

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** LGAQ Supporting Materials: ECQ Public Hearing  
**Date:** Monday, 18 May 2020 12:00:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Further to the appearance of Mr Greg Hallam AM at last week's public hearing regarding the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) please find attached some supporting documents that demonstrate the LGAQ's previous approach to the public reporting of local government election outcomes. Mr Hallam indicated during his appearance that the Association would make this information available to the Committee.

Although the LGAQ chose not produce a publicly accessible election reporting website in 2020, our 2016 election website remains active: <http://elections.lgaq.asn.au/>

Regards,



**Glen Beckett** | General Manager Assist  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Local Government House | 25 Evelyn Street Newstead QLD 4006

PO Box 2230 Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006



Domestic Violence Prevention Month

You **should** feel **safe** in your **home** and **community**.



CONNECT. | INNOVATE. | ACHIEVE.

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1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019

Wade Lewis  
Acting Electoral Commissioner  
Electoral Commission Queensland  
Level 20, 1 Eagle Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr ~~Lewis~~ *Wade*

### **New ECQ Website**

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the Electoral Commission Queensland regarding the proposed ECQ website redesign project.

For the past two Local Government elections (2012 and 2016), the Local Government Association of Queensland had made available to the general public a website ([elections.lgaq.asn.au](http://elections.lgaq.asn.au)) that displayed Queensland local government election results and statistical reports.

From that experience, we would like to share some of the lessons learnt that may of be benefit to the EQC website redesign project. The requirements from our last election website project have also been included in this document.

### **Display data through visualisations and dashboards**

In our experience, visualising Local Government election data creates a more engaging user experience. Using dashboards for individual councils and statistical reports is an effective way to present visualisations together and provides users with a holistic view that can be explored further. We have also found that displaying trend data (current election result data alongside previous) will also add context to the information being displayed.

To visualise election data in a technical sense, we have found graphing and charting JavaScript libraries to be readily available at low to no cost that are fit for purpose (and is currently used on our elections website). Other analytics tools such as Microsoft's PowerBI are also worth consideration to present election data.

### **Provide meaningful statistical reports**

We had found statistical election result reports to be most meaningful and engaging for all users (both public and elected councillors) when they are:

- Visual and interactive (as described above)
- Sharable or downloaded as a static report
- Dynamic (that update as new election data is supplied)
- Representative of user interests (the types of statistical reports for the 2016 LGAQ elections website were chosen based on public and council interest – see appendix 1 for specific reports)



### **Create comparative insights**

Since launching our last 2016 Local Government elections website there has been a growing interest from both the public and Queensland councils to be able to compare council data against other councils. Local Government Association of Queensland members already use and are familiar with performance analytics tools (provided by the LGAQ) to compare and analyse council performance against their peers. We believe familiar functionality would be beneficial to all users who could compare election related data against neighbouring councils and the state.

### **Look for opportunities to educate end users**

End users are likely to not understand all the statistical information present to them, so it is important that educational resources are readily available. (such as how a statistic is determined or what a specific metric means). These educational resources are most effective when embedded directly into the user experience (e.g. "help" icons adjacent to each graph that explain the metric when selected) rather than provided on a different area of the website.

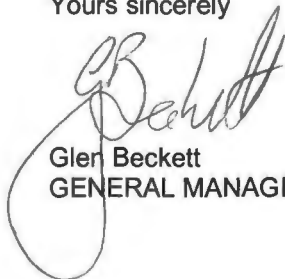
### **Build for desktop and mobile users**

A significant number of users who had accessed the LGAQ's election website have been mobile users and should be accommodated alongside traditional desktop users. Building a mobile friendly website will ensure maximum participation.

The Local Government Association of Queensland hopes that these insights will be of value to the Electoral Commission Queensland and would welcome any further opportunity to provide assistance.

Our 2016 elections website will continue to be available to the ECQ (at [elections.lgaq.asn.au](http://elections.lgaq.asn.au)) throughout the duration of the proposed ECQ website redesign project and hope it will help inform the design of a new election website. We look forward to the progression of the ECQ's website redesign progress.

Yours sincerely



Glen Beckett  
GENERAL MANAGER ASSIST

## 2016 Election Website Requirements

(Anonymous) Public users be able to view the live 2016 Queensland local government election for each local government area	Display Election results for an individual local government area	Display the candidates for mayoral and councillor positions
		Display the vote counting results for each candidate live from ECQ via an API
		Display the overall vote counting progress for that LG area
		Display an overview of total enrolments, formal, informal votes and total votes for that LG area
		Use data visualisations where possible to display vote counting
	Display statistical reports generated from Local Government election data <i>(Figures showing the number of candidates, the proportion of council positions by gender, the proportion of new mayors and councillors and voter turnout)</i>	Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding gender analysis
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding sitting mayors returned
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding sitting councillors returned
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding sitting councillors elected as mayor
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding new candidates elected as mayor
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding new candidates elected as councillors
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding mayors elected unopposed
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding councillors elected unopposed
		Display Local Government election statistical reports regarding mayors elected excluding unopposed
	Retrieve data from an ECQ API	Retrieve Local Government election candidate data (name, council, precount status, result, tally etc)
		Retrieve Local Government area data (positions, enrolments, formal and informal votes)



The following are screen captures from the LGAQ's 2016 Public Election Website. This website remains active and can be accessed at: <http://elections.lgaq.asn.au/> [Note: more data & visualisations appears on each page when a user on the site scrolls down]

## Home Page:

The screenshot shows the LGAQ Home Page. On the left is a blue sidebar with the LGAQ logo and navigation links: HOME, ELECTION RESULTS, STATISTICAL REPORTS, and ABOUT LGAQ. Below the sidebar is a 'Tweets by @LGAQ' section featuring a tweet from Local Govt Assoc QLD (@LGAQ) dated May 13, 2020, about COVID-19 government agencies. The main content area has a search bar 'Select Council' and a 'Local Communities Decide 2016' heading. Below this is a paragraph explaining the 2016 elections and a note about data updates. Two main sections are visible: 'Election Results' with a 'Select Council' dropdown and a description of local race results, and 'Statistical Reports' with a 'Select Statistical Report' dropdown and a description of figures. A 'Share' section with social media icons is below. A disclaimer '\* RESULTS: Results shown are as at latest count from ECQ website.' and a copyright notice 'Copyright © 2016 LGAQ. All rights reserved.' are at the bottom.

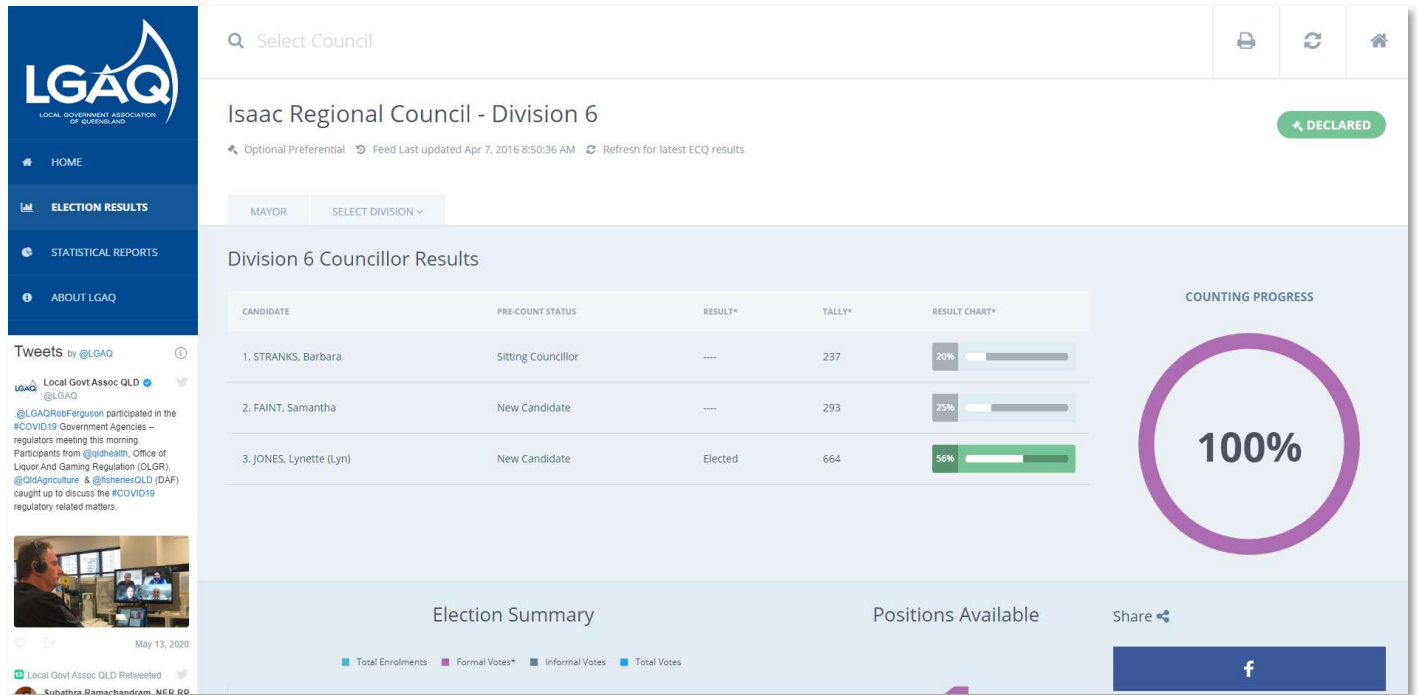
## Mayoral Election Results Page:

The screenshot shows the Balonne Shire Council Mayoral Election Results Page. The sidebar is identical to the home page. The main content area has a search bar 'Select Council' and a heading 'Balonne Shire Council' with a 'DECLARED' badge. Below the heading are links for 'Optional Preferential', 'Feed Last updated Apr 7, 2016 8:50:32 AM', and 'Refresh for latest ECQ results'. A tab bar shows 'MAYOR' and 'BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL'. The main heading is 'Balonne Shire Council Mayoral Results'. A table displays the results for four candidates:

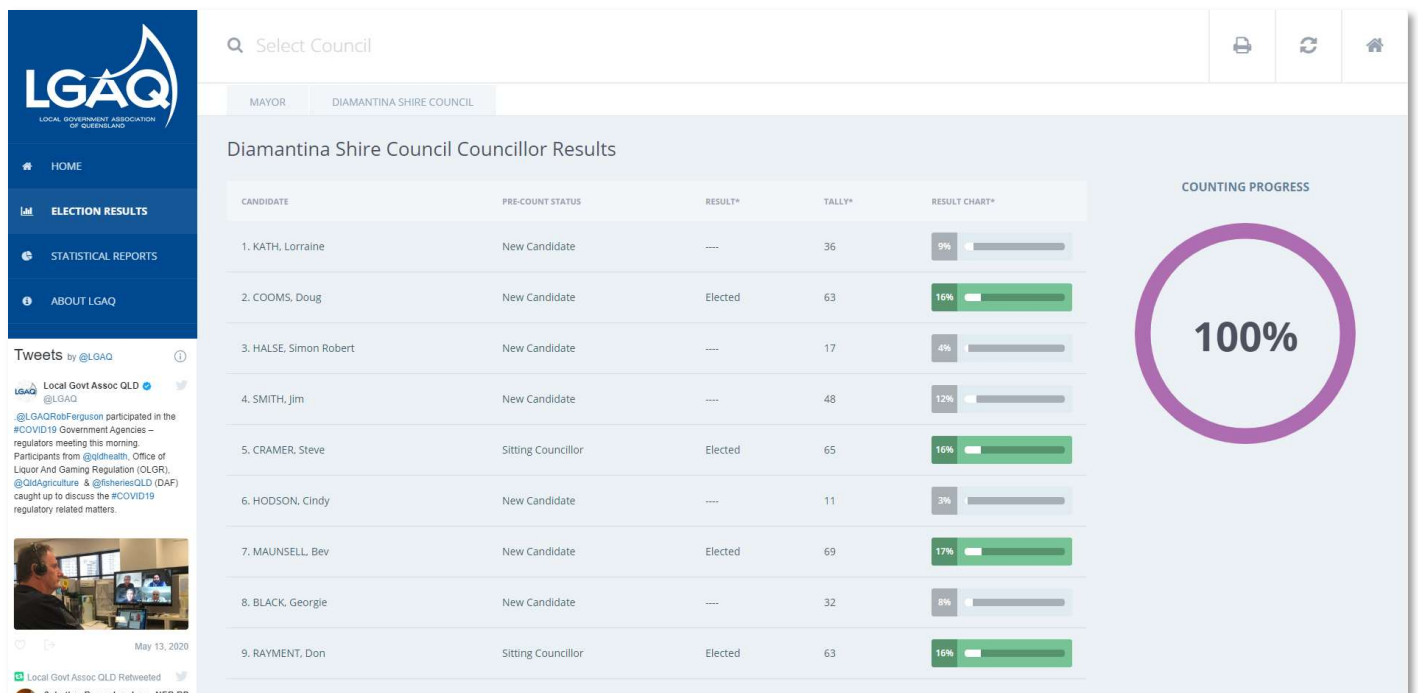
CANDIDATE	PRE-COUNT STATUS	RESULT*	TALLY*	RESULT CHART*
1. AVERY, Rod	Sitting Councillor	----	571	24%
2. MARSH, Richard	Sitting Councillor	Elected	707	30%
3. HANNAH, Ian	New Candidate	----	394	17%
4. LOMMAN, Richard	New Candidate	----	671	28%

To the right of the table is a 'COUNTING PROGRESS' section with a large purple circle containing '100%'. Below the table is an 'Election Summary' section with a legend for 'Total Enrolments', 'Formal Votes\*', 'Informal Votes', and 'Total Votes'. A 'Share' section with a Facebook icon is at the bottom right.


## Councillor Election Results Page (Divisional Election):



## Councillor Election Results Page (Un-divided Election):



## Statistical Reports Homepage:



HOME  
ELECTION RESULTS  
STATISTICAL REPORTS  
ABOUT LGAQ

**Tweets by @LGAQ**

Local Govt Assoc QLD  
@LGAQ

.@LGAQRobFerguson participated in the #COVID19 Government Agencies – regulators meeting this morning. Participants from @qldhealth, Office of Liquor And Gaming Regulation (OLGR), @QldAgriculture & @fisheriesQLD (DAF) caught up to discuss the #COVID19 regulatory related matters.

May 13, 2020

Local Govt Assoc QLD Retweeted

Select Statistical Report

2016 Local Government Election Statistical Reports

Disclaimer: These reports are based on current count data supplied by ECQ and may change as counts are updated.

Statistical Reports

Select Statistical Report


Figures showing the number of candidates, the proportion of council positions by gender, the proportion of new mayors and councillors and voter turnout.

Share

\* RESULTS: Results shown are as at latest count from ECQ website.

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## Gender Analysis:



HOME  
ELECTION RESULTS  
STATISTICAL REPORTS  
ABOUT LGAQ

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May 13, 2020

Local Govt Assoc QLD Retweeted

Select Statistical Report

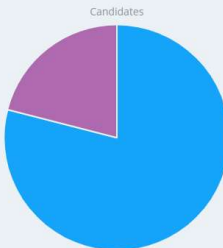
Gender Analysis

Feed Last updated Apr 7, 2016 8:50:13 AM Refresh for latest ECQ results Results shown are as at latest count

2016 Local Government Election Results

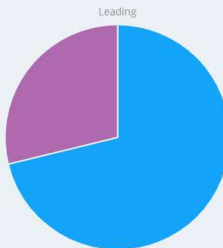
MAYORS

Candidates



Male: 214 (79.0%)  
Female: 57 (21.0%)

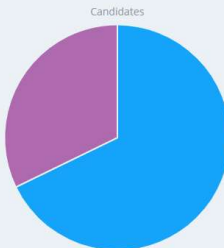
Leading



Male: 61 (80.3%)  
Female: 15 (19.7%)

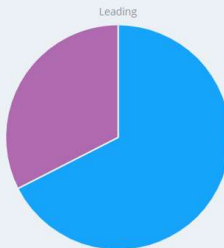
COUNCILLORS

Candidates



Male: 1015 (67.8%)  
Female: 481 (32.2%)

Leading



Male: 335 (67.5%)  
Female: 161 (32.5%)

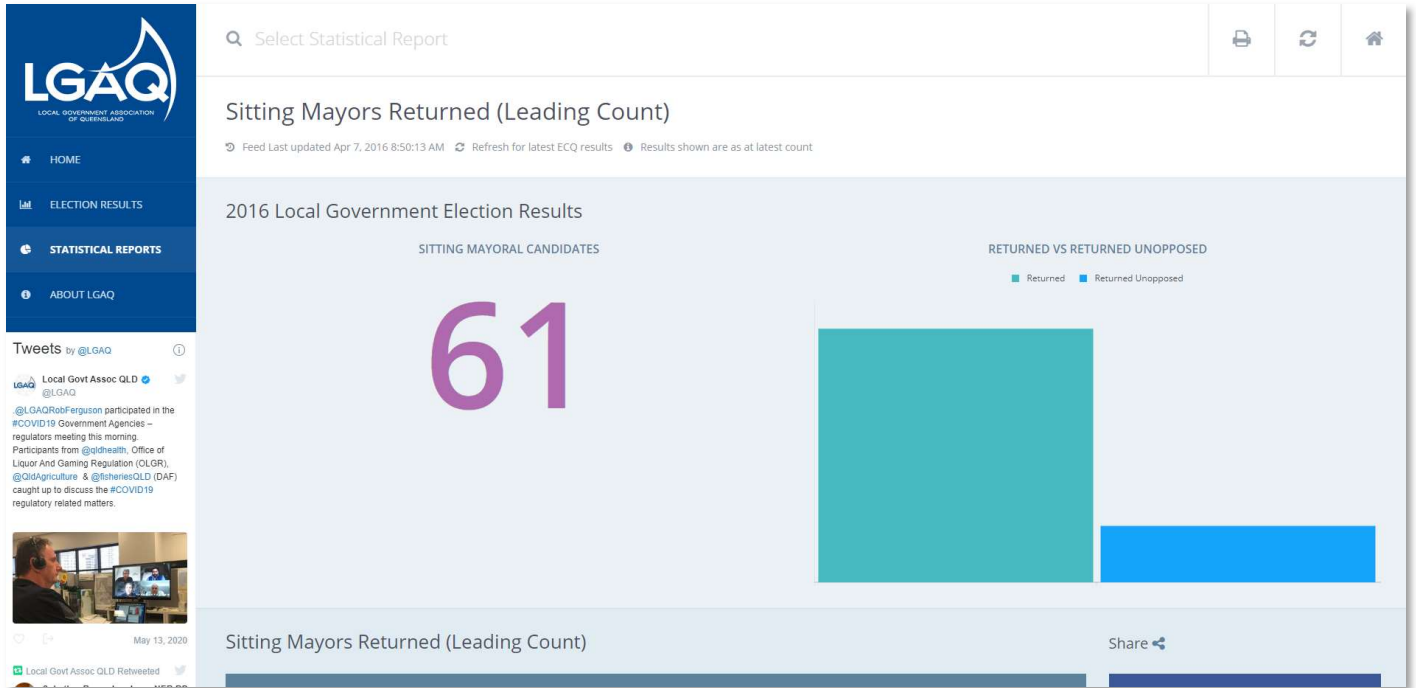
Gender Analysis: Mayors

Share

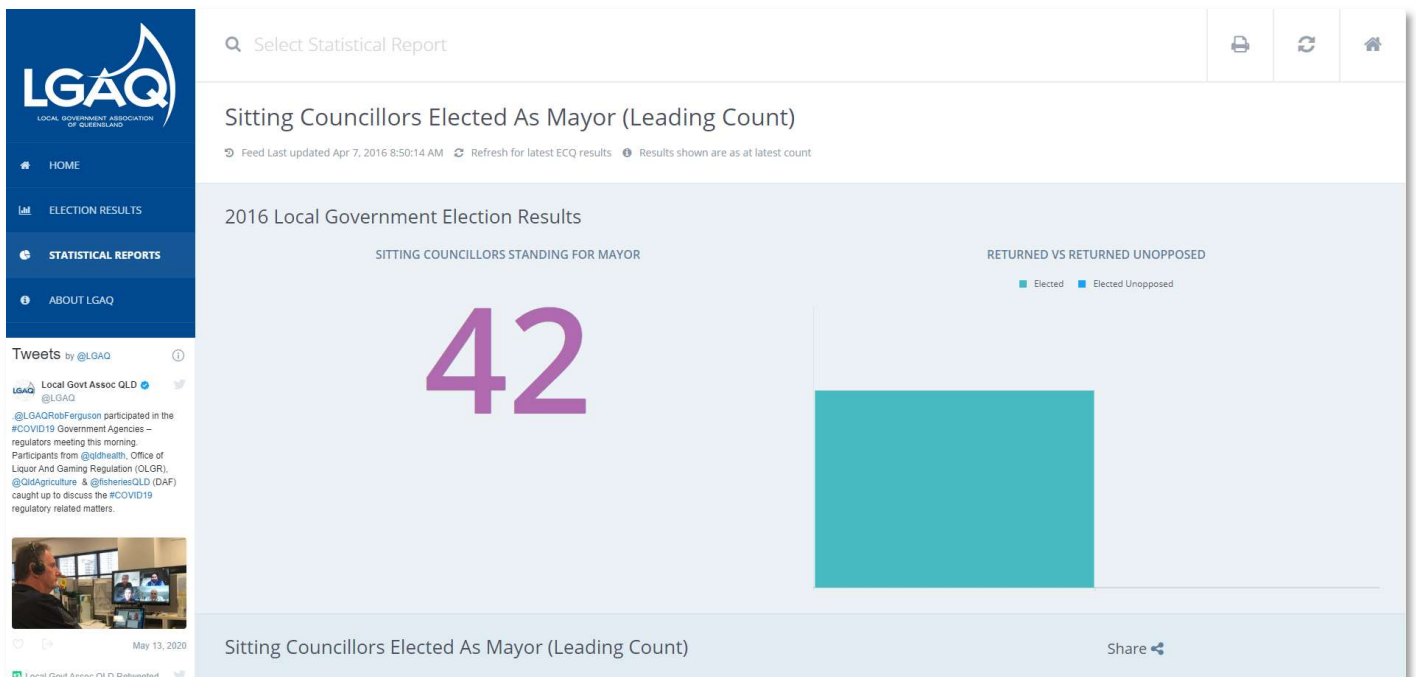
Candidates Leading



## Sitting Mayors Returned:



## Sitting Councillors Elected as Mayor:







## New Candidates Elected as Mayor:



- HOME
- ELECTION RESULTS
- STATISTICAL REPORTS
- ABOUT LGAQ

Tweets by @LGAQ

Local Govt Assoc QLD @LGAQ

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May 13, 2020

Local Govt Assoc QLD Retweeted

elections.lgaq.asn.au/index.html am\_NER RP

Print

Refresh

Home

### New Candidates Elected As Mayor (Leading Count)

Share

Council	Name
Barcoo Shire Council	SCOTT, Bruce
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	MARTIN, Andrew
Bundaberg Regional Council	DEMPSEY, Jack
Burdekin Shire Council	MCLAUGHLIN, Lyn
Carpentaria Shire Council	BAWDEN, Lyall (Jack)
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	KREMASTOS, John
Central Highlands Regional Council	HAYES, Kerry
Charters Towers Regional Council	SCHMIDT, Liz
Cloncurry Shire Council	CAMPBELL, Gregory
Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	WALDEN, Edric
Etheridge Shire Council	DEVLIN, Warren
Flinders Shire Council	McNAMARA, Jane
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	JAYO, Ramon
Longreach Regional Council	WARREN, Ed

f

twitter

in

+

## New Candidates Elected as Councillors (Leading count):



- HOME
- ELECTION RESULTS
- STATISTICAL REPORTS
- ABOUT LGAQ

Tweets by @LGAQ

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May 13, 2020

Local Govt Assoc QLD Retweeted

Subathra Ramachandram, NER RP

Print

Refresh

Home

### New Candidates Elected As Councillors (Leading Count)

Feed Last updated Apr 7, 2016 8:50:14 AM Refresh for latest ECQ results Results shown are as at latest count

#### 2016 Local Government Election Results

NEW COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES

RETURNED VS RETURNED UNOPPOSED


Elected

Elected Unopposed

1127

\* RESULTS: Results shown are as at latest count from ECQ website.

## Mayors Elected Unopposed:



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF QUEENSLAND

- HOME
- ELECTION RESULTS
- STATISTICAL REPORTS
- ABOUT LGAQ

Tweets by @LGAQ

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@LGAQ

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May 13, 2020

Local Govt Assoc QLD Retweeted  
elections.lgaq.asn.au/index.html am\_NFR RP

Select Statistical Report

Mayors Elected Unopposed


Share

Council	Name	Status
Aurukun Shire Council	WALPO, Derek	Sitting Mayor
Burke Shire Council	CAMP, Ernie	Sitting Mayor
Isaac Regional Council	BAKER, Anne	Sitting Mayor
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	BUTCHER, Wayne	Sitting Mayor
Mareeba Shire Council	GILMORE, Tom	Sitting Mayor
Quilpie Shire Council	MACKENZIE, Stuart	Sitting Mayor
Richmond Shire Council	WHARTON, John Macarthur	Sitting Mayor
Winton Shire Council	LENTON, Graham (Butch)	Sitting Mayor

\* RESULTS: Results shown are as at latest count from ECQ website.

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## Councillors Elected Unopposed:



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF QUEENSLAND

- HOME
- ELECTION RESULTS
- STATISTICAL REPORTS
- ABOUT LGAQ

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May 13, 2020

Local Govt Assoc QLD Retweeted  
Subathra Ramachandram, NER RP

Select Statistical Report

Councillors Elected Unopposed

Last updated Apr 7, 2016 8:50:15 AM Refresh for latest results Results shown are as at latest count

2016 Local Government Election Results

COUNCILLOR POSITIONS

502

ELECTED UNOPPOSED

4%

Councillors Elected Unopposed

Share

Council	Name	Status
Banana Shire Council	BECKER, Vaughn	Sitting Councillor
Fraser Coast Regional Council	SEYMOUR, George	Sitting Councillor



Mayors Elected (Excluding Unopposed)

HOME

ELECTION RESULTS

STATISTICAL REPORTS

ABOUT LGAQ

Tweets by @LGAQ

Local Govt Assoc QLD

@LGAQ

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May 13, 2020

Local Govt Assoc QLD Retweeted

Subathra Ramachandram\_NER BP

Select Statistical Report

Print Refresh Home

Mayors Elected (Excluding Unopposed)

Feed Last updated Apr 7, 2016 8:50:15 AM Refresh for latest ECQ results Results shown are as at latest count

2016 Local Government Election Results

MAYORAL POSITIONS

77

ELECTED (EXCLUDING UNOPPOSED)

88%

Mayors Elected (Excluding Unopposed)

Share

Council	Name	Status
Balonne Shire Council	MARSH, Richard	Sitting Councillor
Banana Shire Council	FERRIER, Nev	Sitting Councillor

f