Mission Beach Community Association
Representing Residents & Ratepayers of the villages of Mission Beach
Garners Beach • Bingil Bay • Narragon Beach • Mission Beach • Wongaling Beach
Carmoo • South Mission Beach • Tam O'Shanter Point

15 August 2007

Electoral Commission of Queensland
Locked Bag 3304
BRISBANE Q 4001

Dear Sir

Local Government Internal Electoral Divisions
Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC)
Proposed Coastal Division

The Mission Beach region with its 22 kms of beaches, World Heritage tropical rainforest, Great Barrier Reef proximity and Dunk Island just off shore is a world renowned tourism destination. Indeed we expect it to be included as one of the 'icon' areas to be protected under forthcoming legislation.

The Mission Beach Community Association (MBCA) welcomes the establishment of the CCRC as it will remove the unnecessary shire boundaries that previously divided the Mission Beach community.

Now that the region is to be within one council it is critical that the whole Mission Beach community - from at least Garners Beach in the north to Carmoo in the south - is also located within the one single electoral division within the CCRC. We submit that the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) should have this premise as one of its critical assumptions and threshold principles when configuring the internal electoral divisions for the new CCRC.

As referred to in the attached extract from the April 2007 Department of Local Government's 'Local government reform' document the division of Mission Beach between the Cardwell and Johnstone Shires was a significant catalyst for the state-wide review of local government boundaries.

It would hence be a great tragedy if, after having removed one artificial barrier, a new one was imposed on the community by not having the whole of, what is well known as, 'Mission Beach' contained within the one division of the CCRC.

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Mission Beach Region within a Single Division

There are numerous reasons why a division should be focused on Mission Beach. These include:-

1. The Mission Beach region of the CCRC fulfils the population criteria for a division, and is recognised as the major growth area within the whole CCRC region.

   Uniting the sections of the Mission Beach region previously in the Cardwell Shire together with those of the Johnstone Shire, plus the addition of other nearby areas exceeds the 2932 average division enrolment quota for the proposed CCRC. Indeed given the recognised growth prospects of the Mission Beach region consideration should perhaps be given to commencing with areas providing a target closer to the 2639 lower limit, particularly if 2001 census figures are to be used in this current exercise.

   This potential for population and development growth is evidenced in the attached article from the Cairns Post (4/4/2007) "Towns on mission to grow" together with the accompanying graph from HTW. Woolworths have also just established a site for a shopping complex in Wongaling Beach.

2. There is a distinct community of interest and economic profile within the Mission Beach area focussing on the tourism industry and environmental issues. Mission Beach has its own identity. And it is quite different from Tully, Innisfail and the remaining rural based areas that will otherwise predominate the new CCRC.

3. Surrounded by the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and being the last remaining 'hot spot' in Australia for the endangered cassowary there are important town planning, development and environmental control issues that would be best served by the area being served by one community aware councillor.

4. It would recognise the substantial financial contribution of the area to both councils. For example just the (Mission) Beach 'suburbs' in the Cardwell Shire currently provide over 3 times the gross residential general rate revenue as the whole of the town of Tully. The rates generated from the Mission Beach area of the CCRC will form a substantial portion of the new council's budget and this should be acknowledged through a distinct division.

5. If the area is split between two divisions then the elected representative, as in the past with Cardwell Shire Council's (CSC) Division 2, will almost certainly come from Tully or the surrounding farming areas. And again the

people of Mission Beach will be effectively disenfranchised as these persons may not represent the aspirations and desires of this tourism and environmentally focussed community.

The Local Government Reform Commission in its Rationale for the establishment of CCRC also made mention of many of these issues. Their comments are highlighted on the enclosed.

Coastal Division

MBCA proposes for CCRC a Coastal Division containing the Census Collection Districts (CCD) detailed in the following table.

Please note that following discussions with officers of the ECQ on 13 August 2007 MBCA was provided with various electoral enrolment figures – "2001" and "projected". We are unclear as to the source of the "projected" figures but in any event we were instructed to use those relating to the 2001 census rather than the projected figures. If however one were to use the ECQ's "projected" enrolments and/or the latest 2006 ABS CCDs, further fine-tuning could possibly occur, particularly around Tully and East Feluga. (CCD 3040110 as geographically defined by the ABS 2001 CCDs). Consideration should be given to using the new ABS 2006 CCDs which have more appropriate geographic boundaries in some locations. And make appropriate adjustments to the enrolment figures. We would be pleased to discuss these with the Commission.

It is also the view of MBCA that a Coastal Division is geographically appropriate:-

1. The Hull and Tully Rivers provide a natural and substantial boundary to the south. While the communities at Hull and Tully Heads (CCDs 3040202/3040208), immediately to the south of Mission Beach, were previously within the CSC's division 2 there is no road or bridge connection and little community of interest and joint activities with them. Their focus tends westwards to Tully and not north towards Mission Beach.

2. There is a clearly defined boundary to the west viz. the Bruce Highway.

3. And of course the Coral Sea to the east.

Effectively then this proposed Coastal Division unites the whole Mission Beach region and incorporates its northerly Kurrimine Beach neighbour, also becoming increasingly tourism orientated. The two areas are separated only by Maria Creek and over the years there has been regular discussion about constructing a bridge to link the two communities. To maintain the coastal 'flavour' Cowley Beach further north could also be included, although its exclusion would still leave the Coastal Division within the lower enrolment limit, even on 2001 figures.

Coastal Division Details

Area 'Description'	CCD #	2001 Enrolment
Previously within CSC		
Wongaling*	3040107	290
South Mission Beach*	3040108	404
East Feluga#	3040110	376
Dunk Is*	3040111	29
Wongaling Beach*	3040112	279
		1378
Previously within JSC		
Cowley Beach	3012605	203
Kurrimine Hinterland	3012606	144
Mission Beach*	3012607	275
Kurrimine	3012611	428
Mission Beach*	3012612	154
Bingil Bay*	3012613	201
Mission Beach*	3012614	189
		1594
	TOTAL	**2972**
	CCRC Lower Limit	2639
	Average	2932
	Upper Limit	3226

*Whatever combination the ECQ adopts the inclusion of these CCDs within the one division is absolutely essential.
Refer previous comments re ABS 2006 CCDs and fine tuning.

If the ECQ 'projected' figures are used (rather than 2001) this total for a Coastal Division would be 268 higher at 3240. This would be in excess of the upper limit. In this instance MBCA suggests removing the most northerly area viz. Cowley Beach.

Remaining CCRC Divisions within the southern vicinity of Mission Beach

Southern Division

- If the above CCDs (totalling 1378) are removed from the previous CSC enrolment figure of 5852 then 4474 persons remain from the old Cardwell Shire. There is a natural division in the south that would be from the Hinchinbrook Range north to the Hull/Tully Rivers and west to the ranges. This division would include Cardwell, Carruchan, Kennedy, Murray Upper,

Hull/Tully Heads, Lower Tully and would sweep south and west of Tully to Jarra Creek. It would comprise 2587 enrolments using 2001 figures, or 2823 if the ECQ 'projections' are used.
The lower figure would of course be just less than the minimum quota. Clearly however it is not sensible to divide the Tully township and growth from Port Hinchinbrook at Cardwell should compensate in due course.

Tully Division

- MBCA would then suggest a Tully based division that would include Tully plus its northern neighbours such as Bulgun, Feluga, all on the west side of the Bruce Highway reaching north to include El Arish, Silkwood and Japoonvale. Indeed CSC made note in its submission to the Reform Commission that these areas had a natural affiliation with Tully and the Cardwell Shire as they mostly supplied the Tully sugar mill. This division would total 2939 enrolments using 2001 figures, or 3111 with "projected" enrolments, both within the quota allowance.

The details of these are shown on the attached spreadsheet and map.

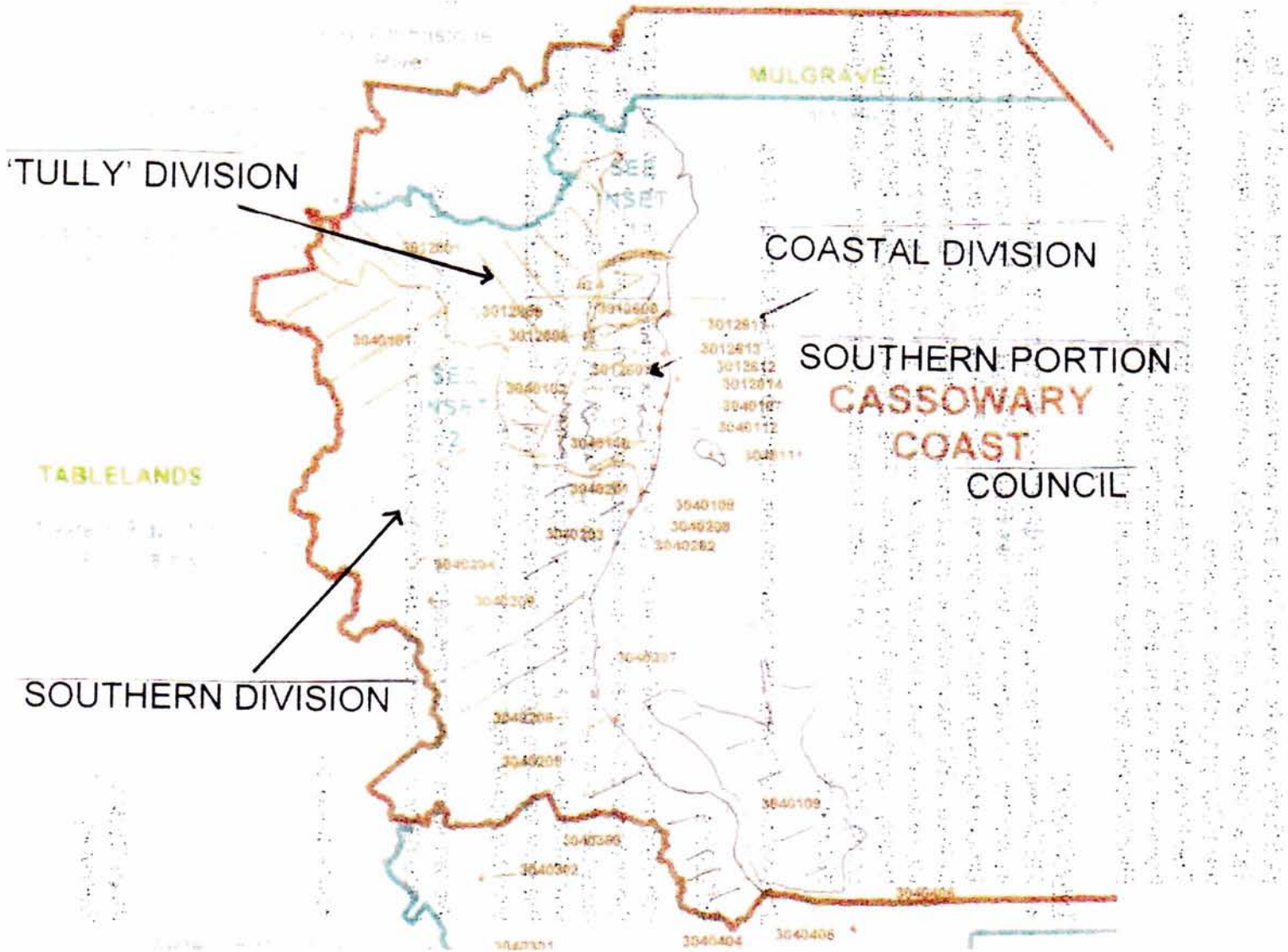
Summary

We trust the ECQ will look favourably on this submission. In our view the logic of the proposed Coastal Division is inescapable. By any standards it meets all the necessary criteria for a division. The uniting of this Mission Beach area within one shire has been a community objective for over 15 years simply because it is the only sensible option for proper governance – the identical benchmarks similarly apply regarding the concept of divisions.

We would be only too pleased to discuss this submission with you.
If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Allan Ogden
Secretary


'TULLY' DIVISION
COASTAL DIVISION
SOUTHERN PORTION
CASSOWARY
COAST
COUNCIL
SOUTHERN DIVISION
MULGRAVE
TABLELANDS

CCRC Divisions
(Incorporating Cardwell Shire)

Div_no	ELECTORS (Previous) Division	2001 CCD	Actual	"Projected"	Area 'Name'
	Proposed CCRC Tully Division				
03401	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 1	3040103	462	486	tully
03401	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 1	3040105	470	504	tully
03402	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 2	3040102	493	532	feluga
03402	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 2	3040104	261	269	tully
03402	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 2	3040106	201	217	tully
07805	JOHNSTONE SHIRE - DIVISION 5	3012608	180	194	el arish
07806	JOHNSTONE SHIRE - DIVISION 6	3012610	242	246	silkwood
07806	JOHNSTONE SHIRE - DIVISION 6	3012601	101	110	japoonvale
07806	JOHNSTONE SHIRE - DIVISION 6	3012603	271	287	japoonvale
07806	JOHNSTONE SHIRE - DIVISION 6	3012609	258	266	japoonvale
			2939	3111	
	Proposed CCRC Southern Division				
03402	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 2	3040201	192	200	lower tully
03402	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 2	3040202	268	296	tully heads
03402	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 2	3040208	38	42	hull heads
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040101	332	356	jarra creek
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040109	15	15	hinchinbrook
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040203	107	111	rockingham
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040204	332	367	murrigal
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040205	464	504	corruchan
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040206	319	362	cardwell
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040207	456	502	cardwell
03403	CARDWELL SHIRE - DIVISION 3	3040209	64	68	muray upper
			2587	2823	
	ALL FIGURES SUPPLIED BY ECQ				
	SOURCE OF "PROJECTED' NUMBERS UNKNOWN.				
	SOME AREA 'NAMES' GROUPED FOR GEOGRAPHIC CONVENIENCE				