

De-amalgamation Fact Sheet

Forced amalgamations were first announced by the Beattie Government in 2007.

As a result of amalgamations, in the March 2008 Local Government elections, Queensland Councils were reduced from 157 to 73.

The LNP went to the 2012 State Election promising to consider applications from former shires that wanted to revert to their old boundaries.

The Boundaries Commissioner Col Meng, announced on June 29, 2012, will assess viability of de-amalgamations.

Any community wishing to de-amalgamate will need to:

1. Provide the state with an evidence-based, community-backed submission based on the 2008 pre-amalgamation local government boundaries.
2. Provide a petition with a clearly stated understanding of all the cost implications signed by at least 20 per cent of the voting population in the proposed de-amalgamated council area.
3. Table a detailed estimate of the potential financial costs.
4. Demonstrate an understanding that the former shire wishing to de-amalgamate will have to meet all costs involved, including their own and those of the council they wish to break away from.

The Government must receive applications by August 29, 2012.

The Local Government Minister will review the submissions and forward those that clearly show community support and understanding of costs to the Boundaries Commissioner.

The Boundaries Commissioner will work with the Queensland Treasury Corporation to determine the exact financial cost of each de-amalgamation.

The Local Government Minister will receive the final report from the Boundaries Commissioner by November 28, 2012.

If approved by the Minister, the community wishing to break away will vote for or against the de-amalgamation in a referendum.

If residents back de-amalgamation and the Government supports the proposal, new elections will be held for a mayor and councillors in the breakaway area.

The Boundaries Commissioner appointment is one of the Newman Government's First 100-day Action Plan commitments and a key component of its Empowering Local Government policy platform.

The Terms of Reference are available on the Boundaries Commission website at www.qld.gov.au/deamalgamation.