

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Rockhampton Region Mayor Tony Williams



Vote for future growth

In a few short weeks we will see every elector in the Rockhampton Region and Livingstone Shire asked whether they support the transfer of Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview to the Rockhampton Region.

You are going to hear a lot about it from both our Council and Livingstone as we each try to convince our communities which way they should vote.

Rockhampton Regional Council wants you to vote 'yes' because we think it is the best and fairest outcome for all of us.

Before I tell you why, I want to first ask you a question.

What do you want our region to be?

In the future, what are your hopes for your community, no matter where you live. Here is mine.

I want both our communities to grow and thrive. I want the Rockhampton Region to shine as the capital of Central Queensland and I want Livingstone to grow as a thriving coastal community.

When both do well, each of us does better. Our two communities are linked together and we share our lives.

I believe that bringing the Northern Suburbs back to Rockhampton will achieve that. It accomplishes two things at the same time.

The first is that it allows Rockhampton room to grow. Our region is running out of vacant land to build more homes and this Northern Corridor will be where our future population lives. We're constrained in every other direction by floodplain or the Berserker Range.

The second thing it does is allow Livingstone to continue focussing on growing the Coast. Their focus has always been on the



The Rockhampton Regional Council is urging residents to vote yes in the northern suburbs battle.

Coast and it makes sense for them to put their efforts there so Rockhampton can grow the Northern Suburbs.

A vote 'yes' will benefit both of our futures and we will grow together. All of us want our homes to thrive and this is an opportunity to

have your say and secure both of our regions' futures.

Residents in Glendale, Glenlee and Rockyview have voted three times that they want to come home to the Rockhampton Region. They are a part of Rockhampton in everything but

name. They work here, they shop here, they go to our libraries, our parks and they use our roads as they make their lives here.

Help them get home and Vote 'Yes' when you get your postal and online code to vote later this month.

A local opinion on realignment of the northern border

By Glenda Mather

The Rockhampton Regional Council, with the active assistance of the state government, is facilitating a move which may bring about the demise, and possible death of its long time neighbour, the Livingstone Shire Council.

If ratepayers on either side of the fence have any doubt as to what's going on, they need to look further than the land grab at the boundary.

The Minister for Local Government, through the Boundaries Commissioner, has endorsed the investigation into the viability of Livingstone losing its three major suburbs, which are part of Livingstone's future growth corridor.

Contrary to Rocky's campaign propaganda, the three suburbs in question have been part of Livingstone for 143 years and proclaimed as a shire since 1903.

In fact, the Parkhurst area, the land containing the Parkhurst school, the shopping centre, the motels etc, was also once part of Livingstone until it was sliced off and added to Rockhampton City in 1987-88.

Now they want to slice another hunk off our shire to boost their rate base and take the pressure off their suffering ratepayers in the face of a struggling economy.

Most Councils throughout the state are suffering economic loss for various reasons, but they don't rely on the state government to help them acquire land from their neighbours to get them out of trouble.

The marriage and divorce of the two councils cost ratepayers collectively, millions of dollars.

For what?

You can rightly ask why we're not getting value for our rate money.

Despite the wholesome return of Liv-



As a resident of Glenlee, Glenda Mather is against the Rockhampton Regional Council taking the northern suburbs.

ingstone on 1 January 2014, Rockhampton Council never did accept this loss and has spent the next eight years pressing the state government to grant its wish to allow this further land grab.

The then Minister, in endorsing the investigation, stated in writing, that in the event of a boundary change, no council would be worse off, financially.

What a laugh.

Livingstone's expensive financial analysis has exposed the serious adverse impact

on its ratepayers.

The current Minister and the Boundaries Commissioner both know this, yet the "pretend" vote being offered to residents of both Councils, proves nothing.

It's simply a tacit means of appeasing no-one.

What the public is witnessing totally undemocratic and needs to see the big picture.

The costs associated with the yes/no campaign is a further financial impact on its rate-

payers, and a struggling economy.

The State government needs to show some backbone and honour the commitment made by the Minister.

We are all watching.

Instead of the state bringing people to work as one, it is dividing our two councils and its people, and demonstrating a loss of confidence in the state.

Livingstone deserves a future.

Vote no.