Deviation from quota
Division 1	3,035	-4.59%	3,206	-3.82%
Division 2	3,312	4.08%	3,381	1.39%
Division 3	3,108	-2.30%	3,161	-5.17%
Division 4	3,306	3.92%	3,468	4.03%
Division 5	3,277	3.01%	3,443	3.28%
Division 6	3,049	-4.15%	3,342	0.25%

Finalising the review

After reviewing the public comments on the proposal, the Change Commission will make a recommendation on the Council's divisional boundaries, including whether any change should be made.

The results of a Change Commission review must be provided to the Deputy Premier for consideration of implementation by Regulation. The report will be published on the Electoral Commission of Queensland website and a notice published in the Queensland Government Gazette.