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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Maryborough

Submission:

To change the towns of Howard, Torbanlea and Burrum Heads from the Maryborough electorate to the Burnett electorate would severely disadvantage these townships.

It removes easy access to electorate offices that are currently in Maryborough, 25 kilometers away and replaces them with offices 100km away in Bagara, in which we would have to drive through another electorate of Bundaberg entirely to have access to our state member.

This is an unreasonable change in my opinion for the members of these communities, especially the elderly and disabled which is a significant portion of our community, who until recently were able to access our member through the electorate office situated in Howard.

Given that these regions are separated geographically, socially and psychologically this would also disadvantage these communities. Howard, Torbanlea and Burrum Heads residents are Fraser Coast, we consider ourselves from the Hervey Bay and Maryborough regions, people in these towns shop in these two cities, utilize services from these two cities, and are governed under the same council as these two cities. Bundaberg and the Burnett electorate are centralised around the city of Bundaberg.

Bundaberg while a lovely region to visit, is not in our region, people in these townships are not familiar with this area, do not utilize this area or its services, this would create a large disconnect between the electorate and the member of parliament who is to represent them. This is just not fair on the residents of these small towns, to be disconnected from an essential service such as a state member.

Having a state member from a region 100km away, would also mean that the member would not have the familiarity with area. This also disadvantages the region, as the ease of knowing who, when and where to call on to enhance the member's ability to assist residents with their issues, concerns and other needs.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Shannon Haliv