



Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC19/5036

Your ref: A490607

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9 OCT 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 2019 about Petition No. 3164-19 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 17 September 2019 regarding the 2020 Sunshine Coast Regional Council election and a request for the Council to be changed from a divided Council to an undivided Council.

Under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA) and the Local Government Regulation 2012, the Council is declared to be a regional Council with 10 divisions represented by one Councillor per division and a Mayor. The LGA sets out the process for undertaking a Local Government change, which includes a change of divisions for a Council.

Under the LGA, as the Minister for Local Government, only I may propose a Local Government change and refer a matter to the independent Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) for assessment and determination. Although I can propose that a Council be changed from divided to undivided, it is my preference for the Council itself to initiate such a request following a process of community consultation.

In the case of a divisional boundary review, divided Local Governments must review their electoral divisions to ensure they have a reasonable proportion of electors. This review must be conducted by 1 March in the year preceding a local government quadrennial election. In accordance with this requirement, the Council advised that Division 9 does not have a quota of a reasonable number of electors. Therefore, I referred the matter to the Change Commission for review and determination.

While the Council advised me of the results of its review within the required timeframe, there was no request for the Council to be changed to an undivided Council. I would encourage the petitioners to raise this issue with the Mayor and other Councillors of the Council for their consideration.

Information about the Change Commission's current review of the Council can be found on the Electoral Commission Queensland's website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au by clicking on (1) Electoral boundaries, (2) Local government boundary reviews, and (3) Divisional boundary reviews. The Change Commission has invited public comment on the proposal by the Council. The closing date for comments is 5.00pm 11 October 2019.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs