



SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers

82 Brisbane Street

Beaudesert

Tuesday, 24 February 2015

Commencing at 10.30 am

All correspondence to
be addressed to the
Chief Executive Officer

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SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
24 FEBRUARY 2015
AGENDA CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
	OPENING OF MEETING.....	1
	ATTENDANCE	1
	APOLOGIES.....	1
1.	PRAYERS.....	1
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS	1
3.	RECEPTION OF DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT	1
4.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	2
5.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	2
6.	RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS	2
7.	CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS OF MEETING	2
	7.1 Review of Divisional Boundaries	2
8.	MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS	12

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

AGENDA

Please note: Agenda Items where Subject Headings are followed by [CLOSED] are to be discussed in closed session in accordance with Section 275(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Section 275(1) A local government or committee may resolve that a meeting be closed to the public if its councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss-

- (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees; or
 - (b) industrial matters, affecting employees; or
 - (c) the local government's budget; or
 - (d) rating concessions; or
 - (e) contracts proposed to be made by it; or
 - (f) starting or defending legal proceedings involving it; or
 - (g) any action to be taken by the local government under the Planning Act, including deciding applications made to it under that Act; or
 - (h) other business for which public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain financial advantage.
-

SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
24 FEBRUARY 2015
AGENDA

OPENING OF MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Cr J C Brent, Mayor
Cr N J Waistell
Cr N O'Carroll
Cr V A West, Deputy Mayor
Cr J J Sanders
Cr R J Stanfield
Cr D A McInnes
Mr C R Barke, Chief Executive Officer
Mr A M Magner, Director Regional Services
Mr P G Murphy, Director Infrastructure Services
Ms K Stidworthy, Chief Finance Officer

APOLOGIES

1. PRAYERS

A representative from St Mary's Catholic Church will offer prayers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. RECEPTION OF DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 27 January 2015.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6. RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 February 2015.
- Corporate & Community Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 February 2015.
- Planning & Development Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 February 2015.

7. CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS OF MEETING

7.1 Review of Divisional Boundaries

Executive Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Item Author: Coordinator Governance and Corporate Policy

File Reference: 13/07/001

Executive Summary

Council needs to determine whether to proceed with submission of a voluntary proposal for changes to its electoral arrangements.

Previous Council Considerations / Resolutions

At the Ordinary Meeting of 27 January 2015 Council gave preliminary consideration to proposed changes to the Region's divisional boundaries in order to satisfy the 'reasonable proportion of electors' requirements at the 2016 quadrennial election. Following discussion it was resolved that:

1. Council endorse for public consultation the proposed changes to the region's divisional boundaries as described in Attachments 1, 2 and 3 of this report;
2. Council consider the outcomes of the public consultation process at its February meeting and determine at that juncture whether to proceed with submission of the proposed changes (with or without amendment) for consideration by the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience.

REPORT

As per Section 18 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, only the Minister may propose a local government change to the Change Commission. In preparation for the 2016 quadrennial elections each local government, by 1 March 2015:

- a) must review whether each of its divisions has a 'reasonable proportion of electors'; and give the electoral commissioner and the Minister written notice of the results of that review; and
- b) may review their electoral arrangements and submit a proposal to the Minister for a voluntary change to those arrangements.

As reported to the meeting of 27 January 2015, for local governments such as Scenic Rim Regional Council with in excess of 10,000 electors, a reasonable proportion of electors involves having the enrolments for each division within a tolerance of 10% above or below the average for all Divisions. The latest statistics available at that time showed that at 10 December 2014:

- a) Enrolments of all divisions were growing but at differing rates;
- b) Division 2 enrolments were 11.17% above the average (which exceeded the allowable 10% tolerance); and
- c) Division 5 enrolments were 8.82% below the average (which was close to falling below the 10% allowable tolerance).

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) has now provided updated enrolment data to 31 January 2015 and this has been incorporated into the following table:

Division	2008 Election	2012 Election	31/01/2015 Enrolment Data		
			Total	Variance from average (4403)	
				Count	%
1	3829	3969	4168	235-	5.33-
2	4013	4379	4959	556+	12.64+
3	3891	4025	4428	25+	0.58+
4	4110	4126	4294	109-	2.47-
5	3633	3831	3974	429-	9.74-
6	3950	4284	4593	190+	4.32+
Total	23426	24614	26416		

This shows that the percentage variances between enrolments within Divisions 2 and 5 and the average enrolments for the Region's six divisions are continuing to grow.

The proposal endorsed for public consultation on 27 January 2015 and shown on the attachments provides for the following changes to bring the enrolments of Divisions 2 and 5 to be well within the allowable tolerances:

1. Transfer of Area A (hatched on Attachment A) from Division 2 to Division 1 (This area comprises all of Division 2 on the eastern side of Tamborine Mountain north of Golf Course Road.);
2. Transfer of Area B (hatched on Attachment B) from Division 6 to Division 5 (This area comprises that part of Division 6 within the area bounded by Red Bridge Road, Pocock Road, Hoya Road, Coronation Drive and Boonah-Fassifern Road.); and
3. Transfer of Area C (as hatched on Attachment C) from Division 6 to Division 5 (This area is bounded Old Rifle Range Road, Allandale Road, Church Street, Ley Street, Elliot Road and Ipswich-Boonah Road.).

A further change as shown on Attachment D has been proposed to realign the section of Division 3 / Division 5 boundary between Kooralbyn Road and Rathdowney from the rail line to Mount Lindesay Highway. That change would create consistency in the western boundary of Division 3.

At time of writing, the 31 January 2015 enrolment data is not available at Census Collector District level to enable a precise current analysis to be made of the effect of the proposed changes. However the net effect based on Census Collector District enrolments at 10 December 2014 would be as follows:

	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5	Division 6
Enrolments on current boundaries	4168	4959	4428	4294	3974	4593
Area A	319+	319-				
Area B					173+	173-
Area C					49+	49-
Area D			8-		8+	
Enrolments on revised boundaries	4487	4640	4420	4294	4204	4371
Variance to 4403 on revised boundaries	84+ (1.96%)	237+ (3.82%)	17+ (0.05%)	109- (1.27%)	199- (3.55%)	32- (0.94%)

The (former) Minister advised that submissions for voluntary change must:

- (a) set out the reasons for the proposed electoral changes;
- (b) have regard to the local government principles; and
- (c) be supported by evidence of meaningful community engagement

The proposed responses to those requirements are as follows:

a) Reasons for the proposed electoral changesTransfer Area A

Enrolments within Division 2 are currently 12.64% above the average for the Region. This exceeds the maximum allowable tolerance. As enrolments within the adjacent Division 1 are currently 5.33% below the average, it is appropriate to reduce the Division 2 enrolments by transferring part of its area to Division 1.

Data obtained from the Electoral Commission of Queensland indicates that at 10 December 2014 there were approximately 319 enrolments in that part of Division 2 on the eastern side of Tamborine Mountain north of Golf Course Road. That road (and its extension to the Region's eastern boundary) would provide an easily recognisable boundary between the two divisions.

Transfer Areas B and C

Enrolments within Division 5 area are currently 9.74% below the average for the Region. Whilst this is currently within the allowable 10% tolerance, it is proposed that action be taken to reduce the extent of variance. As enrolments within the adjoining Division 6 are currently 4.32% above the average, it is appropriate to increase Division 5 enrolments by transferring area from Division 6.

Data obtained from the Electoral Commission of Queensland indicates that at 10 December 2014 there were approximately:-

- 173 enrolments within that part of Division 6 bounded by Red Bridge Road, Pocock Road, Hoya Road, Coronation Drive and Boonah-Fassifern Road
- 49 enrolments within the area bounded Old Rifle Range Road, Allandale Road, Church Street, Ley Street, Elliot Road and Ipswich-Boonah Road.

Inclusion of those areas in Division 5 would address the current imbalance and provide an easily recognisable boundary between the two divisions.

Transfer Area D

The western boundary of Division 3, as established in the 2008 Local Government Reform process, follows the following alignment:

- Mount Lindesay Highway from Beaudesert south to Kooralbyn Road;
- The interstate train line from Kooralbyn Road to Running Creek Road; and
- Mount Lindesay Highway from Running Creek Road to the NSW border.

For consistency it is desirable to align that boundary to follow Mount Lindesay Highway for its entire length.

As the interstate railway crosses Mount Lindesay Highway at Innisplain, moving the divisional boundary from the railway to the highway would involve transferring:

- the section of Division 3 between Kooralbyn Road and the rail underpass at Innisplain to Division 5; and
- the section of Division 5 between the rail underpass at Innisplain and Running Creek Road to Division 3

Aerial photography suggests that the net effect of this transfer would be to move about 8 enrolments from Division 3 to Division 5.

b) Local Government Principles

Section 4 of the *Local Government Act 2009* lists the local government principles as:

- (a) transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and
- (b) sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and
- (c) democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and
- (d) good governance of, and by, local government; and
- (e) ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.

Of the above items, principle (c) is most relevant to the proposed changes. The proposal would enhance democratic representation by:

- Reducing the imbalance between divisional enrolments
- Minimising the division of communities of interest
- Ensuring that boundaries are logical and known by residents and Councillors.

c) Community Engagement

Given the relatively minor scale of changes proposed, the following consultation process has been implemented:

- A Media Release advising of the proposed changes was issued on 27 January 2015 and appeared in *The Fassifern Guardian* of 29 January 2015 and the *Tamborine Mountain News* of 3 February 2015.
- An Information Sheet and maps showing the proposed changes and inviting any feedback by 16 February 2015 was placed on display in Council's Customer Service Centres and posted on Council's website on 30 January 2015.
- A news item advising residents of the release of the Information Sheet and where it can be accessed was included in Council's advertisement in the *Tamborine Mountain News* of 3 February 2015, the *Beaudesert Times* of 4 February 2015 and *The Fassifern Guardian* of 4 February 2015.
- On 4 February 2015 Council placed a post on its Facebook page informing readers of the proposal

No alternative boundary change proposals have been received in response to this consultation process.

Strategic Implications

Community Plan

Not Applicable

Corporate Plan / Operational Plan

Not Applicable

Budget Implications

Nil

Legal / Statutory Implications

Whilst Council may submit a voluntary change proposal to the Minister, it is at the Minister's discretion whether to refer that proposal to the Local Government Change Commission.

Risks

Indistinct or inappropriate boundaries can result in frustration by voters and future Divisional Councillors when attending to needs of residents.

Conclusion

Attachments A, B and C provide appropriate changes to ensure that enrolments for Divisions 2 and 5 will be well within the 'reasonable proportion of electors' requirements at the 2016 Quadrennial elections.

The changes proposed in Attachment D will result in a more consistent and readily identifiable boundary between Division 3 and Division 5.

Consultation

The proposal was distributed for public consultation as above.

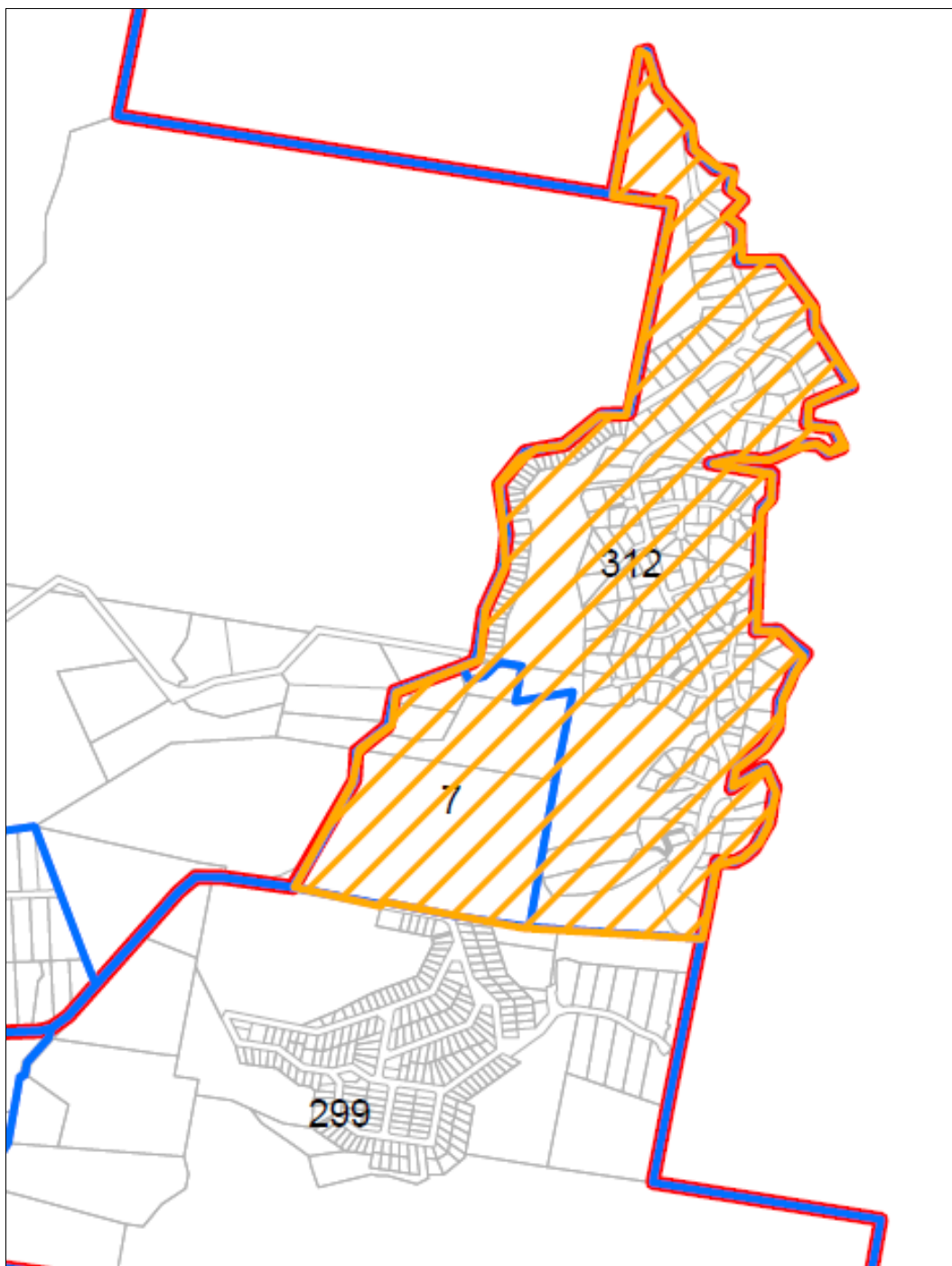
Chief Executive Officer's Recommendation

That Council proceed with the submission to the Minister for Transport, Minister for Trade, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning of a proposal that the boundaries of electoral divisions within the Scenic Rim Regional Council area be realigned in accordance with Attachments A, B, C and D.

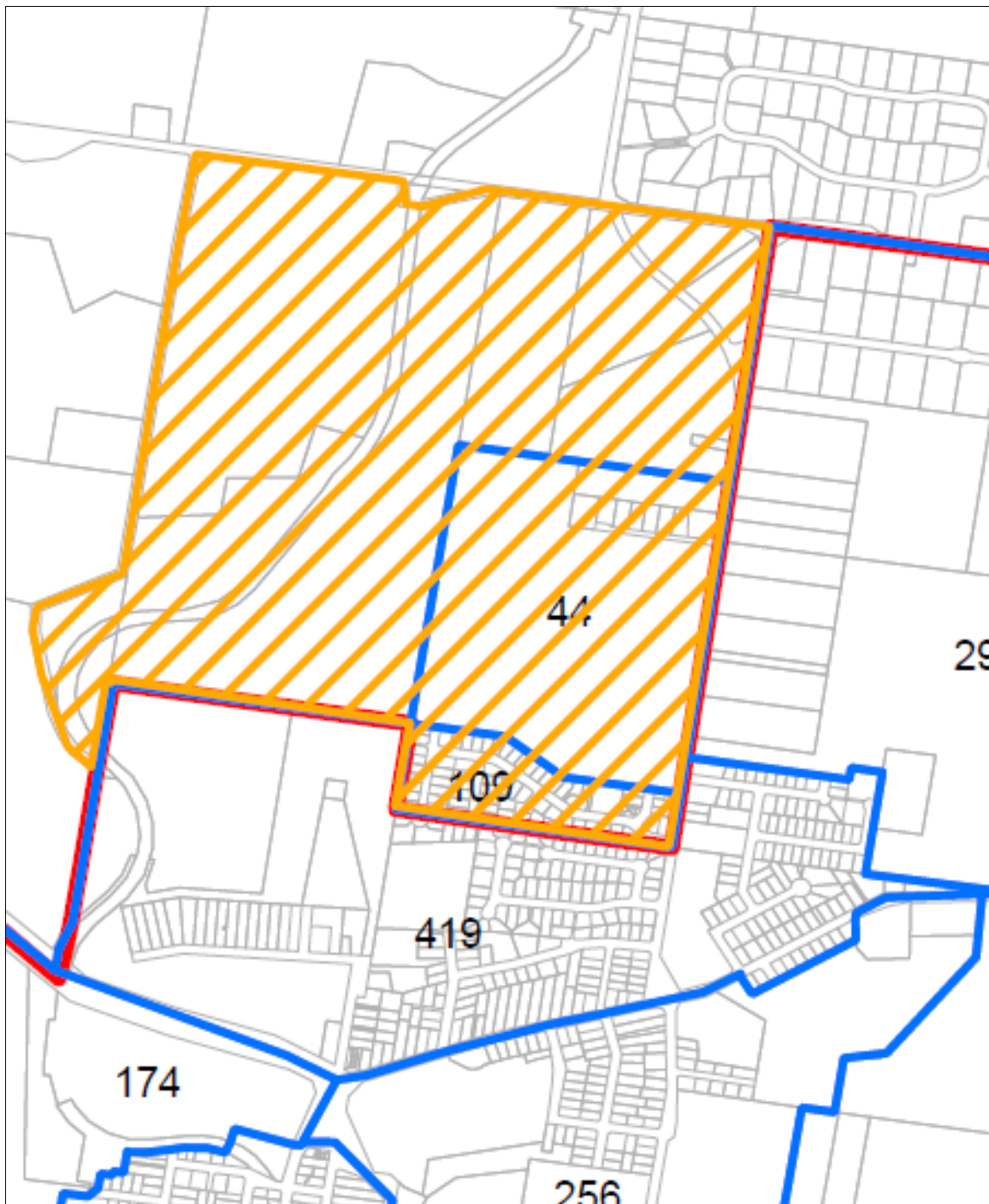
Attachments

1. Area on eastern side of Tamborine Mountain proposed for transfer from Division 2 to Division 1
2. Area on northern side of Boonah proposed for transfer from Division 6 to Division 5
3. Area east of Boonah proposed for transfer from Division 6 to Division 5
4. Areas between Kooralbyn Road and Running Creek Road proposed for transfer between Divisions 3 and 5

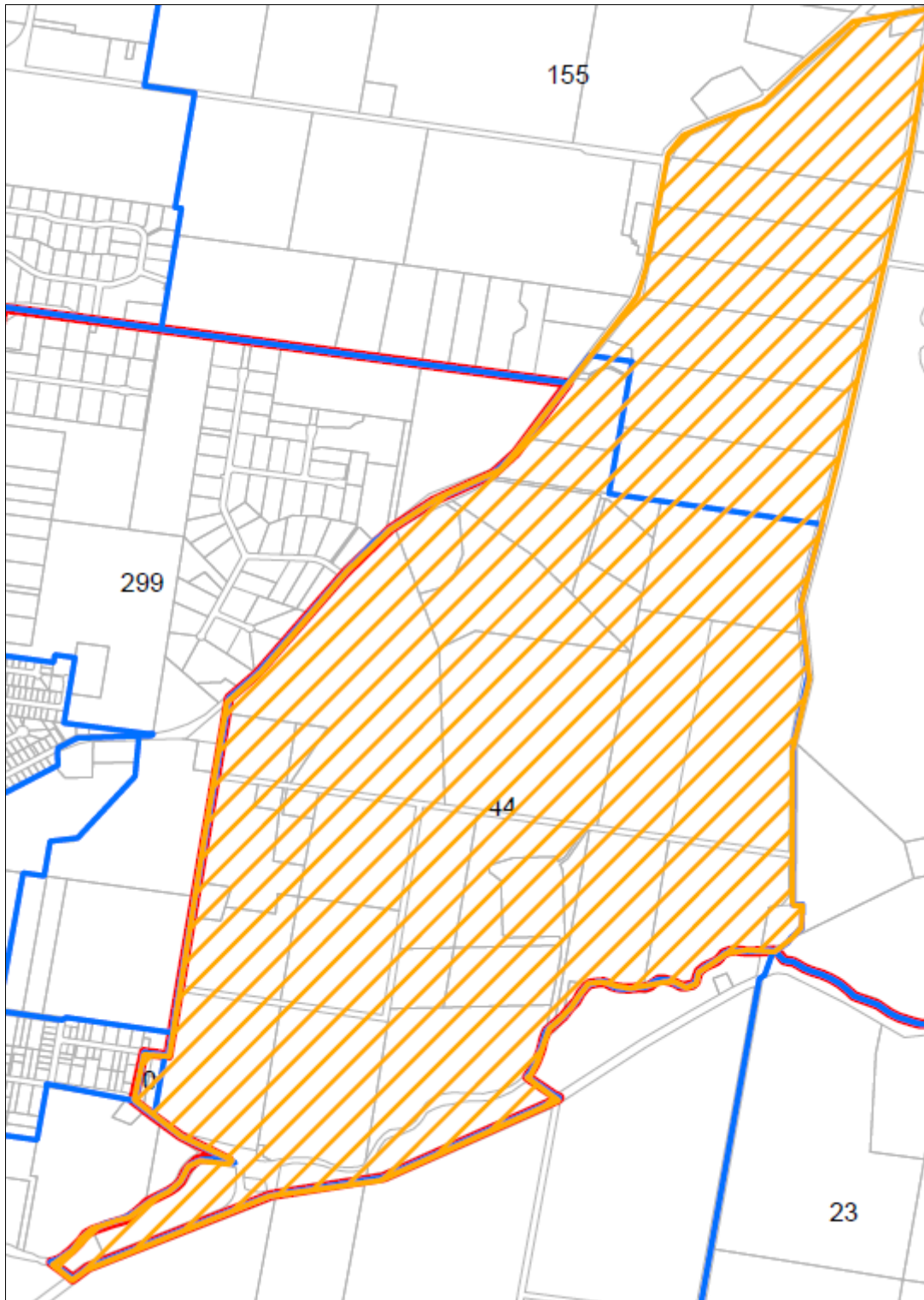
Attachment 1 - Area on eastern side of Tamborine Mountain proposed for transfer from Division 2 to Division 1



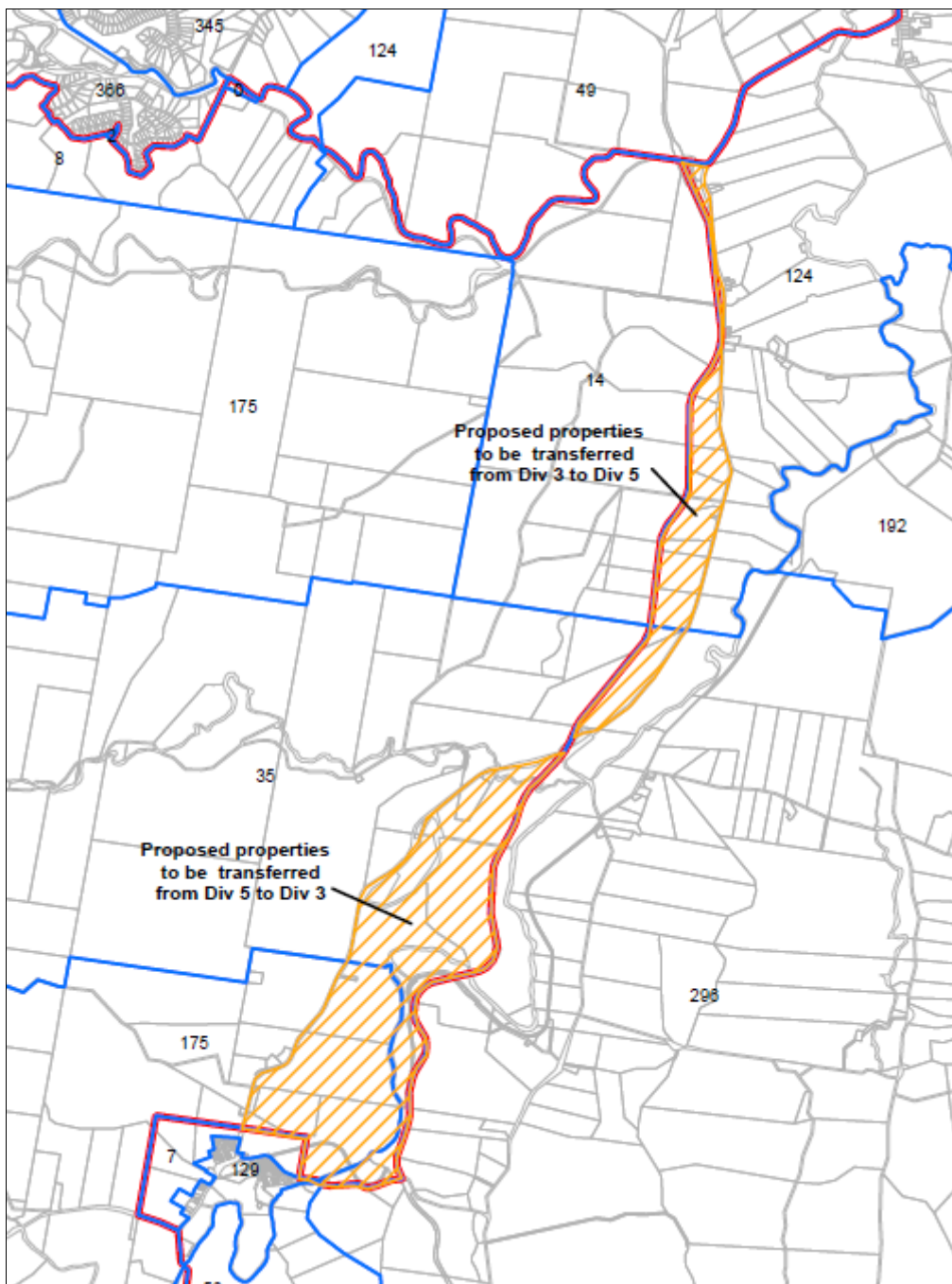
Attachment 2 - Area on northern side of Boonah proposed for transfer from Division 6 to Division 5



Attachment 3 - Area east of Boonah proposed for transfer from Division 6 to Division 5



Attachment 4 - Areas between Kooralbyn Road and Running Creek Road proposed from transfer between Divisions 3 and 5



8. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS