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Date Received: 14/3/26, 8:22 pm
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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: All

Submission:

This submission supersedes my earlier submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the current redistribution. I wish to raise concerns about the structural limitations of the legislative framework that governs the Commission's work, and how these limitations affect the Commission's ability to give proper effect to the full range of criteria in the Electoral Act 1992.

I acknowledge that the Commission is required to ensure that all electoral districts fall within the $\pm 10\%$ enrolment quota at the time of redistribution, and that this requirement is mandatory. I also acknowledge that the Commission must consider additional statutory factors, including community of interest, means of communication and travel, physical features, existing boundaries, and demographic trends.

My concern is not directed at the Commission itself, but at the rigidity of the legislative settings. The strict quota requirement significantly restricts the Commission's ability to meaningfully apply the non-numerical criteria, particularly in geographically large or sparsely populated parts of Queensland. In many areas, the realities of distance, limited infrastructure, and diverse community needs make it extremely difficult to design electorates that reflect genuine communities of interest while also meeting the numerical quota.

Other Australian jurisdictions have recognised this challenge and introduced protections for small or remote communities. Tasmania guarantees minimum seat numbers in its Constitution. Western Australia allows lower enrolments in remote regions. South Australia and the Northern Territory provide legislative flexibility to preserve representation in vast electorates. These measures acknowledge that strict numerical equality does not always produce fair or effective representation.

Queensland currently has no equivalent protections. As a result, each redistribution inevitably expands the size of already large districts, merges communities with limited connection, and increases the representational burden on elected members. This is not a reflection of the Commission's performance, but a structural consequence of the Electoral Act.

While I understand the Commission must complete this redistribution within the statutory timeframe, I wish to formally object to the proposed boundaries on the basis that the current legislative framework prevents the Commission from giving proper effect to the non-numerical criteria in the Act. I respectfully request that the Commission, within the limits of its statutory role, note these

structural limitations in its final report. I also urge the Queensland Parliament to consider reviewing the Electoral Act to introduce protections or flexibility for regional and remote communities, consistent with approaches adopted in other Australian jurisdictions.

Such reform would better reflect the geographic realities of Queensland and help ensure that all communities—regardless of population density—receive fair and effective representation.

Thank you for considering this submission.