



MAYORAL MINUTE

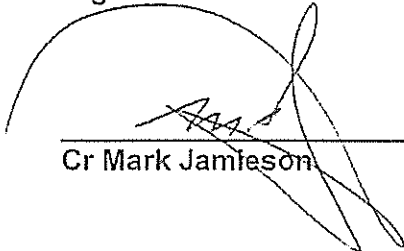
Ordinary Meeting – Thursday, 24 July 2014

I, Cr Jamieson move:

That council:

1. Does not support any request for a local government boundary change for the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area in respect of the localities of Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale, and Weyba Downs.
2. Authorises the Mayor to formally advise the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience of council's resolution.

Signed:



Cr Mark Jamieson

Date:

24. 7. 14

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Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs (EDV) – Proposed boundary change request.

My fellow Councillors

For some time, we have all followed with interest the EDV Residents for Boundary Change Group ("the EDV Group"), which is seeking a change to the Sunshine Coast Council boundaries so that the area comprising Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs is incorporated into the Noosa Shire. These are our Sunshine Coast communities and our Sunshine Coast residents.

I have met with the executive members of the EDV Group, as have the Councillors for Divisions 9 and 10. In these meetings, the opportunity has been provided to the Group to outline their proposal and the merits (as they see it) of adjusting our Council boundaries in this way. I have also heard from concerned residents who want no part of this change and expect their elected representatives to support their position.

It is important to note that only the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience can propose to a Local Government Change Commission that a boundary adjustment be assessed as to whether the change is in the public interest.

In two conversations I have had with the Minister on this matter, he has advised me he will only refer the proposal by the EDV Group to a Change Commission if the proposal has the support of both the Noosa Shire and Sunshine Coast councils.

In mid-June, two open community meetings and a community information session were held by the EDV Group to discuss the proposal and received mixed support.

Councillors, I think it is important to look closely at a number of facts in relation to this area of the Sunshine Coast.

The area in question currently comprises 2,576 rateable properties and covers approximately 3.6% of the Sunshine Coast Council area.

Divisions 9 and 10 of the Sunshine Coast Council area would be affected by this change. According to 2011 Census data, there are 4,460 adults residing in the four identified suburbs. A portion of these adults are already within the Noosa Shire area (see Appendix A).

Preliminary financial estimates suggest the proposed boundary change (if implemented) would represent an impact on Council's operational budget of approximately \$4.48 million in lost revenue and approximately \$4 million in reduced costs. This of course, would vary from year to year, where sometimes expenses exceed receipts and vice versa for example, the construction of the Eumundi pool.

The area that is the subject of the proposed boundary change has always been part of the Sunshine Coast, and formerly the Maroochy, local government area. It has never been a part of the Noosa local government area. It has been serviced, supported and resourced by this Council and its predecessors since 1912, and we want them to remain a vital part of the Sunshine Coast community.

Furthermore – and contrary to what has been suggested by others – the area in question

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derives a significant benefit from the Sunshine Coast local government area and its core community connections are with this region.

A few brief examples demonstrate this clearly:

- I am advised that of the more than 3100 working residents in this area, it would appear that up to approximately 70% are employed in the Sunshine Coast Council area. The Sunshine Coast is the area that provides the majority of the employment options for the residents in this area – and this will likely increase as major investments in the Health and Medical precinct at Kawana, the Maroochydore city centre and the University precinct in Sippy Downs take shape.
- Since 2008, nearly 25% of land acquired by this Council using the Environmental Levy – or over 252 hectares - is situated in the area in question. Council is also working closely with other levels of government to enhance the biodiversity values of the area and the land that Council has acquired.
- Through the encouragement and support of this Council, Ochre Health brought their investment to this region earlier in the form of the GP Super Clinic at Sippy Downs. This has led to the decision by Ochre Health to establish a medical practice in Eumundi – which is unlikely to have occurred without Council's encouragement of this company's investment in the region. Council is also continuing to invest in improvements to the site of the Eumundi Markets to enhance the experience for patrons, market participants and the community.
- When the Pacific Pearl makes its stop-over at Mooloolaba next month, there will be several busloads of tourists that will visit Eumundi, providing a direct benefit for the Eumundi Markets and traders in the area. This stop-over (and others that are now planned) will bring great marketing exposure and associated tourism expenditure to the area – which will have come about through the efforts of this Council and its partners.
- Air New Zealand flights have also introduced many new visitors.

The facts point to where the Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs communities derive their strength and future prosperity.

The EDV Group has not however, been able to provide a strong evidence base to support the proposed boundary change. This is despite the fact that the Group has, by their own admission, been working on this since 2004. This is borne out in the most recent briefing note from the EDV Group to Council, a copy of which has previously been circulated to Councillors (see Appendix B).

Councillors, in addition to the local considerations, I feel it is important to point out that so far, no one has produced a valid reason as to why the boundaries of the Sunshine Coast Council should continue to remain under the spotlight. This does not appear to be the case for other councils in Queensland.

This change proposal – on the back of the deamalgamation that occurred on 1 January this year – should not be supported for the following reasons:

1. It adds further disruption to our community as a whole after six years of upheaval generated by the 2008 amalgamation and the subsequent 2014 deamalgamation of local government in this area.
2. It potentially erodes business confidence in the region and undermines our ability to

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present the region as a stable and progressive location for new investment – investment that this region needs to generate employment, provide much needed infrastructure and the facilities and services that our residents need.

3. It is already creating division, instability and uncertainty within and between communities in the region – which in itself, poses one of the biggest challenges to community well-being and economic growth.

Councillors, as we know boundary changes have implications for the whole region – not just the areas that are seeking the change. Our Council needs to consider the interests not only of the EDV area, but also the interests of its ratepayers across the region as a whole.

The residents of the Sunshine Coast were not afforded the opportunity to have their say on the Noosa deamalgamation – and in all likelihood, they will not get an opportunity to have a say in the boundary change proposed by the EDV Group. Councillors, this is because there is no requirement for a Change Commission to conduct a referendum or plebiscite on any boundary change proposal that it may be asked to assess.

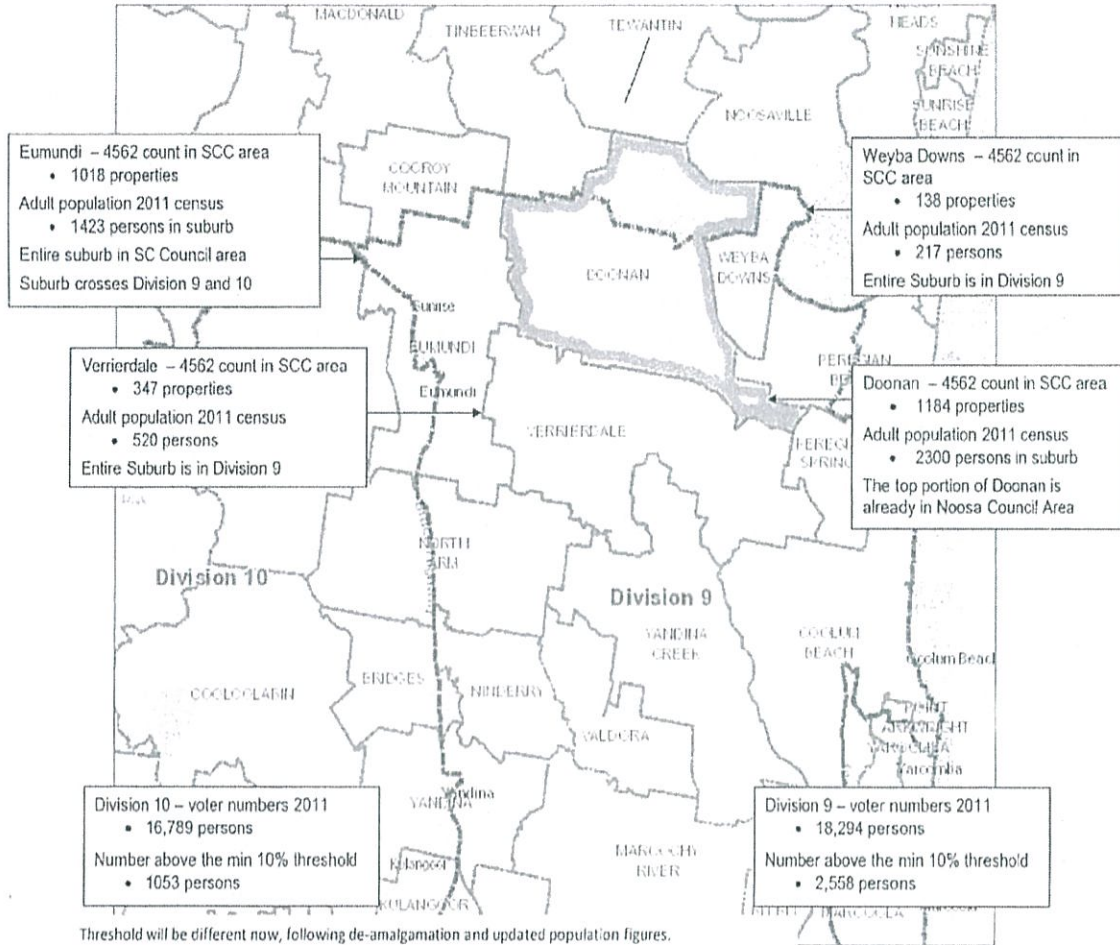
Quite simply Councillors, I believe the time has come to say enough is enough!

This region - and this Council - should be allowed to get on with the job of creating one of the best places in Australia to live, work, play and invest – without being constantly subject to the uncertainty and disruption that boundary changes produce.

Councillors I ask that you support this Mayoral Minute.

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Appendix A – Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs.





EDV Residents Group

Briefing Note for SCC Councillors

BACKGROUND

The EDV Residents Group was formed in January 2004 when there were three Councils in the region (Noosa, Maroochy and Caloundra) following two community meetings when residents expressed a strong preference to be part of Noosa Shire.

To establish if the feeling from those meetings translated into wider community support, the group firstly established what was needed to change a boundary by reviewing legislation and seeking expert advice. We determined that key component that would be considered in any boundary change determination was the need to demonstrate community of interest among other matters).

We undertook a survey to find out our “community of interest” – was it Noosa or Maroochy? – The results –demonstrated major links with Noosa that was further validated by hard data from other studies. We consulted widely on the recommended boundary which included all of Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs (part of which is now called Peregian Beach). See attached map. We approached our then local Councillor to discuss what we would need to do to demonstrate to Maroochy Council the level of community support – he demanded a letter from the majority of residents as proof. Accordingly, we door knocked every household in the area in late 2005 (over 2,500 homes) to establish if there was support for a boundary change to bring us into Noosa Shire.

What did we find - **Over 80% of residents supported a boundary change as did 87% of local businesses.**

We prepared a major submission for the Size, Shape and Sustainability Program in January 2006 (executive summary attached as a separate document). However, the forced amalgamations effectively ended the campaign.

THE PRESENT SITUATION

In 2014, we have been given a unique opportunity by the Minister for Local Government to revisit the issue. Since 2006, many people have moved away and others have come with no knowledge of the history. We needed to repeat the research and establish if our 2006 findings were applicable today **BUT** we needed to have independent people do this for us. We commissioned some initial research, again into community of interest, with a local community survey designed and implemented by a market research company. We also commissioned an independent analysis of factual data such as demographics to see if there was alignment.



EDV Residents Group

This preliminary research, both survey and factual analysis showed very similar findings to that obtained in 2006 (i.e. strong community of interest links with Noosa Shire, far less so with the Sunshine Coast and 80% indicating support for a boundary change versus 13% against). This provided a base from which to undertake further community consultation.

These results were reported back to three community meetings and at those meetings a number of questions were asked. The questions in the main related to benefits for a change, rates, the opportunity for people to have a say and the survey results. These have all been distributed to those attendees who left their correct email address on registration. These meetings achieved a key objective – to restart the conversation in our community.

We have met with our two local councillors, with the Mayor and CEO of both Councils and with the Minister for Local Government at the recent community cabinet meeting. The intent of these meetings (which were informal) was to brief all interested parties on our activities and objective for a boundary change.

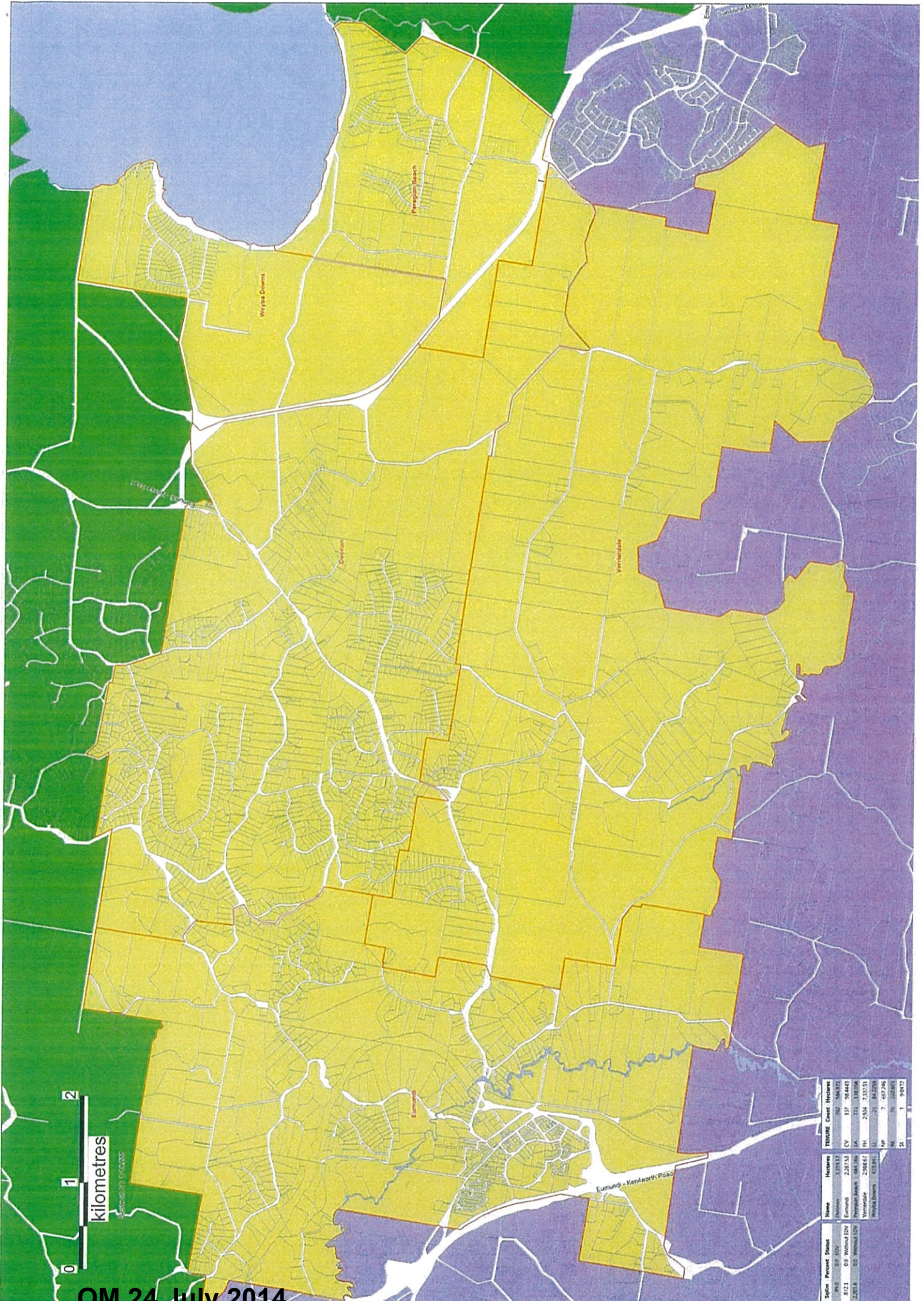
OUR NEXT STEPS

We are circulating more information to our community as requested over the next month and consulting more widely. Many of the reasons for a boundary change will be outlined on our new website which goes live on Friday week (25th July).

We intend to gather more factual information about community views and present a formal submission to both Councils in early September to enable each Council to deliberate on the implications of this request.

17th July 2014

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kilometres

Ward	Population	Area (km ²)	Population Density	Ward Name	Ward Councillor
01	1,100	1.5	733	Veronica	Veronica
02	1,200	1.8	667	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
03	1,300	2.0	650	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
04	1,400	2.2	636	Eumundi	Eumundi
05	1,500	2.5	600	Veronica	Veronica
06	1,600	2.8	571	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
07	1,700	3.0	567	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
08	1,800	3.2	563	Eumundi	Eumundi
09	1,900	3.5	543	Veronica	Veronica
10	2,000	3.8	526	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
11	2,100	4.0	525	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
12	2,200	4.2	524	Eumundi	Eumundi
13	2,300	4.5	511	Veronica	Veronica
14	2,400	4.8	500	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
15	2,500	5.0	500	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
16	2,600	5.2	499	Eumundi	Eumundi
17	2,700	5.5	491	Veronica	Veronica
18	2,800	5.8	483	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
19	2,900	6.0	483	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
20	3,000	6.2	484	Eumundi	Eumundi
21	3,100	6.5	477	Veronica	Veronica
22	3,200	6.8	471	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
23	3,300	7.0	471	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
24	3,400	7.2	471	Eumundi	Eumundi
25	3,500	7.5	467	Veronica	Veronica
26	3,600	7.8	462	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
27	3,700	8.0	463	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
28	3,800	8.2	463	Eumundi	Eumundi
29	3,900	8.5	459	Veronica	Veronica
30	4,000	8.8	455	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
31	4,100	9.0	456	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
32	4,200	9.2	456	Eumundi	Eumundi
33	4,300	9.5	453	Veronica	Veronica
34	4,400	9.8	449	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
35	4,500	10.0	450	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
36	4,600	10.2	449	Eumundi	Eumundi
37	4,700	10.5	448	Veronica	Veronica
38	4,800	10.8	444	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
39	4,900	11.0	445	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
40	5,000	11.2	446	Eumundi	Eumundi
41	5,100	11.5	443	Veronica	Veronica
42	5,200	11.8	440	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
43	5,300	12.0	442	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
44	5,400	12.2	443	Eumundi	Eumundi
45	5,500	12.5	440	Veronica	Veronica
46	5,600	12.8	438	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
47	5,700	13.0	438	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
48	5,800	13.2	439	Eumundi	Eumundi
49	5,900	13.5	437	Veronica	Veronica
50	6,000	13.8	435	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
51	6,100	14.0	436	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
52	6,200	14.2	437	Eumundi	Eumundi
53	6,300	14.5	434	Veronica	Veronica
54	6,400	14.8	432	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
55	6,500	15.0	433	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
56	6,600	15.2	434	Eumundi	Eumundi
57	6,700	15.5	432	Veronica	Veronica
58	6,800	15.8	430	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
59	6,900	16.0	431	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
60	7,000	16.2	432	Eumundi	Eumundi
61	7,100	16.5	429	Veronica	Veronica
62	7,200	16.8	428	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
63	7,300	17.0	429	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
64	7,400	17.2	430	Eumundi	Eumundi
65	7,500	17.5	428	Veronica	Veronica
66	7,600	17.8	427	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
67	7,700	18.0	428	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
68	7,800	18.2	428	Eumundi	Eumundi
69	7,900	18.5	427	Veronica	Veronica
70	8,000	18.8	426	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
71	8,100	19.0	426	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
72	8,200	19.2	427	Eumundi	Eumundi
73	8,300	19.5	426	Veronica	Veronica
74	8,400	19.8	424	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
75	8,500	20.0	425	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
76	8,600	20.2	426	Eumundi	Eumundi
77	8,700	20.5	424	Veronica	Veronica
78	8,800	20.8	423	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
79	8,900	21.0	424	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
80	9,000	21.2	424	Eumundi	Eumundi
81	9,100	21.5	423	Veronica	Veronica
82	9,200	21.8	422	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
83	9,300	22.0	423	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
84	9,400	22.2	423	Eumundi	Eumundi
85	9,500	22.5	422	Veronica	Veronica
86	9,600	22.8	421	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
87	9,700	23.0	422	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
88	9,800	23.2	422	Eumundi	Eumundi
89	9,900	23.5	421	Veronica	Veronica
90	10,000	23.8	420	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
91	10,100	24.0	421	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
92	10,200	24.2	421	Eumundi	Eumundi
93	10,300	24.5	420	Veronica	Veronica
94	10,400	24.8	419	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
95	10,500	25.0	420	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
96	10,600	25.2	420	Eumundi	Eumundi
97	10,700	25.5	419	Veronica	Veronica
98	10,800	25.8	418	Wynha Downs	Wynha Downs
99	10,900	26.0	419	Peregian Beach	Peregian Beach
100	11,000	26.2	419	Eumundi	Eumundi

OM 24 July 2014