

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CHANGE COMMISSION

**External  
Boundary  
Review**

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**JUNE 2025**

IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL  
SOMERSET REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Background .....	1
Assessment.....	2
Regulatory framework .....	2
Somerset Regional Council .....	3
Ipswich City Council .....	3
Landholders of Lot 20 on SP344163 .....	3
Recommendation .....	4
Implementation .....	4

**APPENDIX 1**      Ministerial referral

**APPENDIX 2**      Maps

**APPENDIX 3**      Ipswich City Council ordinary meeting extract

## 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*,<sup>1</sup>
- the views of the Minister,<sup>2</sup> and
- any other matters prescribed under a regulation.<sup>3</sup>

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 has finalised its assessment of a proposed change referred by the Minister for Local Government to the external boundaries between the Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council. This report outlines the recommended placement of Lot 20 on SP344163 and sets out the reason for the Change Commission's decision.

The Change Commission for this review consists of Mr Pat Vidgen PSM, Electoral Commissioner of Queensland.

## Background

On 8 May 2025, the Honourable Ms Ann Leahy MP, Minister for Local Government and Water, Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (the Minister), referred a proposed change to the common boundary between the Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council (**Appendix 1**).

The referral requires the Change Commission to assess the placement of one property which is currently dissected by the external boundaries of the Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council. The proposed change is for Lot 20 on SP344163 to be united within the Somerset Regional Council.

In the referral, the Minister did not provide any directions about how the Change Commission was to conduct its assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> *Local Government Act 2009*, s. 19(2)(a)

<sup>2</sup> *Local Government Act 2009*, s. 19(2)(b)

<sup>3</sup> *Local Government Act 2009*, s. 19(2)(c)

The process the Change Commission undertook for this review is as follows:

- review correspondence from the Minister and the councils
- review minutes of the Ipswich City Council meeting relating to the proposed change
- review correspondence between the landholders and the Somerset Regional Council
- publish the Change Commission's final report, and
- provide the final report to the Minister for implementation by the Governor in Council.

## Assessment

### Regulatory framework

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a local government change proposed by the Minister is in the public interest.

In discharging its responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission must perform its functions in accordance with the 'local government principles' which include using transparent and effective processes.

In assessing this proposed change, the Change Commission considered the communities of interest provisions in section 9 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. Specifically, ensuring that the external boundaries of a local government do not dissect properties or divide neighbourhoods or adjacent rural and urban areas with common interests or interdependencies.<sup>4</sup>

It was noted that the proposed change would unite Lot 20 on SP344163 within a single local government area (refer to maps at **Appendix 2**).

The Change Commission also considered the interests of the landholders, noting the proposed change may decrease the administrative burden for the landholders, who currently must liaise with two councils regarding property matters.

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<sup>4</sup> *Local Government Regulation 2012*, s. 9(d)

## Somerset Regional Council

On 8 January 2025, the Somerset Regional Council requested a boundary change be referred to the Change Commission to determine the placement of one property (Lot 20 on SP344163) that is split between itself and the neighbouring Ipswich City Council. According to the council's correspondence, the landholders of the lot in question requested the council unite their property so that it is solely held within the Somerset Regional Council (see council correspondence in **Appendix 1**).

## Ipswich City Council

On 28 November 2024, the Ipswich City Council held an ordinary meeting where it resolved to support the proposed change to align Lot 20 on SP344163, in its entirety, in the Somerset Regional Council (**Appendix 3**).

On 6 December 2024, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ipswich City Council signed a document indicating the council's written support for the proposed change to the Somerset Regional Council (see council correspondence in **Appendix 1**).

## Landholders of Lot 20 on SP344163

On 24 October 2024, the two landholders advised the Somerset Regional Council that they support the proposed change for Lot 20 on SP344163 to be wholly incorporated within the Somerset Regional Council (see council correspondence in **Appendix 1**).

## Recommendation

The Change Commission is required to form an independent view of the merits of a proposed change.

To do so, the Change Commission considered the views of the impacted stakeholders, as well as whether the change would be consistent with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Given there is unanimous support from the councils and the landholders, and noting that, if implemented, the external boundary of the councils would no longer dissect the property, the Change Commission finds the proposed change to be in the public interest.

The Change Commission therefore recommends:

- the portion of Lot 20 on SP344163 currently located in the Ipswich City Council be transferred so the entire lot is in the Somerset Regional Council.

An overview and detailed maps of the recommended changes are provided in **Appendix 2**.

## Implementation

The Change Commission has provided the results of its assessment to the Honourable Ms Ann Leahy MP, Minister for Local Government and Water, Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Change Commission will publish a notice of results in the Government Gazette and on the ECQ website.

The Governor in Council may implement the Change Commission's recommendation under a regulation.

The regulation may provide for anything that is necessary or convenient to facilitate the implementation of the local government boundary change.



**Pat Vidgen PSM**  
**Electoral Commissioner**

# APPENDIX 1

## Ministerial referral



Hon Ann Leahy MP  
Minister for Local Government and Water and  
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers

Our ref: [REDACTED]

08 MAY 2025

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM  
Electoral Commissioner  
Local Government Change Commission

Email: [REDACTED]

1 William Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 826  
Brisbane QLD 4001  
Telephone +617 3719 7420  
Email lgwv@ministerial.qld.gov.au  
ABN 51 242 471 577

Dear Mr Vidgen

I refer to the enclosed letter from the Somerset Regional Council (SRC) and signed statement from Ipswich City Council (ICC) supporting a review of the local government boundaries.

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the LGA), I propose the local government's application for assessment of the following boundary change:

- Lot 20 on SP344163 to be wholly incorporated within the SRC local government area.

The enclosed letter from SRC and signed statement from ICC demonstrate support for this proposal. The SRC has contacted the affected landholders and obtained their written agreement of the proposed changes. A copy of this written agreement is enclosed.

A map of the proposed change is enclosed.

If you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED] Senior Region Advisor, Local Government Division, Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

**ANN LEAHY MP**  
**Minister for Local Government and Water**  
**Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers**

Enc (4)



8 January 2025

The Minister for Local Government and Water  
Hon Ann Leahy MP

By Email: [lgwv@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:lgwv@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Minister Leahy,

**Subject:** Referral to Change Commission regarding the Realignment of the Somerset and Ipswich Local Government Area Boundary in Marburg  
**Our Ref:** SRC – Rates and Government Valuations – Notifications – 2024-2025 Rates Notifications

In November 2023 Council endorsed the Plan of Subdivision for reconfiguring a lot by Boundary Realignment (two lots into two lots) on Postmans Track, Marburg. A Development Application was approved with consent from Ipswich City Council. The new Lots are Lot 10 on SP344163 and Lot 20 on SP344163.

The reconfiguration has resulted in Lot 20 on SP344163 being placed within the Ipswich City and Somerset Region Local Government Areas.

Council has received a request from the owners of Lot 20 to change the local government area of their property to be solely under the Somerset Region Local Government Area.

To resolve this boundary issue, in accordance with Chapter 2 Part 3 of the *Local Government Act (2009)*, Council asks that you refer the matter to the Local Government Change Commission to assess the proposed change.

Please find attached the following documents in support of this request:

1. Written Consent from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], owners of Lot 20 on SP344163.
2. Ipswich City Council written Consent to the change.
3. Somerset Regional Council Decision of Ordinary Meeting 19/12/2024.

Should you require further information in relation to this matter, please contact [REDACTED] Corporate Administration Officer or [REDACTED], Director Corporate and Community Services on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Johnson**  
Chief Executive Officer

I, Sonia Cooper of Ipswich City Council, in my capacity as Chief Executive Officer agree that Lot 20 on SP344163 should belong in its entirety to the Somerset Local Government Area and have no objections to the local government boundary being amended accordingly.



(sign) 6/12/2024 (date)

Sonia Cooper  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ipswich City Council

I, [REDACTED] in my capacity as registered owner of Lot 20 on SP344163, agree that Lot 20 on SP344163 should belong in its entirety to the Somerset Local Government Area and have no objections to the local government boundary being amended accordingly.

[REDACTED] (sign) 24/10/24 (date)

I, [REDACTED] in my capacity as registered owner of Lot 20 on SP344163, agree that Lot 20 on SP344163 should belong in its entirety to the Somerset Local Government Area and have no objections to the local government boundary being amended accordingly.

[REDACTED] (sign) 24/10/24 (date)



**Somerset**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

PO Box 117  
2 Redbank St  
Esk QLD 4312  
Ph.07-5424 4000  
Fax.07-5424 4099

Email: [mail@somerset.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@somerset.qld.gov.au)  
Web: [www.somerset.qld.gov.au](http://www.somerset.qld.gov.au)

#### Disclaimer

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#### Title

**Lot 20 SP344163**

**Boundary  
Realignment**

**Date: 18/02/2025**




**Somerset Regional Council**

**Lot 20 SP344163**

**Ipswich City Council**

**Lot 20 Sp344163**

#### Somerset Legend

 Existing LGA Boundary  
 Proposed LGA Boundary

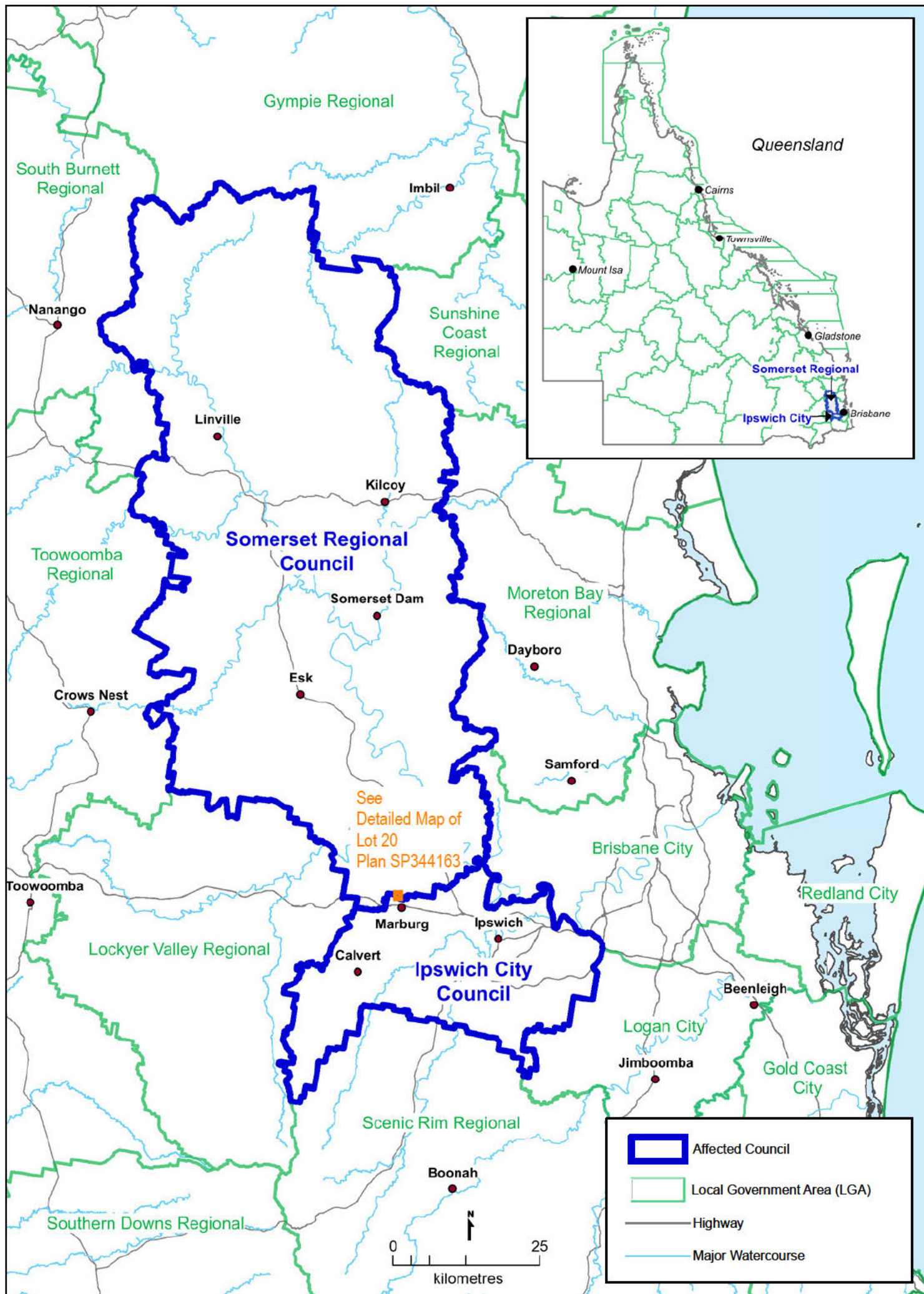


# APPENDIX 2

## Maps

## Overview Map:

Transfer Lot 20 Plan SP344163 from Ipswich City Council to Somerset Regional Council





Detailed Map Lot 20 Plan SP344163:  
Proposed Transfer Lot 20 Plan SP344163 from Ipswich City Council to Somerset Regional Council



Affected Area Lot 20 Plan SP344163



Property Lot 20 Plan SP344163



Proposed LGA Boundary



Current LGA Boundary



Locality Boundary



Property Boundary

# APPENDIX 3

Ipswich City Council ordinary  
meeting extract



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING**

**28 NOVEMBER 2024**

Held in the Council Chambers, Administration Building  
1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich

The meeting commenced at 9.02 am

**1. ATTENDANCE AT COMMENCEMENT**

Mayor Teresa Harding (Chairperson); Councillors Jacob Madsen, Pye Augustine, Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic, Paul Tully, Marnie Doyle, Andrew Antonioli, David Martin and Jim Madden

■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■

■ [REDACTED]

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■ [REDACTED]

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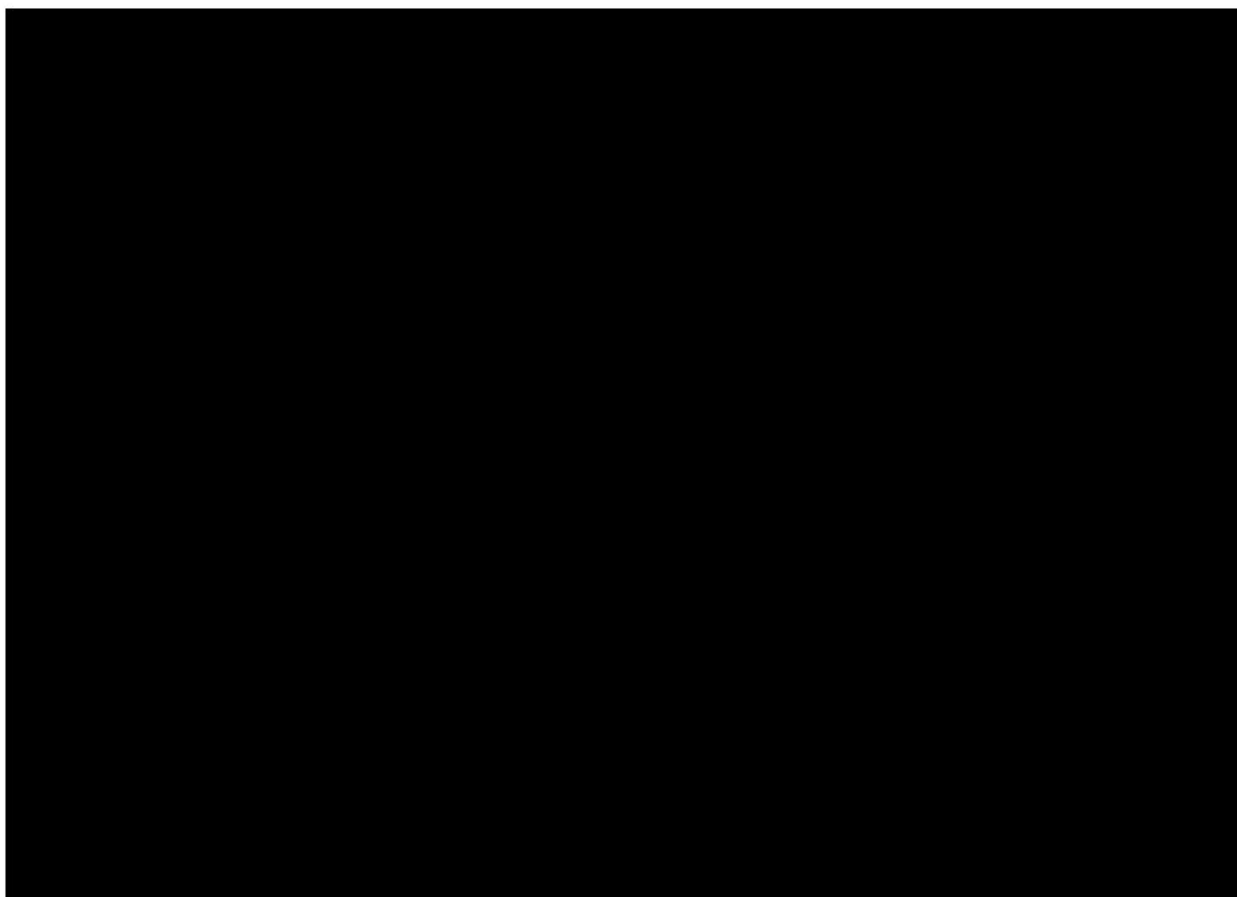
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**FINANCE AND  
GOVERNANCE  
COMMITTEE – ITEM 4**

**BOUNDARY  
ANOMALIES  
BETWEEN IPSWICH  
CITY COUNCIL AND  
SOMERSET REGIONAL  
COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION C2024/09/363(FAGCC)**

Moved by Councillor Paul Tully:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

- A. That Council resolve to support an application by Somerset Regional Council to the Minister for Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works and to the Local Government Change Commission to have included 76 Postmans Track, Marburg, more particularly described as Lot 20 on SP344163, in its entirety, in Somerset Regional Council boundary and excluded from Ipswich City Council boundary.**
- B. That pursuant to Section 257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolve to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to take action in order to implement Council's decision.**

**AFFIRMATIVE**

**Councillors:**

Harding

Madsen

Augustine

**NEGATIVE**

**Councillors:**

Nil

Jonic  
Tully  
Doyle  
Antoniolli  
Martin  
Madden

The motion was put and carried by block resolve.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

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**W:** [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au)

**E:** [LGBoundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:LGBoundaries@ecq.qld.gov.au)

**T:** 1300 881 665

**P:** Local Government Change Commission  
GPO Box 1393  
BRISBANE QLD 4001