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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Noosa; Coolum (formerly Ninderry); Nambour (formerly Nicklin)

Submission:

This submission objects to the proposed Nambour boundary including Eumundi for the following reasons.

The only rationale given by the Commission to place Eumundi in Nambour is to do with the quota numbers. The Commission gives no rationale within its full Terms of Reference (TOR) that explains its recommendation. The full TOR that should be addressed are as follows.

Terms of Reference

The Commission must also consider and weigh the following other factors that impact electorates and their surrounding communities:

- ***economic, social, regional or other community of interest factors***
- ***ways of communication and travel within electoral districts***
- ***the physical features of each proposed electoral district***
- ***boundaries of existing electoral districts***
- ***demographic trends in the State, with a view to ensuring electoral districts remain within quota.***

Based on the TOR we object to the proposal to move Eumundi to the Nambour Electorate:

1. For good reasons Eumundi has a strong electoral history of placement eastward for the last 35 years at least, Eumundi has been politically, culturally and socially associated with the coastal region and has had no electoral connection whatsoever to the west. This is our understanding:

- in 1991 Eumundi was placed in the Noosa electorate;
- in 1999 Eumundi remained in the Noosa electorate;
- in 2008 Eumundi remained in the Noosa electorate; and
- in 2017 Eumundi was included in the Ninderry electorate.

2. Eumundi is part of the coastal Hinterland and should be included in Noosa Electorate or Ninderry Electorate including Verrierdale and Doonan as that is where our history, community partnerships and commonalities lie with regard to the TOR, **not in Nambour**. Eumundi is included in the *Hinterland Matters Collective* that also includes Doonan, Verrierdale, Valdora, Ninderry, Yandina Creek, Weyba Downs and beyond. We have worked with these

communities on many political issues. Eumundi was one of the few Ninderry Electorate locations to host a "Meet the Candidates" session before the last State Election which was well attended. Our Ninderry State representative tabled petition details for us in State Parliament with over 1300 signatures. We are a strong and united community. Although it is hard to be precise, we believe the *Hinterland Matters* catchment includes approximately 11.25% of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council land area and 5.0% of the population (almost 20,000).

3. Just because Eumundi itself has a smaller population is no reason why we should be separated with no logic from our community and in contravention of the Commission's full TOR. Justice requires that the TOR issues be equally considered for every citizen whether they reside in a highly populated coastal area, rural location or hinterland town like Eumundi.

4. It appears that based on the lack of any rationale given, Eumundi has been allocated to Nambour as a convenient measure for the Commission. This decision clearly has not been based on looking deeper and gaining a full understanding of the dynamics of our communities here. The recommendation is not validated and makes no sense in any way. Our community shouldn't be dissected to suit a bureaucratic numbers process that yet again ignores our community pleas and fall short of the Commissions own responsibilities according to its own TOR.

5. The Eumundi Markets attracts up to 2 million people each year and we are one of the largest tourist attractions on the Sunshine Coast, sometimes described as the largest. We need to work with other tourism planning groups working in this league, including in preparing for the Olympics. Many market visitors come from Bruce Highway, coastal arterial roads and Maroochydore airport with a smaller number on public transport. We need this connectivity, technology and relevant partnerships recognised and planned for with Eumundi being part of Ninderry or Noosa **not Nambour.**

6. Aswell as the hinterland communities, community groups in Eumundi are connected to Cooroy and Noosa Groups. An example is the Eumundi Writers Festival that involves approximately 1100 people/events. 75% of attendees live within 50km of Eumundi mainly towards Noosa, the coast, Coolumb and Maroochydore. For another example, Noosa Heads was one of the highest "Yes" votes for "The Voice" referendum at 54% with Eumundi also very high as a regional town and above the national average at 43% YES. Nambour was below the national average for YES at 37%. These figures show the Eumundi community thinks very differently to Nambour residents and has different priorities.

7. Our economic connections are **not with Nambour** and its surrounds. As an example a local B&B provided figures showing their expenditure is nearly 43% in Eumundi itself, 24% in Noosa, 14% in Cooroy and only 5% in Nambour Electorate.

8. Natural system catchments for Eumundi also relate more to the coastal hinterland and Hinterland Matters environmental priorities than they do to

Nambour and its large suburbs, and the western hinterland.

9. The Commission has received many submissions from Eumundi, Cooroy and Verrierdale on their connection to each other and to Noosa over the years and these still stand. Why are they ignored?

10. Based on the Commissions projections, Noosa Electorate will be the lowest Electorate population and the most below the quota. Eumundi and our neighbours belong with Noosa where we were located for many years, or at least leave us with the connections we have now developed in Ninderry.

11. To include Eumundi, Doonan and Verrierdale in the Noosa electorate the Noosa electoral boundary should follow the Bruce Highway to the west and use Eumundi Noosa Road as a guide for the southern boundary and reaching south from there to pull in Verrierdale.

12. The southern suburbs of Rosemount, Kiels Mountain and Diddilibah have had a history of attachment to Maroochydore and Ninderry but are closely economically and socially attached to the Nambour electorate, indeed, the suburbs are contiguous with the town and if included in Nambour State Electorate, they could provide the quota the Commission seeks for Nambour whilst leaving Eumundi where it belongs and functions now.

13. From a cultural perspective, the Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) and the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Writers Festival (SCHWF) advised it doesn't make sense in their view that Eumundi is included in SCHWF as Eumundi doesn't belong there in the Nambour hinterland and ridge-line from there heading south. We had proposed that Eumundi be a "chapter" of the larger festival. This example shows the differing bureaucratic and administrative protocols strongly in place that differ between Eumundi and the proposed Nambour Electorate, and that Eumundi is seen to be part of the coastal and Noosa hinterland.

14. That Eumundi is included in Local Government Division 10 is also incorrect as our relationship is with Doonan, Verrierdale and the coastal hinterland heading towards Noosa shire areas and Cooroy. Eumundi should be in Noosa Shire or at least it should be part of Division 9 in SCC. It is difficult to interest the Division 9 Councillor in Eumundi issues despite the fact that Eumundi issues logically stretch into Division 9 into the coastal hinterland. The fact that the existing local government boundaries are incorrect and do not recognise our needs cannot be allowed to trip over to spread this error to State Electoral boundaries to further exacerbate this wrong.

15. At a recent launch for a new, comparatively large community initiative for Eumundi, an ex-Mayor of Noosa, a current Noosa councillor and the nearest SCC councillor attended, reflecting the relevant community of interest, shared issues and relevant geographic catchments.