City of Ipswich

Community Engagement Report

Changes Proposed to Divisional Arrangements

October 2026



City of Ipswich

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People of the Yugara/Yagara Language Group, as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 24 September 2026, council resolved to request a review of its electoral arrangements under section 17 of the *Local Government Act* 2009, with a preferred model of a Mayor and ten single-councillor divisions. Ipswich City Council is undertaking consultation on this proposal to transition from four divisions represented by two councillors per division to ten divisions represented by one councillor per division.

The purpose of this engagement was to:

- inform the community about the proposal and consultation process;
- gauge community sentiment and understand reactions, benefits, concerns and implications of the proposed changes; and
- provide community feedback to the Minister and the Local Government Change Commission to support the referral request.

Community engagement findings outlined in this report identified:

- Overall, community were mostly supportive of the proposed change to single-councillor divisions, with 53% supporting.
- Ten was the most popular number of divisions across the Ipswich Local Government Area.
- Key considerations community have identified is opting for a model that keeps costs low, improves governance and accountability, and ensures greater local representation.

Preferences remained consistent across all four council divisions and most demographic groups.

The themes and stakeholder insights identified in this report may help inform the Local Government Change Commission's decision on future divisional arrangements related to the City of Ipswich Local Government Area.

HOW WE ENGAGED

ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK CHANNELS

The engagement was undertaken between Thursday 1 October 2026 and Sunday 18 October 2026. Community was able to contribute their feedback through the following channels:

- **Online survey:** Comments were captured via an engagement tool on the project page, Changes Proposed to Council's Divisional Arrangements, hosted on Shape Your Ipswich. Survey questions can be seen at Appendix 1.
- **Hard copy survey:** Community members were able to complete a hard copy survey to share their feedback. The questions in the survey replicated the online version on Shape Your Ipswich.
- **Email:** The community was able to email communityengagement@ipswich.qld.gov.au.
- **Phone:** The community was able to directly reach out to council via 3810 6666.
- **In person:** The community was able to speak directly to staff at 1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich.
- **Mail:** The community was able to post feedback to PO Box 191, Ipswich QLD 4305.

PROMOTIONAL CHANNELS

To maximise awareness of the engagement opportunity, the following communication channels were used to reach the community and trigger awareness.

- **Ipswich City Council social media:** Both organic and paid posts were shared on Ipswich City Council's Facebook and Instagram page for raising awareness of the project and encourage community to share their feedback. The paid posts recorded a total reach of 91,623 and 3,922 clicks. The organic post recorded a total reach of 3,720 and 215 clicks.
- **Shape Your Ipswich:** A project page was set up on Shape Your Ipswich to share information about the project and the relevant engagement activities, with members interested in City Design and Planning or Governance automatically notified of the new project (1,085 recipients).
- **Newsletters:** The engagement opportunity was referenced in the Beating Heart newsletter sent on 13 October (625 recipients) and Shape Your Ipswich Quarterly Newsletter sent 15 October (4,584 recipients).
- **Direct email:** An email was sent to over 70 Ipswich community organisations. The email provided an overview of the project and encouraged recipients to share with their networks.
- **Media release:** A media release, Council advocates for return to 10 single-councillor divisions, was distributed on council's corporate website on 1 October 2026.
- **Ipswich First:** An Ipswich First article, Council advocates for return to 10 single-councillor divisions, was distributed on 2 October 2026. The article shared details of the project and received 280 views.
- **Newspapers:** An advertisement was included in the Moreton Border News, Ipswich Tribune Today and Local Ipswich News.
- **Digital screens:** An advertisement was shown on digital screens found at Tulmur Place, the council foyer and all council libraries.
- **Radio:** A radio advertisement was included on the radio channel 94.9.
- **Postcard:** A postcard was printed and available at the concierge desk (1 Nicholas Street) and for use at Councillor community catch up events.

In addition to official advertisements facilitated by council staff on Ipswich City Council Social Media, the online marketing media was also shared on various external Facebook pages or groups during the engagement period.

Engagement data was monitored throughout the engagement period to identify potential opportunities to improve results, inclusive of social media advertisements and email reach to targeting demographics where lower levels of feedback had been received.

Example marketing collateral can be seen at Appendix 2.

Overall, these activities led to 4,931 views of the Shape Your Ipswich page and 812 contributions throughout the engagement as outlined in the table below.

ENGAGEMENT CHANNEL/S	CONTRIBUTIONS[1]
Online survey	806
Hard copy survey	1
Email	5
Phone	0

[1] Total number of individuals who submitted feedback per engagement channel. Noting individuals may be counted multiple times if submitting multiple submissions.

ENGAGEMENT CHANNEL/S	CONTRIBUTIONS[1]
In person	0
Mail	0
TOTAL	**812**

WHO ENGAGED

Where reasonable, demographic data was captured as part of engagement activities. To understand how likely the findings in this report reflect the sentiment of the affected community, sample size and demographic representation have been considered.

SAMPLE SIZE

The affected community was determined by research undertaken as part of the engagement planning stage. This project was considered most likely to affect or potentially affect all Ipswich residents (population of 270,624 as of January 2026).

Based on a 95% confidence level, it was recommended that anywhere between 384 – 600 contributors participate to achieve a margin of error of approximately 4–5%. This range is appropriate for higher-impact projects, allowing for more robust and detailed insights into community expectations.

Across all engagement channels, a sample size of 812 was achieved, therefore exceeding the recommended sample size range to achieve a 95% confidence level and 3% margin of error.

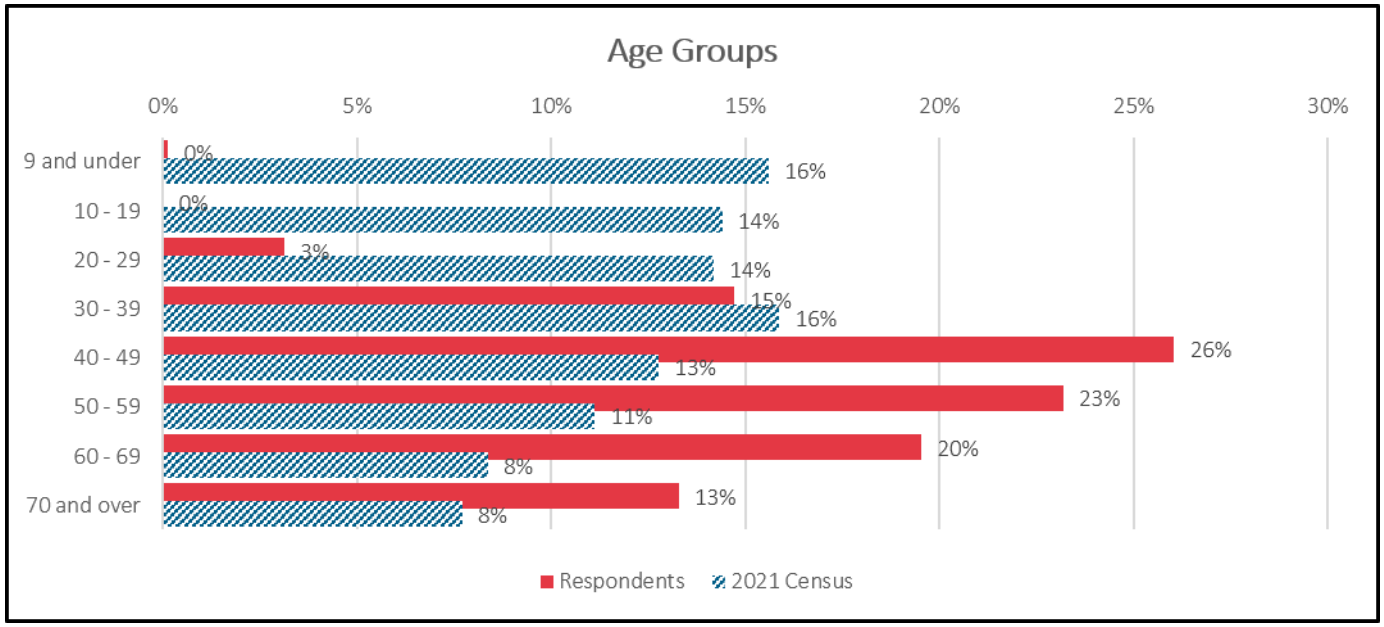
DEMOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

Demographic information was collected through most engagement channels, except for email submissions, where requesting this information was not appropriate for the format. A minority of participants opted out of providing some or all demographic information.

The respondent profile has been compared against the broader Ipswich population. This benchmark provides useful reference points of how representative respondents are to the Ipswich community.

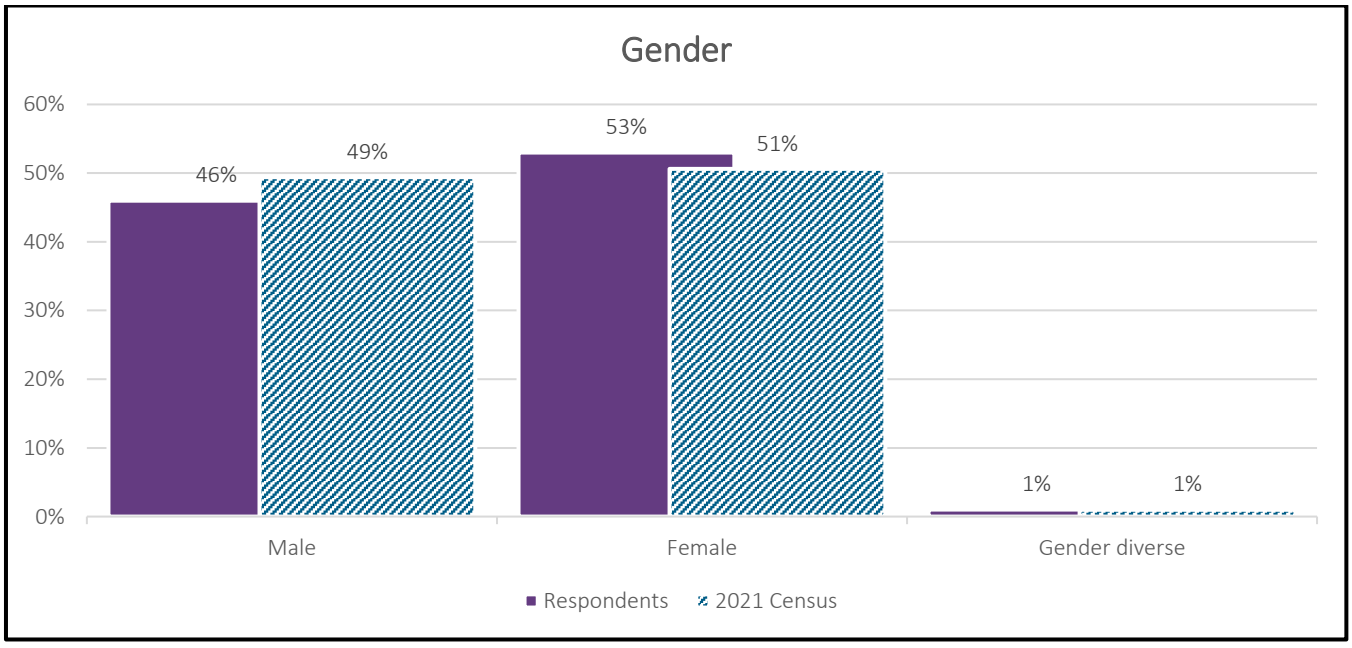
Age

Age groups 30 and over were well represented by respondents, while people aged 29 and under were considerably lower in representation.



Gender

Male, females and gender diverse respondents were well represented and strongly aligned to the Ipswich population.



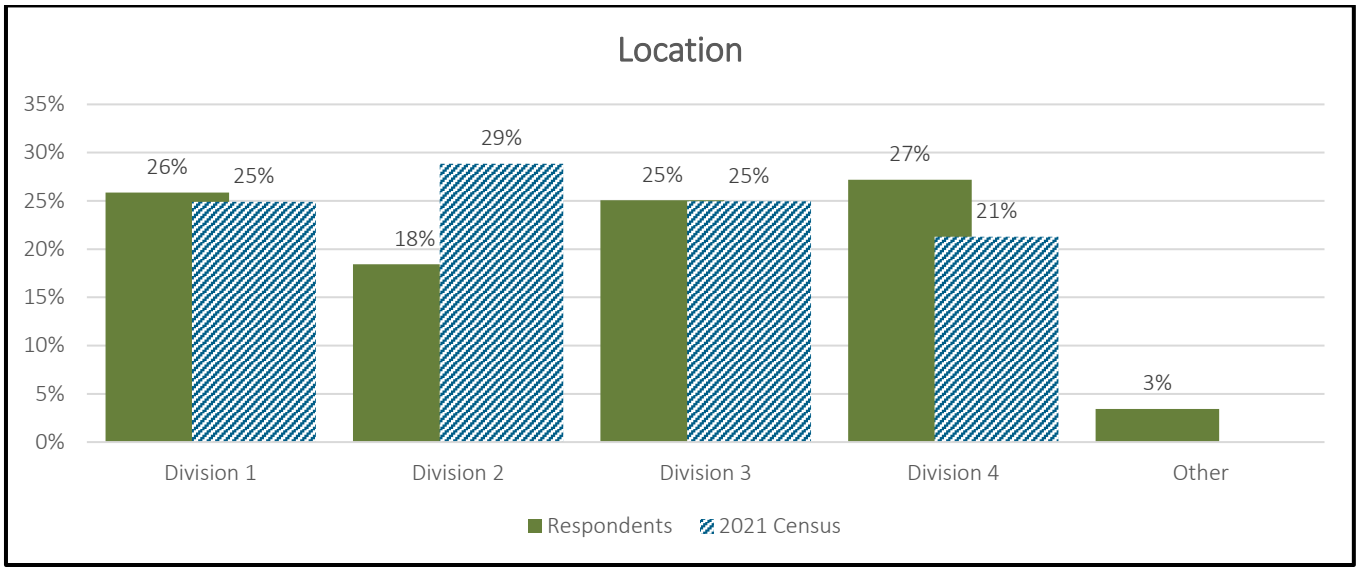
Locality

Each division in Ipswich was well represented. While Division 2 had lower representation compared to Ipswich Census data, a sufficient sample size has been collated to allow for analysis of this group separately while still ensuring reliable themes. Overall, 68 suburbs were represented:

Suburb	Respondents	Suburb	Respondents	Suburb	Respondents
Augustine Heights	11	Gailes	3	Riverview	3
Barellan Point	8	Goodna	18	Rosewood	17

Suburb	Respondents	Suburb	Respondents	Suburb	Respondents
Basin Pocket	4	Grandchester	2	Sadliers Crossing	9
Bellbird Park	14	Haigslea	4	Silkstone	12
Blackstone	6	Ipswich	23	Slacks Creek	1
Booval	18	Ironbark	2	South Ripley	17
Borallon	1	Karalee	27	Spring Mountain	7
Brassall	45	Karrabin	1	Springfield	24
Brookwater	9	Lanefield	2	Springfield Central	2
Bundamba	15	Leichhardt	8	Springfield Lakes	30
Calvert	3	Lower Mount Walker	1	Tallegalla	1
Camira	21	Marburg	8	Thagoona	6
Chippendale	1	Moores Pocket	6	The Bluff	1
Churchill	6	Mount Forbes	2	Tivoli	6
Chuwar	13	Mount Mort	1	Walloon	9
Coalfalls	5	Newtown	9	West Ipswich	3
Collingwood Park	27	North Booval	11	White Rock	7
Deebing Heights	20	North Ipswich	19	Willowbank	6
Dinmore	5	One Mile	6	Woodend	13
East Ipswich	11	Pine Mountain	9	Wulkuraka	5
Eastern Heights	19	Raceview	25	Yamanto	10
Ebbw vale	1	Redbank	10		
Ebenezer	1	Redbank Plains	43		
Flinders View	33	Ripley	28		

No responses were received from Ipswich residents living in Amberley, Blacksoil, Goolman, Jeebropilly, Kholo, Muirlea, Mount Marrow, Purga and Swanbank.

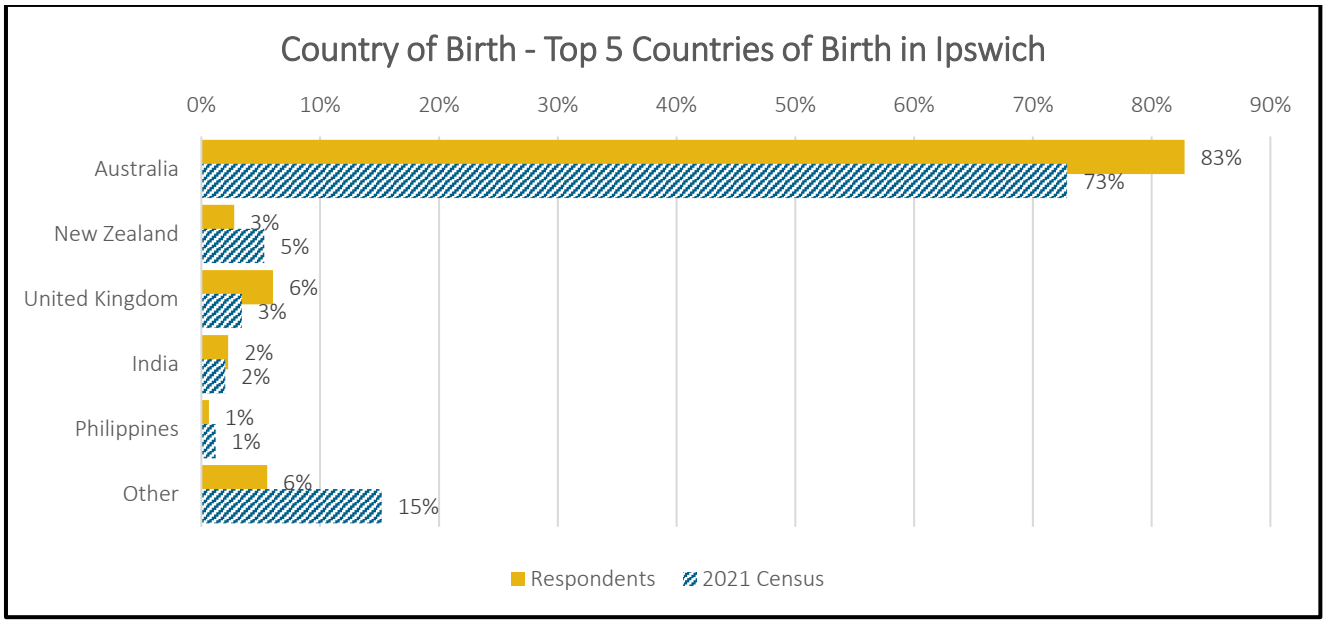


Country of birth

Many countries of birth were represented by respondents and aligned with Ipswich Census data, although somewhat lower in the "Other" category. Overall, 34 countries were represented:

Country of birth	Respondents	Country of birth	Respondents	Country of birth	Respondents
Australia	658	Iran	1	Saudi Arabia	1
Bangladesh	1	Italy	1	Singapore	1
Brazil	1	Kenya	1	South Africa	4
Canada	3	Nepal	1	Sri Lanka	1
Colombia	2	Netherlands	3	Sweden	1
Cote divoire	1	New Zealand	22	United Kingdom	48
Fiji	1	Nigeria	2	United States of America	2
Finland	1	Pakistan	1	Uzbekistan	2
Germany	5	Papua New Guinea	1	Zambia	1
Hungary	1	Philippines	5	Zimbabwe	1

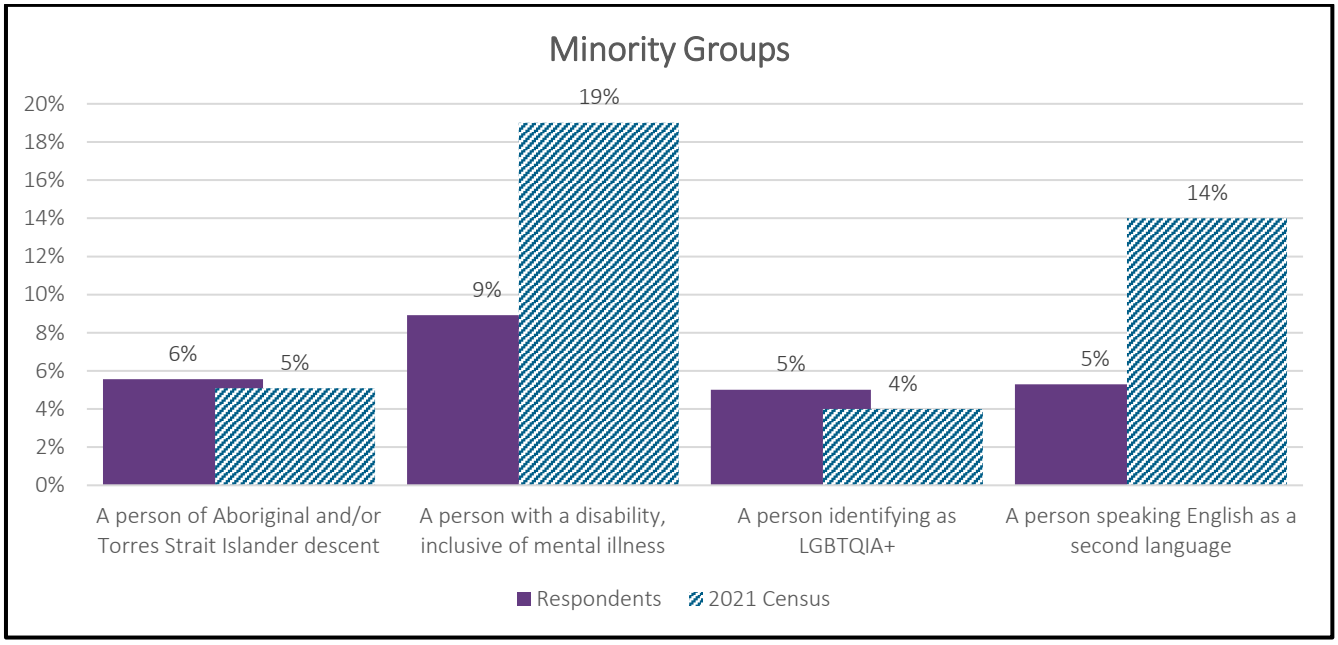
Country of birth	Respondents	Country of birth	Respondents	Country of birth	Respondents
India	18	Poland	1		
Indonesia	1	Samoan	1		



Minority groups

While all minority groups were represented, people with a disability or speaking English as a second language were underrepresented compared to Ipswich Census data.

Minority group	Respondents
A person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent	40
A person with a disability, inclusive of mental illness	64
A person identifying as LGBTQIA+	36
A person speaking English as a second language	38



OVERALL REPRESENTATIVENESS

Given the representation from most demographic groups recorded through this engagement, in conjunction to meeting the recommended sample size with 812 contributors, findings outlined in this report are considered statistically representative of the affected community. Demographic groups were analysed both holistically and then separately to identify any shifts in perspective across demographics.

It is noted findings may be less representative of people speaking English as a second language, people with a disability or people under 30 years due to limited contributions from these demographic groups.

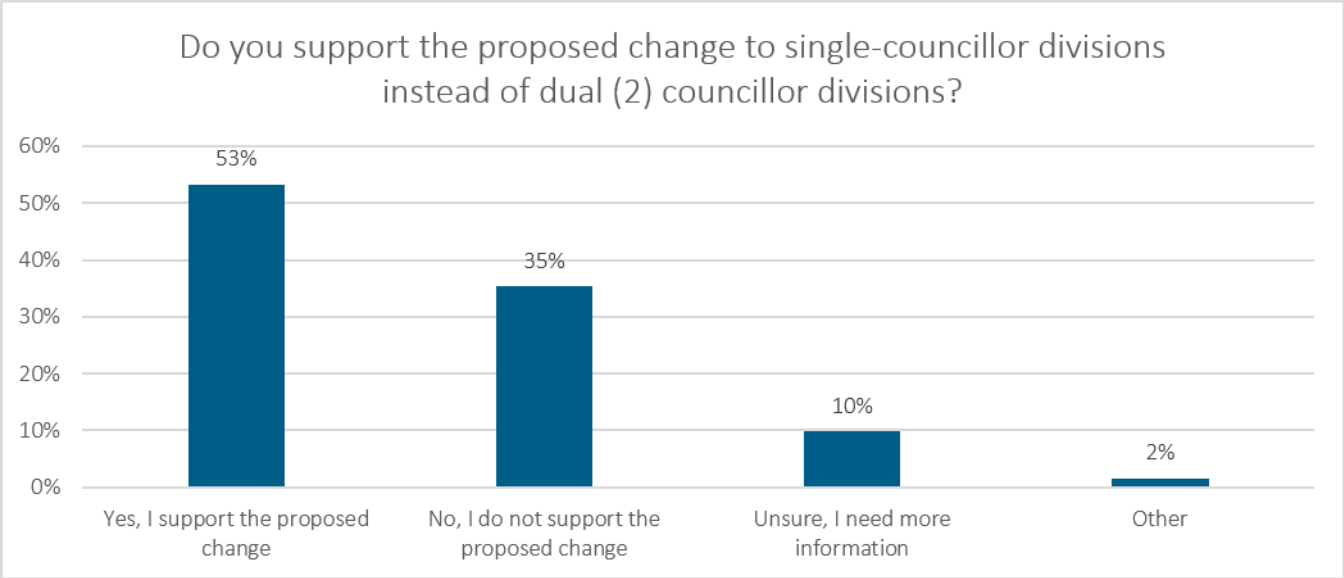
WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

Do you support the proposed change to single-councillor divisions instead of dual (2) councillor divisions?

811 responded to this question. The majority (53%) supported the proposed change to single-councillor divisions. This was the most common response by a considerable margin, exceeding opposition to the proposal (35%) by 18 percentage points. A further 10% indicated they required more information, while 2% provided an alternative response.

Other responses (2%) generally supported single-councillor divisions, although were typically tied to conditions such as a preferred total number of divisions. Other comments requested expected costings to help support decision making, or felt the current approach was reasonable.

Trends generally remained consistent across demographic and geographic groups. In most cohorts, support for the single-councillor division model exceeded 50% and was the most selected response. The only notable variations occurred among groups with very small sample sizes, including gender diverse and Torres Strait Islander respondents (both n=8), where results were more divided. Full demographic results are provided in Appendix 3.

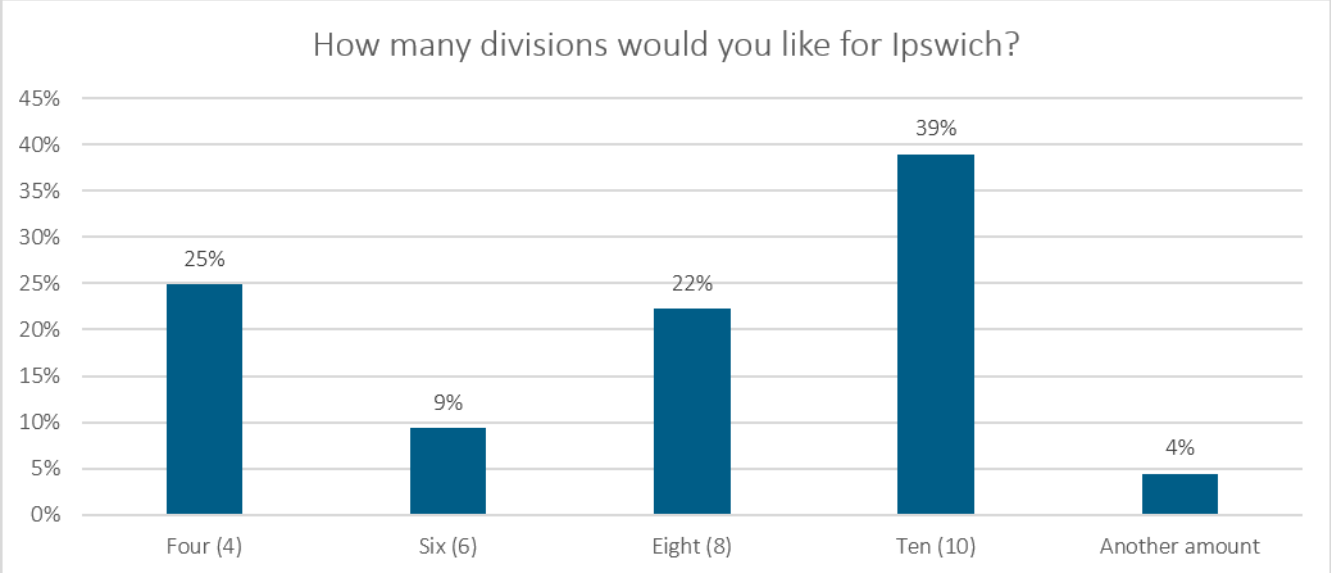


How many divisions would you like for Ipswich?

808 responded to this question. When asked how many divisions Ipswich should have, respondents most commonly selected 10 divisions (39%). This option was clearly preferred, attracting 14 percentage points more support than the next most popular option, 4 divisions (25%). More broadly, the results indicate a preference for a larger number of divisions, with 61% of respondents selecting either 8 or 10 divisions, compared with 34% selecting 4 or 6 divisions.

Of those who selected another amount (4%), preferred number of divisions ranged from 0 to 50. Those that did not provide a number typically sought further information to help determine the best solution, stated they were indifferent, or suggested the inclusion or exclusion of certain areas within the Ipswich Local Government Area.

Preferences remained consistent across all four council divisions and most demographic groups. While the margin varied between cohorts, support for ten divisions generally exceeded support for four, six or eight divisions. The strongest support for ten divisions was observed among respondents aged under 30 and over 60 (both 59%), and those who speak English as a second language (50%). Variations from this broader trend were primarily observed among groups with very small sample sizes, including gender diverse respondents (n=8), who most preferred four divisions (75%), and Torres Strait Islander respondents (n=8), whose preferences were evenly distributed across several options. Full demographic results are provided in Appendix 4.



What are the main reasons for your response?

756 responded to this question. Key themes from qualitative comments provided have been outlined below. Comments generally referenced how these changes may influence accountability, governance, cost and local representation. Noting comments may be associated with more than one theme.

Accountability

Community feedback sought improvements in councillor accountability and general operations. These respondents indicated general support for a single-councillor model will achieve this. Multiple comments also affirmed this would reduce community confusion, noting challenges navigating who is responsible for what under the current set up.

51%
OF RESPONDENTS

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

"Reduce doubling up. One person per division must work hard in his area."
"One person takes ownership of their electorate ratepayers are clear who to consult"
"This is not new. This is returning to the previous setup. It worked then. It will work now. The Qld Gov. intervention didn't work."

Governance

Community feedback cited concerns with current behaviours, including perceptions around poor governance and risks of corruption. These respondents generally opted for a dual-councillor model, indicating this model has been successful in improving governance overall.

44%
OF RESPONDENTS

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

"If only 1 person is responsible per division, corruption and nepotism is inevitable."
"Current arrangements are much better for Governance and transparency"
"The current model was introduced as part of governance reforms following the 2018 corruption scandal. What has changed to justify reversing those reforms, and what safeguards would prevent the previous issues from recurring?"

Cost considerations

A key consideration of respondents centred around perceived costs associated with any change, particularly an increase in councillors. For this reason, feedback generally offered solutions that would result in the same number of councillors, such as single councillors across 8 divisions.

40%
OF RESPONDENTS

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

"The cost of more divisions the councillors and supporting staff the higher the cost to the rate payer."
"We cannot afford the expense of two extra councillors and their entitlements...Our roads need urgent attention."
"8 councillors for 8 divisions, divide into 8 not 10……no additional councillors needed. KEEP COSTS LOW."

Local representation

Community generally called for smaller divisions to improve local representation. Concerns were raised that current divisions were too large and therefore unable to be effectively managed, with some areas feeling neglected.

38%
OF RESPONDENTS

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

"Each area should have a more focused representation of its constituents"
"I think there will be fairer representation and understanding of community needs."
"Even though there are 2 Councillors each division .... most of the divisions are exceptionally large"

Is there anything else you would like council to consider about the proposed change?

495 responded to this question. Feedback generally reiterated the same themes identified in the previous question. Additional themes included community seeking opportunities to co-design divisional boundaries, and evidence that this feedback will be taken into consideration as part of decision-making.

SUPPORTING ENGAGEMENT

In addition to this engagement, Ipswich City Council has previously conducted other engagement activities that relate to this project.

Ipswich City Council – Divisional Boundary Review 2019

Local Government Change Commission – Electoral Arrangements Review 2023

FINDINGS

Review and analysis of the data identified the following key findings from the community.

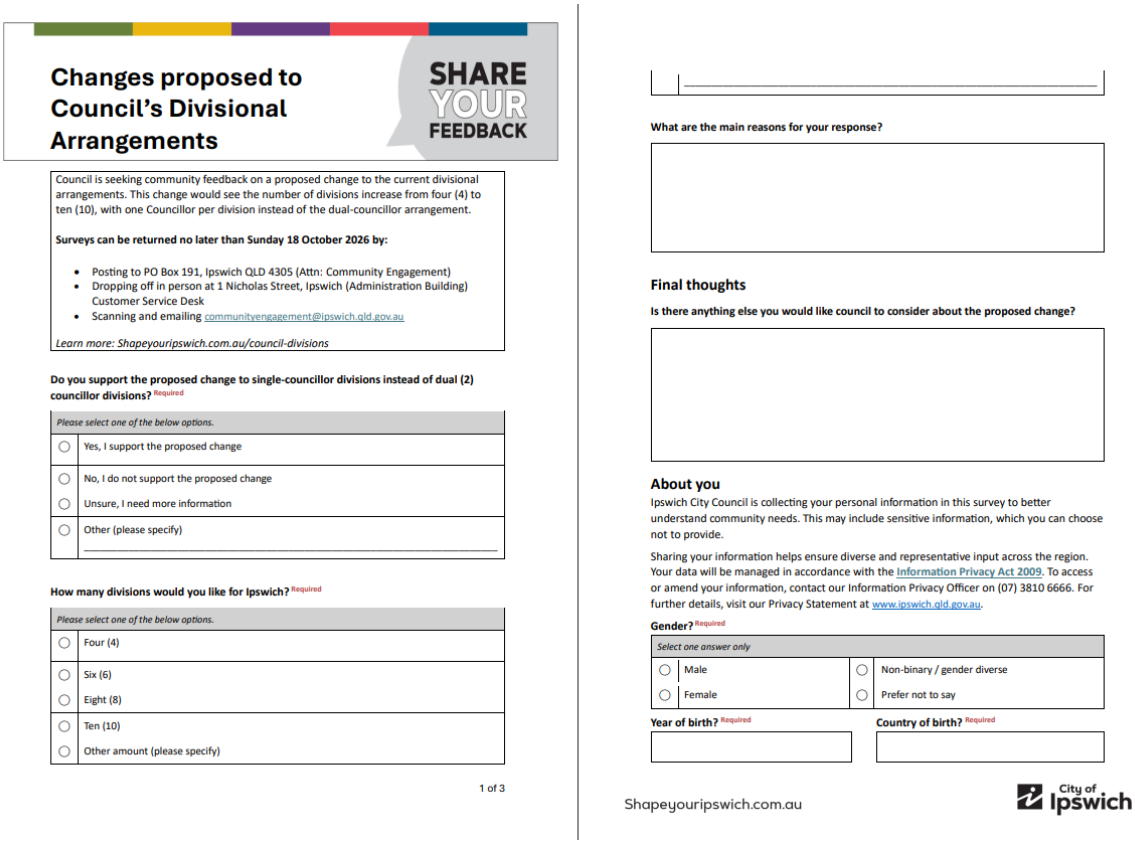
Findings as outlined in this report are to be shared publicly via Shape Your Ipswich, along with relevant project updates to show how the community's feedback has shaped this project.

- Overall, community were mostly supportive of the proposed change to single-council divisions, with 53% supporting.
- Ten was the most popular number of divisions across the Ipswich Local Government Area.
- Key considerations community have identified is opting for a model that keeps costs low, improves governance and accountability, and ensures greater local representation.
- Feedback continues to align with sentiment captured in the Electoral Arrangement Review undertaken in 2022.

This engagement report will be presented to the Council for endorsement to send to the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, the Hon Ann Leahy MP, and the Local Government Change Commission as evidence of community views.

APPENDICES

1. SURVEY QUESTIONS



Changes proposed to Council's Divisional Arrangements

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Council is seeking community feedback on a proposed change to the current divisional arrangements. This change would see the number of divisions increase from four (4) to ten (10), with one Councillor per division instead of the dual-councillor arrangement.

Surveys can be returned no later than Sunday 18 October 2026 by:

- Posting to PO Box 191, Ipswich QLD 4305 (Attn: Community Engagement)
- Dropping off in person at 1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich (Administration Building) Customer Service Desk
- Scanning and emailing communityengagement@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Learn more: Shapeyouripswich.com.au/council-divisions

Do you support the proposed change to single-councillor divisions instead of dual (2) councillor divisions? Required

Please select one of the below options.	
○	Yes, I support the proposed change
○	No, I do not support the proposed change
○	Unsure, I need more information
○	Other (please specify) _____

How many divisions would you like for Ipswich? Required

Please select one of the below options.	
○	Four (4)
○	Six (6)
○	Eight (8)
○	Ten (10)
○	Other amount (please specify)

1 of 3

What are the main reasons for your response?

Final thoughts

Is there anything else you would like council to consider about the proposed change?

About you

Ipswich City Council is collecting your personal information in this survey to better understand community needs. This may include sensitive information, which you can choose not to provide.

Sharing your information helps ensure diverse and representative input across the region. Your data will be managed in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009. To access or amend your information, contact our Information Privacy Officer on (07) 3810 6666. For further details, visit our Privacy Statement at www.ipswich.qld.gov.au.

Gender? Required

Select one answer only			
○	Male	○	Non-binary / gender diverse
○	Female	○	Prefer not to say

Year of birth? Required

Country of birth? Required

Shapeyouripswich.com.au

City of Ipswich

Which suburb do you live in? Required

Relationship to Ipswich? Required

Select all that apply			
○	Work in Ipswich	○	Own a business in Ipswich
○	Live in Ipswich	○	Pay rates in Ipswich
○	Visit Ipswich	○	No relationship to Ipswich
○	Other (please specify)		

Do you identify as any of the following? Required

Select all that apply			
○	A person of Aboriginal descent	○	A person identifying as LGBTQIA+
○	A person of Torres Strait Islander descent	○	A person speaking English as a second language
○	A person with a disability, inclusive of mental illness	○	None of the above
○	Prefer not to say		

Thank you for completing this survey and helping to shape this project.

Shapeyouripswich.com.au

City of Ipswich

2. PROMOTIONAL COLLATERAL

Social media tile



Digital screen



3. DIVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ENGAGEMENT DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

Demographic group	Total respondents	Yes, I support the proposed change	No, I do not support the proposed change	Unsure, I need more information	Other
All	**806**	**53%**	**35%**	**10%**	**2%**
Female	413	54.48%	33.9%	10.9%	0.73%
Male	358	54.47%	34.08%	9.22%	2.23%
Gender diverse	8	12.5%	50%	12.5%	25%
Aboriginal	36	50%	44%	3%	3%
Torres Strait Islander	8	37.5%	37.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Person with a disability	63	46%	32%	19%	3%
LGBTQIA+	36	61%	25%	8%	6%
Person speaking English as a second language	38	63%	26%	11%	0%
Person aged over 60	106	58%	27%	13%	1%
Person aged between 30 and 60	671	52%	37%	10%	2%
Person aged under 30	32	59%	31%	6%	3%
Division 1	189	52%	35%	11%	2%
Division 2	135	52%	33%	10%	4%
Division 3	199	57%	34%	9%	1%
Division 4	203	51%	38%	9%	1%
People born in Australia	660	53%	37%	9%	2%
People born outside Australia	153	54%	31%	14%	2%

4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

Demographic group	Total respondents	Four (4)	Six (6)	Eight (8)	Ten (10)	Other
All	**808**	**25%**	**9%**	**22%**	**39%**	**4%**
Female	413	22%	10%	21%	45%	3%
Male	358	25%	9%	25%	35%	6%
Gender diverse	8	75%	0%	13%	0%	13%
Aboriginal	36	31%	11%	19%	33%	6%
Torres Strait Islander	8	25%	0%	25%	25%	25%
Person with a disability	63	21%	11%	24%	37%	8%
LGBTQIA+	36	19%	3%	33%	31%	14%
Person speaking English as a second language	38	11%	13%	21%	50%	5%
Person aged over 60	32	22%	3%	13%	59%	3%
Person aged between 30 and 60	669	27%	10%	24%	35%	4%
Person aged under 30	32	22%	3%	13%	59%	3%
Division 1	187	22%	15%	15%	40%	7%
Division 2	133	22%	10%	25%	38%	5%
Division 3	199	26%	6%	23%	41%	5%
Division 4	203	27%	10%	26%	36%	2%
People born in Australia	658	25%	10%	22%	39%	5%
People born outside Australia	150	25%	8%	25%	38%	4%

GLOSSARY

Affected community – People and groups who are most likely to experience direct or indirect impacts from the project.

Cleaned data – The process of checking and correcting data. This includes removing duplicates, obvious errors or incomplete entries. This work is undertaken prior to analysis.

Confidence level – The statistical likelihood that the engagement results reflect the views of the broader population within a stated margin of error.

De-identified data – Removal of personal identifies within data to ensure individuals cannot reasonably be identified.

Demographic representation – The degree to which the profiles of respondents reflect the affected community.

Division – a geographic sub-area of a local government region represented by one or more councillors.

Exploratory research – Engagement designed to identify broad themes and trends.

Margin of error – A statistic expressing the expected range of difference between sample results and the true population view (smaller margins require larger sample sizes).

Open thematic analysis – A qualitative method for coding comments and identifying recurring themes and patterns without a predefined coding frame.

Sample size – The number of participants who provide input. This influences the reliability of findings.

Single-councillor division – Where one councillor represents a division of Ipswich City Council.

Dual-councillor division – Where two councillors represent a division of Ipswich City Council.

Statistical representation – The extent to which a sample's size and composition allow findings to be reflective of the wider affected community.



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