

Submission ID: O-0752
Date Received: 9/4/26, 8:59 pm
Name: Hon. Dr John Mickel
Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries and Names
Electoral District: Ipswich West; Logan; Moggill; Greenbank (formerly Jordan)

Submission:

See below

Submission Attachments

Email - John Mickel.pdf

Hon. Dr John Mickel

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Commissioners of the Queensland Electoral Commission.

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to offer a number of observations and proposed alternatives regarding the draft electoral redistribution. I do so as the former Member for the State Electorate of Logan and the former Speaker of the Queensland Parliament. I hope that the local knowledge and community experience I bring may be of genuine assistance to the Commission's deliberations.

I have identified several matters that I believe either should be amended to better fulfil the intent of the Electoral Act, or which, for practical and common-sense reasons, will need to be addressed before the redistribution can be finalised.

1. SOUTH RIPLEY AND THE SEAT OF GREENBANK

The proposed inclusion of South Ripley within the new seat of Greenbank - a district that otherwise sits west of the Mt Lindesay Highway and is predominantly aligned with Logan City Council - gives me considerable cause for concern, and I respectfully suggest the Commission may have been ill-advised on this decision.

To travel from Flagstone or Boronia Heights, both of which I had the privilege of representing, to South Ripley requires passing through two other electorates and takes approximately 50 minutes by conventional road. While it is technically possible to make the journey via Undullah Road and Ripley Road, both are single-lane dirt roads with significant flood crossings that render them impractical for regular use. These are not the conditions for a well-connected community.

Beyond the physical barriers, South Ripley lies entirely within Ipswich City Council, not Logan, and its residents share limited social or economic interests with the Logan-based communities that would form the bulk of Greenbank. The administrative fragmentation this would create is also significant: South Ripley falls within the West Moreton Health and Hospital Services in the Ipswich district, while the remainder of Greenbank is served by Metro South Health and Hospital Services district inclusive of Logan. Similarly, Greenbank would span two education regions — Metro South (South Ripley) and South East (Logan) — and two policing regions — the Southern Region (South Ripley) and the South East Region (Logan). These are avoidable complexities that would impose real costs and inefficiencies on the electorate and its future member.

The residents of South Ripley have strong and well-established community ties with Ipswich West, including connections to Yamanto, Leichhardt, One Mile, Amberley, and the newly included suburb of Deebing Heights. Students from Deebing Heights State School predominantly attend Ripley State Secondary College in South Ripley. Families across both suburbs regularly use shared sporting and recreational facilities, including Ironbark Park - a major community sports hub - as well as Fay Carr Park and the Splash 'n' Play park. The Ripley Satellite Hospital, also located in South Ripley, primarily serves southern Ipswich residents and would have limited relevance to Logan constituents.

From an enrolment perspective, Ipswich West currently sits at 7.16% below quota and could comfortably accommodate an additional 3,416 enrolled voters from South Ripley. To balance this, Pine Mountain, currently within Ipswich West, could be incorporated into Moggill where it has a stronger community of interest with Chuwar and Karalee. This would bring Moggill to approximately 43,853 enrolled voters, within the permissible threshold, and projected growth by 2032 would see it move closer to quota. Greenbank, for its part, is projected to reach nearly 20% above quota by 2032 and is well placed to relinquish a high-growth area such as South Ripley.

Looking further ahead, the four Ipswich area seats of Springfield, Redbank, Ipswich and Ipswich West are collectively projected to exceed 230,000 enrolled voters by 2032, which is likely to necessitate an additional seat centred on the Ripley-South Ripley-Deebing Heights-Yamanto corridor. Retaining South Ripley within the Ipswich region now would support a more logical and orderly redistribution when that time comes.

I would also draw the Commission's attention to the proposed inclusion of the Spring Mountain area within Greenbank. The relevant portion comprises almost entirely the White Rock Spring Mountain Conservation Estate - a significant recreation and conservation area within Ipswich City Council boundaries - and would sit far more naturally within the seat of Springfield.

To make up the population in Greenbank following these adjustments, the Commission might usefully consider adding communities near Jimboomba, or incorporating Munruben and/or North Maclean into the district.

2. SOUTH COAST SEATS AND THE GOLD COAST CITY BOUNDARY

I was somewhat surprised to find that, given the number of electorates currently under quota, it has not been possible to contain all 11 South Coast seats within the Gold Coast City Council boundaries. The Albert River, with its limited crossing points, combined with the Yatala Industrial Estate, provides a clear, logical and well-understood divide that I would suggest should form the boundary between the Beenleigh seat and the Gold Coast seats to its south. The Beenleigh electorate could readily absorb additional population by incorporating the Beliva and Woldene areas, both of which are closely connected to Windaroo and Beenleigh.

3. TYGUM AND THE SEAT OF LOGAN

The proposed inclusion of Tygum within the electorate of Logan is, with respect, unworkable. Electors in Tygum would effectively be required to either cross the Logan River - which cannot be done without leaving the electorate - or travel out of the district entirely. This is neither practical nor consistent with the principles of effective representation. Tygum should instead be included within the proposed seat of Waterford (or Meadowbrook). I appreciate that this correction will have flow-on consequences for other boundaries in the Logan area, and I would encourage the Commission to consider the following points together.

4. RETENTION OF WATERFORD AND RECONFIGURATION OF THE LOGAN AREA

I would respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider the removal of the Waterford electorate. Where possible, the redistribution should seek to retain the boundaries of existing electoral districts. Established boundaries carry real value - they reflect community familiarity, local identity and the accumulated trust between constituents and their representatives.

With Underwood having moved to the electorate of Springwood, I would suggest that the Woodridge electorate be redrawn along the spine of Wembley Road, connecting to Kingston Road/Logan Road in the north and extending south to Browns Plains Road. The Crestmead Industrial Estate provides a natural and clearly visible western boundary, with Heritage Park and Browns Plains sitting to its west within the Woodridge electorate.

On the eastern side, the suburbs of Crestmead and Marsden could be grouped with the existing Waterford suburbs across Chambers Flat Road, incorporating part of Logan Reserve and Waterford West, with the remainder of the existing Waterford electorate extending to approximately Queens Road or Scrubby Creek. This approach retains

both existing seats and maintains strong communities of interest throughout.

With these changes in place, the northern boundary of Logan can remain unchanged along Green Road, which would avoid splitting the Park Ridge community - residents who share schools, shops, and a strong sense of local identity. I would also suggest that both sides of School Road in Logan Reserve be included within the Logan electorate, with the airstrip serving as a clear and sensible boundary through to Logan Reserve Road and the river.

Taken together, the changes proposed above would address the most significant anomalies in the draft redistribution: correcting the impractical inclusion of South Ripley in Greenbank; resolving the isolation of Tygum within Logan; retaining the Waterford electorate; and preserving more of the existing community boundaries that residents know and rely upon.

NAMING OF ELECTORATES

I believe the Commissioners are correct in naming the new electorate to the west of Logan City, Greenbank. Also, the southernmost part of Logan City retains the name, Logan. I am less sanguine about retaining the name of the Algester electorate. I believe the character of the electorate means that this name has been superseded and a more neutral name, Calamvale, be considered.

The proposed name for the electorate of Marsden needs reconsideration. There are a number of significant suburbs in that proposed electorate including Browns Plains, Regents Park, Heritage Park, Marsden and Crestmead - which could easily be called West Logan. If the name is confusing with an existing name then the Berrinba Wetlands is a significant environmental and recreational wetlands. So, therefore, an alternative maybe Berrinba.

CONCLUSION

I have greatly enjoyed reflecting on these matters and I hope this submission - grounded in many years of direct experience representing the Logan community - proves useful to the Commission.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these points further should that be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Dr John Mickel
Former Member for Logan
Former Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly