

APPENDIX C

**Comments on Suggestions Notice
& Public Submissions**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION

Ward Boundary Review of Brisbane City Council

The Brisbane City Council has advised its electoral wards no longer meet the voter enrolment requirements set down in the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*. As a result, the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) has referred the matter to the Change Commission for independent assessment.

Enrolment Requirements

Each ward of Brisbane is required to have relatively the same number of voters (quota) to ensure each person's vote has the same value. The quota for each of Brisbane's wards is 29,699 with a lower limit of 26,729 (-10%) and an upper limit of 32,668 (+10%).

INVITATION FOR COMMENTS ON THE SUGGESTIONS

Public suggestions were invited from 27 April to 5pm 20 May 2019 and are available to view on the ECQ website www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/lq-reviews/DBRs/2019-DBRs/brisbane or phone 1300 881 665.

The Change Commission now invites comments on the suggestions until 5pm on 17 June 2019. Late submissions cannot be considered.

Submissions can be lodged through:

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

www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/lq-reviews/DBRs

- **Email**

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

2019 Ward Boundary Review of Brisbane City Council
List of Comments on the Suggestions

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Sent: Monday, 27 May 2019 7:24 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78854) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Tanya B

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Tanya B**

Submission Details

Name: Tanya B

Submission Text: Jamboree vs Forest Lake Wards. Given the increasing number of people in retirement villages and the housing developments in Ellen Grove, I would like to suggest that the suburbs of Wacol and Ellen Grove are moved in to the Forest Lake Ward. This would also keep the Centenary Suburbs as the Centenary Suburbs.

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Sent: Saturday, 1 June 2019 1:25 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78867) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Katarina Nikolic

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Katarina Nikolic**

Submission Details

Name: Katarina Nikolic

Submission Text: CENTRAL WARD BOUNDARY There is a suggestion before the State Electoral Commission that Newstead be removed from Central Ward and placed with the boundary of Hamilton Ward. Newstead should stay in central ward - we are connected to the community here that borders with Teneriffe and so on. Newstead and Teneriffe should have the one councillor and moving Newstead into Hamilton Ward does not enhance the community for now or in the future. #KeepNewsteadInCentral

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Sent: Sunday, 2 June 2019 7:01 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78868) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Emily Philip

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Emily Philip**

Submission Details

Name: Emily Philip

Submission Text: I write to implore you to keep Newstead in the Central electorate. Keeping Newstead within the divisional boundary makes sense for a number of reasons. It is geographically interlinked with Teneriffe and Fortitude Valley and in very close proximity to New Farm and Spring Hill. It is arguably closer and more demographically aligned with those areas than with Hamilton. I would also argue that although nearing the quota above the average electors in the area, Hamilton ward is also above zero moving towards the above quota so it makes little sense to shift Newstead out when it will likely bump over Hamilton. Newstead is far more aligned with its neighbouring suburbs than with the ward of Hamilton which includes suburbs as far away as Pinkenbar. There is little doubt in my mind that moving Newstead out of its current ward jurisdiction would negatively impact both wards.

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Sent: Sunday, 2 June 2019 11:14 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78869) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Tommy Lai

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Tommy Lai**

Submission Details

Name: Tommy Lai

Submission Text: I believe a fair distribution of population to each ward would be in the best interest of the city. As some wards such as the Gabba have grown at a more rapid pace than other wards it is vital that people here are not negatively impacted by this. Perhaps new wards will need to be made but it is certainly good that the boundaries are being updated and I believe this should be done every few years to ensure the integrity of our city's democratic voting system.

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From: Georgina Bishop
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2019 9:04 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: Newstead to stay in Central Ward

Hi,
I live and work in Newstead. I would prefer to remain in the central ward please.

Kind Regards

Georgina Bishop



Sent: Monday, 3 June 2019 8:00 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78873) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Declan Wilson

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Declan Wilson**

Submission Details

Name: Declan Wilson

Submission Text: My first suggestion for a boundary change is to make two wards a bit more logical. The first affects the Enoggera Ward: - The eastern boundary should wrap the Kedron-Brook with the Marchant Ward, consistent with the rest of the northern boundary. It would almost make it consistent with the southern boundary that also follows the creek. The second affects the Doboy Ward: - the boundary to the west should be moved east to run vertically along Creek Road until maybe Richmond Rd. - to make up for the loss of housing there, the southern boundary should move further south to Grassdale Rd.

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Sent: Tuesday, 4 June 2019 10:01 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78887) Brisbane City Local Government Area - SS

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **SS**

Submission Details

Name: SS

Submission Text: do not support the proposal to move Newstead to Hamilton Ward. My family work, live, commute, shop, doctor, dentist, school and use infrastructure parks etc provided in Central as my families community. Redrawing electoral boundaries would require my family to vote in another community we are not apart of, nor support, nor use, nor have any knowledge of it's issues needs in order to make informed voting decisions. Newstead to remain in Central !

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Sent: Friday, 7 June 2019 12:03 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78892) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Desley

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Desley**

Submission Details

Name: Desley

Submission Text: With a population of around 50,000, I believe the current Gabba Ward is significantly too large for one Councillor to effectively deal with. Along with considering boundary changes, please reduce the size of this ward by creating an additional adjacent inner-city Ward. Thank-you.

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Sent: Saturday, 8 June 2019 9:43 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78893) Brisbane City Local Government Area - T Wilson-Brown

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **T Wilson-Brown**

Submission Details

Name: T Wilson-Brown

Submission Text: To the Local Government Boundary Change Commission, I am writing to you about the proposed redistribution of Brisbane City Council wards. I support significant changes to ward boundaries now, so that boundaries don't have to change every 4 years. I support an increase in the number of wards, so that residents can have better, more local representation. I think a ratio of 1:25,000 provides better representation, and makes council wards substantially smaller than state electorates. I support making wards with a high number of non-voting residents as small as possible, because these residents still use council services and funding. I call on the commission to account for high-rise development zoning when adjusting ward boundaries. I ask the commission to keep communities that cross creeks and other small natural features in the same ward. If it is not possible to increase the number of wards or make substantial changes before the 2020 election, then planning should start for an increase and substantial changes in 2021 or 2022 for the 2024 election. For my current ward, I support moving part or all of Dutton Park into Tennyson ward, as there is a strong community of interest between Dutton Park and the suburbs to the south.

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Sent: Monday, 10 June 2019 11:39 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78894) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Stacey Tabert

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Stacey Tabert**

Submission Details

Name: Stacey Tabert

Submission Text: I understand that the State Government is currently reviewing the boundaries of all 26 Brisbane City Council wards. I strongly recommend the creation of new wards around Brisbane - rather than moving boundaries around to maintain 26 wards. I also support shrinking the acceptable populations of all the wards, so that each local councillor represents a smaller number of residents, thereby improving the ratio of representatives to residents. Sincerely Dr Stacey Tabert

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From: Stacey Tabert
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Minister for Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs
Subject: BCC Ward Boundaries Submission

Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe

I understand that the State Government is currently reviewing the boundaries of all 26 Brisbane City Council wards. I strongly recommend the creation of new wards around Brisbane - rather than moving boundaries around to maintain 26 wards. I also support shrinking the acceptable populations of all the wards, so that each local councillor represents a smaller number of residents, thereby improving the ratio of representatives to residents.

Sincerely

Dr Stacey Tabert


From: Barbara Absolon
Sent: Monday, 10 June 2019 4:46 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: Comments on Suggestions re Central Ward

I agree with Michael O'Dwyer's (State Director, LNP) submission regarding Central Ward that Newstead has a strong 'community of interest' with Teneriffe and New Farm and very little with the suburbs of Hamilton and Ascot.

Newstead residents live, walk, shop and eat side-by-side with their current adjacent neighbours in Central Ward and share a knowledge and appreciation of each other's neighbourhoods. There is no natural connection with Hamilton Ward areas. Delightful as those suburbs and residents are, they are at very least a car journey away, and it makes little sense to syphon off the tightly-knit suburb of Newstead to the relatively sprawling suburbs in Hamilton Ward.

I believe Newstead is better served by the Central Ward Councillor. When Newstead was part of Hamilton Ward almost no one knew the name of their Councillor. I would wager that the majority of residents in Newstead now know who their Councillor is as she is highly visible and accessible and responsive to the concerns of residents in her electorate.

I also agree with Mr O'Dwyer's suggestions regarding alternative boundary changes if this redistribution is considered necessary, though electorate changes so close to next year's elections are guaranteed to cause confusion among voters.

Regards

Barbara Absolon



From: Owen Barbeler
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 10:40 AM
To: LG CC Submissions; Central Ward Office
Subject: Submission: Central Ward realignment

Dear Sir/Madam


I am writing with concern at a suggestion the Central Ward would be realigned, such that the suburb of Newstead would leave the Central Ward and become a part of the Hamilton Ward.

Newstead is part of a community that includes our near neighbours of Teneriffe, New Farm and Fortitude Valley. Almost all activities I undertake occur within this community and I use local facilities and amenities within this Ward including local roads, parks, the Council pool at Centenary, and the Riverwalk (in the direction of New Farm).

We need local representation who understands the needs of this community. For example, the recent trial of an off-leash dog park at Waterfront Park is a clear example of a local Councillor who understands the needs of the local residents of Newstead, which are similar to those of Teneriffe and New Farm but quite different to other areas.

I previously lived for a number of years in Hamilton and Ascot. In my opinion it is a separate community with needs that are different to the local area I now call home.

I strongly object to this proposal. I feel my needs and those of my neighbours are very ably represented by our local Councillor, who looks after the interests of our suburb and the rest of our community in the Central Ward. I am sure that excellent representation is due to the understanding of the needs of our local residents.

Regards
Owen Barbeler


From: Christopher Wren
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 9:42 AM
To: LG Boundaries
Subject: Review of Newstead Boundary

Dear Sir/Madam

We understand that due to shifts in population, that Newstead may be removed from the ward which encompasses Teneriffe and New Farm and that it be returned to a ward encompassing Ascot etc.

While, in terms of numbers, this may seem to be appropriate, when we were formerly represented by a BCC Councillor from Ascot, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We believe this is because Newstead is separated from Ascot etc by major geographical barriers that ensures it will never be considered to be part of the Ascot/Hamilton area. [REDACTED]

Our issues as one of the major entrances to New Farm are linked directly to New Farm and should remain so. We have been well represented by the current Councillor for the area as she understands the relationship this rapidly developing area has with the rest of the peninsula.

To balance the wards there must be other parts that can logically associated with other areas, if indeed there is an absolute need to change any boundaries.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret and Christopher Wren

[REDACTED]

From: James Fyfe
Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 8:54 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: Brisbane City Review Comment on Submissions

Dear Commissioner

I write to provide comment on the Proposed boundaries for the Brisbane City Council electoral Ward boundary redistribution and suggestions.

I note the submissions made and proposed boundary changes of a number. None seem to effectively address the public interest in the durability of a electoral boundary review so that we have the best chance of minimising the number of reviews required in the future and the preservation of vote values in key high population growth Wards. I propose that it is in the public interest that boundaries be set so as to give the greatest reasonable probability for those boundaries survive projected population growth and resulting elector number in given areas and therefore diminish the cost and electoral disruption provided by the changes of the boundaries.

In the case of the current Wards of Central and The Gabba configuration of the Wards to contain at their core some of the most significant identified urban growth areas for housing in the BCC area is the key for their contribution to the requirement of this Boundary Review and the last in 2015/16 (page 30 Final Determination 2015 Redivision, LGCC). I propose that the population growth areas in these Wards be divided into adjoining new Wards and the balance of the Wards contain more stable or low growth residential areas with a view to the boundaries having the best reasonable probability of surviving two election cycles with regard to elector growth in Wards.

I make my submission with a particular interest in the regard the Commission has demonstrated for Division 2 Section 21 (1) & (2) of the City Of Brisbane Act and some guidance from the Electoral Act 1992 Part 3 Division 2 provides in considering a 'public interest' as stated in the City of Brisbane Act sections.

Part 3 Division 2 of the Electoral Act provides regulation of and guidance in this case for the 'need' and therefore 'Public Interest ' in electoral boundary distributions. Section 38 provides triggers when due to an elapse of time an electoral redistribution should be required under that Act. I note that this Act is related to the 3 year State term and even with that the duration the trigger is the latter of 3 terms or 7.5 years after the last redistribution. While these triggers primary aim is to ensure a frequency of review I propose they conversely indicate a reasonable public interest or expectation that the boundaries resulting from a review should be able to preserve vote values for more than one election cycle.

I propose that the division of the current Wards growth areas could somewhat follow the local planning instrument boundaries so that the significant number of electors in the growth areas could align the planning and related administrative interests of Council to Councillors. I enclose links to the BCC planning maps as a reference.

City Centre & Fortitude Valley

https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/notif_npm0037.pdf
https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/notif_npm0064.pdf

New Farm Teneriffe & Newstead and Teneriffe

https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/notif_npm0142.pdf
https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/notif_npm0141.pdf

South Brisbane riverside

https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/notif_npm0194.pdf

West End - Woolloongabba

https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/notif_npm0232.pdf

Without considerable action to provide more durable Electoral Ward boundaries for these growth areas electoral vote values that are core objectives of the relevant sections of the City of Brisbane Act and Electoral Act 1992 are likely to again diminish in these areas in the near term and result in cost and disruption with a single electoral term.

Thank you for your consideration of my and all submissions.

Sincerely

Stuart Fyfe



From: Peter Aardoom
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 1:23 PM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: Newstead resident-comments on suggestion to change boundaries

It is ludicrous to consider moving Newstead into the Hamilton ward.
Central ward is less than 200 enrolments out of the upper boundaries, who cares. Only 6 months ago it was well under the upper boundary of 32,495 enrolments.
It is BBC's fault allowing so much development hence increased population in areas such as Newstead. It's out of control frankly.

Community of interest for Newstead should be aligned with Central Ward suburbs such as Teneriffe and Bowen Hills more so than Hamilton and Ascot. Newstead needs to stay within Central ward.

Kind regards,

Peter Aardoom

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted block]



[Redacted block]

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Any Advice in this email is General Advice only.

Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 10:37 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78903) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Darcy Creighton

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Darcy Creighton**

Submission Details

Name: Darcy Creighton

Submission Text: I would like to see Newstead stay in Central Ward for cultural and social reasons.

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Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 11:57 AM
To: LG CC Submissions
Subject: (78904) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Peter

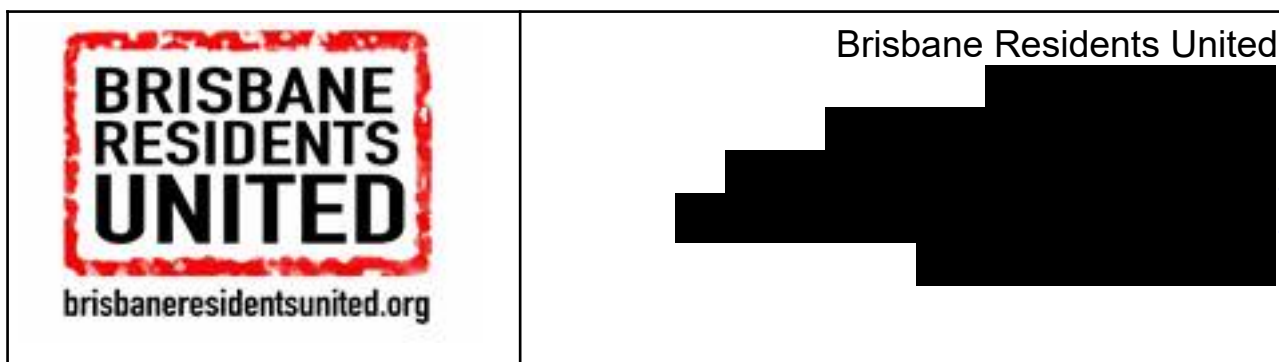
Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Peter**

Submission Details

Name: Peter

Submission Text: As a local business owner I am strongly against Newstead being removed from Central Ward and placed with the boundary of Hamilton Ward. Newstead and Teneriffe should have the one councillor. It is important to keep Newstead in the Central Ward to enhance the community. Feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] to discuss as thousands of local residents visit our [REDACTED] weekly. We also work closely with many local organisations and many of our customers are aware of the intention by the State Electoral Commission to remove Newstead from Central ward and not happy.

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17th June 2019
Electoral Commission of Queensland
Level 20, 1 Eagle Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
By email to: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

Dear Commission

We welcome the opportunity to make submissions on the proposed Ward Boundary Review of Brisbane City Council.

This submission is made on behalf of Brisbane Residents United, Brisbane's peak body for community resident actions groups. Whose purpose is to:

- Represent Brisbane and surrounding district residents and provide them with a united voice Governments on matters pertaining to urban planning and development.
- Act as a resource centre, facilitating information sharing across established and start-up local resident associations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed re-division of Brisbane City Council's electoral wards. We are not affiliated with any political party and our only interest with any re-division boundary changes is good governance, transparency and community connectedness rather than disruption to community by a re-division.

The requirement of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to address overall population in each ward specifically stipulates that this should be undertaken with regard to community interests. The Act acknowledges that an equal population base does not necessarily make for equitable outcomes or appropriate representation.

While the ECQ are bound by the requirement to alter four electorate boundaries, and provide for projected growth in a few more, this should not be considered an exercise in mathematical optimisation at the expense of process! The proposed ward boundaries make far more changes than required to fit within the +/- 10% that is required, despite the

clear arguments made in previous submissions, and reiterated as your intent, for retaining the existing or previous boundaries wherever possible. While the linking of suburbs within the same ward is a benefit, in some cases more changes have been proposed than required.

For example, the densification of the Central and the Gabba wards will continue to increase the population so that boundary changes made now must allow for future growth. The progressive densification of suburbs on the inner reaches of the Brisbane River (Hamilton and Morningside) and Northgate will take these areas outside quotas and should be decisively addressed now.

We would like to make the following comments:

1. Local Government is the level of government that has the greatest effect on most people's lives on a day to day basis. It deals with the mundane and the everyday and thus needs the greatest level of consideration as to where ward boundaries lie. It also needs the greatest level of consideration as to the size of those wards.

The Brisbane City Central ward at 32,852 voters is a prime example of a ward that is larger than the size of a State Government electorate for example South Brisbane with 28,851 or Maiwar with 32,376. We do not need two levels of government representing almost the same number of people

Local government wards need to be considerably smaller than State Government electorates to allow for the level of representation required from a Local Government representative. The average number of voters for each elected representative around the State of Queensland would be around 9,300. The average number of voters to each elected representative on the Brisbane City Council is conservatively 3 times this average.

Just how ridiculous this situation has become can be judged by the fact that the allowed variation at 10% of 29,699 of average enrolment for a Brisbane Ward is larger at 5939 than the average enrolment of a large number of divisional areas in local government. Scenic Rim at 4887 or Gympie at 4,592 for example.

A vote in Brisbane cannot legitimately be worth a third of that of another voter outside of Brisbane. In 1925 when the City of Brisbane was formed in represented a population of approximately 210,000 people. Today it has a larger population than any other local government area in Australia with a population of over a million people. Its population is roughly equivalent to the populations of [Tasmania](#), the [Australian Capital Territory](#) and the [Northern Territory](#) combined. The Council administers a budget of over A\$3 billion.

When the Northern Territory becomes a state this situation will be even more ludicrous with one local government authority in Queensland then having a greater population than two of the seven states and the ACT combined.

The Brisbane City Council is no longer an effective local Government area and it has ceased to function as such. It needs to be divided into at least two if not more local government areas. Council wards need to be reduced to at least between 15,000 and 18,000 voters so we can once again have some semblance of local representation. We should not just be increasing the size of wards to accommodate and increased voter base we should be introducing new wards and at least two new councils.

I acknowledge that at this time the ECQ are obliged to act under the requirements of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, however the system has become unwieldy to the point that the voice of the community through their councillors has minimal impact on the machine that BCC has become. The Brisbane City Council should be split into several parts or at least into several planning regions with distinct local government elected officials.

The ECQ is urged to consider the broader picture and initiate critical reviews of the Act to identify the barriers that the immense size of the council presents to the effective representation of the community as opposed to big business and powerful political parties. In the short term, the tolerances for wards set under the Act should be revised to limit the number of sequential nuisance redistributions, and provide more guidance for the ECQ to make recommendations and minimise the political game playing with ward boundaries.

2. An electoral redistribution should not be made to benefit political parties. Be they the major parties or the minor parties. The Brisbane City Council is so large that it has traditionally been the preserve of the larger parties with very few independent councillors elected. This is at odds with most truly local councils who tend to have a greater number of independents than state governments. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The size and the makeup of the Brisbane City Council have allowed for the undue influence of interest groups and developers and this has had an adverse effect on our city as a whole. A local community thrives if the citizens feel that they are heard and that their concerns have been addressed. This has not been the case in recent times, where political parties of all persuasions have run their party agenda at the expense of, and with the expressed disapproval of local residents. Voters need true levels of local representation.

3. An electoral ward should follow the natural boundaries of the ward. For example the change where The Gap ward was extended over Keperra Mountain has not proved a success. This is an example of not taking into consideration how communities are interrelated and see themselves as separate entities within the whole. The Gap is more closely relates to Ashgrove than it does to Keperra.

Adding 'bits' to a ward that rely on different council service delivery organisation such as rubbish collections, public transport organisation and local services (libraries, parks, community halls) dissociates the actual business of council from the ward responsibilities. New development west of the Gap will link to Ashgrove, not Keperra, for all of the council services. Access to council offices would become almost impossible for people without their own car. East/ west boundary changes for the Gap are preferable to north/ south.

4. Wards boundaries need to be incorporated where possible into natural barriers. For example there would need to be a very good reason for making a ward that crosses the river for example as there has always traditionally been a very strong community awareness of which side of the river you reside on.
5. The Coronation Drive precinct should remain in one ward. Toowong should remain as a whole suburb not be divided into three. West Toowong is much closer to Paddington than it is to Pullenvale and there is the massive natural barrier of Mount Coot-Tha between it and the rest of the ward. Paddington should not have intruded across Kelvin Grove Road as was implemented in the last change.
6. Brisbane has grown and communities formed around various natural and introduced features. For example the Paddington, Auchenflower, Milton, Rainworth, Bardon and Toowong area form a natural and integrated community. These types of areas should be considered and maintained as a whole ward if possible.
7. The size of temporary populations in certain areas also need to be taken into consideration as they make considerable calls upon both local infrastructure and local representation. For example St Lucia, Toowong, Wooloongabba, West End and the areas that have a large student population.
8. If we are keeping Brisbane City Council Wards of this size then the boundaries of the current ones should not be changed unless absolutely necessary. Certainly suburbs should not be divided but if it is absolutely necessary certainly not into several different wards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input. Should you require further information we can be contacted via Elizabeth Handley on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Handley
(President)

The Brisbane Residents United Inc Steering Group

Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 2:25 PM
To: Subject: LG CC Submissions
Attachments: (78929) Brisbane City Local Government Area - Andrew Wines
Boundary-Submission-2019.docx

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **Andrew Wines**

Submission Details

Name: Andrew Wines
Suburb:
Submission Text:
File Upload: Boundary Submission 2019.docx (515.4 KB)

I write in regards to the ECQ Boundary review for the City of Brisbane. I would like to address some of the assertions made by other submissions, however I will begin by reinforcing the logic around the existing Enoggera Ward.

Enoggera Ward is defined by the suburb of Enoggera, and the Enoggera Barracks, with Enoggera Creek defining the Southern Boundary and Enoggera Rd being the main road at the geographic centre of the ward.

These things should continue to define the ward, and in addition to this, the suburbs that should make up the principal ward are:

Enoggera;

Gaythorne;

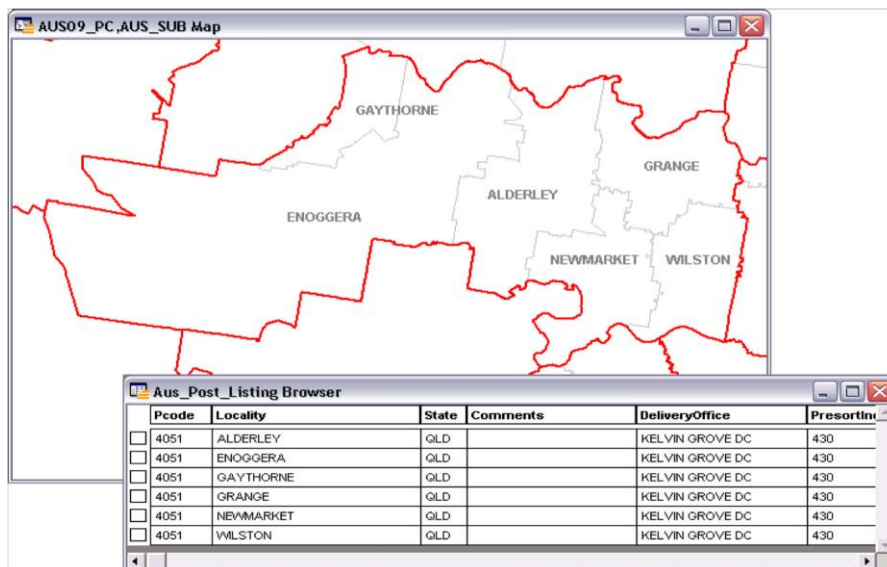
Alderley;

Grange;

Newmarket;

Wilston.

An image of the common postcode 4051 geographic area.



The reasons for this are:

1. Common postcode (4051)
2. Common train line (Ferry Grove)
3. Common Road Network (Newmarket Rd, Enoggera Rd, South Pine Rd)

4. Common Geographic area (Inner North)
5. Similar age of suburb
6. Similar housing stock
7. Similar Issues
8. Similar demographics.
9. Defined in the north by Kedron Brook
10. Defined in the south by Enoggera Creek.

I note that some submissions have suggested that Wilston and Enoggera are different in demography and presentation, I would argue that submission is not familiar with Enoggera the suburb, and assure you that as stated above, it shares many common features with Wilston, and I would encourage individuals to do further research before making these statements. One personal example of their commonality is that the High School I attended was the merger of the boys school Marcellin (Enoggera) to the girls School St Benedict's (Wilston), and the catholic communities here run east west through these corridors.

In Regards to the second feature of the ward, the barracks, I would submit that Dorrington, (North Ashgrove) be included because it is a defence community and includes the Frasers Rd Ashgrove entrance to the barracks. Similarly I would submit that Southern Mitchelton be included that Frasers Rd Mitchelton is also an access to the barracks, and many local residents are part of the defence community.

The defence community extends through Mitchelton and Keperra, and I trust the ECQ will include appropriate communities here to balance population.

Windsor, while it is postcode 4030, it shares every feature of the 4051 group but for shared postcode, and Windsor holds the sports fields shared and used by the majority of female sportspeople through the district. I would therefore recommend its inclusion in Enoggera Ward.

I once again must make the point that Windsor, Wilston and East Newmarket, if moved again will be part of their fourth ward in six terms (Grange ward 2004, Central Ward 2008/12, and Enoggera Ward 2016, and potentially new in 2020) and this lack of continuity is, in my opinion, detrimental the area and this short termism is limiting community, and community services development. I would submit that this community should be settled in the Enoggera Ward for the long term.

It is obviously flattering that that Ferny Grove and Upper Kedron Community wish for them to be included in my ward, and it is a wonderful part of the city, however I would submit that 4054, and 4055 shares features of housing stock, demography and state provided services indicate that these remaining in the Gap Ward continues

to make sense. For example, The Gap state school catchment reaches deep into Keperra, and that until very recently Upper Kedron was in the Gap State High Catchment. The Gap, Ferny Grove, Upper Kedron and Keperra all hold similar demographics housing stock and issues.

I note some submissions have proposed that Herston be included in Enoggera Ward, and I would argue that if this were to occur it would be difficult to administer, because to access it, a person would have to leave the ward to re-enter the ward and that the pedestrian links do not provide enough commonality to accept community of interest.

Further I must reinforce the logic of Enoggera Creek being a hard, natural and logical southern border.

There are many reasons that Enoggera Ward is holds a community of interest and I trust these arguments will be considered by the Commission.

COMMENTS ON PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS

**to the Local Government
Change Commission 2019**

**by Australian Labor Party
(State of Queensland)**





Please address correspondence to:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

17 June 2019

Local Government Change Commission
GPO Box 1393
Brisbane Q 4001

Sent via email: LGCCsubmissions@ecq.qld.gov.au

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE COMMISSION WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the ward boundary review of the Brisbane City Council ("BCC") being undertaken by the Local Government Change Commission ("the Commission"), in relation to comments on suggestions.

Our submission on suggestions is focussed on ensuring a long-term, sustainable redistribution within the statutory requirements. Further, our comments centre on preventing a significant and radical redistribution on the 2024 population predictions, in order to provide stability and consistency for Brisbane electors long-term.

Should the Commission require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The ALP will participate in the further rounds of consultation in the redistribution.

[REDACTED]

Julie-Ann Campbell
STATE SECRETARY

Comments on Public Suggestions to the Local Government Change Commission by Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland)

Submission 2

We support John Taylor's submission with regard to moving Rochedale into Macgregor Ward. We submit there is more of a community of interest between Rochedale and Eight Mile Plains than there is between Rochedale, Carindale and Wakerley. This submission is demonstrative of local community members supporting our position.

Submissions 3, 6, 8, 11, 16

With regard to these submissions, we support the general proposition that there should be minimal change to the Moorooka Ward. However, we note that there must be some minor changes to ensure all wards are within a sustainable quota position for 2019 and 2024, in order to ensure long term stability for local electors.

Specifically we note that Jamboree and Runcorn wards would not have a reasonable proportion of electors on the 2024 enrolment figures requiring minor changes around these wards.

We submit that slight changes to Moorooka, including taking in the remaining two SA1s from Tennyson will create a better community of interest for those electors.

Submissions 5 and 15

We note that it is not possible for the ECQ to determine the number of wards, as this is set out in legislation (City of Brisbane Act 2010); and therefore believe that the parts of these submissions that split The Gabba neatly into two wards are out of scope.

We do agree that The Gabba Ward needs to be realigned to offset future growth, such that the ward should meet quota requirements for 2019 and 2024.

We do not agree with the suggestion that the suburb of Dutton Park should be split, as wherever possible, suburbs should be kept together for ease and simplicity for electors. Notwithstanding this, we broadly agree with the other suggestions transferring the south-eastern parts of Woolloongabba out of the ward. We note that this itself will not be enough to create a sustainable quota level for 2024 and accordingly we submit the boundary should therefore be further north at Stanley St.

We disagree that Norman Creek should remain as a boundary between Morningside and The Gabba wards. The best option that accounts for future growth is to also transfer the suburb of East Brisbane in its entirety out of The Gabba.

Submission 7

We submit that Nicole Johnston's submission in relation to Southside wards is well intentioned in attempting to address some of the core challenges with larger and smaller wards.

We support the suggestion that the remainder of Wakerley should be transferred from Doboy to Chandler for community of interest reasons. Further, we support that the balance of the suburb of Cannon Hill should be transferred to Doboy, again to ensure suburbs are kept together.

The ALP submits that Mansfield should remain in Chandler Ward. Mansfield residents share more of a community of interest with Carindale than the suburb of Rochedale. As per submission 2 and our submission, Rochedale shares more of a community of interest with Eight Mile Plains.

The ALP, on a community of interest basis, submits that Robertson should not be transferred from Macgregor to Runcorn. The suburbs of Robertson and Macgregor share far more in common with local schools driving a shared interest and community grounding. We submit that transferring Coopers Plains, to Runcorn Ward as per our suggestion would be more appropriate, with the ward sharing both Beenleigh Road and the Beenleigh rail line.

We support the general idea behind the transfer of electors from The Gabba to Coorparoo, but note that this will leave The Gabba still significantly above quota in 2024 by 12.36%. Accordingly, our proposal, where further electors particularly around O'Keefe St and the parts of the SA1 south of The Gabba stadium itself will address the growth problem more sustainably into the future, with the stadium acting as a logical boundary.

The ALP submits that Carina Heights would be better served by being transferred into Doboy Ward instead of Chandler Ward. The main community of interest between Carina Heights and Carindale is the Westfield shopping centre, however this argument could be made for suburbs as far away as Morningside and Wynnum. Carina Heights shares the shopping strip along Old Cleveland Road with Carina, and for this reason we believe Carina Heights would be better transferred to Doboy.

One ward that remained untouched by this suggestion is Jamboree, which will end up at more than 12% under quota in 2024 and this would also need to be addressed.

Submission 9

The submission from the Ferny Grove and Upper Kedron Residents' Association sets out strong community of interest reasons for placing the suburbs of Ferny Grove, Upper Kedron and the portion of Keperra within the boundaries of the Enoggera Ward.

The ALP has also proposed the transfer of the above mentioned suburbs from The Gap Ward for these community of interest reasons and submits that the submission from the Ferny Grove and Upper Kedron Residents' Association sets out the detailed arguments in support of this argument, further demonstrating strong community support for the ALP's submission.

Submission 12

The ALP submits that the LNP submission is short-sighted and fails address the core challenges in Central or The Gabba wards. In addition, it fails to address the looming quota problems in Jamboree, Macgregor and Runcorn wards.

If the LNP's submission were to be adopted, Brisbane would be faced with the prospect of a significant and radical redistribution in 2024 with some wards being up to 25% over quota: Central and The Gabba being 24.1% and 25.6% over quota respectively; and Jamboree, Macgregor and Runcorn being 12.4%, 10.5% and 13.0% under respectively. It also pushes Chandler dangerously close to being 10% under quota again in 2024 at 9.9% under quota on estimated figures. This would mean that over 20% of wards would be out of quota by the 2024 election.

Furthermore, we strongly oppose the suggestion to remove Dutton Park from The Gabba Ward. Dutton Park shares a strong community of interest with Highgate Hill, with similar housing character and sharing Gladstone Road. Residents in Dutton Park share far more in common with suburbs in The Gabba Ward than with residents further south in Yeronga. There is a stronger border between Dutton Park and Fairfield with the cemetery and Cornwall St sitting between the two suburbs. The existing boundary between the two wards is sensible and minimises change.

The challenges exacerbated by the LNP's submission are not limited to those wards that are significantly over quota. Distribution attempts to rectify these mounting concerns will have significant flow-on effects to all surrounding wards.

The below table summarises the quota deviations for each ward in 2019 and 2024 under the proposals set out by submission 12. Those rows highlighted in red show wards well above quota requirements in 2024, and those rows highlighted in blue show wards well below quota requirements in 2024.

Ward	2019 Quota Deviation	2024 Quota Deviation
Bracken Ridge	-0.73%	-3.76%
Calamvale	-3.28%	-4.82%
Central	9.33%	24.14%
Chandler	-8.85%	-9.87%
Coorparoo	0.80%	1.30%
Deagon	-1.10%	-2.85%
Doboy	-1.99%	-2.43%
Enoggera	4.61%	2.66%
Forest Lake	2.58%	4.25%
Hamilton	3.18%	4.82%
Holland Park	-5.33%	-7.13%
Jamboree	-7.65%	-12.37%
Macgregor	-8.56%	-10.48%
Marchant	4.48%	3.41%
Mcdowall	1.96%	0.92%
Moorooka	-2.48%	-3.47%
Morningside	5.05%	3.20%
Northgate	7.66%	6.28%
Paddington	4.37%	5.55%

Pullenvale	-0.78%	-4.76%
Runcorn	-9.55%	-13.04%
Tennyson	1.43%	2.89%
The Gabba	7.81%	25.63%
The Gap	0.19%	-3.32%
Walter Taylor	-1.47%	-4.16%
Wynnum-Manly	-1.69%	-2.59%

Submission 13

The ALP opposes the suggestion to move Dutton Park from The Gabba Ward to Tennyson Ward for the same reasons mentioned in our response to submission 12. Furthermore, moving a low-growth suburb out of The Gabba will not assist in resolving the obvious challenges moving into 2024.

While the ALP has proposed the western half of Herston should be transferred to Paddington Ward for reasons of creating a dedicated ward to shadow any future shrinkage of Central Ward, the proposed transfer of the eastern half of Herston to Enoggera in submission 13 is unsuitable for two reasons;

- Bringing Enoggera further into the inner city dilutes the community of interest of the ward which the ALP submits should be moved westward to solely represent the suburbs along Samford Road, as is supported by Submission 9.
- This submission solely uses the transfer of Herston voters out of Central as the means to bring Central into quota. This is an ineffective solution in the long term as is the solution proposed by the LNP in Submission 12.

The transfer of Newstead (10.3% of quota in 2019 and 20.0% of est 2024 quota) out of Central Ward is necessary to keep Central within a reasonable proportion of electors in both 2019 and 2024. Should the Commission only determine to make one change to Central Ward, then the ALP respectfully submits that it is Newstead to be transferred out of Central in preference to the western half of Herston.

The ALP supports the suggestion that Wakerley be moved from Doboy to Chandler, but believes the proposal in this submission doesn't go far enough – the whole suburb of Wakerley should be transferred, not just specific SA1s, for community of interest reasons.

The ALP supports the suggestion that Coopers Plains should be moved from Moorooka to Runcorn due to the need for Runcorn to gain electors moving to 2024; however the proposal in this submission doesn't go far enough – the whole suburb of Coopers Plains should be transferred, not just specific sections of the suburb.

Submission 14

Councillor Wines argues that voters in the suburbs of Wilston, Windsor and the eastern portion of Newmarket have not been presented with an incumbent Councillor at an election since 2004 and this is a reason why these suburbs should remain in Enoggera.

The ALP submits that these electors will not have continuity when a major redistribution is necessitated, by a short term solution that will require significant change in 2024.

The suburbs mentioned do have a community of interest being inner city suburbs and this is largely encapsulated by the ALP proposal of transferring Wilston and Windsor into Paddington as reshaped inner-city ward.

This proposal allows Enoggera Ward to strengthen its community of interest serving the suburbs along the entirety of Samford Road within the Brisbane City LGA, an argument reflected in Submission 9; and will also give the electors in Wilston and Windsor a longer-term continuity in representation.

Queensland 2019 Local Government Redistribution Brisbane City Council

- Comments on submissions



Introduction

In examining the submissions for Brisbane City Council I was disappointed to see a number of them fell outside the guidelines as outlined by the Independent Change Commission. Irrespective of the merits of their arguments this was not the occasion to put forward those particular suggestions.

Notes on suggestions

Suggestions that completely fall outside guidelines

Suggestion 1 calls for the establishment of multi-member constituencies but does not address ward boundaries.

Suggestion 2 calls for the area of Rochedale to be moved into Macgregor, further taking Chandler outside tolerance and removing a significant growth area. There is no suggestion on how to bring Chandler back into quota.

Suggestion 4 and suggestion 10 call for the realignment of the Brisbane/Ipswich boundaries, which is outside the scope of the referral. I note that the reason for the change at Carole Park is due to the differing commercial treatment between Brisbane and Ipswich and that a realignment of fees and charges from Ipswich on the election of a new Council may fix this.

On the question of Colleges Crossing this might be an opportunity for the Minister to refer these boundary changes to the Change Commission for review.

Suggestions regarding the Moorooka Ward

Suggestions 3, 6, 8, 11 and 16 call for Moorooka Ward to remain unchanged. The rationale for these suggestions does not address the scope of the referral but may be regarded as a pre-emptive strike towards any possible changes to the Moorooka Ward. There also appears to be significant confusion amongst some of the suggestion over the difference between local, state and federal boundaries. The Moorooka Ward did not form part of the referral and the suggestions offer no opportunity to comment on any proposed changes.

Suggestions regarding other wards

There were additional suggestions that recommended strongly that certain areas be kept intact that did not form part of the reference, including S.9 (Ferny Grove and Upper Kedron Residents Association) and S.14 (Andrew Wines). Unless there is likely to be substantial changes to wards proposed there is no substantive effect to these suggestions.

Suggestions from Cr Jonathan Sri and West End Community Association (WECA)

As the WECA submission is simply the submission from Cr Sri with a different cover letter I shall treat them as the same submission. Submissions 5 and 15 call for an increase of five new wards to produce a ratio of one Councillor for 25,000 electors.

Councillor Sri also raises the issue of non-voting residents, which is hardly unique to The Gabba ward. Based on State residential populations, the number of non-voter residents in Runcorn, Moorooka and Macgregor would dwarf those in The Gabba.

In terms of Council communications, it is interesting to hear from Councillor Sri that many of the criticisms directed at BCC include a belief that Council doesn't listen and that "*people don't hear about the projects and programs that are taking place in their community.*" The role of Councillor includes acting as a bridge between Council and residents and it is disappointing to hear that residents in The Gabba ward are not kept informed.

However, I will agree with a comment made by Councillor Sri that "*However in urban areas, smaller creeks are no longer necessarily the hard boundaries they once were, largely as a result of the proliferation of bridges. Well-networked local geographic communities often extend across both sides of a creek, particularly where a school or shopping centre is on one side of the creek and a residential neighbourhood is on the other.*" There are a number of wards that are otherwise criss-crossed with roads and bridges but are kept distinct due to permeable boundaries.

Suggestions from Cr Nicole Johnston

Cr Johnston's submission also calls for the expansion of the number of wards and Councillors.

While there is a natural tendency for sitting Councillors to make suggestions that maintain their existing boundaries, it was still disappointing that Cr Johnstone ignored the elephant in the room. Tennyson is the only ward that adjoins The Gabba which is under quota and where any boundary adjustment would affect the least number of people.

Suggestions from the Liberal National Party (LNP)

The LNP suggestion only addresses those wards which are currently out of quota. As such it aims for a minimalist approach. I also note that the LNP expresses concerns about the lateness of the calls for submissions by the ECQ and the limited amount of time before the next election.

Suggestions from the Australian Labor Party (ALP)

A feature of recent ALP submissions has been the lack of detail available, particularly with respect to boundaries. In most other detailed submissions SAIs are used to provide exact boundaries, but the ALP has made it difficult to calculate exact numbers due to the ambiguity surrounding borders.

This has also resulted in increased "tinkering" with wards that currently do not form part of the reference and are well within quota. The ALP suggestion changes the boundaries of 22 wards, leaving only Calamvale, Wynum-Manly and Holland Park on existing boundaries.

Increasing the number of wards and Councillors

Three suggestions (S.5, S.7 and S.15) call for increased numbers of wards and Councillors. It is perhaps telling that two of those suggestions come from sitting Councillors. Throughout Queensland there is tremendous variation in the residents represented by Councillors within different Local Government Authorities. While staff support may be an issue, the number of residents represented by Brisbane City Councillors compares favourably with those in State or Federal electorates, and particularly the Senate.

Summarised ward suggestions and impacts

The Gabba

Suggestions from Cr Sri and WECA, LNP and myself argue that the area around the southern border at Dutton Park be moved from The Gabba to Tennyson, although we differ in exactly where the boundary should be drawn. The ALP and Cr Nicole Johnston propose that the area at the eastern border at East Brisbane be transferred to Coorparoo. Tennyson is currently 3.11 percent under quota and Coorparoo is 2.0 percent over quota, meaning that there would be more significant knock-on effects in transferring part of The Gabba into Coorparoo instead of Tennyson.

Central

While I agree with the LNP view that Newstead should remain with Central, I believe that removing Herston results in a better fit than removing part of the CBD. The LNP submission argues for an SAI at the southwest corner of Central to be transferred to Paddington. While there is significant growth in that area, I do not believe the change will be sufficient in the longer-term.

The ALP suggestion transfers the entirety of the area of Newstead into Hamilton and the western area of Herston into Paddington. This creates a rapid depopulation of Central, and given the uncertainty of previous population growth estimates I believe this creates far too radical a risk. Newstead and Teneriffe share a stronger bond, and simply declaring North Shore Hamilton and Newstead a community of interest because they both have unit developments on the river indicates a lack of understanding of the area.

My suggestion uses the areas at Ballymore and the Medical precinct at Herston to group distinct communities of interest and transfer them to Paddington and Enoggera respectively, using the Inner City Bypass as a substantive boundary for Central.

Chandler

As a long-term resident of Rochedale I am acutely aware of development in the area. Due to underpopulation I have suggested taking a small section from Doboy to address immediate concerns while current and future Rochedale developments increase the population in the short and medium term.

The comment from the ALP that “...Rochedale is an isolated suburb it has connections to Eight Mile Plains and specifically to the Westfield Garden City shopping complex” is misleading. Rochedale is probably one of the most connected suburbs on the southside, with direct access to the MI, Gateway Motorway, Ipswich Motorway and Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road. While Garden City is close, you are just as likely to find residents shopping at Carindale, Sunnybank, Springwood and Loganholme, especially given the introduction of paid parking at Garden City.

The blunt-force approach by the ALP would see the entirety of Wakerly (4,256 electors) transferred into Chandler and the suburb of Rochedale transferred into Macgregor. This requires transfers from Morningside and Coorparoo to Doboy, and The Gabba to Morningside and Coorparoo. This appears to be unnecessarily disruptive. Unfortunately the ALP has not provided sufficient detail to determine the number of electors affected by the change.

The suggestion from Cr Johnston to move the entirety of Carina Heights into Chandler would place it towards the upper end of quota and would inevitably force it over quota as Rochedale developments came on stream.

While I can see the rationale for moving part of Carina Heights from Coorparoo into Chandler in the LNP suggestion, in my opinion it breaks a boundary along Creek Road that is otherwise maintained.

Runcorn

The ALP suggestion extends Runcorn east to the Railway line at Coopers Plains, necessitating significant movement from the under-quota Tennyson to Moorooka to address the balance. This still leaves Tennyson significantly under quota and puts a greater emphasis on bringing Moorooka to equilibrium at the expense of Tennyson.

The suggestion from Cr Nicole Johnston moves Robertson into Runcorn from Macgregor, which then requires part of the suburb of Mansfield to move from Chandler into Macgregor.

My suggestion makes a minor change to move three SAIs and 509 electors from Moorooka to Runcorn, stopping at the intersection of Boundary Road and Orange Grove Road and bounded by the railway line. This keeps the industrial area of Coopers Plains on both sides of the interstate railway in the ward of Moorooka instead of splitting it. Future redistributions may offer the opportunity to extend Runcorn into Robertson and Macgregor into Nathan and will be much easier with these boundaries. I assume the best time for this to happen will be in concert with the crossing of the Walter-Taylor Bridge.

Endnote

In the near future at least one Council ward will have to cross the Brisbane River. Unfortunately no other suggestions have been prepared to address this. It is incumbent upon the ECQ to prepare for this eventuality and to clearly outline where this crossing will be. I believe that the Walter-Taylor Bridge has the benefit of being a natural point to cross as well as having a historical precedent to do so. The exchange of electors between Tennyson and Walter-Taylor would allow for greater certainty over voter numbers and would create fewer issues with voter imbalance between wards north and south of the Brisbane River.



17 June 2019

Local Government Change Commission
PO Box 1393
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on suggestions by others on the Brisbane City Council Ward redistribution.

I wish to raise our concern that submissions from the Australian Labor Party and West End Community Association were received after the closing date. Of particular concern was the ability for another political party to review our submission prior to submitting their own submission.

For the public to have confidence in the process of the Change Commission (the Commission) they must be able to rely upon the rules established by the Commission itself as to the timely receipt of suggestions, comments and objections. We note that in the Commission's own advertisement calling for suggestions it was advised that *Late submissions cannot be considered*.

Nonetheless, we have responded to three suggestions published after the other were originally uploaded, despite the Commission's advertisement advising they cannot be considered.

COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion One

It is noted this proposal would require legislative change outside the parameters of the Commission.

Suggestion Two

This submission suggests that Rochedale is moved from Chandler to MacGregor. Given Chandler Ward is under quota and Rochedale is partially a growth suburb it is considered that this proposal would not address the enrolment pressures the commission is considering. Further, the acreage properties that are not likely to be redeveloped would be moved from a ward containing significant amounts of acreage into an entirely urbanised ward which would not enhance the community of interest.



Suggestion Three

This suggestion was to include Oxley into the same ward as Corinda. While these suburbs are adjoining, Oxley has had a long history at Council level of being partially included in the Moorooka Ward, including prior to the 2007 redistribution. Corinda and Oxley have also at times been - partially - included on either side of the railway line, as a logical boundary assisting the Commission in balancing ward numbers between Jamboree and Moorooka Wards.

Suggestion Four

It is noted that this proposal would require legislative change outside the parameters of the Commission.

Suggestion Five

It is noted that this proposal includes ideas that would require legislative change outside the parameters of the Commission.

In relation to the suggestions provided in this submission, it is considered that the movement of the suburb of Dutton Park into Tennyson Ward would be the simplest change involving the least distribution of electors and retaining a community of interest between the suburbs of Dutton Park, Fairfield and Annerley.

Suggestion Six

This suggestion proposes Moorooka Ward not be abolished. This is also proposed by our submission.

Suggestion Seven

The suggestions provided by the Councillor for Tennyson propose a significant amount of change in most Southside Wards in order to deal with the matters relating to The Gabba Ward being over quota.

The same problem which suggestion 7 tries to correct would be addressed by following the ideas in submissions 5, 12 and 13 of moving Dutton Park into Tennyson Ward, which impacts in the vicinity of only 1,500 electors.

Instead, a series of changes are proposed which result in a significant churn of electors across the Southside, many of which do not enhance the community of interest, with over 23,000 electors disrupted to facilitate the suggestions.

One of the most concerning suggestions is the removal of Robertson from the MacGregor Ward and its inclusion in Runcorn Ward. The suburbs of Robertson and MacGregor have a long history of being included in the one ward due to their strong community of interest. Inclusion of Robertson in Runcorn Ward along with suburbs such as Sunnybank Hills and Runcorn would not meet the community of interest test.



The Robertson and MacGregor communities both have similar development patterns being low-density residential suburbs around the QEII sports centre at Nathan. Previously both of these communities worked together to oppose the introduction of residential parking restrictions around the stadium. This is an example of how one issue impacted on both of these suburbs. They also share a transport corridor with one suburb being either side of Mains Road. The alignment of wards along the Mains Road/Calam Road corridor is a pattern the Commission has adopted with the existing boundaries of Runcorn Ward highlighting this.

Suggestion Eight

This suggestion proposes Moorooka Ward not be abolished. This is also proposed by our submission.

Suggestion Nine

This group suggests that Ferny Grove, Upper Kedron and Keperra be moved back into Enoggera Ward, which was the case before the last redistribution. While there is a community of interest in these suburbs, there is no need to make such changes as neither Enoggera or The Gap Wards are outside the allowable tolerances. Making the changes proposed by this suggestion would result in unanticipated flow on effects into other wards which have not been considered and result in unnecessary voter disruption.

Suggestion Ten

It is noted that this proposal includes ideas that would require legislative change outside the parameters of the Commission.

Suggestion Eleven

The Oxley Bowls Club wishes to stay within the Moorooka Ward. This suggestion is included in the Liberal National Party submission.

Suggestion Twelve

Liberal National Party submission – no further comment.

Suggestion Thirteen

This submission adopts a minimal change approach, but offers alternative ways to achieve such an end.

On the northside, it proposes to split the suburb of Herston between Enoggera and Paddington Wards. While this is feasible, it is considered that the proposal put forward by our submission is preferable for the reasons outlined in our submission.

Suggestion 13 also highlights the simplest change is for Dutton Park to be moved from The Gabba Ward into Tennyson Ward. It proposes to do this along SA1 boundaries but the Liberal National Party suggests the suburb boundary is preferable.



It also proposes minor changes to Chandler and Dobby Wards to address the variance as well as minor changes between Runcorn and Moorooka Wards to address their variances. These suggestions do not significantly divide communities of interest but for the reasons outlined in our submission we consider our proposals to result in less disruption to electors.

Suggestion Fourteen

The Councillor for Enoggera suggests that Windsor and Wilston have had no consistent representation for over four Council terms. While much of this is due to councillor retirement, it has also been caused through ward abolition and redistribution movement.

The Liberal National Party submission does not propose changes to Windsor or Wilston, but it is noted that the ALP submission not only proposes to move these suburbs into new wards, it also proposes to split the suburbs into two separate wards, which significantly divides these two communities which have historically been in the same ward.

Suggestion Fifteen

The West End Community Association submission essentially mirrors the submission from the Greens Councillor for The Gabba Ward and includes ideas that would require legislative change outside the parameters of the Commission. Unfortunately, the changes proposed by them have a significant number of flow on effects that have not been fully explored that would obviously result in significant voter disruption (ie. One ward split into two).

Suggestion Sixteen

This suggestion requests no changes to Moorooka Ward and is in line with the Liberal National Party submission.

Suggestion Seventeen

The Australian Labor Party (ALP) submission is the only submission which proposes wholesale changes across the City, resulting in significant voter disruption. These suggestions have been dealt with in detail below.

The suggestions do very little other than moving the wards which are under quota from one location to another. The consequence of this is that there is significant voter disruption which does not address the problems the Commission is required to correct.

In short, it proposes a significant redistribution only four years after last major redistribution.

The extent of the changes in no way matches the problems sought to be corrected.

As highlighted in the Commissions released figures triggering this review there are 184 people over the quota in Central Ward, 13 below the quota in Chandler Ward and 695 over quota in The Gabba Ward. In total 892 electors. In a City of 772,172 electors, this represents 0.11% of all electors.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Under the provisions of the Section 21 of the Act, in reviewing the wards of a local government area the Commission is required to consider:

- 1) *The Change Commission is responsible for assessing whether a proposed local government change is in the public interest.*
- 2) *In doing so, the Change Commission must consider:*
 - a. *whether the proposed boundary change is consistent with a local government related law; and*
 - b. *the views of the Minister about the proposed boundary change; and*
 - c. *any other matters prescribed under a regulation.*

The legislation does not require the Commission to guarantee a redistribution will not occur in four years' time. However, the historical context is that major redistributions only occur every 8 years (in Brisbane this has been 1999, 2007 and 2015).

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The ALP is asking the Commission to disregard the 2019 figures which can easily be corrected and instead rely on the 2024 figures to justify wholesale changes. There is no guarantee this will inoculate against a similarly sized redistribution before 2024 which would have the result of three significant redistributions in 8 years. It is argued that this is not in the public interest.

If you consider the 2015 figures provided by the Commission in their final determination of that review, it shows that there can be wild variations in the projections and they should not be relied upon to justify significant voter disruption. For example, if you compare the 2018 projection provided in the 2015 review with the figures provided by the Commission triggering the current review there are a range of anomalies which show the difficulty the Commission faces in trying to reliably create boundaries on future projections.

On a citywide basis the projected enrolment in 2018 was anticipated to be 739,585 with an average enrolment of 28,446. In reality the average enrolment in 2018 was actually 772,172 with an average enrolment of 29,699 per ward. This variance was most obvious in Central and The Gabba Wards. These figures are contained in the appendix (an excerpt of the 2015 redivision report).

The actual population projections relied upon in Chandler Ward, for example, have slightly exceeded projections and would have remained in quota if not for the significant elector increases in Central and The Gabba Wards.

There is simply no need in 2019 to adopt the major changes across the bulk of wards proposed by the ALP (23 with the exception of Calamvale, Holland Park and Northgate) to resolve the minor anomalies that were identified in the BCC and ECQ data upon which this process is based.



Even if the Commission was to give any weight to the 2024 figures, every other northside ward is within the tolerance on these figures. The ALP is suggesting that all these wards should be significantly changed (with the exception of Northgate) based on projections for Central Ward.

PROPOSALS IN DETAIL

Under the ALP's suggestions there will be maximum disruption to existing wards and electors. We have been unable to readily manually quantify the number of electors disrupted in the time available as the disruptions have not been broken up by electors impacted by each change in their submission.

The ALP's proposal appears to extend wards over significant and unrelated areas and also divide existing communities without meeting the community of interest test. Some of the worst examples include:

- Modifying the suburbs of The Gabba and East Brisbane and splitting them between Morningside, Coorparoo and The Gabba Wards. In other parts of their submission they seek to reunite some suburbs into one ward yet in this suggestion they seek to split two suburbs (currently in one ward) into three separate wards. These changes will disconnect people in two suburbs which currently have one representative. This would also result in the Commission needing to rename the Ward due to Woolloongabba being located in different wards. This one suggestion highlights how the ALP have taken a problem that can be quite simply fixed (by moving Dutton Park in its entirety into Tennyson Ward) and overcomplicating it to split suburbs, wards and disrupt many more electors than necessary. If the Commission were not inclined to move Dutton Park it is suggested that East Brisbane be moved entirely into Morningside Ward rather than it being split, although this would necessitate movement of electors into Doboy and ultimately Chandler which has not been explored in detail by us.
- Moving the suburb of Wilston into the Ward which contains inner western suburbs such as Auchenflower;
- Moving the suburb of Carina Heights, which is based on the Old Cleveland Road transport corridor and moving it into Doboy Ward which is based along the Wynnum Road corridor;
- Moving the suburb of Newstead - which is an inner city suburb - into the Hamilton Ward which also contains middle ring suburbs such as Kalinga and Pinkenba.
- Moving the suburb of Richlands into the Centenary Suburbs ward of Jamboree Ward, severing the community of interest between Richlands, Inala and Durack. At various times when Jamboree has had to expand and contract, this has always been at the eastern ward boundary around the suburbs of Oxley and Corinda, generally on the northern side of the rail line. The last redistribution followed the boundary of the western side of the motorway and split the suburb of Ellen Grove either side of the freeway to achieve the ward being within the tolerance. This resulted in a small number of electors being placed outside the Centenary Suburbs based community of interest. The ALP proposal still results in the suburb of Ellen Grove being split between two wards.



In general terms all other valid submissions have sought to correct particular problems and minimise voter disruption. Only the ALP has seized this opportunity to embark upon a redistribution of the entire Brisbane City.

As the Commission is aware, there are 13.7 ward quotas on the Southside so there are less electors to distribute and more under quota wards. The ALP proposals disrupt a significant number of electors and simply move around the variances into other wards which are already below the average enrolment. For example, the ALP propose to create significantly under quota Tennyson and Moorooka Wards, essentially moving the problem the Commission is facing in Chandler.

The ALP also proposes that Oxley be moved in its entirety into Moorooka Ward. This is at odds with a public submission suggesting that they do not think Oxley should be in the Moorooka Ward due to community of interest concerns.

CONCLUSION

Many of the suggestions received proposed changes outside the scope of the Local Government Change Commission.

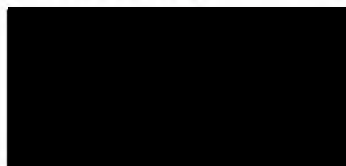
Of the suggestions which are within the scope of the Commission all except one proposed relatively minor changes to address the minor quota variances the commission is facing and are focussed on minimal voter disruption since the last major redistribution. That submission was received late.

The ALP has asked for the 2024 figures to be relied upon to undertake a major distribution of the City, which for the reasons outlined above are an ineffective measure on which to justify significant long term decision. This is highlighted by the figures in the 2015 review.

I thank the Commission for the ability to provide comments on the suggestions lodged.

Should you require any additional information we would be happy to provide this in either written or oral form.

Yours sincerely



Michael O'Dwyer
State Director

Enc. Excerpt from 2015 Final Determination Brisbane City ward boundaries report.

- ***That for the purposes of the 2016 local government elections, the Brisbane City Council be redivided into twenty-six wards as shown on the maps contained in Appendix F of this report.***

The Commission notes that implementation of this recommendation will give rise to the following ward elector numbers:

Table 3 – Summary of Enrolments for the Final Electoral Wards

Electoral Ward	Enrolment as at 23/02/2015	(%) Deviation from Quota	Projected Enrolment as at 31/03/2016	(%) Deviation from Quota	Projected Enrolment as at 30/09/2018	(%) Deviation from Quota
Bracken Ridge	27,837	+1.18	28,340	+1.83	29,426	+3.45
Calamvale	27,661	+0.54	28,127	+1.06	28,634	+0.66
Central	25,658	-6.74	26,463	-4.91	28,413	-0.11
Chandler	25,056	-8.93	25,488	-8.42	26,186	-7.94
Coorparoo	27,235	-1.01	27,358	-1.7	27,533	-3.21
Deagon	27,600	+0.32	27,932	+0.36	28,166	-0.98
Doboy	26,791	-2.62	27,104	-2.61	27,559	-3.12
Enoggera	29,082	+5.7	29,338	+5.42	29,828	+4.86
Forest Lake	28,130	+2.24	28,628	+2.86	29,845	+4.92
Hamilton	26,828	-2.49	27,309	-1.88	28,402	-0.15
Holland Park	26,924	-2.14	27,019	-2.92	27,317	-3.97
Jamboree	27,056	-1.66	27,284	-1.96	27,507	-3.3
Macgregor	27,322	-0.69	27,551	-1.01	28,108	-1.19
Marchant	28,438	+3.36	28,633	+2.88	29,054	+2.14
Mcdowall	28,403	+3.23	28,776	+3.4	29,569	+3.95
Moorooka	26,737	-2.82	27,015	-2.93	27,322	-3.95
Morningside	28,108	+2.16	28,386	+1.99	28,854	+1.44
Northgate	28,622	+4.03	28,837	+3.62	29,120	+2.37

Table 3 – Summary of Enrolments for the Final Electoral Wards (continued)

Electoral Ward	Enrolment as at 23/02/2015	(%) Deviation from Quota	Projected Enrolment as at 31/03/2016	(%) Deviation from Quota	Projected Enrolment as at 30/09/2018	(%) Deviation from Quota
Paddington	28,541	+3.74	28,723	+3.21	28,957	+1.8
Pullenvale	28,817	+4.74	29,163	+4.79	29,427	+3.45
Runcorn	27,402	-0.4	27,527	-1.09	27,846	-2.11
Tennyson	26,884	-2.29	27,037	-2.85	27,191	-4.41
The Gabba	25,807	-6.2	26,450	-4.96	29,295	+2.99
The Gap	28,880	+4.97	29,104	+4.57	29,338	+3.14
Walter Taylor	28,306	+2.88	28,537	+2.54	28,909	+1.63
Wynnum-Manly	27,213	-1.09	27,473	-1.29	27,779	-2.34

Cr Vicki Howard

Councillor for Central Ward



17 June 2019

Local Government Change Commission
Level 20, 1 Eagle Street,
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Change Commission,

I write with regard to the request from the Change Commission for comment on suggestions as part of the redistribution process.

Central Ward is the most compact ward in the City of Brisbane containing the Brisbane CBD, Fortitude Valley, New Farm, Teneriffe, Newstead, Bowen Hills, Spring Hill and Herston.

Three of the suggestions propose changes to Central Ward.

One proposes splitting the suburb of Herston, one proposes a change to the border with Paddington Ward around the Go Between Bridge, and another proposes to move Newstead into Hamilton Ward.

Herston is a small residential suburb close to the City which has had lower than average growth when compared to other suburbs in Central Ward. Splitting the suburb will not enhance the community of interest and is unlikely to be well received by residents of Herston.

More concerning is the proposal for Newstead to be removed from Central Ward and placed into Hamilton Ward. The justification for this change is that high rise apartments in Newstead and several kilometres away at Hamilton Northshore make it a 'community of interest'.

Residents of Newstead are not supportive about being moved into Hamilton Ward as they do not see their community of interest being towards Hamilton and Pinkenba.

I understand that the Commission has a challenge to manage growth in Newstead going forward but I would like to make several comments on concerns I have with the population projections being relied upon by the commission.

SA3112811 is based around Skyring Terrace at Newstead. The Commission has been provided with data that anticipates this to increase by 3,235 electors over the next 5 years. I wish to draw the Commission's attention to some of pertinent matters relating to development impacting a number of sites in this SA1 area.

Firstly, since the last redistribution Council has introduced regulations to protect *The Triffid* in Stratton Street, Newstead. This live music venue is included in an entertainment precinct which protects the site and places certain restrictions around adjoining development. The below is taken from Council's CityPlan:



The provisions in the special entertainment area core include –

- *Development (bar, club, hotel, indoor sport and recreation, nightclub entertainment facility or food and drink outlet (restaurant)) to be designed and constructed to achieve a required amplified music noise levels*
- *Development in the same building as or a wall within 5m of caretaker's accommodation, dwelling house, hotel, multiple dwelling or short term accommodation, has building design to achieve required amplified music noise levels.*

The provisions in the special entertainment area buffer include –

- *Development (caretaker's accommodation, dwelling house or centre activities where a hotel, multiple dwelling or short-term accommodation) ensures*
 - *bedrooms and living areas are located, designed and constructed to protect from amplified music noise*
 - *the building is designed and constructed to achieve required amplified music noise levels*

The restrictions above place increased costs on residential development near this site, which makes residential development less desirable. For this reason I am concerned about the population projections in the SA1 containing *The Triffid*.

Secondly, a number of sites in this SA1 remain undeveloped in the vicinity of the Energex high voltage power line site on Skyring Terrace, which is on the border of SA3112811 but located within SA3112819.

The sites in the vicinity of the Energex powerlines have a long protracted history dating back well over a decade. In essence, development potential is impacted while the Energex site is configured as it is at present.

As a result Council has not received any recent requests for development on these sites.

I consider Energex relocation/reconfiguration of the power line infrastructure unlikely to be undertaken within the next few years and therefore I would encourage the commission to investigate this with Energex before relying on the current figures of substantial population growth between now and 2024.

In summary, I am concerned that projections for this SA1, which show very significant increases, have not taken into account current development constraints. If the Commission is of the view of making significant changes to Central Ward, I would urge you to review the figures in this SA1 in particular prior to the making a draft determination.

Thank you for inviting submissions on the suggestions received by the Change Commission and allowing me to provide you my views as representative for Central Ward.

Yours sincerely



Cr Vicki Howard
Councillor for Central Ward

From: Helena Bond
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 12:47 PM
To: Minister for Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs
Subject: Ward Review Submission

Dear Change Commission,

I am writing as a voting citizen of the Gabba Ward, regarding the LGCC's Ward Boundary Review of Brisbane City Council.

Current ward sizes are too large. Even our extraordinarily competent and dedicated local councillors (currently Jonathan Sri, previously Helen Abrahams) can barely manage the workload. This review is an excellent time to reduce the target ratio of councillors to voters from current levels, $\pm 1:30,000$, to $\pm 1:25,000$. It appears, from Fact Sheet 2 supplied, that there is no absolute ratio of citizens to councillors, only a relative ratio, which, while it supports the "one vote, one value" principle, does not recognise issues of workload and representation.

The LGCC should keep its eye on the future, creating new wards now to avoid frequent redrawing of ward boundaries. Zoning for future high-density development is already in place, and should be accounted for now. The move from low-rise inner-city neighbourhoods of 10 to 12 dwellings per hectare, to highrise developments with up to 500 dwellings per hectare is a major change, and proposed densities are known in advance.

Closer attention should be paid to the non-voting resident population of each ward. For example, of the Gabba ward's 50,000 residents, only 33,000 are enrolled voters. With a population approaching 70% renters, the Gabba ward - and other similar electorates - will always have a higher proportion of unenrolled residents, but these residents still need service from the local ward office. It is critical to have councillors who can hold meaningful public consultations about local decisions, like parking rules or playground design, and also make informed decisions about the big questions that shape our city. Moreover, ward boundaries also determine the ratio of residents to dollars of local grant funding, and to ward office staff. So in setting boundaries, the LGCC should also aim to minimise the size of the wards that have the highest proportion of non-voting residents.

Beyond these comments, I will confine my submission to redrawing the boundaries of the Gabba Ward. Not only is this ward currently the most over quota, at 12.34% over, it also has a very rapidly growing population, and if left as is, will be around 29.91% over by 2024. It therefore requires a sustainable long term solution. The population (voting and non-voting) of the Gabba ward is now around 50,000 residents. This figure is rapidly rising, and is projected to continue to do so, with major increases in density already approved for West End, South Brisbane, and Woolloongabba. Thus the simplest solution would be to split the existing Gabba ward, creating a new Kurilpa ward in the West End peninsula itself, and slightly expanding a redrawn Gabba Ward to include Kangaroo Point, Woolloongabba, East Brisbane, and Buranda to Stones Corner and parts of Coorparoo. Both of these wards would have voter populations at the bottom end of the acceptable quota range, leaving room for the coming decade's future population growth.

Cheers, Helena

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[Redacted signature block]

**From:** Geoffrey Grantham  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 4:25 PM  
**To:** Minister for Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs  
**Subject:** Creation of new wards

Dear Minister Hinchliffe

I am writing to add my voice to the call for the creation of new wards rather than a change in boundaries.

Yours sincerely  
Geoffrey Grantham



**From:** William Holbrook  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 11:52 AM  
**To:** Minister for Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs  
**Subject:** More wards

Dear Mr Hinchliffe,

My name is William Holbrook. I live in the Gabba Ward of Brisbane.

Will you be creating more BCC wards in order to reduce the ratio of constituents to councillors? Currently it is very difficult to get in touch with local councillors. I doubt that local councillors have the time or resources to respond to the needs of upward of 50,000 constituents.

Regards,

William

**From:** Kathryn M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 12:13 PM  
**To:** Minister for Local Government, Racing & Multicultural Affairs  
**Subject:** Gabba Ward

Local Government Minister, Stirling Hinchliffe

I wish to support the creation of new wards around Brisbane (especially the Gabba Ward) so that each local councillor represents a smaller number of residents.

I note you are considering this issue. Please note my support for changes that would reduce the size of the Gabba Ward and increase the number of councillors for our area.

Thank you  
Kathryn Mellick  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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**Sent:** Monday, 17 June 2019 2:40 PM  
**To:** LG CC Submissions  
**Subject:** (78930) Brisbane City Local Government Area - John Campbell

Online submission for **Brisbane City Local Government Area** from **John Campbell**

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### Submission Details

**Name:** John Campbell

**Submission Text:** As the former Councillor for Doboy (1985-2012) I hereby make suggestions for alterations to Doboy and Chandler Wards as a result of Chandler Ward being under quota. Given half of the suburb of Wakerley is already in Chandler, for community of interest reasons it makes sense to put the whole suburb in Chandler. There was strong community antagonism at the last redistribution when the suburb was divided, and the then Councillors for Doboy (Cr Murphy) and Chandler (Cr Schrinner) both supported a petition opposing the division of the suburb. As a consequence of putting all of Wakerley in Chandler it makes sense to incorporate the rest of the suburb of Cannon Hill back into Doboy. The whole suburb of Cannon Hill was in the Doboy Ward for over 20 years prior to a recent redistribution and the residents of Cannon Hill have a clear sense of community identity centred around the local schools, shopping precincts and School of Arts. Should Doboy still need additional residents to ensure it remains in quota, I support including Carina Heights with Carina in Doboy. Residents of Carina Heights commonly say they live in Carina.

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